

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

January 22, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Three Conservationists Recognized by Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show

The [Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show](#) and the [PA Outdoor Writers Association](#) recognized three individuals for their contributions to protecting wildlife and helping to restore habitat.



This year the Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show will be held February 3-11 at the Farm Show, Harrisburg.

Ronald J. Kistler, of Allentown, PA, received the 2007 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Conservation Award for his three decades of work in helping to preserve wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Kistler's involvement with wildlife preservation began in 1974 when he joined Lehigh Valley Ducks unlimited--becoming treasurer in 1979 and serving for 24 years.

In 1980, he helped start the Wildlands Trust Fund, now the Wildlands Conservancy which has preserved more than 18,000 acres of public access land for hunting and fishing.

In 2003, Kistler helped finalize four major Game Lands projects totaling 4,705 acres at a cost of the Preservation Fund of \$461,400.

Kistler served as treasurer of Lehigh Valley Friends of NRA for 14 years, is a Life Sponsor of Ducks Unlimited, Life Member of Trout Unlimited, Diamond Life Sponsor of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Life Sponsor of Ruffed Grouse Society and life member of four local gun clubs.

The Conservation Award is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to conserving wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Bob V. Danenhower, Sr., of Orefield, PA, received the 2007 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Youth Mentor Award for his leadership in scouting and facilitating young peoples, interest in hunting, outdoor activities and conservation.

Danenhower has been a Scout Leader for BSA, s Troop 72 for 12 years. He was instrumental in the planning and running of many outdoors-related youth activities including:

"Mr. D's Wilderness Survival Weekend" camp for kids, held annually in the Poconos coordinating the duties of the scout troop and cub pack to adopt State Game Lands in upper Lehigh County. This has been an ongoing conservation program which includes a game lands clean up once a year and a conservation project once a year.

Danenhower hosts the Sensory Safaris for various groups including girl and boy scouts, youth field days, Good Shepherd Schools and Kids Peace. His programs conclude with on-site conservation lessons, stressing that the biggest threat to wildlife is the loss of habitat.

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He also serves as a contact mentor for several Eagle Scout projects dealing with conservation themes. Many of these programs have taken place on state game lands.

Danehower served as the youth education chairman for Safari Club International for four years and as a merit badge counselor for archery, environmental science, mammal study, bird study, insect study, wilderness survival, fishing, and fish and wildlife conservation.

He also acquired funding for and coordinated the construction of an archery range on scout troop property. It is frequently used by cub scouts, boy scouts and day camp kids. He also runs a 3-D shoot every year for the scouts.

Danehower is owner of Bob's Wildlife Taxidermy in Lehigh County.

The Youth Mentor Award is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to using their knowledge of the outdoors and outdoor sports to educate and help young people.

Jim Walsh, of Pottsville, PA, has received the 2007 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Humanitarian Award for his work in teaching youth and adult firearms safety. Walsh has been involved in shooting since he was 10 years old, and a member of the NRA since 1947.

In 1959, when Hunter Safety was introduced in Pennsylvania as a voluntary program for hunters, the Pennsylvania Game Commission certified Walsh to teach the course. Since then, He has taught numerous hunter safety courses, now the Hunter-Trapper Education Courses.

Walsh has been involved in a wide range of activities promoting the shooting sports including Kid,s Shooting Camps held at Indiantown Gap, where he taught hunter safety and helped run the rifle range. He also instructed .22 rifle, shotgun and BB gun shooting programs at various locations, including the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.

In 1990, Walsh and his wife became involved in the NRA,s Youth Hunter Education Challenge, a program that promotes firearm safety, shooting skills, and hunting ethics at the national competition held at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico.

In 2004, Walsh helped organize the Schuylkill County Youth Hunter Education Challenge. He has also served as the legislative director of the Pennsylvania Rifle and Pistol Association.

Walsh is active in the Schuylkill County Sportsmen,s Association, serving as secretary and delegate for several member clubs. Currently, he is the alternate delegate for the Tulpehocken Rifle and Pistol Club and is a member of the Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Advisory Board, serving on both the youth and range committees.

The Humanitarian Award is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to promoting the outdoors and outdoor sports.

To learn more, visit the [Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show website](#).

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session on January 22.

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- Raccoon Creek Watershed Cleanup Guided by Ingenuity, Volunteers

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- PA Participates in Great Rivers EMAP Program for Allegheny, Mon
- Schuylkill Watershed Congress Set for March 3-4
- Southwest PA Tillage Conference and Trade Show January 24
- Counties Outline Legislative Priorities, Including Environment, for Coming Session
- Energy Efficiency Seminar for Businesses, Local Governments February 15
- Squaring the Circle on Sprawl Symposium at Widener University February 22
- Winter Lecture Series Starts at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary February 13
- Invasive Species: Awareness to Action Environmental Issues Conference March 14
- 11th Annual Northwest PA Forest Landowners Conference Set for February 10
- State Forester, Private Landowners Honored for Commitment to Forest Stewardship
- Hunters Reminded to Submit DMAP Deer Hunting Report Cards
- Help Wanted: Fish & Boat Commission Director of Fisheries
- *Hurricane on the Bayou*, A Special Whitaker Center Film Presentation

Feature

- Rebecca Coleman: Champion of the Bluebird, State Park Volunteer Honored

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Video Blog

Raccoon Creek Watershed Cleanup Guided by Ingenuity, Volunteers

Raccoon Creek is home to 32,000 people in 15 municipalities in parts of Beaver Washington and Allegheny counties. But it is also the home of over 175 sources of abandoned mine drainage.

Thanks to the [Raccoon Creek Watershed Association](#), [Independence Marsh Foundation](#), the Department of Environmental Protection, the federal Office of Surface Mining and lots of local volunteers, the watershed is now being cleaned up to again be a source of pride for the community.



Construction of JB#1 Site Underway

This week's Video Blog features highlight two of the nine projects the Association has developed in the watershed to clean up mine drainage, educate the community about its problems and enjoy the natural features of the watershed.

Phase I of the JB#1 Project is located in the headwaters of the Raccoon Creek Watershed in Washington County and is designed to treat a 1,100 gallon per minute mine discharge.

The unique design of this project will mix clean water from Raccoon Creek with the contaminated mine water to increase the effectiveness of a pond and wetland treatment system to reduce the iron content of the water by about 45 tons a year.

[Tim Danehy from Biomost, Inc.](#) talks about the objectives of the project and its design, while equipment operator Wayne Fuchs from Quality Aggregates discusses its construction.

Sometimes mine drainage treatment projects do not work like the designers thought. And that's what happened in the case of the JB#2 Project in the Raccoon Creek Watershed, Washington County.

Originally designed to filter water through spent mushroom compost, it was discovered the lower pH of the mine water made the iron cling to the compost and clog up the system.

Now, with the help of the federal Office of Surface Mining, the Raccoon Creek Watershed Association and Independence Marsh Foundation are renovating the project to restore its treatment capacity.

[John Davidson, local volunteer](#) and a former DEP mine inspector, talks about the challenges of renovating the treatment system.

For more information, visit the [Raccoon Creek Watershed Association website](#).

Visit the
[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

On the Hill

Rep. George Outlines Priorities for House Environmental Committee

Rep. Camille "Bud" George (D-Clearfield) this week outlined his priorities for the coming session as majority chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

<http://www.pahouse.com/MEDIA/George-environmental.074.jpg>

"I've waited more than a decade to regain the majority on the committee and I'm not about to squander the opportunity," said Rep. George, who has been a committee chairman since 1983. "I am going to push forcefully for progress on issues such as landfills, sludge spreading, First Amendment rights, recycling and heating assistance."

Legislation Rep. George is introducing would:

- Freeze landfill and incinerator permits for three years unless need for additional capacity is proven;
- Broaden First Amendment protections against SLAPPS (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) -- so that good-faith communications on public issues would be immune from civil liability;
- Enable the governor to tap approximately \$20 million in state funding for heating assistance during weather and energy emergencies;
- Protect vulnerable citizens from utility shut-offs by making doctor-issued medical certificates valid for up to 90 days; and
- Enable landfill tipping fees to be collected by counties to support worthwhile recycling programs.

Rep. George credited the Rendell administration for making the waste industry toe the line on landfill applications but said citizens must be protected by statute.

"Pennsylvanians have seen a respite from the days when more out-of-state trash was dumped in the Commonwealth than waste we created and landfill permits were approved willy-nilly," Rep. George said. "However, no guarantees exist that those days won't return, and reasonable safeguards are needed to protect communities.

"I'm sick of reintroducing the landfill-moratorium bill each session only to see it get lip service and die either in the House or Senate," Rep. George said. "It should be a litmus test for voters in any community that has faced an unneeded and unwanted landfill."

Rep. George, who was named an "environmental champion" by the Pa. League of Conservation Voters, said he hopes the mild winter will be viewed as an opportunity and not an excuse for inaction on energy and heating assistance.

"We still have miles to go before Pennsylvania is prepared to do more than just react to energy emergencies such as price spikes and shortages, foreign oil cartels and bad



Gov. Rendell and John Hanger, PennFuture congratulate Rep. George (center) on conservation award.

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weather," Rep. George said. "A compassionate plan to bolster heating assistance with state funds when it is needed is a start."

Rep. George credited his Republican counterpart on the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Rep. William Adolph of Delaware County, with successes.

"The House has made progress on issues such as Growing Greener II and alternative fuels," Rep. George said. "We can build on those successes with legislation that establishes a Pennsylvania Energy Office, exempts from the state sales tax those farm items grown for fuel and a measure that would deny permits to a 'bad actor' whose previous actions forced state taxpayers to pay for environmental cleanups."

Rep. George also serves as a member of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Board and the Environmental Quality Board.

Visit Rep. George's [legislative website](#) for more information.

Senate Appoints Remaining Committee Chairs and Members

The Senate Republicans and Democrats this week announced the members of their committees to start the 2007-08 session. Committee rosters include:

Agriculture

R- Brubaker (chair, new), Waugh, Madigan, Punt, Eichelberger (new), Folmer (new)
D- O'Pake (chair), Kitchen, Logan, Wozniak

Appropriations

R-Armstrong (chair, new), Tomlinson (vice chair), Greenleaf, Rhoades, Madigan, M.White, Waugh, Corman, Rafferty, Pippy, Gordner (new), Vance (new), Regola (new), Browne (new)
D- Fumo (chair), Boscola, Hughes, Logan, Musto, Stack, Stout, Tartaglione (new), Wozniak (new)

Environmental Resources & Energy

R-M.White (chair), Erickson (vice-chair), Greenleaf, Rhoades, D.White, Brubaker (new)
D-Musto (chair), Dinniman, Stout, A.Williams

Game & Fisheries

R- McIlhinney (chair, new), Wonderling (vice-chair,new), Robbins (new), Pippy, Regola, Eichelberger (new)
D- Fontana (chair), Boscola, Dinniman, Fumo

CBF to Honor Noah Wenger as Conservationist of the Year

On January 29, Chesapeake Bay Foundation will present its Conservationist of the Year Award to former Sen. Noah Wenger for his tireless efforts on behalf of Pennsylvania agriculture.

Among his many accomplishments, Sen. Wenger is credited with spearheading the state's farmland preservation program, launched in 1989.



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Pennsylvania now leads the country in the total number of acres permanently protected, and last month achieved the significant milestone of 3,000 farms preserved.

After 30 years of public service, Sen. Wenger - a respected voice for agriculture, champion of farmland preservation and Chesapeake Bay Commissioner - retired from the Pennsylvania General Assembly in November. He is now focusing his attention on family pursuits, including a 105-acre farm in Stevens, Lancaster County, after a distinguished legacy of conservation.

Sen. Wenger also served as Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative commission dedicated to advising the General Assemblies of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania on matters of Bay-wide concern.

CBF's PA Executive Director, Matthew Ehrhart, commended Wenger for finding common ground among environmental and agricultural interests. "CBF understands that healthy watersheds and a healthy bay depend largely on well-managed farms remaining profitable. An important part of Sen. Wenger's legacy is that thousands of Pennsylvania farm families have a more secure future."

Sen. Wenger was the prime sponsor of the bipartisan [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\) proposal](#) in the Senate last session that would give farmers tax credits for installing best management practices to reduce sediment, nutrient and stormwater runoff from farms.

"The agriculture industry is a driving force in Pennsylvania's economy. We need to continue looking for ways to help farmers maintain profitable businesses as we ask them to meet increasing standards in environmental and conservation practices," said Sen. Wenger. "The REAP Tax Credit will provide this necessary support for agriculture producers, and in turn make Pennsylvania a cleaner and greener place to work and live."

CBF will present Sen. Wenger with the award at the historic Civic Club of Harrisburg along the Susquehanna River on January 29.

Video Blog: [CBF Helping Farmers Help the Environment](#)

Bills Introduced

Climate Change: [House Resolution 7](#) (O'Brien-D-Philadelphia) a resolution calling on Gov. Rendell to participate in the [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#). *(text not yet available online)*

Other News

PA CREP Program Passes 1,700 miles of Streamside Buffers Planted

Have you seen them? Hundreds of four-foot-tall cylinders, as thick as your arm, along creeks throughout the watershed. Are they gas wells? Giant candles? Not at all. They are tree shelters, hollow tubes that protect the young trees inside from deer and rodents.

They're a sign that the landowner is being a good steward of the land, and doing important



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conservation work on their property. In return, the landowner is receiving substantial financial incentives.

We've long known that streamside forests help keep streams clean and cool, help to reduce bank erosion, and provide great habitat for fish, songbirds and other wildlife - but there's more. Streams with trees can have five times more total life in them than streams without trees. That's good. Streamside buffers also reduce the amount of pollutants that enter a stream.

Forested streams can remove 200 to 800 percent more nitrogen pollution than non-forested streams. That means clean water for people and for Chesapeake Bay. In Pennsylvania, stream life is adapted to the types of food and habitat provided by streamside forests. The greatest detriment to Pennsylvania stream health has been the loss of streamside forests. Replanting these trees is the single biggest step toward regaining healthy streams.

With much to be gained, conservationists have given high priority to stream buffer restoration. CREP ([Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#)) has done more than all other efforts combined.

Since its beginning in 2000, CREP has planted trees on roughly 20,000 acres along some 1,700 miles of Pennsylvania streams. The cost of the work is nearly \$40 million. The value is many times that.

EPA estimates that every dollar spent on preventing water pollution avoids \$27 in cleanup costs at drinking water facilities.

CREP will also make annual rental payments totaling \$30 million to participating landowners. The bulk of these costs are paid by federal funds, bringing needed conservation and income to Pennsylvania.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation works with USDA and other partners to deliver CREP buffers, stretching available funds. CBF has also restored more than 300 miles of buffers via its own programs, mostly before CREP began.

Landowners do not need to be farmers to participate in CREP. Most streams, even very small ones, that have no trees presently are eligible for CREP. The incentives are strong, with many projects earning \$2,000-\$3,000 per acre in profits.

CREP pays the cost of installation, provides financial incentives at the time of construction, and then pays rental payments over the life of the contract.

For more information visit the [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program website](#) or call 1-800-941-CREP.

Western PA Watershed Program Grant Applications Due February 20

The Western PA Watershed Program is now accepting proposals for grants to support watershed restoration and preservation projects through February 20.

There is a particular interest in abandoned mine drainage abatement, natural stream channel design, abandoned mine lands reclamation, and other unique and creative initiatives, according to John Dawes, Program Administrator.

For more information and to download an application, visit the [Western PA Watershed Program website](#). Inquiries should be directed to Branden Diehl, Project Director, or John Dawes, Program Administrator.

PA Watersheds Data System Hits the Road Again With Workshops

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The [PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers](#) is sponsoring another series of workshops on the PA Watersheds Data System in February and March.

POWR hosted nine workshops across the State for nearly 100 volunteers last year.

These two-hour workshops are open to anyone who wishes to learn more about the Data System and how it could benefit you. The Data System now includes 40 groups and over 600,000 records. Though POWR is always looking for more data and monitoring groups, it is also looking to attract data users so that the data can be utilized.

Many watershed groups do not feel data are being utilized to their full potential, partly because of the inaccessibility of the data. Enter the PA Watersheds Data System!

Now anyone – consultants, water companies, municipal authorities, planners – can access data (with the permission of the groups obviously) for whatever purpose they need!

POWR is also interested in getting educators involved, such as middle and high school science classes and colleges and universities. You're welcome to attend the workshops as well!

The workshops will be held on:

- February 17 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at West Chester University;
- March 17 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Northeast Regional Center of the Community College of Philadelphia; and
- March 31 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Philadelphia University.

If you're interested in attending, please RSVP to Angie McCracken at POWR; amccracken@pawatersheds.org or 717-234-7910, X3#.

You can also help by passing the word along to your township or project partners or other volunteers. POWR would like to see as many new faces as they can get!

Keystone Stream Team Completes More Projects

Several exciting projects were recently completed by The Lycoming College [Clean Water Institute](#) and the [Keystone Stream Team](#).

Institute staff created a website for the Keystone Stream Team where visitors can access information on Natural Stream Channel Design and Fluvial Geomorphology. The website contains news, general information, documents, databases, and job opportunities in these areas. Membership with the Keystone Stream Team is also available through the website. The project was funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 319(b) grant administered by the Department of Environmental Protection.

One of the KST databases contains reference reach data for use by private consultants and engineers who specialize in stream restoration design. Working jointly with [RIVERMorph](#) software engineers, an online Reference Reach Repository was developed to accept upload and download of reference reach data files in various formats. Visitors can access the database through the



Engineered Rock Cross Vane, Big Bear Creek, Lycoming County

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Keystone Stream Team website and can create a personalized account to access features of the database.

Institute Staff are also collecting stream restoration project data for an online database of Natural Stream Channel Design projects in Pennsylvania. Currently the database contains projects from throughout north-central and south-central regions of Pennsylvania, but through a new Growing Greener grant awarded to Lycoming College, the database will be expanded to the entire state. The NSCD database can be easily accessed from the Keystone Stream Team website.

Since April 2007, the Keystone Stream Team technical advisory workgroup has been revising the Natural Stream Channel Design Guidelines for Pennsylvania Waterways. This important document was first published in 2003 and was intended to provide watershed associations and stream designers with guidance for planning and implementing stream restoration using natural channel design technology. As the technology has changed and practical experience gained, the manual became outdated and was in need of substantial revision.

Funded by a Growing Greener grant awarded to Lycoming College, the workgroup expects to have the guidelines thoroughly-revised and available for distribution in April 2007. The current version of the guidelines is available for download from the Keystone Stream Team website.

The Keystone Stream Team was founded in 1999 for the purpose of advancing Natural Stream Channel Design technology in Pennsylvania. Through its diversified membership, consisting of watershed groups, technical consultants, and state and federal agencies, KST has formulated general guidelines for applying this new technology, with the goal of returning Pennsylvania streams and watersheds to a natural, self-sustaining state.

The mission of the Keystone Stream Team is to work together as a resource team to foster an understanding of the use of Natural Stream Channel Design by acting as a source of educational information, technical guidance, training, as well as input on the measure of success for projects that restore streams and watersheds in Pennsylvania.

[Dr. Mel Zimmerman](#), Lycoming College Professor of Biology, is the current chairman of the KST. [Dr. Peter Petokas](#), Lycoming College Research Associate, serves as webmaster and coordinator of projects. KST meetings are generally held about three times each year and are open to the public.

For more information, visit the [Keystone Stream Team website](#), or send an email to info@keystonestreamteam.org

DEP Invites Comments on TMDL Plans on 6 Streams in 4 Counties

The Department of Environmental Protection [invited public comments](#) on six proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plans in Armstrong, Clearfield, Greene and Westmoreland counties. They include:

Coal Bank Run Watershed, Armstrong County: DEP will hold a public meeting January 31 to discuss the proposed TMDL plan at the Greensburg District Mining Office at 1:00. Comments due: February 23. Contact: Paul Cestoni 724-925-5500 or send email to: pcestoni@state.pa.us .

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UNT Buffalo Creek Watershed, Armstrong County: DEP will hold a public meeting on the plan January 31 at 1:00 at the Greensburg District Mining Office, Greensburg. Comments due: February 23. Contact: Marty Picklo 724-925-5557 or send email to: mpicklo@state.pa.us .

Laurel Run Watershed, Clearfield County: DEP will hold a public meeting on the proposed TMDL February 8 at 10:30 at the Moshannon District Mining Office, Philipsburg. Comments due: March 21. Contact: Scott Barnes 814-342-8200 or send email to: scbarnes@state.pa.us .

Dooley Run Watershed, Greene County: DEP will hold a public meeting on the TMDL plan January 30 at 1:00 in the Greensburg District Mining Office, Greensburg. Comments due: February 23. Contact: Mike Gardner 724-925-5500 or send email to: mgardner@state.pa.us .

Dunkard Creek Watershed, Greene County: DEP will hold a public meeting on the TMDL plan January 30 at 1:00 in the Greensburg District Mining Office, Greensburg. Comments due: February 23. Contact: D.Scott Jones 724-925-5557 or send email to: deajones@state.pa.us .

Freeman Run Watershed, Westmoreland County: DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss the plan on January 30 at the Greensburg District Mining Office, Greensburg. Comments due: February 23. Contact: Angela Pompa 724-925-5500 or send email to: apompa@state.pa.us .

For more information and a copy of the proposed TMDL, visit [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

Villanova Issues Call for Papers for Stormwater Management Symposium

Villanova University is again hosting the 2007 [Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium](#) on October 17-18. The symposium organizing committee is seeking potential speakers for the proposed sessions.

The purpose of the symposium is to advance the knowledge and understanding of comprehensive stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, implementation and regulatory compliance.

A half-day workshop for non-engineers will be held preceding the symposium. Participants are expected to include engineers, planners, water resource professionals, regional, state and local government representatives, land development professionals and watershed and conservation groups. The main track of the first day of the symposium and the half-day workshop will be broadcasted live over the Internet. Organizers are pursuing remote sites to allow for live questions and answer sessions.

Interested presenters and authors are encouraged to submit a brief abstract of not more than 300 words by the May 30. Papers or extended abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings, and authors will receive a discounted registration fee.

Electronic submittal is required through the VUSP website.

For more details and a list of proposed sessions follow the below link to the [Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership homepage](#) .

For questions, e-mail Robert Traver at robert.traver@villanova.edu .

Game Commission Offers Cooperating Landowners Free Tree Seedlings

Landowners who have 50 or more acres of land open to public hunting and are enrolled in one of the Game Commission's public access programs are eligible to receive up to 500 free seedlings annually, as available.

The [Game Commission's Howard Nursery](#) produces bare-root seedlings for wildlife food and cover on State Game Lands. The nursery has been producing and distributing 3.5 to 6 million seedlings annually for wildlife food and cover since 1954.

Those cooperators with enrolled acreages exceeding 500 acres are eligible for one free seedling per acre enrolled up to a maximum of 10,000 seedlings annually, as available. Cooperators are provided an order form each fall for following spring delivery. Free seedling orders are only taken in the fall through local Wildlife Conservation Officers and Land Management personnel.

All Pennsylvania landowners may purchase seedlings for wildlife food and cover, watershed protection, soil erosion control, and for reclamation of disturbed areas, such as surface mine site and utility right-of-ways.

"The goal of the Howard Nursery is to provide the finest tree seedlings available of those species that best provide for the various needs of wildlife, including food and shelter," said Cliff Guindon, Howard Nursery superintendent. "All of our stock is inspected annually by the state Department of Agriculture and certified to be disease-free."

Guindon noted that the nursery provides landowners the ability to purchase seedlings for 15 to 25 cents each in bundles of 50 (plus sales tax). Total orders of 50-250 are 25 cents each. Orders totaling 300 and up are 15 cents each.

The following species are available for this spring: white pine; mugo pine; red pine; Norway spruce; white spruce; arborvitae (northern white cedar); silky dogwood; black locust; sawtooth oak; scrub oak; white oak; buttonbush; Chinese chestnut; common elderberry; Washington Hawthorne; American sweet crabapple; mixed flowering crabapple; American mountain ash; nannyberry viburnum; serviceberry; red bud, and wild plum. A description of each, along with size information, is available on the website.

Some of the new native shrubs are available in limited quantities and are expected to sell out quickly. The selection of native trees and shrubs is being expanded annually. With the exception of black locust, all of our hardwoods are grown from seed collected and processed by PGC personnel from Pennsylvania sources.

In addition to making arrangements for landowners to pick up their seedling orders, the nursery does ship via United Parcel Service (UPS). Shipping and handling charges do apply. This is very efficient and most orders are received next day. Orders are only shipped Monday thru Wednesday to assure delivery for weekend planting. Generally seedlings ship in the month of April.

"Due to conditions beyond our control, such as ice and snow, wet weather, and frozen ground, we may not be able to ship trees as early as we would like," Guindon said. "We will do everything we can do at the nursery to ensure timely shipping and arrival of trees."

For more information, visit the [Howard Nursery Program webpage](#) or contact Cliff Guindon at the Howard Nursery, 197 Nursery Road, Howard, PA 16841, telephone 814-355-4434. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PA Participates in Great Rivers EMAP Program for Allegheny, Mon

Pennsylvania has received a two-year funding to implement the Great Rivers EMAP program (EPA Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program) for the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers.

The project will involve the assessment of the fisheries, benthic macroinvertebrates, freshwater mussels, habitat, sediment bioassay and water chemistry. The EPA freshwater biology team plans to provide on-site assistance for the project along with assistance with fish and benthic macroinvertebrate identifications and will coordinate with Ohio on the sediment bioassay support aspect of the project.

For more information go to the [E-Map webpage](#).

Schuylkill Watershed Congress Set for March 3-4

The [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#) is a gathering of citizens interested in understanding, protecting and restoring local watersheds and streams. It will be held on March 3-4 at the Montgomery County Community College, West Campus in Pottstown.

The Keynote Address will be presented by Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Concurrent sessions offer a wide variety of topics including: Invasive Plant Management, Macroinvertebrate Monitoring, Good Compost Made Better, Stormwater Management in Urbanized Streams, Conservation Needs of a Newly Discovered Species of Pennsylvania, Pathogen Monitoring, Watershed Education, Schuylkill River Sediment Sampling, Vision for the Tidal Schuylkill, Vegetation Classification Systems, Preserving the Health of Our Watersheds Through Responsible Lighting Practices, Integrated Water Resource Planning, Stream Restoration Monitoring, Chemical Effects of Ponds on Streams, Biological Integrity of Major Tributaries to the Schuylkill River, Land Prioritization Strategies and Model Ordinances

For more information, visit the [Schuylkill Watershed Congress webpage](#) on the Delaware Riverkeeper website.

Southwest PA Tillage Conference and Trade Show January 24

Park the plow and save the soil. It's a novel idea that is catching on with more and more area farmers because it has so many proven benefits – from improving the soil quality and increasing crop yields, to saving time and money.

This idea of reducing the amount of plowing done to a field before planting, called “no-till,” will be the focus of this year's [Southwest Regional Tillage Conference and Trade Show](#) at Giannilli's II in Greensburg on January 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All farmers and interested individuals are invited to attend.

Nationally known speakers Sjoerd Duiker, assistant professor of soil management and applied soil physics from Penn State University Department of Crops and Soils, and Wayne Reeves, research agronomist with United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service in the Soils Dynamics Laboratory of the University of

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Auburn, will speak on the “No-till Revolution,” and “Progress in Conservation Systems” respectively.

A panel discussion will feature area no-till farmers Bob Dorazio of Lake Lynn, Fayette County; Chris Kimmel of Shelocta, Armstrong County; and Norm Graham of Butler, Butler County.

The event also will feature a vendor show and break-out group discussions led by Wayne Reeves, Mark Goodson, an agronomist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Joel Myers, retired state agronomist with NRCS.

CCA (Certified Crop Advisor) and IFC (Individual Farmer Certification) NMS (Nutrient Management Specialist) credits also will be offered, pending state approval.

The event is sponsored by Penn’s Corner Resource Conservation and Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service (the Pennsylvania, Westmoreland County, and Indiana County offices), Penn State Cooperative Extension (main campus and Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland locations), and the Indiana and Westmoreland Conservation Districts.

Registration is required and space is limited. Cost is \$25, and includes all events, a continental breakfast, and lunch.

For more information, download the [Conference brochure](#) or contact Bobbi Bailey at Penn’s Corner Resource Conservation and Development by phone at 724-834-9063, ext. 116, or by email at bobbi.bailey@pa.usda.gov.

Counties Outline Legislative Priorities, Including Environment, for Coming Session

County leaders from throughout Pennsylvania this week unveiled their list of 2007 key legislative priorities, including county recycling fees, land use and transportation funding issues.

Percy Dougherty, Lehigh County Commissioner and president of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, said “these 2007 priorities are as diverse as Pennsylvania’s counties themselves. I think they very appropriately call attention to the wide variety of issues with which counties must deal every day. Often times, our citizens and state lawmakers are not aware of the breadth of services counties provide.”

While property tax relief and funding for human services topped the group’s list of priorities, they included these environmental issues—

County Recycling Fee Authorization: Due to a court decision, counties can no longer levy a local administrative fee to fund supplemental county recycling programs such as household hazardous waste collection, electronics recycling, recycling drop-off centers, illegal dump enforcement and cleanup, and tire recycling.

This ruling has left counties without a source of revenue to fund these programs and, beginning in 2007; many supplemental local recycling programs will be cut or eliminated.

A decrease in the availability of recycling programs will result in more recyclable goods filling up space in landfills, and a proliferation of illegal dumping on public and private lands. This will have an adverse impact on the Commonwealth’s environment and the quality of life of many Pennsylvania residents, and will undermine the public’s

investment in the Growing Greener bond initiative. Counties are seeking an alternative funding stream for these recycling programs.

Conservation and Land Use: Counties have a role in land use planning, farmland and open space preservation, water quality and other environmental issues. The Association supports programs to promote use of alternatives to fossil-based transportation fuels, including incentives for counties to deploy hybrid vehicles and vehicles operated by alternative fuels.

Counties seek increased funding for farmland and open space preservation, as well as authority to levy a realty transfer tax of up to one percent to generate revenue for farmland and open space preservation. CCAP also seeks funding for water quality initiatives such as the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy, including development and implementation of stormwater management plans.

Bridges and Mass Transit: Counties are responsible for the maintenance of more than 4,000 county-owned bridges, funded with a gas tax allocation that has remained largely unchanged since 1930. With a lack of infrastructure funding, many of these bridges are structurally deficient and many others are approaching the end of their useful life.

Mass transit funding issues are also significant to counties, as there are more than 30 mass transit systems covering more than two-thirds of the counties in Pennsylvania. The Report's recommendation on county and municipal bridge and highway funding lacks clarity and, depending upon the potential distribution, the funding recommendation is likely to be significantly less than is needed.

The Association supports prompt legislative action on the Report, and insists that county bridge funding needs be included in these legislative deliberations. Counties support a half-cent increase in the state's liquid fuels tax, or an equivalent amount from another transportation funding source, that would be allocated to counties based on each county's relative bridge responsibility.

For more information, visit the [CCAP Legislative Priorities webpage](#).

Energy Efficiency Seminar for Businesses, Local Governments February 15

The [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals' Pollution Prevention Energy Efficiency Roundtable](#) will hold its first quarterly meeting of 2007 on February 15 at the Woodlands Inn in Wilkes-Barre.

The Roundtable runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and lunch is provided. There is no charge for the event, but seating is limited.

Topics will include the federal Energy Policy Act (EPAAct), tax deductions, certifying EPAAct projects and high-efficiency lighting/HVAC controls. A member of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission will also speak on deregulation of the electricity market and removal of rate caps. A vendor trade show will also be part of the event.

The target audience for the event is industry, municipalities, business owners, accountants, financial officers, business managers, environmental health and safety professionals, compliance officers and consultants.

The Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance and electrical distributor Schaedler Yesco are sponsoring the event. Schaedler Yesco is sponsoring Sylvania representatives to speak on the latest lighting technologies.

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To register, call 800-998-1621 then press 7 for “training.” For more information, contact Janet Warnick of the Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Energy and Technology Deployment at 570-826-2475.

For more information, [download the meeting flyer](#).

NewsClip: [Pollution Prevention Loan Helps Business Save Water, Energy](#)

Squaring the Circle on Sprawl Symposium at Widener University February 22

On February 22, the Widener University of Law, Harrisburg Campus, will hold the “[Squaring the Circle on Sprawl](#)” Symposium.

The Symposium is designed to educate lawyers and policy makers about the challenges sprawl poses to Pennsylvania by providing a balanced look at all sides of the debate and promoting solutions through legislative change and responsible lawyering.

Presentations will be featured from a broad array of speakers including academics, government officials and practitioners, presenting in multiple formats and allowing for interaction with the attendees. There is a fee.

For more information, download the [Symposium brochure](#) or contact Sandra Graeff at 717-541-3965, or send e-mail to: slgraeff@widener.edu.

Winter Lecture Series Starts at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary February 13

On February 13 a lecture entitled “The City Beautiful Movement in Harrisburg” will be given by Norman Lacasse, a retired DCNR forester and a volunteer for the [Capital Area Greenbelt Association](#) at the [Wildwood Lake Sanctuary](#) in Harrisburg.

The lecture takes place at 7 p.m. at the Olewine Nature Center. It is free and open to the public.

In the late 1800’s, cities, in general, were not nice places to live, and Harrisburg was no exception. Sewage was flushed down streams and rivers, streets were not paved, industries and homes spewed smoke, and there were very few parks.

The City Beautiful Movement inspired [Mira Lloyd Dock](#) and [J. Horace McFarland](#) to remake Harrisburg into a place of beauty. A water treatment plant and sewer lines were built, and parks were created and linked together by a parkway like emeralds on a necklace.

Lectures are sponsored by The Friends of Wildwood Lake Sanctuary, a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization committed to the enhancement and support of Wildwood Lake Sanctuary and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center located at 100 Wildwood Way (off Industrial Road, next to Harrisburg Area Community College), Harrisburg, PA.

The park offers free hiking/walking trails, excellent birding opportunities, and picnic facilities. The Friends are proud sponsors of educational programs for adults and children and are free of charge. The park is open daily from dawn to dusk.

The Nature Center is one of the leading interpretive centers in this area and an excellent resource center for groups, educators, nature enthusiasts, and home-schooled children. Hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[Wildwood Lake Sanctuary](#) celebrates its Centennial Anniversary in 2007; 100 years after the first trails were opened in Wildwood Park. Throughout the year, special events are planned to celebrate this benchmark, starting with the Wildwood Winter Lecture Series.

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For more information on the sanctuary, nature center, programs, how to become a Friend's Member, and volunteer opportunities visit the [Wildwood Lake Sanctuary website](#) or call 717-221-0292.

Invasive Species: Awareness to Action Environmental Issues Conference March 14

On March 14 the Kings Gap Environmental Education Center and Shippensburg University will co-sponsor the annual environmental issues conference at Shippensburg University with the theme "Invasive Species: Awareness to Action."

As invasive species continue to threaten biological diversity throughout the environment, the most logical and effective strategies to curb their spread should include rapid response to invasive outbreaks, assisted by an aware and educated core of volunteers from the general public.

By raising concern and awareness among citizen advocates, the action and involvement necessary to eradicate and control these potentially destructive organisms can be significantly increased.

"Invasive Species: Awareness to Action" will address this issue through an array of sessions offering practical suggestions for model programs to combat invasives, as well as recruiting and training volunteers.

Dr. Les Mehrhoff, Director of the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) will give the opening address entitled "'Lessons Learned from IPANE: New England's Multifaceted Early Detection Program."

Started in 2001, the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England's (IPANE) mission is to create a comprehensive web-accessible database of invasive and potentially invasive plants in New England that will be continually updated by a network of professionals and program-trained volunteers.

Dr. Mehrhoff will address various aspects of the collaboration, including successes, pitfalls, and what could have been done differently to ensure continual progress through all levels of this ambitious project.

Post-luncheon speaker will be Dr. Bernd Blossey, Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Resources, and Director of the Ecology and Management of Invasive Plants Program at Cornell University.

His presentation, "Do Interactions of Native and Introduced Species Facilitate Plant Invasions?" will explore evidence for the effects of native white-tailed deer and introduced species (plants, earthworms, slugs, and weevils) on rare and endangered plant species.

Concurrent sessions will cover regional and state programs and projects being implemented by various agencies and organizations, including: non-native earthworms; the impact of feral hogs; potential aquatic plant and animal threats; management and spread of exotic plant populations; the plant stewardship index; volunteer recruitment; and an update on the health of PA forests and parks.

There is a \$20 fee for students and a \$40 fee for all others.

For more information, contact Scott R. Hackenburg at 717-486.5031, or send e-mail to: shackenbur@state.pa.us

11th Annual Northwest PA Forest Landowners Conference Set for February 10

The [11th annual Northwest PA Forest Landowners Conference](#) is being held on February 10 at Allegheny College. The conference will run from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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The goal of the conference is to help private forest landowners explore and understand some of the management options that are available to you and to provide an opportunity to network and meet other forest landowners.

Private forest landowners own over 12.5 million acres or 75 percent of the Commonwealth's forestland. The reasons for owning are as variable as the landowners themselves. Recent studies indicate that many landowners own forestland for multiple benefits including: wildlife, recreation, timber, water quality and aesthetic beauty.

The demands on our forests are ever increasing; subsequently the knowledge a forest landowner should have to properly manage their forests is also increasing. Future forest conditions directly depend on the decisions being made today.

Did you know this about forests—

- For every ton of wood a forest grows, it removes 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide and replaces it with 1.07 tons of oxygen;
- Pennsylvania is the nation's largest producer of hardwood lumber, producing over 1 billion board feet per year. Annual economic contribution of forest products exceeds \$5 billion dollars;
- 63 Mammals, 373 birds, 36 amphibians and 37 reptiles native to Pennsylvania use trees for part or all of their habitat requirements;
- Well placed deciduous trees shading a home can reduce air conditioning needs up to 30 percent using evergreens as windbreaks can save from 10 to 50% in energy used for heating; and
- One healthy, mature tree stores about 13 pounds of carbon annually — or 2.6 tons per year.

To pre-register for the conference call the Crawford County Conservation District at 814-763-5269. The cost for the program is \$15.00 per person. (*Courtesy Brian Pilarcik, Crawford County Conservation District, brian@crawfordconservation.com*)

State Forester, Private Landowners Honored for Commitment to Forest Stewardship

David V. Scamardella, a DCNR forester for Bedford and Fulton counties in the Buchanan State Forest District, recently was presented an annual Forest Stewardship Award by the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies.

Scamardella joined Mike and Laura Jackson, Everett residents and private woodland owners, in accepting awards saluting their work in “implementing stewardship practices on privately owned forest land and in educating the public on the value of stewardship ethics in sustaining Pennsylvania's woodlands.”

At WOSA's annual banquet late last year, Scamardella was presented the Dr. Maurice K. Goddard Award for Government Leadership and Support. As co-chair of WOSA's Activities Committee, he has arranged all of the organization's forestry programs for the public.



David Schreffler (l), Laura and Mike Jackson and David Scamardella

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WOSA officials praised Scamardella as “a constant source of assistance and support to WOSA and its members in their endeavors to educate the public about the value of implementing ethical practices in Pennsylvania's privately owned woodlands.”

The Jacksons received the John Mash Award for Exemplary Stewardship. They are active members of WOSA and have hosted several stewardship programs for the public on their property.

Dave Schreffler, co-chair of WOSA's Forest Stewardship Awards Committee, presented the awards. (*Reprinted from [DCNR Resource](#) electronic newsletter*)

Hunters Reminded to Submit DMAP Deer Hunting Report Cards

With the 2006-07 deer seasons coming to a close this month, Game Commission Executive Director Carl Roe reminded hunters that they must complete and submit their Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) report cards either by mail or through the [agency's website](#) by February. 7.

Under DMAP, all hunters are required to submit a report card, even if the hunter did not take a deer. This is being done so the Game Commission can measure the effectiveness of the program.

Hunters will need to provide: their application number, DMAP unit number, coupon number, and birth date; the date of the harvest; the Wildlife Management Unit, county and township of the harvest; and what type of sporting arm they used. DMAP permits only may be used to take antlerless deer, however, hunters still will need to identify whether the deer was male or female.

Roe noted that deer harvest numbers for the 2006-07 seasons won't be available until mid-March, as in the past. In addition to hunters still submitting harvest report cards, which must be sent out for data entry, the agency's Deer Management Section is compiling the data collected in the field by the deer aging teams.

While the late flintlock muzzleloader and archery seasons closed on Jan. 13, antlerless deer seasons in WMUs 5C and 5D run until Jan. 27.

For the 2005-06 deer seasons, 31,641 DMAP antlerless deer permits were issued to hunters, of which 7,644 hunters reported that they harvested a deer and 18,932 reported that they did not harvest a deer. However, 5,065 hunters did not submit any report card.

Help Wanted: Fish & Boat Commission Director of Fisheries

The Fish and Boat Commission is accepting applications for the position of Director of its Bureau of Fisheries until February 9.

Two years of experience as a Fisheries Biologist 4; or six years of progressively responsible professional experience in fisheries biology, aquatic biology, aquatic ecology or equivalent fields, two of which must have been in an administrative or supervisory capacity; and a master's degree in aquatic biology, aquatic ecology, fisheries biology, or equivalent fields.

A doctoral degree in aquatic biology, aquatic ecology, fisheries biology, or equivalent fields may be substituted for three years of the required professional experience.

See the [full job announcement](#) for more information and how to apply.

Hurricane on the Bayou, A Special Whitaker Center Film Presentation

Now through June 14, the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg is presenting a special IMAX film documentary -- *Hurricane on the Bayou* – about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Underwritten by Benjamin Olewine, III Family, this powerful moving giant screen film offers an emotional, music-driven ode to the vital swamps and undying spirit of New Orleans.

Originally conceived as a cautionary tale about Louisiana’s wetlands and the consequences of a hypothetical hurricane hitting New Orleans, *Hurricane on the Bayou* began production in early 2005. The filmmakers simulated an apocalyptic hurricane, complete with recreated scenes where flooded homeowners burst through rooftops to get to safety.

When Hurricane Katrina hit just four months after production wrapped, the filmmakers were forced to rewrite their story and raced to New Orleans to record the powerful giant screen images of Katrina’s aftermath.

Filmed before and after the unprecedented devastation of Hurricane Katrina and featuring state-of-the-art computer generated special effects depicting the storm’s fury, *Hurricane on the Bayou* brings into focus the startling loss of Louisiana’s rapidly disappearing coastal wetlands—New Orleans’ first line of defense against deadly storms. Tragically, these wetlands are eroding into the sea at the speed of one acre every thirty minutes, or a land area the size of Manhattan every year.

Directed by two-time Academy Award-nominated director Greg MacGillvray, *Hurricane on the Bayou* stars legendary New Orleans music producer, songwriter and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Allen Toussaint; blues singer/guitarist and long-time wetlands activist Tab Benoit; 14-year-old fiddling prodigy Amanda Shaw; and zydeco accordion master Chubby Carrier.

Also appearing in the film is Marva Wright, New Orleans’ “Queen of Gospel.” Through their eyes, the tragedy the city faced during Katrina and its burning hopes for a revitalized future unfold.

“*Hurricane on the Bayou* is not just the moving story of how four remarkable musicians survived Katrina, and are facing the future, nor it is just the story of how the destruction of the wetlands is wreaking devastation for both humans and animals,” said Greg MacGillvray. I think it is really about the tremendous value of New Orleans and Louisiana to our nation. I hope we reveal what a treasure this city is—a wild swamped land that turned into a fantastic center for music, food and the enjoyment of life itself. To lose New Orleans would be an unthinkable tragedy.”

This film is narrated by Meryl Streep, and produced and distributed by MacGillvray Freeman Films (Everest, Coral Reef Adventure) and executive produced by Audubon Nature Institute with major funding from the State of Louisiana and in association with MacGillvray Freeman Films Educational Foundation.

Select Medical IMAX Theater is located at 222 Market Street in Harrisburg. For more information on tickets and showtimes, please call 717-214-ARTS or visit www.whitakercenter.org .

Visit the

PA Environment Digest Video Blog

Feature

Rebecca Coleman: Champion of the Bluebird, State Park Volunteer Honored

Longtime service and dedication to the Eastern bluebird and its habitat at Laurel Hill and Laurel Ridge state parks in Somerset County have earned a park volunteer DCNR's 2006 Bluebird Monitor of the Year Award.

Rebecca Coleman of Somerset was chosen from 155 volunteers statewide and honored at a late November ceremony saluting her "long-term dedication and enthusiasm" displayed over 15 years while volunteering to monitor and help protect and propagate Eastern bluebirds as part of the Bureau of State Parks' monitoring program.

A total of 42 nesting boxes are supervised at the parks by Coleman, who says the number of bluebirds fledged along her bluebird trail has been "pretty consistent" since she took over chores of erecting and repairing bluebird nesting boxes, cleaning them, and keeping track of the occupants. It is a task that comes with surprises:

"I've found bats on occasion in the nesting boxes, and one year a family of field mice had taken up residence," said Coleman, 55, who noted her attachment to the bluebird and willingness to volunteer at a state park were generated "almost by accident."

"I'd lived in Somerset for 10 years and never had been to Laurel Hill State Park -- just eight miles from my home," Coleman said. "I finally visited the park, eventually met its retired environmental education specialist, Audrey Grey, and we took an instant liking to each other. I fell in love with the park and wanted to hike in it; Audrey needed someone to monitor its bluebird boxes. I accepted and was able to get out on my own time-frame in what became a perfect match."

Perfect, indeed, park officials agree: "The success of our bluebird program at both Laurel Hill and Laurel Ridge state parks is a direct result of Becky's demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm," said Amy Hill, Bureau of State Parks' Bluebird Trails Coordinator. "She does a great deal of work on both trails, and also helps by hosting programs and demonstrations along the trails during Laurel Hill's Annual Bluebird Celebration.

"According to their annual report, they fledged 24 tree swallows and 28 bluebirds at Laurel Hill and 28 tree swallows and eight bluebirds at Laurel Ridge," said Hill. "Becky is just getting the Laurel Ridge trail open and going again so I would expect those numbers to increase as the bluebirds reacclimatize to the trail."

As bluebird trails coordinator, Coleman is dedicated to the nesting success of the park's cheery, winged visitors. Her duties include construction, placement and observation



Rebecca Coleman Speaks to Visitors at Laurel Hill State Park

of nesting boxes; spring cleaning before new nesting seasons; and compilation of annual nesting records.

Laurel Hill State Park Complex Manager Robert J. Huffman said Coleman is directly responsible for the addition of more than 30 nesting boxes at the two parks.

“Mrs. Coleman guides several bluebird hikes for families and friends participating in the Annual Bluebird Celebration,” Huffman said. “During this July 4th weekend event, the remaining members of Laurel Hill’s Civilian Conservation Corps spend time building bluebird boxes with families while Becky guides the walks.

“She also has attended numerous Pennsylvania State Park bluebird conferences and has volunteered in numerous other educational aspects of the park. Rebecca Coleman is most deserving of this award due to her long-term dedication and enthusiasm for the bluebird monitoring program.”

Coleman had some accolades of her own for the staff at both parks: “All these years and the park personnel always have treated me the same -- very nicely. They never fail to show genuine appreciation for what we do as volunteers, and I appreciate that as well.”

The Bureau of State Parks bluebird-monitoring program, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2006, now involves 56 of the 117 state parks across the state, according to Hill, who oversees the program. “Volunteers will regularly check the nesting boxes, noting if bluebirds are frequenting them, building nests, laying eggs, hatching, and fledging,” she said.

The Bluebird Trails Program has involved over 150 volunteers, ranging in age from high school students to some in their upper 80s. They check some 1,600 nesting boxes across the state in individual park efforts that monitor from five to more than 175 nesting boxes.

Commitment in the bluebird-monitoring program is not rare, Hill notes. More than 15 of the volunteers have been checking nesting boxes; cleaning and repairing them; jotting notes; and hiking trails for over 20 or more years.

In 2006, a total of 2,219 bluebirds were fledged, bringing the grand total to 43,215 since 1981. Data gleaned from observations of Coleman and others is shared with the Game Commission; North American Bluebird Society; the [Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania](#); and the Bureau of State Parks’ Resources Management and Planning Division.

For more details on Bluebird Trails Program, contact Amy Hill at 717-783-4361. *(Reprinted from [DCNR Resource](#) electronic newsletter)*

Video Blog: [Nancy Putt Talks About the Bluebird Society of PA](#)

Quick Clips

Here’s a selection of NewsClips on environmental topics from around the state...

[Audubon Society to Help Create Student Habitat Commission Likely to Tweak Deer Management Program](#)
[Hamiltonban Offers Land Conservation Options](#)
[PECO Sells Land to Upper Merion for Open Space](#)
[Sale to Land Trust Helps Green Space Grow](#)

[Highest Number of Eagles Recorded at Raystown Lake](#)
[Aviary Tracking Eagles](#)
[Aviary Tracking Raptors to Find Safe Sites for Wind Turbines](#)
[Turbines Could Harm Local Environment](#)
[Firm Plans to Open Wind Farm in 2009](#)
[Editorial: PA's Famed Ridge Tops Not Only Place for Windmills](#)
[Editorial: Nation's Ethanol goals Will Boost Corn Prices](#)
[Appeals Court Upholds Proposal for 2,200 Hog Barn](#)
[Biodiesel Advocates Prepare New Plant](#)
[Consortium Puts Focus on Cost of Electricity](#)
[Pollution Prevention Loan Helps Business Save Water, Energy](#)
[PPL Scrubbers, Drywall Plant Making Progress](#)
[Groups Hope to Rescue Recycling Program](#)
[Pittsburgh Mayor Aims to Boost Recycling Figures](#)
[State College to Recycle Organic Materials](#)
[Dumping in Saw Mill Run Blvd. Exemplifies Years of Neglect](#)
[Raising Costs Hurt Dairy Farmers](#)
[Firm Would Advise How to Save Money By Reducing Energy](#)
[Forum: PA Wilds Initiative Not So Wild](#)
[Outdoors: Cabin Fever Opens Doors to State Parks](#)
[State Park To Go](#)
[Beautiful Birch's Peels and Appeal Endure Winter](#)

Watershed NewsClips

Read a sampling of NewsClips on watershed topics from around Pennsylvania.

[Sink Hole Swallowing LeTort Run, Cumberland Trout Unlimited to Rescue](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Alliance Honors Carlisle](#)
[Group Develops Laurel Creek Water Budget](#)
[Local Conservation Club Credited with Stream Cleanup](#)
[Pike Seeks Support for Stormwater Planning](#)
[Wapwallopen Creek Watershed Aid Eyed](#)
[When It Rains, It pours: Venango Tackles Stormwater](#)
[Flood Mitigation Program Gets a Boost in Luzerne](#)
[Family Helps Restore Pond](#)
[Bethlehem Authority Logs Watershed Lands](#)
[Clearfield Water Authority to Fight Costly DEP Rules](#)
[Drexel University Receives Grant to Promote Safe Drinking Water](#)
[Plants in Hot Water Over Hot Water in Delaware](#)
[Outdoors: Top Fly Fishers Offer Readers Insight Into Patterns](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board this week accepted for study a rulemaking petition that asks the Board to set regulations limiting the [idling of commercial diesel engines](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – January 20, 2007](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)
[Copies of Proposed Regulations \(DEP website\)](#)

[Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar \(DEP website\)](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [will publish a proposed General Permit](#) covering residual and municipal waste composting in the January 27 *PA Bulletin*.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- [DEP No Cost Internet Environmental Remediation Training](#)
- [DEP Published Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings for 2007.](#)
- **January 23** – DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) Vapor Intrusion Subcommittee meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **January 24** – DEP [Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **January 24** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **January 25** – DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **January 26** – [Regional Water Management Task Force](#) – SW PA Elected Officials Briefing. Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Township. 412-624-7792. 2 to 4 p.m.
- **February 7** – [PA Energy Development Authority board meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **February 8** – Sewage Task Force, Joint Conservation Committee. Penn State, State College. 10:00.
- **February 14** - House Appropriations Committee – Presentation of budget needs by House members. 9:00.

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- **February 15** - House Appropriations Committee – Presentation of budget needs by House members (if needed). Majority Caucus Room. 9:00.
- **February 15** – Legislative Forestry Task Force Meeting, Joint Conservation Committee. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **February 26** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Revenue (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **February 27** - House Appropriations Committee – PA Emergency Management Agency (11:30). Majority Caucus Room.
- **February 28** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Budget Secretary (3:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **February 28** - House Appropriations Committee – Public Utility Commission (9:00), Dept. of Community and Economic Development (10:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 1** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (9:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 3** – [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#). Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown.
- **March 5** - House Appropriations Committee – Dept. of Environmental Protection (1:30), Dept. of Agriculture (3:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 6** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Transportation (9:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 6** - House Appropriations Committee – PA Economy League on Transportation Funding (10:00), Dept. of Transportation (2:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 7** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Community and Economic Development (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 7** – House Appropriations Committee – Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (3:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 8** - Senate Appropriations Committee- Dept. of Agriculture (9:00), Public Utility Commission (10:30), Dept. of Environmental Protection (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 18-20**: [Governor’s Outdoor Conference](#). State College.
- **April 5-6**: [Preparing for the Storm: Stormwater Solutions for PA Communities](#). State College.
- **April 13-15**: [PA Assn. Environmental Educators “No Child Left Inside” Conference](#). Wilkes-Barre.
- **April 27-28**: West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium III. Genetti Hotel. Williamsport. Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or send email to: awolfe@tu.org.
Video Blog: [Amy Wolfe Talks About Restoring the West Branch](#).

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#) (courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

[Senate Committee Schedule](#) [House Committee Schedule](#)

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

Stories Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - DHess@CrisciAssociates.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716.

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