

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Let's Pick It Up, PA!, New Effort Promotes Litter-Free School Zones



Gov. Rendell this week invited schools and community groups to join the 4th Annual [Great Pennsylvania Cleanup](#), a statewide effort to remove litter and trash from roadways, parks, riverbanks and open spaces.

The entire cleanup campaign - with a special emphasis on creating Litter-Free School Zones - will run from March 1 to May 31. A featured one-day, statewide cleanup event will take place on April 21, in conjunction with Earth Day.

"The volunteers of the Great

Pennsylvania Cleanup do an outstanding job helping to make Pennsylvania a clean and beautiful place in which to live, work and play," Gov. Rendell said. "Each year, a growing number of Pennsylvanians join together for this important effort. I encourage all citizens to volunteer for or organize a cleanup event in their community."

Last year, more than 132,000 volunteers from all 67 counties removed 6.7 million pounds of trash from roads, parks, schools, waterways, wildlife areas and communities.

Video Blog: [Volunteers Join in 29th Street Cleanup Along Capital GreenBelt](#)

This year's initiative includes a focus on Litter-Free School Zones, a new program launched by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, cosponsor of the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Participating schools agree to check the campus grounds weekly and remove litter, and also to promote and implement all campus events as litter-free events.

[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Inc.](#) is again playing a major role in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is supported and sponsored by a wide range of businesses, trade organizations, civic and environmental groups, and state and local government agencies. It is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which was founded in 1953 to promote litter prevention, community beautification and improvement, and waste reduction.

The state departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, Education, Environmental Protection and Transportation are members of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful alliance.

PennDOT supports the cleanup by providing participants with free gloves, safety vests and trash bags. In 2005, Keep America Beautiful presented PennDOT with one of six partner awards for its role in making the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup a success.

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[PA CleanWays](#), a nonprofit group dedicated to fighting illegal dumping and litter, is coordinating all cleanup event registrations and collections reporting.

Member companies of the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are again offering free landfill space to dispose of nonrecyclable waste collected during the cleanup. Groups must register their events by April 16 to be eligible for this offer.

This year's Great Pennsylvania Cleanup also features exciting incentives for groups that register their events and report the results of the efforts through the [Great PA Cleanup website](#).

Random drawings will be held to award gift cards from a growing number of Pennsylvania businesses sponsoring the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. The website offers information on how to take advantage of the national Keep America Beautiful incentive programs.

The [Great Pennsylvania Cleanup website](#) contains safety information, links to other cleanup organizations, a logo that can be downloaded, T-shirt iron-on transfers and posters, and lesson plans for teachers.

For additional information, call the toll-free Pennsylvania Recycling and Litterbug Hotline at 1-888-548-8372.

The following is a list of organizations sponsoring Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup:

AAA Mid-Atlantic, Audubon Pennsylvania, Best Buy, Cities: Allentown, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, Education, Environmental Protection and Transportation, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, GreenTreks Network, Home Depot, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Keep Lancaster Beautiful, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, Keystone Sanitary Landfill, PA CleanWays, Pennsylvania Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Downtown Center, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, Pennsylvania Host Municipal Inspectors, Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association, Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds and Rivers, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association, Pennsylvania State Association of Borough Managers, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, Schuylkill Keep It Pretty, Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, The Steel Recycling Institute and Waste Management Inc.

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House both break for budget hearings until March 12.

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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- Environmental Law Forum Set for April 11-12 In Harrisburg
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- Governor’s Outdoor Conference Set for March 18-20
- Learn About Special Tax Benefits of Donating Land Only During 2007
- Landowners Tell Personal Stories of Why They Preserve Their Land
- International Paper, The Conservation Fund Accepting Award Nominations
- Chamber Annual Environmental Laws and Regulations Conference April 17-18
- USDA Launches New Website on Renewable Energy Opportunities for Farmers
- Global Warming 2007-It’s Time for Action Workshop Set for March 31
- Student Interns Wanted: Western PA Conservancy Intern Opportunities

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

Here are some upcoming activities by Senate and House Committees....

House Committees: the Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on the budgets for the PA Emergency Management Agency, Public Utility Commission, and the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Senate Committees: the Appropriations Committee holds a hearing on the budget for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week, here's the rundown...

Clean Diesel Technology: [House Bill 484](#) (Beyer-R-Monroe) providing a tax credit for the installation of new, clean diesel technology. *(text not yet online)*

Nuclear Plant Fees: [House Bill 496](#) (George-D-Clearfield) increases fees on nuclear power plants and for transportation of nuclear materials. *(text not yet online)*

Bad Actor Provisions: [House Bill 505](#) (George-D-Clearfield) expanding bad actor provisions considered during waste facility permitting. *(text not yet online)*

Emergency Energy Assistance: [House Bill 506](#) (George-D-Clearfield) providing an appropriation to the Emergency Energy Assistance Fund. *(text not yet online)*

Landfill Moratorium: [House Bill 508](#) (George-D-Clearfield) providing for a municipal waste landfill permit moratorium, increasing rebuttable presumption limits and authorizing additional grants for recycling programs. *([House Bill 326](#) from last session) (text not yet online)*

Other News

CBF, Partners Invite Participation on Streamside Conservation Program

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is mailing 30,000 post cards to streamside property owners in southern central Pennsylvania to invite them to participate in the [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#).

The mailing is part of a major campaign to encourage landowners to plant forest buffers along their streams.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program not only covers the costs to install buffers, but also pays annual rental fees once the buffer has been established.

“Planting streamside buffers is one of the most effective conservation measures we can take to reduce pollution and improve water quality in our local streams,” said David Wise, PA CBF’s Watershed Restoration Manager. “We’re encouraging landowners to enroll and take advantage of the opportunity to improve their water quality and the value of their property while getting paid to do so.”

Through CREP, landowners can plant a variety of native trees and shrubs along their streams to help reduce pollution entering the stream, keep the water temperature cooler, provide habitat for songbirds and wildlife, and to enhance the beauty of their property. The minimum buffer width required through CREP is 35’, but most landowners recognize the many benefits and enroll much more than that; the typical buffer is 100’ wide.



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Landowners with one-quarter mile or more of streamside property are encouraged to enroll. To date, nearly 3,000 Pennsylvanians have enrolled their property in CREP buffers.

“Enrolling your property is truly as easy as it sounds,” said Ashley Spotts, CBF’s Lancaster County CREP Buffer Specialist. “All it takes is a commitment to want to make things better. CREP helps with the rest.”

In addition to CBF, partners in CREP include: USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Game Commission, Center for Rural PA, Ducks Unlimited, PA Assoc. of Conservation Districts, Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fish and Boat Commission, Partners for Wildlife, Pheasants Forever, State Conservation Commission, and the Western PA Conservancy.

CREP has set up an information hotline and website that make it easy to enroll. Check out 1-800-941-CREP or visit the [CREP webpage](#).

PA Trout Unlimited Endorses REAP Tax Credit Bill to Restore Aquatic Habitat



The [Pennsylvania State Council of Trout Unlimited](#), which represents more than 12,000 anglers across the Commonwealth, expressed their support for the proposed [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\)](#) that would give tax credits to farmers and other property owners who install best management practices that restore and protect aquatic habitats.

Writing to Gov. Rendell and key Senate and House members, Ken Undercoffer, President of the Council, said, “We believe farmers and property owners can play a key role in restoring (aquatic) habitats and are pleased to let you know that we support the REAP proposal.”

“This bipartisan initiative will help address the poor water quality found in more than 13,400 miles of Pennsylvania streams and rivers by providing farmers tax credits for installing best management practices on their farms.” Undercoffer added, “REAP would also provide tax credits to other landowners who install forested stream buffers and to businesses that sponsor on-farm projects.”

The proposal [will be re-introduced this session](#) as House Bill 100 by Rep. Stern (R-Blair) and co-sponsored by Rep. Daley (D-Washington). A companion Senate Bill is also expected to be introduced.

“Farmers are good stewards of our land and water, but they need the right tools and the resources to continue to improve their operations,” said Undercoffer. “REAP would provide producers who implement eligible conservation measures on their farms the help they need to make critical, cost-effective water quality projects affordable.”

“The REAP program will help Pennsylvania improve the health of its waterways, protect drinking water and meet our obligations to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution under the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement. At the same time, it will support productive, profitable agriculture,” Undercoffer explained.

“REAP is a clear win for everyone,” said Undercoffer.

[Other organizations supporting REAP](#) include: Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania

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State Grange, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Audubon Society, Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Lancaster Farmland Trust, Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force, Native Energy, Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, Red Barn, Inc., Juniata Clean Water Partnership, LandStudies, Inc., Project Grass, Nature's Best Organic Feeds, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, American Farmland Trust, Binkley & Hurst, Octoraro Native Plant Nursery, Cedar Meadow Farm, Pennsylvania League of Conservation Voters, Red Knob Farm, Inc., Brandywine Valley Association, Rettew, Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee, Inc., TeamAg, Inc., Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Tioga Watershed Reclamation Project, Inc., Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Muddy Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

DCNR Adds Three Watersheds to PA Rivers Conservation Registry

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced it has approved watershed conservation plans for three watersheds in the Commonwealth and added them to the [Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry](#)—

Codorus Creek Watershed and all its tributaries in York County. The Plan and supporting materials are available from the [Codorus Creek Watershed Association](#) or by contacting DCNR at 717-787-2316. ([Click here for notice.](#))

Pine Creek Watershed and all its tributaries in Clinton, Lycoming, Potter and Tioga Counties. The Plan and supporting information is available from the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. at 570-265-3409, ext. 5 or from DCNR at 717-787-2316. ([Click here for notice.](#))

Three Sisters Watersheds (Sideling Hill Creek, Fifteenmile Creek and Town Creek) and all their tributaries in Bedford and Fulton counties. The plan and supporting materials are available from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy [Freshwater Conservation Program](#), 724-459-0953 or from DCNR at 717-787-2316. ([Click here for notice.](#))

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry webpage](#).

DEP Invites Comments on Proposed TMDLs for Stoneycreek River, Mahoney Creek

The Department of Environmental Protection invites public comments on proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plans for two watersheds—

Stoneycreek River Watershed, Somerset County: DEP will hold a public meeting March 7 at the Cambria District Mining Office at 1:00 to accept comments on the plan. Contact: Mike Timcik, 814-472-1900 or send email to: mtimcik@state.pa.us.

Mahanoy Creek, Schuylkill County: DEP is extending the comment period to March 2. Contact: James Andrews, 570-621-3118 or send email to: jameandrew@state.pa.us.

For copies of TMDL Plans, visit [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

Spend Your Summer Paddling On a PA River Sojourn

The [2007 PA River Sojourn](#) season is fast approaching. There will be 13 sojourns featured in the 2007 season, starting in early May.

Registration will begin in March, so plan now if you would like to vacation on one of Pennsylvania's many scenic rivers.

Video Blog: [What's A Sojourn? The 2006 Sojourn Season](#)

2007 PA River Sojourns dates are:

- Swatara Creek Sojourn - May 5 – 7;
- Alle-Kiski-Connie Sojourn – May 17 – 20;
- Stony-Kiski-Connie Sojourn - May 31 - June 3;
- Schuylkill River Sojourn - June 2 – 8;
- Chartiers Creek Sojourn – June 9 – 10;
- Clarion River Sojourn - June 9 – 10;
- Juniata River Sojourn - June 9 – 16;
- Lehigh River Sojourn - June 22 – 25;
- Delaware River Sojourn - June 24 – 30;
- West Branch Susquehanna River Sojourn – July 13 – 15;
- Susquehanna River Sojourn - July 16 – 22;
- Lake Erie Sojourn - August 16 – 19; and
- Ohiopyle Falls Festival - August 25.

Sojourns are more than just camping and paddling trips. Each sojourn incorporates an education program that teaches participants about historical aspects of the river they're paddling on, or the area they're paddling through.

One example is the 2007 Delaware River Sojourn (June 24 - June 30) which this year has the theme of "Celebrating Native American Culture".

Paddle one day with or embark on the full seven-day journey as paddlers explore the wild and scenic, historic and recreational Delaware River that includes speakers, musicians and storytellers.

Sojourners of all ages and levels of experience are invited to join in the fun and memories.

For more information, visit the [PA River Sojourns webpage](#). (Courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers](#))



Manual Aids in Maintaining Slippery Rock Watershed AMD Treatment Systems

Treating acid mine drainage using passive treatment systems means a minimum of operation and maintenance, right? When compared to conventional chemical treatment systems, the answer is a resounding, "yes."

However, there is still operation and maintenance work to be done regarding passive systems! Keeping in mind that passive treatment is still a relatively new

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technology, it is understood that periodic inspections and system maintenance are necessary for the facilities to continually and successfully treat the mine drainage.

The [Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Coalition](#), through a volunteer effort, works to maintain the passive systems, and to help with this effort an Operation and Maintenance Manual for all projects within the Slippery Rock Watershed is being completed.

The Plan consists of the following components, which are available for download from www.Datashed.org :

- An overview of AMD and related chemistry;
- Detailed information regarding different types and components of passive treatment systems;
- Instructions for conducting site inspections and completing maintenance tasks;
- Site location maps; and
- Individualized inspection forms for each reclamation project.

The comprehensive O&M Plan, portions of which were created based on the example from P.J. Shaw of the DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, outlines and details the work needed to ensure the sustainability of the watershed's passive systems.

The SRWC's O&M Manual was completed through a public-private partnership which includes: BioMost, Inc., Jennings Environmental Education Center, DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, DEP's Grants Center, DEP's Knox District Mining Office, Quality Aggregates, the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Coalition, Stream Restoration, Inc. and 241 Computer Service.

Funding for the Manual was provided through a Technical Assistance Grant awarded to Stream Restoration, Inc. through DEP's Growing Greener Program.

The SRWC is taking an "active" role using "passive" treatment systems to fix the problems caused by AMD. The SRWC is very excited about how this comprehensive O&M Manual will benefit the watershed and those who play a role in caring for its restoration. (*Reprinted from The Catalyst, [Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Coalition](#)*)

How Should New Federal Mine Reclamation Money Be Spent to Solve PA Problems?

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation has created an [interactive, visual tool](#) to help understand how federal Title IV mine reclamation funding might be applied toward Pennsylvania's abandoned mine problems.

This new funding, the result of a 2006 revamp of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, will bring an estimated \$1.4 billion over the next 15+ years.

WPCAMR's Title IV Calculator lets its user easily gain an appreciation of how the Title IV funding model works through playing "what if" by clicking buttons to change estimated values of Pennsylvania's:

- P1 & P2 Inventory: the cost to reclaim all Priority 1 and 2 hazards;
- AMD Inventory: the cost needed to fix all Abandoned Mine Drainage problems;
- AMD Set-Aside: the portion of Pennsylvania's Title IV money that can be used to remediate Abandoned Mine Drainage problems;
- DEP Overhead: the percentage of Title IV money needed by the Dept. of Environmental Protection to administer the program;

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- Total Title IV Funding: the total amount Pennsylvania receives from the federal government to address all abandoned mine problems (P1s, P2s, and AMD) and for administrative overhead.

Of particular importance are the results of selecting different percentages of AMD Set-Aside, which shows the trade-offs between the ability to fix P1 & P2 problems versus AMD problems.

Users of the Title IV Calculator can view these interactions visually with pie charts and a table of values representing:

- AMD Left Undone: the cost needed to fix AMD problems not addressed by Title IV funding;
- Clean Water: the amount in dollars applied to fixing AMD problems over the life of Title IV;
- DEP Overhead: the amount used by DEP to administer the program over the life of Title IV;
- Restored P1s & P2s: the amount in dollars applied to fixing Priority 1 and 2 problems over the life of Title IV;
- Remaining P1s & P2s Left Undone: the cost needed to fix Priority 1 and 2 problems not addressed by Title IV funding; and
- Unused Funding: Title IV funding that was potentially available to fix problems, but left unused (if any).

[Visit WPCAMR's Title IV online calculator.](#)

St. Margaret Mary Students Have Trout in the Classroom

Science teacher Mary Frances Bowman has introduced her sixth and seventh grade students at [St. Margaret Mary School](#) in Penbrook, Dauphin County, to [Trout in the Classroom](#), a program developed by national Trout Unlimited to teach students about coldwater conservation.

With about 200 brown trout eggs supplied by the Fish and Boat commission and support provided by the [Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#), the students will raise the trout over the winter months and release them into one of the local streams.

David Cross, a parent advisor for the program, was quoted in a recent Patriot-news article as saying it is designed “to create an awareness of the environment.” He called the results “excellent” and said the students are excited about the program. “They’re learning a lot about water quality, pollution and conservation.”

Bowman observed that the students “get to see the fish develop inside the eggs. They can see the eyes through the shells. They’re realling enjoying it. They cange the water weekly, check mortality rates, water conditions.”

St. Margaret Mary School is the first school in the Harrisburg area and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg to include this program in its curriculum.

Other schools in the area served by the Doc Fritchey Chapter who would be interesting in starting a Trout in the Classroom program next fall should call Frank Viozzi at 717-566-7920 or information on the program and funding available through the Chapter.

Other Chapters of Trout Unlimited around Pennsylvania also sponsor local Trout in the Classroom Programs. To contact a chapter near you, visit the [PA Trout Council webpage](#).

(Reprinted from the Hatches newsletter, Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited)

New Manager Hired for West Branch Restoration Efforts, Get Symposium Agenda

Trout Unlimited has hired Rebecca Dunlap as Project Manager for the organization's West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative. For the last two years, Dunlap served as Aquatic Ecologist for the ClearWater Conservancy in State College.

"I couldn't be happier that Becky has joined our team," said Amy Wolfe, TU's Director of Abandoned Mine Programs. "Over the past three years, we've been building the foundation for the large-scale restoration of the West Branch. Now that Becky is on board, we can begin the hard work of cleaning up priority sites."

TU's West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative aims to clean up dozens of streams throughout the river basin contaminated by abandoned mine drainage. This drainage from former coal mine sites is the largest source of pollution in Pennsylvania's waterways. Often acidic and laced with toxic metals, abandoned mine drainage degrades drinking water, diminishes aquatic habitat and threatens fish and wildlife. Over 1,100 stream miles are contaminated in the West Branch Susquehanna watershed.

Two upcoming events will provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative and become involved in this ambitious and exciting effort.

The West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition will meet on March 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Elks Club on East Main Street in downtown Lock Haven.

The third annual [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium](#) will take place April 27-28 at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport. This event brings together policy makers, technical experts, volunteers and other interested parties to exchange ideas regarding abandoned mine drainage clean-up in the region. ([Download the 2007 Symposium brochure](#))

"Living in the West Branch watershed, I've seen first-hand the impact of abandoned mine drainage," said Dunlap. "I look forward to working with the strong coalition of organizations and individuals engaged in the restoration of this remarkable resource."

For more information on the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative or the Symposium, contact Amy Wolfe by sending email to: awolfe@tu.org or Rebecca Dunlap at rdunlap@tu.org at Trout Unlimited or call them at 570-726-3118.

Black Bass Workshop Set for May 4 in Erie

Anglers are invited to register for the 7th annual [Pennsylvania Black Bass Workshop](#) to be held May 4 at the [Tom Ridge Environmental Center](#) in Erie and sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Fish and Boat Commission.

Addressing the theme, "Lake Erie Black Bass Population Dynamics," and focusing on the Great Lakes bass fishery, the event will examine bass management in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.

The workshop is designed to offer anglers, and resource and facilities managers an opportunity to hear discussions on black bass management, habitat management, angling and other aquatic resource subjects. Boat launches and weigh-in facilities also will be discussed.

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Specific topics will include: Bass Population Dynamics; Black Bass Health Issues; Invasive Species, and Black Bass Management. A limited number of attendees will have a chance to experience recreational small mouthbass fishing May 5, on Lake Erie.

In addition to the PFBC and DCNR's Bureau of State Parks, other workshop co-hosts include PPL Corp.; Pennsylvania Bass Federation, New York Bass Federation; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the New York Department of Environmental Conservation; and the Marsh Creek Bass Club.

Started in 1999 and held at a different site each year, the workshop is open to anyone interested in black bass conservation, and is designed for bass anglers, fishery biologists, conservation officers, educators, state and federal agency officials, and park, facility and other resource managers.

For registration information and other details, contact Linda Woznicki, Bureau of State Parks, 301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 1, Erie, or call 814-833-7424; or send email to lwoznicki@state.pa.us.

Program information also may be obtained by contacting the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at 814-833-7424.

ClearWater Conservancy Offers Grants for Millbrook Marsh EE Programs

The CleanWater Conservancy announced it has grants available to schools to send students to the [Millbrook Marsh Nature Center](#) for outdoor environmental education programs. The grants were made possible with the support of the Dominion Educational Partnership, State of the Art and the State College Kiwanis.

The application deadline for Spring 2007 is March 9 (disregard the February deadline on the application).

Since 1997, [ClearWater Conservancy Connections Program](#) has been providing students in schools throughout Centre County with the opportunity for hands-on learning through outdoor watershed education. Each year, between 1,000 and 1,500 students have visited places like Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, Bald Eagle State Park, and Fisherman's Paradise for a day packed with information and fun.

Visit the [ClearWater Conservancy Connections Program webpage](#) for more information and an application. (*Courtesy Jennifer Shuey, CleaWater Conservancy*)

Westmoreland Conservation District to Hold Forestry II Workshop March 31

If you'd like to know more about how to sustainably manage a woodlot, the [Westmoreland Conservation District](#) "Forestry II" workshop on March 31 can give you some good, practical insights.

Led by District Forester Tony Quadro, the morning-long event will provide information on basic woodlot ecology, silviculture, measurement and timber-volume determination, stand development and forest history, forest succession, tolerance, crown position, relative stand density, and types of cutting.

The workshop begins with registration at 8:30 a.m., will take place both indoors – at the District's headquarters on Donohoe Road in Hempfield Township, which features a variety of local wood in its construction – and outdoors in the adjacent, natural wooded area of Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park. The workshop will conclude by noon.

The cost is \$5, and advance registration is required.

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For more information, contact the Conservation District at 724-837-5271 or send emails to: leanne@wcdpa.com .

Volunteers Needed for Habitat Improvement Project in Schuylkill County

Game Commissioner Gregory J. Isabella is urging local sportsmen to join him and Game Commission personnel from the Southeast region office for a day of border-edge cutting on State Game Land 229 in Reilly Township, Schuylkill County.

The event is set for 9 a.m. on March 3.

"This border-edge cutting event will give hunters and sportsmen who hunt this area an opportunity to come out and do some habitat work to benefit wildlife," Isabella said. "It also offers hunters an opportunity to get in some scouting prior to the upcoming spring gobbler season."

One of the multitude of wildlife habitat projects conducted by the Game Commission, border-edge cutting is the first step in creating early successional edge habitat. Timing such border-edge cuts during the winter allows deer to browse the tops of the felled trees, while providing benefits to other wildlife in the form of escape cover for smaller birds and mammals from predators.

"The trees in many woodlots have reached a stage in their growth in which they no longer furnish food and cover for certain wildlife," said Land Management Group Supervisor Matthew Belding, who oversees State Game Lands in Schuylkill and Berks counties. "Wildlife species requiring low-growing, dense plant growth for escape cover, resting and nesting cover, and feeding areas will benefit from border cutting. Populations of species, such as cottontail rabbits, woodchucks, ring-neck pheasants, bobwhite quail, and certain songbirds usually increase after a border is cut. In some parts, white-tailed deer also may benefit from border cuttings."

Here are directions to the meeting site:

From Tremont: Travel North on Route 209 for about one mile. Go past the Game Commission parking lot on right side of the road about 100 yards, and then turn right into a gravel lane with signs out front about abandoned mine reclamation projects. Go back the lane and meet at the parking area. Participants will car pool to the cutting location.

From Minersville: At the intersection of Routes 901 and 209, travel south on Route 209 for about six miles. Go through Newtown. Roughly one-half mile past Newtown, turn left onto a gravel lane with signs out front about abandoned mine reclamation projects. Go back the lane and meet at the parking area. Participants will car pool to the cutting location.

Governor's Outdoor Conference Set for March 18-20

Nominations for individuals and organizations who would like to attend the [Governor's Outdoor Conference](#) are now being accepted. The Conference is being held March 18-20 in State College.

There is a \$275 registration fee to attend.

"Our quality of life depends on our ability to understand, appreciate and enjoy Pennsylvania's natural bounties," Gov. Rendell said. "We simply cannot afford to lose our connection with the outdoors. It's a rich part of our heritage and provides the balance we need for a prosperous future."

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Mirroring national trends, Pennsylvania's aging population, declining numbers of hunters and anglers, loss of open space, increased competition for leisure time and a drop in environmental literacy have combined to cause concern. These and other indicators suggest a meaningful decline in people's connections to their outdoor environment, which can have consequences on our communities, our economy, and our natural resources.

The conference will gather policy makers, business representatives, sportsmen's groups, conservation organizations and representatives of the health and education sectors to analyze current trends and consider solutions to expand people's connection to the outdoors.

For more information, visit the [Governor's Outdoor Conference website](#) or send email to: connectoutdoorsinfo@state.pa.us.

Attorney General Corbett Using Penalties to Fund Environmental Projects

[Attorney General Tom Corbett](#) this week distributed more than \$50,000 to benefit public safety and environmental efforts in Greenville, Mercer County, as part of the resolution of a criminal case brought by the Attorney General's [Environmental Crimes Section](#) against Texas-based Trinity Industries.

General Corbett was joined by representatives from organizations in Mercer County to explain how this money will support local emergency response and environmental activities.

General Corbett said the money being distributed is part of the court sentence for Trinity Industries Railcar Corporation, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, which operated a facility in Greenville, Mercer County.

On April 4, 2006, Trinity Industries was charged with illegally disposing of contaminated soil and other waste at its manufacturing and repair facility in Greenville.

On Dec. 21, 2006, Trinity entered a plea of no contest to charges of unlawfully dumping solid waste and operating a solid waste disposal facility without a permit. Trinity Industries was ordered to clean up environmental contamination at the Greenville site and pay a \$200,000 fine to the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Abatement Fund.

Additionally, the court ordered Trinity to make a \$50,000 contribution to non-profit organizations in Mercer County.

"As Attorney General, I am committed to investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes throughout the state," General Corbett said. "In addition to holding violators accountable for their actions, it is important that we work to direct settlement funds into conservation, education and public safety efforts that will benefit all Pennsylvanians."

The money, including interest, is being divided between five organizations and will support various community efforts and environmental projects:

- Greenville Borough will receive \$15,129 to be used for a public works building;
- Greenville Fire Department will receive \$10,086 to provide protective clothing;
- Hempfield Township Volunteer Fire Department will receive \$10,086 in equipment;
- West Salem Volunteer Fire Department will receive \$10,086 in protective clothing;
- and
- Shenango River Watchers will receive \$5,043 in support of its ongoing conservation efforts.

Environmental Law Forum Set for April 11-12 In Harrisburg

The Pennsylvania Bar Association Environmental Law Section will hold its annual [Environmental Law Forum](#) in Harrisburg on April 11-12 under the theme of “Get the Green Advantage!”

Profit from environmental friendliness is the new fashion in business: the industrial Goliaths want to be Jolly Green Giants. Green technology is where it’s at. Green is the new “black”; the corporate must-have, the year’s buzz word—the environment is in vogue. Competition is not only about cost and quality, but also environmental performance. It’s all about environmental advantage.

Thanks to this latest trend in corporate America, the race for profit share might just beat out government initiative. This is a good thing.

So good, in fact, that hundreds of Pennsylvania lawyers will gather together in Harrisburg on April 11 and 12 for Environmental Law Forum 2007, where they will study this trend, learn about new developments, prepare for their clients’ questions, and compare success stories. Will you be there?

Jump on this bandwagon and join us for two fast-paced, exciting days of outstanding education and phenomenal networking. Keep up with your clients. It’s the green thing to do!

Topics for breakout sessions include: litigation, water, energy, sustainability and air, development/transactions and real estate, corporate, updates on a variety of topics plus a special basics refresher track.

For more information, visit the [Environmental Law Forum webpage](#).

Philadelphia Expands Single Stream Recycling Beginning in March

The City of Philadelphia Streets Department this week announced the expansion of its innovative single stream residential recycling collection method.

Beginning March 5, approximately 93,000 households located in West and Southwest Philadelphia will join 123,000 Northeast Philadelphia residences in being able to set out all recyclables, including flattened cardboard and #1 and #2 plastic containers (generally beverage and detergent containers), into one container for curbside pickup.

“The City has seen an increase of nearly 29 percent in recycling tonnage since the summer 2006 launch of our simplified recycling collection method in Northeast Philadelphia,” stated City of Philadelphia Streets Commissioner Clarena I.W. Tolson. “Expanding this process, which makes curbside recycling easier for residents, will continue to increase the amount of material we divert from our waste stream.”

West and Southwest Philadelphia residents may continue to use their blue recycling bins for curbside collection. Should one bin not be enough to hold all recyclables, residents may add another container and mark it “recycling.”

For more information regarding recycling, please contact the City of Philadelphia Streets Department’s recycling hotline at 215-685-7329 or visit recyclingPAYS.phila.gov.

Free Drop-Off Recycling of Refrigerators, Air Conditioners in Pittsburgh

The Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc. announced a [new appliance recycling campaign](#) in partnership with Appliance Warehouse to accept drop-offs of old, broken or unwanted major appliances at its facility.

Appliance Warehouse is located at 523 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh

Any individuals, businesses, townships, boroughs, or municipalities that may have old or unwanted appliances lying around now have an opportunity to recycle these items for free. There is no limit to the number of appliances that may be dropped off. Freon will be removed at Appliance Warehouse by EPA certified technicians.

This includes air conditioners, refrigerators, washers, dryers and other appliances typically categorized as “white goods”. For every appliance dropped off, Appliance Warehouse will make a donation to support PRC’s litter and graffiti prevention efforts in the community.

David Mazza, PRC’s Regional Director said, “In addition to providing individuals with a no cost solution to properly disposing of their unwanted freon-containing appliances, this partnership will allow PRC to expand its work in the community and help focus its efforts on reducing the harmful effects litter and graffiti have locally.”

Fred Landay, owner of the Appliance Warehouse stated, “Working with PRC provides us the opportunity to give back to the community while capturing items that pose a challenge for residents to properly dispose of.”

This partnership results in two primary benefits. First, individuals are able to safely and legally dispose of their unwanted appliances free of charge. This helps eliminate the illegal dumping of appliances and ensures that any freon contained in these appliances is collected and recycled in a responsible manner meeting all state and federal guidelines.

By dropping off appliances at the Appliance Warehouse, individuals are helping to support grassroots community efforts to eliminate litter and graffiti from their neighborhoods. PRC’s three primary service areas are recycling, litter/graffiti prevention, and waste reduction.

If individuals are unable to drop off appliances on their own, call Appliance Warehouse to schedule a pickup. Although a fee will be assessed for pickup, mention the phrase “Don’t be a litterbug,” and receive a 10 percent discount off the pickup service.

For more information or to schedule a pickup, call the Appliance Warehouse at 1-888-GO-FREON (463-7366) or visit www.appliancedisposal.org or the [PA Resources Council website](#).

Learn About Special Tax Benefits of Donating Land Only During 2007

Interested landowners are invited to get the latest information on time-limited incentives available to landowners who preserve their property only during 2007.

The Wildlands Conservancy will host a [Tax-Incentive Workshop](#) at the Kidder Township Municipal Building in Carbon County on March 6 from 7:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m.

In 2006, Congress added tax incentives for landowners choosing to permanently preserve their land. Among these changes are provisions raising the deduction allowed a landowner for donating a conservation easement from 30 percent of their adjusted gross income in any year to 50 percent and allowing qualifying farmers, ranchers and forest

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landowners to deduct up to 100 percent of their taxable income (e.g., pay no federal income tax).

These added incentives are available only until the end of 2007.

The Wildlands Conservancy is hosting a series of workshops in order to help interested landowners take advantage of these time limited incentives.

The lead speaker at the March 6 workshop will be Attorney Michael Henry of Gross, McGinley, and LaBarre & Eaton. Attorney Henry specializes in local, state and federal taxation, tax and estate planning, and real estate law. Diane Matthews-Gehringer, Land Preservation Manager for Wildlands Conservancy will also speak to attendees about preservation options.

The workshop is funded in part by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

According to the 2003 report by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources entitled Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Wild Places – Our Outdoor Heritage in Peril, Pennsylvania is losing approximately 350 acres per day to development.

Pennsylvania has the fifth highest amount of acreage lost to development but was ranked 48th lowest among all states in population growth during the 1990s.

The landscape of Penn's Woods is dramatically changing from undeveloped valleys and ridges to residential subdivisions, housing the area's moving population.

The report continues to say "as private forests and farmland are being converted for housing, the pressures on existing public lands will increase while undeveloped landscapes and open spaces will face increased peril.

Wildlife, streams, natural areas, threatened species, recreational opportunities, community vitality, economic health, and our general connections with the outdoors are likely to be adversely affected by the consequences of these mounting pressures on Pennsylvania's natural land base."

Several tools exist for the preservation of open space. Among the most equitable are conservation easements, which allow a property owner to limit certain uses on all or a portion of a property for conservation purposes while the owner retains possession and control of the land.

A conservation easement is an agreement between a landowner and a third party using terms to which the landowner agrees during negotiation. The agreement may limit the additional number of structures allowed on a property in the future or limit the number of lots which can be subdivided.

Conservation easements do not force a landowner to allow public access to a property. In most cases, owners can either receive cash for the sale of the right to develop (with certain state and local programs) or receive credit for donation of development rights. The sale or donation of development rights permanently preserves a piece of property and is binding upon current and future owners.

For more information, visit the [Tax-Incentive Workshop webpage](#) or contact Debra Lermite at 610-965-4397, ext. 11

Landowners Tell Personal Stories of Why They Preserve Their Land



The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association this week unveiled [In Their Own Words: 15 Stories of Conservation & Inspiration](#), a unique compilation of essays written by Pennsylvania landowners who have protected these family lands.

“Those who conserve their land create a profound legacy,” explains PALTA Executive Director, Andy Loza, “a gift that will resonate through time. In this collection, these landowners offer a second gift - a gift of their words - sharing their motivation and inspiration for protecting precious lands.”

Landowners can work with local land trusts in creating a lasting agreement that guarantees the wishes of the family and protects the integrity of their land. There are ninety-five local and regional land trusts working throughout Pennsylvania; and, to date, these organizations have worked in partnership with landowners to protect a total of 470,293 acres.

PALTA has published 20,000 copies of *In Their Own Words* to be distributed to local conservation organizations throughout the Commonwealth. These organizations will use the publication to educate landowners on the conservation choice.

This publication is the result of collaboration among conservation organizations, landowners, businesses and foundations, all of which have a strong commitment to protecting our precious landscapes for future generations.

Alcoa Foundation is one of the major sponsors that had made this publication possible. “Conserving and sustaining the environment is one of the Alcoa Foundation’s areas of excellence”, according to Steve Fries, Manager of Human Resources Communications and Development for the Alcoa North America Rolled Products and a representative for the Foundation, “we are glad that we could support this worthwhile project. The stories that are told will inspire others to care for the land.”

PALTA thanks the generous support of its membership and the following sponsors: Alcoa Foundation, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, William Penn Foundation, Rohm & Haas, Arcadia Land Company, the Western PA Watershed Program, York County Community Foundation, Reed Smith, and PP&L. Additional sponsors are listed at conserveland.org along with an online version of the publication.

Landowners, municipal officials, educators and others interested in receiving a copy of *In Their Own Words* may contact a local land trust; if unsure of which organizations work in your community, visit conserveland.org and use the “Find a Land Trust” feature or contact PALTA at 717-230-8560.

[In Their Own Words: 15 Stories of Conservation & Inspiration](#) is available online.

International Paper, The Conservation Fund Accepting Award Nominations

International Paper and The Conservation Fund are [now accepting nominations](#) to recognize two conservation/environmental education leaders with a \$10,000 cash award.

Award nominations are due April 15.

International Paper partners each year with The Conservation Fund to sponsor the International Paper Conservation Partnership Award and the International Paper

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Environmental Education Award. The \$10,000 awards are unrestricted grants from the International Paper Foundation.

The International Paper Conservation Partnership Award, in its 18th year, is presented annually to an individual who has achieved significant results in the protection of habitat through a cooperative relationship with a business or company.

By demonstrating that a healthy environment and a healthy economy are not mutually exclusive, this person leads in a conservation effort benefiting the environment and encourages others to form similarly productive alliances with businesses.

Nominees must have achieved significant results in the protection of terrestrial or wetland habitats in the United States and demonstrated the positive value of cooperative partnerships between business and the conservation community.

Last year's 2006 Conservation Partnership Award went to Keith Kirkland, executive director of the Wolf River Conservancy, who for more than 20 years, has been a volunteer, employee and leader in the conservancy dedicated to protecting and enhancing the land and waters along Tennessee's Wolf River.

Since his appointment as executive director in 2003, Kirkland has raised \$12.5 million to support the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Wolf River Restoration Project. By bringing together leading companies, nonprofits, elected officials and state and local governments, he has led the protection of 17,000 acres of forest and wetland within the Wolf River floodplain.

Kirkland's efforts also helped to establish the Ghost River State Natural Area. All told, this protected landscape serves as a recharge area for the region's aquifer, safeguarding drinking water for one of the state's fastest-growing areas and habitat for threatened and endangered species

The International Paper Environmental Education Award, in its 13th year, is presented annually to an educator who has developed an innovative approach to environmental education that significantly improves student comprehension of environmental issues, fosters an understanding of the link between environmental protection and economic growth, demonstrates leadership and inspires achievement.

Potential candidates are elementary or secondary school educators or university faculty or staff members.

Last year's 2006 IP Environmental Education Award went to Laura Patterson, of Los Alamos, New Mexico. Patterson has served as an educator for 17 years across the U.S., and was honored for developing an innovative response to a local catastrophe.

The Cerro Grande Fire that destroyed more than 40,000 acres and displaced nearly 430 families in 2000 moved her to lead students and fellow teachers in the restoration and improvement of the fire-damaged Quemazon Nature Trail.

She wrote an interdisciplinary, field-based forest ecology curriculum combining forestry, biology and geology that was later adopted by other schools in northern New Mexico and recognized nationally. Thus far, more than 1,500 students from 12 regional schools have participated in the program.

The winners will be recognized in an awards ceremony in June
[The application forms are available online.](#)

Chamber Annual Environmental Laws and Regulations Conference April 17-18

The PA Chamber of Business and Industry will hold its annual [Environmental Conference and Trade Show](#) on April 17-18 at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg.

The agenda will include 23 breakout sessions at the basic, intermediate and advanced levels.

Don Welsh, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III Administrator, and DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty have been invited to address the conference.

To register or get more information, visit the [Environmental Conference and Trade Show webpage](#).

USDA Launches New Website on Renewable Energy Opportunities for Farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched a new website www.FarmEnergy.org to provide one-stop-shopping for technical assistances and grant programs to help farmers participate in expanding markets for renewable energy.

Global Warming 2007-It's Time for Action Workshop Set for March 31

Interested in the issue of global warming? Attend a March 31 workshop in Pittsburgh entitled, "Global Warming 2007-It's Time for Action," at the Sister Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, Mercy Hospital, 1400 Locust Street, Pittsburgh starting at 9:30.

Learn about the latest on federal and state legislation, policies and global warming science, discuss what Pennsylvania can and is doing to slow global warming and network with citizens across the region and state taking action on global warming.

Speakers include: U. S. Senator Bob Casey, Jr., Angela Anderson, Director, Clear the Air, Jeanne Dworetzky, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel, Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists, John Hanger, President and CEO of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, Sister M. Christopher Moore, Provincial Minister, Felician Sisters of Pennsylvania. State Representative Jake Wheatley, Jr..

Free exhibit space available to organizations. Space is limited.

RSVP by calling PennFuture at 717-214-7920 or toll free 800-321-7775 or by use the [online registration form](#).

Student Interns Wanted: Western PA Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, DEP

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is accepting applications for several 2007 Conservation Internships.

The application deadline is March 30. The following is a list of available positions:

Aquatic Science Technician Intern (2 paid positions, plus housing) (May - October, 2007) Seeking interns for summer field sampling of fish and freshwater mussels in the Allegheny and French Creek watersheds. Qualified individuals should possess or be working toward a bachelor's degree, with experience working with macro invertebrates, fish and/or freshwater mussels preferred. SCUBA certification is strongly desired. GPS & GIS experience helpful, but not required. Must be able to swim; be willing to work on

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various water vessels; spend long hours out-of-doors; and travel to different field sites with overnight stays. Positions are based at the Northwest Field Station, located at Lake Pleasant in Erie County. Housing is available and will pay an hourly wage.

Botany Intern (1 paid position) (May 2007 – September 2007, with possibility of extension) Intern will provide assistance to the botanist in conducting field surveys for rare plants and natural communities in western Pennsylvania. May also assist with data collection for a plot-based monitoring study of *Delphinium exaltatum* (pending funding). Applicants should have (or be working towards) a bachelor's degree in botany or a closely related field, a basic understanding of statistical analysis methods, and a working knowledge of the flora of the region. Experience with GIS and GPS is greatly beneficial. Applicants must be prepared to spend several consecutive days away from home and to work in the field under rugged conditions. Position is based in Pittsburgh, PA and will pay an hourly wage.

Conservation Data Assistant Intern (1 paid position) (June 2007 – August 2007) The primary responsibilities for this internship will be to process information and enter data into database, map, and manual files and to provide information to users as appropriate and in formats that are well organized and accessible. Qualifications include education or experience in biology, conservation or a related field of study, the ability to comprehend and summarize basic scientific or biological information, basic familiarity with Windows operating systems and the operation of basic personal computer software programs. Familiarity GIS and positioning tools such as GPS and topographic maps and database software desirable. Position may include limited fieldwork. Position is based in Pittsburgh, PA and will pay an hourly wage.

Land Stewardship Intern (1 paid position, plus housing) (May 2007 - September 2007) Intern will assist in implementing the Bear Run management plan, including invasive plant species surveys and removal, trail and campsite construction and maintenance, and deer density surveys. Applicants should have (or be working towards) a bachelor's degree in natural resource management or a related field of study and have trail maintenance experience (experience using chainsaws, weed-wackers etc. preferred). Familiarity of the flora of the region, invasive species and experience with GIS and GPS is greatly beneficial. Position is based at the Bear Run Nature Reserve in Mill Run, PA. Housing is available and will pay an hourly wage.

Vegetation Ecology Intern (2 paid positions) (May 2007- October 2007) Will assist in conducting research related to the conservation of the native flora of Pennsylvania. Includes documentation of the flora and plant communities of Pennsylvania with emphasis on rare elements, non-native invasive species, and plant community classification. Responsibilities include transporting and setting up field equipment, making specimen collections, recording ecological data, documenting populations of rare plants and natural communities, compiling collected data, data entry and analysis, research and record processing, GIS mapping, and correspondence. Applicants should have (or be working towards) a bachelor's degree in botany, ecology, or a closely related field, a basic understanding of statistical analysis methods, and a working knowledge of the flora of the region. Experience with GIS and GPS is greatly beneficial. Applicants must be prepared

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to spend several consecutive days away from home and to work in the field under rugged conditions. Good communication skills and ability to work independently are a must. Position is based in Pittsburgh, PA and will pay an hourly wage.

To apply, send resume and letter of interest, including availability dates to: Nancy Bassett, SPHR, Senior Director Human Resources, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Box R, Mill Run, PA 15464 or send email to: nbassett@paconserve.org.

Ducks Unlimited Conservation Internship: The conservation intern position will be located in Annapolis, MD area, a field office of DU's Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office. This position will work closely with staff responsible for habitat delivery in the 6 Mid-Atlantic states, as well as assist in outreach, landowner education, research opportunities, and partnership development. ([Click here for more information.](#))

Internships with the Department of Environmental Protection. The deadline for applying for summer internships with DEP is March 1. Engineering, Scientific and Technical Internships are available to students who are currently enrolled full-time in a bachelor or advanced degree program, have completed their Freshman year, are in good academic standing, and are a Pennsylvania resident or attending a Pennsylvania college or university. Most majors sought include Engineering, Chemistry, Microbiology, Physics, Earth Science, Geology, Biology, Environmental/Natural Science and Information Technology. Internships are available statewide. ([Click here for more information.](#))

Quick Clips

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

[Ordinance Would Promote Use of Native Plants](#)

[Award Winning Anti-Litter Program Unites Squirrel Hill, Homewood](#)

[Bucks County Dentist is Preventing Pollution and Saving Money](#)

[A Little Green Goes a Long Way](#)

[PECO Energy to Spend \\$34 Million on Tree Trimming](#)

[Duquesne Light Drops Some Energy Costs](#)

[Solar Manufacturers Warmed by Rendell Initiative](#)

[Chesco-Based Solar energy firm Set to Expand](#)

[German-American Partnership to Promote Energy From Biomass and Waste](#)

[Ethanol Production Booming](#)

[Biofuels Get Boost in Region](#)

[Ethanol Plant Ownership Could Boost Growers' Profits](#)

[Local Firm on Cutting Edge of Renewable Fuel](#)

[Commonwealth Court Rejects Wind Park Plan](#)

[Pittsburgh Firm Becomes a Big Wheel in Tire Recycling](#)

[Editorial: Global Warming](#)

[Op-Ed: Global Warming, Where's the Beef?](#)

[Op-Ed: Sprawl's Common Ground](#)

[Lancaster County Going Green](#)

[Costs Rise to Keep Farmland Preserved](#)

[Builder Gives Up Right to Develop Property](#)
[Taking Green Approach to Affordable Housing](#)
[Recycled Materials Used in Artwork](#)
[Outdoors: Snow Geese Hate Snow But Love Middle Creek](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[River Basin, Bay to be Studied](#)
[PA Among States Seeking to Protect Great Lakes Water](#)
[Valley Group Works to Clean Waterways](#)
[Engineer Will Address Acid Mine Cleanup](#)
[Rare Mussels, Erosion Rules May Kill Dredging Industry](#)
[Editorial: Cool, Clear Water](#)
[Lazy Fish Get a Push Down Schuylkill River](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board [met this week](#) and approved a final New Source Review regulation, proposed regulations making stream redesignations and adopting the Clean Air Interstate Rule and accepted a petition to redesignate the Upper Perkiomen Watershed.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – February 24, 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 publish notice of availability for the final training provider manual for water and wastewater system operator training.

[Final: DEP ID: 383-2300-002](#) Training Provider Manual for the Pennsylvania Water and Wastewater System Operator Training Program. This guidance provides instructions to private training providers on how to apply to become an approved provider (sponsor) of water and wastewater training in this Commonwealth and how to obtain approval of training courses taught to water and wastewater operators in this Commonwealth.

[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](#)

- **February 27** - House Appropriations Committee – PA Emergency Management Agency (11:30). Majority Caucus Room.
- **February 28** - House Appropriations Committee – Public Utility Commission (9:00), Dept. of Community and Economic Development (10:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **February 28** –Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (9:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **February 28** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **February 28** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#) to hear presentation on the Flood Mitigation Task Force Report and the proposed Flexible Flow Management Plan for New York City Reservoirs and a report by the NRCS on activities in the Watershed. Commission Offices, 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, NJ. 10:15.
- **March 1** – House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on Alternative Fuels and New Energy Technologies. IBEW Local 98, 1701 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia. 1:30.
- **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 5** – Hosue Game & fisheries Committee meeting to hear the Game Commission present their annual report. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 1:00.
- **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 7** – [PA Energy Development Authority meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **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 9-18** – [Pennsylvania Heritage Week](#).
- **March 12** – Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum: Update on Regional Water Management Task Force. Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.

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- **March 13** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Michael DiBerardinis to be Secretary for Conservation and Natural Resources. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:00.
- **March 16** - Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs a “Building a Vision for Rural Pennsylvania” listening session. Four Seasons Produce, 400 Wabash Road, Ephrata. 10:00.
- **March 18-20:** [Governor’s Outdoor Conference](#). State College.
- **March 21** – Tree Care and Planting Workshop at Gifford Pinchot State Park. 10:00. Contact: Bob Deffner at R.B. Winter State Park to register by sending email to: rbwintersp@state.pa.us .
- **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-Baree.
- **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 .

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