

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

April 3, 2006

More Environmental Groups Express Concern About Environmental Funding

The number of environmental groups expressing concern publicly and privately about environmental funding cuts and diversions in the proposed 2006-07 state budget increased this week.

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) became the latest group to write members of the Senate and House and to Gov. Rendell urging that environmental funding cuts and diversions affecting conservation and environmental programs be restored.

The following is the text of the Council's letter--

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Resources Council, I want to express our deep concern about funding levels for conservation and environmental protection programs in the proposed 2006-07 budget.

Last year we worked with you to secure more funding for critical environmental programs through passage of the Growing Greener II bond. An overwhelming 61 percent of voters supported the bond issue, sending a clear message that they support additional funding for watershed and habitat improvement, mine reclamation, reducing nutrient runoff from farms, sewer and water system upgrades and farm and open space preservation.

With the proposed budget, we could lose this momentum by cutting or diverting more than \$100 million in environmental funding from existing programs in 2006-07—\$30 million out of the Environmental Stewardship Fund for the hazardous sites clean-up program and a one-time diversion of \$63 million from the Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conservation Fund.

In addition, other environmental programs face funding challenges in 2006-07-- the fee to support Recycling Programs needs to be reauthorized, the Nutrient Management Fund will be depleted by June 2007, \$10 million must be paid back to the Storage Tank Indemnification Fund and funding for county conservation districts has been cut.



Spring has “bearly” begun!

Photo by Karen Hohman

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The choice to reduce environmental funding this year not only conflicts with the very clear message from voters, but also with Pennsylvania's obligations to:

- clean up the 10,762 miles of streams that do not meet water quality standards, including 4,036 miles polluted by acid mine drainage;
- support the millions of Pennsylvanians who are recycling;
- promote environmental education; and
- preserve our environment for our children.

With the passage of the Growing Greener II bond issue last year, we took a giant step forward to support environmental programs. Let's not take a step back from our commitment to cleaning up the environment this year by reducing environmental funding in next year's budget.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to protect and restore Pennsylvania's environment.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania Resources Council

Links: [PEC – Restore \\$100 Million in Environmental Funding Cuts, Diversions Appropriations Committees Hear of Environmental Funding “Challenges” Groups Concerned About Environmental Funding, Federal Cuts Hurt States](#)

Session Schedule

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- DCNR Offers Mini-Workshops on Grant Writing
- Workshops on Funding Municipal Recreation Programs, Land Use Set in May
- PA-AWWA's 58th Annual Conference April 25-27
- Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Public Meeting May 3
- EPA's March Watershed News Features Leads on Funding, Training and More

See & Hear

- Echoes Through Penn's Woods – How Pennsylvania's Environment Has Changed

Feature

- Project Dedicated that Raises Rainbow Trout in Treated Mine Drainage
- Along Mill Creek, Amish Do The Right Thing, By Ad Crable, Lancaster New Era

[Go To the Watershed Awareness Month Events Section](#)

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

On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda/Bills Moving

The Senate and House are in session the week of April 3. Here's the rundown of what's on the calendars and in committees—

Calendars

The Senate will have this item on their Calendar-- [House Bill 2054](#) making changes to the Eminent Domain Code in response to the *Kelo* Supreme Court decision.

The House will start with this bill of interest on its Calendar-- [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment.

Committees

In the House, the Finance Committee meets to consider [House Bill 906](#) phasing out the Inheritance Tax.

In the Senate, the Appropriations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2054](#) making changes to the Eminent Domain Code in response to the *Kelo* Supreme Court decision and [House Bill 2317](#) establishing the 2005-2006 Capital Budget for flood control, Keystone Recreation, Environmental Stewardship projects; the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee will hold a hearing on gasoline additives and their impact on the environment and fuel supplies; and the Senate Democratic Policy Committee is having a hearing on deep mine safety.

The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee holds an Environmental Issues Forum featuring a presentation by PA CleanWays on rural dumping in Pennsylvania.

Senate/House Bills Moving

Legislation on defending conservation easements and changing the Eminent Domain Code moved in the Senate this week. Here's the rundown.

Eminent Domain: [House Bill 2054](#) (Grell-R-Cumberland) making changes to the Eminent Domain Code in response to the Kelo Supreme Court decision was amended and reported out of the Senate State Government Committee. It is on the Senate Calendar for action.

Defending Conservation Easements: [House Bill 671](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) requiring county farmland preservation boards to monitor and enforce agricultural conservation easements, including payment of legal costs associated with defending easements was reported from the Senate Agriculture Committee after being amended to allow up to \$200,000 to be used for the Land Trust Reimbursement Program for expenses, and adds the provisions of [Senate Bill 723](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) stating that the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board can purchase agricultural conservation easements with a county and a local government unit to the bill.

In Other News

Farmers Working to Protect Chesapeake Bay Recognized

The Rohrer Family of "R"-Farm in Strasburg, Lancaster County; Mike and Donna Olsyn of Columbia Cross Roads, Bradford County; and Charles "Boots" Hubler of Morrisdale, Clearfield County; were selected to receive the [2006 Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award](#).

The Clean Water Farm Award, initiated in 1986, recognizes farmers within Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, who manage their daily farm operation while keeping a watchful eye on water quality. The farms' conservation plans address issues that help control potential pollutants such as eroded soil, pesticides, and fertilizers from entering streams or groundwater supplies.

The **Rohrer Family of "R"-Farm** manages a farm with 110,000 poultry while farming 100 acres of cropland in Strasburg. The Rohrer Family implements numerous Best Management Practices, a combination of practices determined to be the most effective, practical means of reducing pollution.

For example, switchgrass, which forms a dense mass of vegetation, is planted to help control soil erosion. The mass also provides valuable cover for wildlife in the winter.

Another BMP on "R"-Farm is recycling the waste their chickens produce. The waste is sold to mushroom growers in Chester County who use the nutrients in the chicken waste to grow mushroom crops. Then, the spent mushroom soil comes back to "R"-Farm to be sold to gardeners, landscapers, and other farmers as a soil amendment.

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Recipients **Mike and Donna Olsyn** own and operate a 300 plus acre farm that includes a dairy herd of 95 cows and 80 heifers. The Olsyns constructed a concrete manure storage facility that stores manure through the winter to eliminate the need for spreading manure on frozen ground when the nutrients can't be integrated into the soil.

Spreading manure in winter could lead to nutrients washing off the fields and polluting waterways in the spring. Manure is now spread in the spring and early summer when it can be incorporated into the soil reducing the possibility of runoff into nearby waters.

The Olsyns have also constructed a wetland to treat barnyard runoff. The discharge from the wetland goes to a grass filter area. The wetland and filter area absorb and treat the waste, removing the potentially harmful nutrients from entering waterways.

Charles “Boots” Hubler owns 159 acre crop farm with 25 head of beef cattle and 25 calves. To protect water quality, stream bank fencing is used to prevent livestock from entering waterways and eroding the banks.

Boots uses contour farming, crop rotations, and a grassed waterway which traps soil to help prevent erosion in his fields. He also uses rotational grazing in which grass-fed livestock is periodically moved from one area to another to allow the pasture time to re-grow the grasses that will prevent soil erosion.

Recipients of the annual Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award are nominated by county conservation district staff. This annual award program is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office (administered by PACD, a private, nonprofit organization representing Pennsylvania's 66 county conservation districts).

The awards are sponsored jointly by the Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program and the Department of Agriculture to recognize farmers who implement Best Management Practices.

For more information, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Farm Awards webpage](#).

PA American Water Environmental Grant Applications Due April 19



[Pennsylvania American Water](#) is accepting applications for its [Environmental Grant Program](#) until April 19.

Watershed, community or community-based organizations can lend the water supply or watershed a helping hand by working to improve, restore or protect it. Projects that help protect source water or

watersheds are eligible.

Projects funded must be completed between June 1 and November 1, 2006 within PA American Water's service territory.

For more information, visit the [Environmental Grant Program webpage](#) or [download an application](#).

USDA Grants for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Tools

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service announced it is accepting applications for its [Fish & Wildlife Conservation Grants Program](#) to develop and evaluate technological tools for fish and wildlife habitat improvements.

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Proposals are due April 27.

Individual grants will range from \$10,000 to \$200,000. Selected applicants may receive up to 50 percent of the project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, up to half of which may come from in-kind contributions. An exception allows for limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers, tribes, and community-based organizations representing these groups to obtain up to 75 percent of project matching funds from in-kind contributions.

In their project proposals, applicants will be asked how they will develop, test, implement and transfer innovative solutions that benefit fish and wildlife on cropland, grassland, forestland, rangeland, riparian areas, wetlands, streams, rivers, vernal pools and areas where farmland and urban land meet.

Projects can be single- or multi-purpose and can run from one to three years. They must address the following natural resource concerns on working agricultural land:

- effects of buffers, field borders and riparian areas on fish and wildlife;
- improvements to wetland restoration and management practices;
- grassland establishment and management for wildlife;
- evaluation of fisheries habitat, stream restoration and management;
- use of electronic technology, including Geographic Information Systems, to measure fish and wildlife response to conservation practices; and
- improvements of fish and wildlife management systems for limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers and Native American tribes.

For more information about the wildlife announcement of funding, please visit the [Fish & Wildlife Conservation Grants Program webpage](#).

TMDLs for Alder Run Watershed, a Second Tributary Proposed in Clearfield

The Department of Environmental Protection is [asking for comments](#) on proposed Total Maximum Discharge Limit plans for a tributary to the West Branch of the Susquehanna and Alder Run Watershed in Clearfield County.

A public hearing is being held on May 17 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the Moshannon District Mining Office near Philipsburg to solicit comments on the proposal.

Contact John Mital, DEP, at 814-342-8200 or send email to: jmital@state.pa.us for more information.

For a copy of the TMDLs, visit [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

DEP, Corps Set Hearing on Proposed Inflatable Dam at Wilkes-Barre

The Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have set a [May 1 public hearing](#) to gather comments on a proposed inflatable dam at Wilkes-Barre.

The hearing will take place on the third floor of the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center at Kings College, 133 North River Street, Wilkes-Barre

[A formal notice of the hearing and background on the issue](#) is available online.

Questions regarding the joint public hearing should be directed to Jack Kraeuter, Division of Dam Safety, P. O. Box 8554, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8554, 717-772-5959, jkraeuter@state.pa.us.

DEP Engineering Services Program Helps Small Water Systems

The Department of Environmental Protection's Small Drinking Water Systems Engineering Services Program recently helped two systems resolve problems and improve service to meet the needs of their customers.

Austin Borough Waterworks is a small water system in Potter County serving approximately 561 people. ABW's primary source of drinking water has been classified as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water and its secondary and backup sources are not capable of supplying enough water to meet the demand of the community.

Because of water quality and quantity issues, ABW has been forced to implement water conservation measures.

The Engineering Services Program completed a feasibility study and determined that the best solution was to construct a water treatment facility capable of filtering ABW's combined existing sources.

The program completed design of an innovative treatment technology and submitted funding applications to PENNVEST and Potter County for a Community Development Block Grant. ABW recently received a \$937,000 PENNVEST grant and an \$116,000 Community Development Block Grant.

The new system will be constructed this year allowing ABW to provide the community with safe drinking water and bringing them into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In Tioga County, Nelson Township Authority, a small water system serving approximately 287 people, had two wells with high iron and manganese and low volume, not capable of meeting the demand of the community. NTA typically spends nine months of the year under voluntary or mandatory conservation measures.

The Engineering Services Program completed a feasibility study and determined that the best solution was to construct a water treatment facility capable of filtering water from a new surface water source capable of meeting NTA's demand.

The program designed a water filtration plant and submitted funding applications to PENNVEST and Tioga County for a Community Development Block Grant. NTA received a \$571,000 PENNVEST grant, a \$356,000 low interest loan, and a \$90,000 Community Development Block Grant.

The new system will be constructed this year allowing NTA to provide the community with a sufficient quantity of safe drinking water.

For more information on DEP's Small Drinking Water Systems Engineering Services Program, contact Walt Harner at 717 787-0122 or e-mail wharner@state.pa.us.

With Spring Flood Season's Return, Consumers Urged to Seek Flood Insurance

The Insurance Department this week reminded Pennsylvanians of the importance of having flood insurance to protect homes and businesses.

Excessive rain, inadequate drainage or dam failure can cause thousands of dollars in damage, so it's important that homeowners and business owners discuss flood insurance with their insurance professionals as soon as possible.

Standard homeowner policies do not include coverage for flood damage, and there's a 30-day waiting period before a policy becomes effective.

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Information about how to buy flood insurance can be found at the official [website of the National Flood Insurance Program](#).

The Insurance Department is strongly urging consumers to carefully prepare to make sure their property is insured:

- Learn the facts about insurance. Different policies are available for homeowners, renters and condominium owners. Talk to an insurance professional about the types of coverage needed;
- Ask an insurance professional about insurance options and possible gaps in coverage;
- Learn the facts about flood insurance. A standard homeowner's policy does not include flood protection; and
- Take an inventory of your property and record model numbers and serial numbers and store the information off the premises, such as with a relative or in a safe-deposit box.

The Insurance Department publishes a free brochure -- "[Are You Ready if a Disaster Strikes?](#)" -- which provides strategies for consumers whose homes and businesses might suffer weather-related property damage.

If a weather-related disaster does occur, homeowners should:

- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible to arrange a visit from a claim adjuster;
- Photograph, video and make a list of the damage before doing any repairs;
- Protect your home from further damage by making temporary repairs until your insurance company is able to help. Save receipts for materials purchased for repairs. Do not throw away damaged property until the claims adjuster tells you to do so;
- Do not have permanent repairs made until your insurance company has inspected the property and you have reached an agreement on the cost of repairs. Permanent repairs made before an adjuster sees the damage could result in a denied claim;
- Check with your agent or company before calling the tree removal service as removal costs may also be covered. Also, you may be responsible if one of your trees has fallen on a neighbor's property; and
- Review the terms of your policy for what is or is not covered if a claim is denied. You may file an appeal to your insurance company's claim manager. If questions remain, consumers should contact the Insurance Department.

The Department is available to answer questions and investigate complaints concerning all types of insurance coverage.

To obtain a free copy of "[Are You Ready if a Disaster Strikes?](#)" call the automated consumer hotline at 1-877-881-6388, or call any one of the Department's Bureau of Consumer Services at: Harrisburg 717-787-2317; Philadelphia 215-560-2630; or Pittsburgh 412-565-5020.

Rep. Bruce Smith Proposes Hunting License Fee Increase for 2007

Rep. Bruce Smith (R-York/Cumberland), the Chairman of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, announced legislation this week to increase revenues to the Pennsylvania Game Commission through an increase in hunting license fees.

“License fees were last increased in 1999, and the proposed increase would not take effect until July 1, 2007,” Rep. Smith said. “The cost of running the Game Commission has increased, as it has for businesses, government agencies and school districts.

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“At the fall convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, delegates from around the state voted to support a hunting license increase,” he said.

Under one measure, the basic adult resident hunting license would be raised from \$19 to \$29 ([House Bill 2600](#)). The other measure would increase the fee to \$34 ([House Bill 2601](#)). Both bills would also establish a \$10 pheasant stamp and a \$5 turkey stamp with the proceeds to be used solely for the maintenance and operating of programs for preserving and encouraging the hunting of these species in Pennsylvania.

A third bill ([House Bill 2602](#)) would create a \$20 conservation stamp for individuals who use state game lands for any purpose. The proceeds from the stamp would be deposited into state Game Fund.

“The sportsmen’s group has not committed to the conservation stamp measure,” Smith said.

According to an audit by the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, only 666 of the 732 salaried positions were filled at the Game Commission as of December 12, 2005.

“The commission has taken several measures, many of which are felt directly by sportsmen, to reduce operating costs,” Smith said.

The steps taken to reduce operating costs include:

- Reduced number of pheasants produced from 200,000 to 100,000 birds annually. This new production level was based on the number of birds that could be produced without hiring seasonal workers;
- Discontinued toll-free numbers at each regional office;
- Reduced budget for funding the deer fencing program and for bear damage complaints;
- Reduced overtime budget;
- Discontinued publication and distribution of certain educational materials; and
- Delayed starting a new Wildlife Conservation Officer training class. The last class was held in 2001-02. Currently there are 15 WCO vacancies or 10 percent of the workforce.

Smith said that costs for the commission will continue to escalate because of increases included in the master agreement between AFSCME and the Commonwealth. The PGC estimates that the 3 percent salary increase and \$5 bi-weekly increase for employee benefits that are in the agreement will cost the game fund more than \$1 million in the current fiscal year.

“The commission, as all motorists can attest to, has seen dramatic increases in fuel costs,” Smith said.

The LBFC audit also took the Game Commission to task for failing to fully implement a five-year strategic plan adopted in 2003.

“I would expect the commission to make substantial progress in implementing that plan before the General Assembly would consider supporting an increase in license fees,” Smith said.

Smith said that even with the proposed increases, a hunting license remains competitive with the cost of other sports and entertainment events.

For example: Penn State football tickets are \$55 per game; Philadelphia Phillies tickets are as much as \$40 per game; Pittsburgh Penguins tickets are \$85 per game (\$30 for a seat in the balcony); floor seats for the Billy Joel concert on March 31 at the CoreStates Center in Philadelphia are listed at \$75.

NewsClips: [Editorial: Hunting Fees](#)

[Editorial: Hunting Fee Hike Overdue](#)
[Raising Fees for Hunting Could be Tough Shot](#)
[More Bucks for Your Buck?](#)
[Time to Show the Game Commission the Money](#)
[Sportsmen Help Draft Bill to Raise Hunting Fees](#)
[Smith Asks for Hunting License Increase](#)
[Method of PGC Funding Hurting Deer Management?](#)
[Game Commission Finances Look Grim](#)

Harrisburg Falcon on Schedule With First Eggs, Watch 2 Other Nests

The female Peregrine falcon nesting on the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg laid her first egg of the season last weekend, right on schedule.

In previous years, the female falcon as laid a clutch of four eggs. Typically, she lays one egg every two days. The first two eggs will get little incubation time, unless temperatures are really low. Then, there is constant brooding of the eggs through the first week in May until the first hatch, typically around Mothers Day.

To see all of the action live, visit [DEP's Falcon webpage](#).

You can also check on the Peregrine falcons nesting on the [Gulf Tower](#) and the [Cathedral of Learning](#) in Pittsburgh.

Invasive Weed Species Management Fact Sheets Available Online

The [Pennsylvania Roadside Research Project](#) now has available a variety of [fact sheets on invasive weed species](#) ready to download.

The Roadside Research Project is part of The Pennsylvania State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, and Department of Horticulture and is located at the Landscape Management Research Center, University Park.

Department of Transportation's Bureau of Maintenance and Operations works with the Project on the ongoing development of its roadside vegetation management program. This website contains information from research conducted since the Project's inception in the annual reports section of the webpage.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Roadside Research Project webpage](#).

Allegheny PA CleanWays Offers Cleanup Training to Support Great PA Cleanup



As part of the [2006 Great PA Cleanup](#), [PA CleanWays of Allegheny County, Inc.](#) will lead a large-scale land/riverfront clean-up in South Pittsburgh and will provide assistance to individuals to coordinate a clean-up effort in their respective communities.

On April 3 and 10, PACWAC will provide a workshop to train individuals how to plan a community clean-up from start to finish. The workshop will include such topics as: clean-up techniques, volunteer recruitment techniques, partnership building, available resources, volunteer safety, and event publicity.

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The training is free, and childcare is available on site. The workshops will run from 6-8 p.m. at the PACWAC office at 33 Terminal Way in the South Side. To RSVP call 412-381-1301 or email pacw_ac@hotmail.com.

On April 22, PACWAC, in partnership with Friends of the Riverfront and the Department of Environmental Protection, will lead a clean-up of Arlington Avenue in Allentown, down to East Carson Street as well as the South Side Riverfront from Station Square to 18th Street. The City of Pittsburgh, Giant Eagle, Starbucks, PA American Water Company, and Pittsburgh Cares will sponsor the effort.

PACWAC seeks additional volunteers to help. Register by calling 412-381-1301 or email pacw_ac@hotmail.com. Volunteers should be prepared with sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Refreshments will be provided. Participants should report to the Station Square parking lot behind the Exxon Station at 8:30 a.m. The clean-up will conclude by 12 p.m.

All Great PA Clean-up volunteers are invited to an after-party at the Vietnam Veterans Pavilion at Schenley Park from 12-3 p.m. There will be food, live music, and fun for the entire family.

To learn about cleanup events in your area, go to the [2006 Great PA Cleanup webpage](#).

State, Lebanon County Celebrate 10,000 Acres of Farmland Preserved

The Lebanon County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, Conservation District and the County Commissioners, along with the Department of Agriculture, celebrated the county's milestone of preserving 10,000 acres of farmland.

Pennsylvania has 7.7 million acres of farmland, representing 27 percent of the state's land base, now permanently preserved.

Pennsylvania's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed in 1988 to slow the loss of farmland to development. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements from owners of quality farmland.

Pennsylvania currently leads the nation in the number of farms and acres preserved, with a total of 2,783 farms and 318,350 acres removed from development to date.

For more information, visit the [State Farmland Preservation Program webpage](#).

Penn State Ag Scientists Tout Alternative Energy Sources at Expo

Converting agricultural commodities into energy can help the environment, reduce the country's reliance on foreign oil and open new markets for farmers where all themes of displays by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences at the [Clean Air Expo 2006](#).

Displays highlighted research and educational programs underway in the college aimed at developing and promoting sources of energy derived from agricultural and related products. Among research and technologies to be featured:

Converting lignocellulosic (woody) biomass into renewable chemicals and fuels.

"New advances in enzymes and related technologies allow us to break down the fibers in grasses, crop residues and trees, producing sugars that can be fermented into fuel," says Tom Richard, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering.

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"An alternative strategy is gasification," he says. "Under high-temperature, low-oxygen conditions, gasification can convert biomass to syngas -- a combination of hydrogen and carbon monoxide -- which can be upgraded to hydrogen, methanol and other chemicals and fuels, or can be burned directly for electricity and heat."

Energy from small-diameter forest trees.

"Pennsylvania's forests are rich in potential bioenergy from small-diameter trees that are overcrowded, under-utilized and inhibit the opportunity for professional forest management," says Chuck Ray, assistant professor of wood products operations in the college's School of Forest Resources. "Research data indicate that as much as 500 million tons of wood are held in these small diameter stems across 16 million acres of forestland.

"State Bureau of Forestry mapping reveals that about half of this acreage could be available for harvest; that is, it is not restricted by environmental, regulatory or ownership restrictions from harvest," he explains. "Based on this available volume of wood, an annual sustainable harvest of six million dry tons of wood per year could be converted into various bioenergy sources."

Biofuel applications and potential yields of grain and oilseed crops.

"One of Pennsylvania's most important crops is corn," says Greg Roth, professor of agronomy. "Based on an average yield of 122 bushels per acre, this crop could produce 329 gallons of ethanol per acre and over 2,000 pounds of distiller's grains. Corn can also be used as a home heating fuel with the use of a corn or pellet stove. In this application, corn could produce the equivalent energy of 310 gallons of home heating oil or two tons of hard coal per acre.

"Another grain crop for potential use as an energy source is barley," he says. "One specific type of barley we've been evaluating is called hulless barley. Hulless barley could produce 173 gallons of ethanol, plus nearly 1,800 pounds of distiller's grains and one and a quarter tons of straw per acre. We're also looking at oilseed crops, such as soybeans and canola or rapeseed, for biofuel production."

Biodiesel and biohydraulic fluids.

The College of Agricultural Sciences has converted all of its farm equipment and vehicles to soy-based biodiesel and hydraulic fluid. "The B-20 (20 percent soy) fuel mixture we are burning in our equipment results in an 18 percent reduction in particulate emissions and a 13 percent reduction in carbon monoxide compared to regular diesel," says Glen Cauffman, the college's manager of farm operations. He says soy-based hydraulic fluid offers enhanced lubricating properties, is biodegradable and is easier to dispose of in the event of a spill or leak.

Other exhibits sponsored by the college will focus on anaerobic manure digestion to produce biogas and electricity; wind and solar power; energy efficiency in the home; and green-roof and living-wall technologies.

The College of Agricultural Sciences displays were among about 100 exhibits presented by business, industry, governmental and educational organizations.

For more information, visit the [Clean Air Expo 2006 webpage](#).

NewsClip: [PSU Workshop Highlights Latest in Clean Energy](#)

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

FirstEnergy Buys Power from Largest Wind Farm Project in PA

FirstEnergy Corp. this week announced that it has entered into a 23-year agreement to purchase 80 megawatts (MW) of wind power from the Allegheny Ridge Wind Farm, a new wind power generation project being developed near Altoona, Pennsylvania, by Gamesa Energy USA.

The Allegheny Ridge Wind Farm site, encompassing parts of Cambria and Blair counties, is planned to have 40 turbines rated at 2 MW each for Phase I, which is expected to be operational by early 2007.

Once built, the project would be the largest wind farm in Pennsylvania, and one of the largest in the entire Mid-Atlantic region.

Earlier this month, Gamesa also announced it would be building three new advanced technology plants in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, for the production of wind mill blades and towers and the assembly of nacelles, which house the wind turbines. These plants will join the existing blade plant Gamesa is building in Cambria County, a few miles away from the proposed project location.

NewsClip: [FirstEnergy to Purchase Wind Farm's Electricity](#)

Applications for EPA Grants for Truck Fuel Conservation Technology Due May 15

To help promote energy efficiency and protect the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is making up to \$350,000 available to evaluate energy saving and emission reduction technologies for long haul trucks.

Applications are due May 15.

The grant recipient will evaluate the effectiveness of technologies installed together on one truck. The technologies include wide-based tires, advanced trailer aerodynamics, idle reduction devices, automatic tire inflation systems, and diesel oxidation catalysts. Applications are being accepted only from eligible entities such as states, universities, and other public or private nonprofit institutions.

The grant opportunity is part of EPA's [SmartWay Transport Partnership program](#), a collaborative voluntary program between EPA and the freight industry that focuses on increasing energy efficiency and energy security while reducing air pollution.

For more information on how to apply for the grant, visit the [EPA Grants webpage](#).

DCNR Offers Mini-Workshops on Grant Writing

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has scheduled three mini-workshops to help individuals apply for grants under the [Community Conservation Partnerships Grant Program](#).

The workshops will be held in--

- Bucks County: April 18 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Location: Northampton Township Senior Center, 165 Township Road, Richboro, PA;
- Chester County: April 28 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Location: Chester County Government Services Building, Room 171, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester; and
- Montgomery County: April 13 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Location: Montgomery County Fire Academy, 1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken.

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Workshops are free and no registration is required. But, please RSVP, one week before the workshop, by contacting Fran Rubert by phone at 215-560-1183 or by sending e-mail to: frubert@state.pa.us.

For information on workshops in other areas of the state, contact: Wes Farringer (mfarringer@state.pa.us) in Northcentral and Lori Keiffer Yeich (lyeich@state.pa.us) or Cindy Dunlap (cydunlap@state.pa.us) for Southcentral.

For more information, visit the [Community Conservation Partnerships Grant Program webpage](#).

Workshops on Funding Municipal Recreation Programs, Land Use Set in May

The PA State Association of Township Supervisors [One Source Training Program](#) is hosting a series of workshops on funding municipal recreation and parks programs and an introduction to land use planning around the state over the next few months.

The **Funding Municipal Recreation Programs Workshops**, co-sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, are designed to highlight a range of approaches with practical examples from communities across the Commonwealth to finance public recreation and park services.

Topics to be covered include user fees, revenue generating facilities, tapping community resources, financing capital projects and more. Recreation and park professionals will talk about how to develop the proper mix of revenue sources for your community.

The **ABCs of Land Use Management Workshops**, co-sponsored by the PA Planning Association, provides attendees with tips, tools and procedures for new and experienced municipal officials.

Modest registration fees are charge and pre-registration is encouraged.

For information on these workshops and others scheduled, visit the [PSATS One Source Training Calendar webpage](#).

PA-AWWA's 58th Annual Conference April 25-27

The PA-American Water Works Association Conference, one of the season's premier water events, will be held in Hershey April 25-27.

The Conference will feature operator training courses, presentations on a variety of topics and a keynote address by Col. Danny McKnight, the ground force commander during the Black Hawk Down engagement in Somolia.

For more information, visit the [PA-AWWA Conference webpage](#).

Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Public Meeting May 3

The Cumberland County Planning Commission and the [Yellow Breeches Watershed Association](#) are hosting a public meeting on May 3 to introduce the Yellow Breeches Water Trail Project.

This meeting was rescheduled from May 5.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The purpose of the meeting is to: explain “What are water trails?”; provide an overview of the proposed Yellow Breeches Water Trail Guide; provide the general public and municipal officials an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the project

The meeting will be held at the Barn at [Lower Allen Township Community Park](#) 4075 Lisburn Road, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County.

For more information, contact Stephanie Williams, 717-240-5383, or send email to: sjwilliams@ccpa.net , Cumberland County Planning Commission.

EPA’s March Watershed News Features Leads on Funding, Training and More



The [March issue of Watershed News](#) published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now available.

In this month's newsletter:

- Funding Opportunities: EPA announces Community-based Partnership Grants to Reduce Risk of Toxic Exposure Proposals Due April 10;
- News: Supreme Court Reviews 3 Clean Water Act Cases;
- Izaak Walton League to host Wetlands Webcasts;
- EPA Sponsors New Webcast Series on Stormwater Issues;
- New Publications and Tools: Bacteria Monitoring Focus of Winter 2006 Issue of Volunteer Monitor;
- Outreach and Education: StormCenter Communications and Colorado TV Station Team Up for Watershed Education; and
- Upcoming Conferences in 2006.

For more information, visit the [EPA Watershed News webpage](#).

See & Hear

Echoes Through Penn’s Woods – How Pennsylvania’s Environment Has Changed

It may be hard to believe, but Pennsylvania’s hillsides were once stripped bare of trees, Presque Isle Bay in Erie was so full of algae you couldn’t row a boat through it and air pollution was so thick in one steel valley it killed people.

“[Echoes Through Penn’s Woods](#)” is an Emmy-award winning documentary by Commonwealth Media Services and the GreenTreks Network that explores how far we’ve come in restoring our environment in Pennsylvania from some very major insults.

It also explores how far we have to go on issues like sprawl and cleaning up acid mine drainage polluted streams and rivers.

The documentary highlights positive efforts by individuals, groups, businesses and local and state government to address these problems and find solutions.

Accompanying the documentary is an educator’s guide teachers can use to educate students about Pennsylvania’s environmental heritage and what they can do to continue making improvements to our environment.

“Echoes” can be viewed online or the video can be purchased for use in the classroom or at home.

Visit the [“Echoes Through Penn’s Woods”](#) webpage for more information.

Feature

Project Dedicated that Raises Rainbow Trout in Treated Mine Drainage



Top – Before Treatment
Bottom – After Treatment
The Improvement is Obvious.



Over 225 members and partners of the Toby Creek Watershed Association formally dedicated the completed [Blue Valley Mine Drainage Treatment and Fish Culture Station](#) last weekend in Brandy Camp, Elk County.

And as if to endorse the project, the gray winter skies were broken by a bright beam of sunlight just as the local Monsignor finished his blessing.

The Blue Valley facility treats mine water from one of the last mine discharges in the Toby Creek Watershed. The water is then used to raise over 6,000 rainbow trout that fishing clubs and the Fish and Boat Commission distribute to local streams.

Members of the Association started work on cleaning up mine discharges in the watershed 39 years ago and the Blue Valley facility itself took four years to design, fund and build.

There were over 100 mine discharges in the Toby Creek Watershed at one time, but steady work by the Association, the Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Office of Surface Mining tackled each one to the point where almost all are controlled.

Rep. Sam Smith (R-Jefferson) praised the efforts of the Association for their persistence, noting that his father, who represented the area before him, also worked with the Association to cleanup the watershed.

The iron oxide filled Blue Valley discharge flows at about 500 gallons a minute. The facility, running at about half capacity now, runs the mine water through a clarifier that uses mechanical aeration to help separate the iron oxide from the water.

After additional treatment, the water is circulate through two large tanks with 3,000 fish each. After the water goes through the tanks, it is sent to a pond and then a wetland to finish treatment before being discharged back into Toby Creek.

The facility has been running since October and so far the results are outstanding, raising rainbow trout fingerlings to 10 or 11 inches long in just five months.

“We only lost 23 fish out of 6,000 since October,” said Bill Sabatose, Toby Creek Watershed Association and a member of the Board of the Fish and Boat Commission. “And the fish have been growing much faster than in regular fish hatcheries. That means we can raise more fish in less time.”

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The iron oxide taken out of the mine water is dried and the Association is exploring its potential uses as a pigment in paint or ceramics, like other groups have done. They are also looking at the possibility for its use by the local powdered metals industry to make metal parts.

The goal of the Blue Valley facility is to demonstrate that technology used there can be reliably treat mine water and raise fish which the Association and the Fish and Boat Commission hope can be duplicated elsewhere in the state.

The Commission raises about 3.8 million fish for stocking each year, but most of its present fish hatcheries are located on small, high quality or exceptional value streams, which can be significantly impacted by discharges from the hatcheries.

The Blue Valley facility is not the only place where treated mine water is used to raise fish.

Another example is the [Warwick Mountain Fisheries](#) in Greene County. There Duquesne Light has a facility that raises 10,000 rainbow trout in treat mine water, but the technology used in much different. Sales of the fish help offset about 25 to 30 percent of the operating cost of the treatment facility.

Funding partners in the Blue Valley project include the Department of Environmental Protection, federal Office of Surface Mining, Stackpole Foundation and the Fish and Boat Commission along with support from Rep. Sam Smith, Rep. Dan Surra and Sen. Joe Scaranti.

The only disappointment of the day was that they weren't letting anyone catch fish!

For more information on the Blue Valley facility, contact Bill Sabatose, Toby Creek Watershed Association, 814-265-8749 or send email to: analyser@penn.com.

Special Photo Feature: [Dedicating the Blue Valley Facility – PDF](#)

Links: [Stocking Little Toby Creek](#)
[New Mine Drainage Cleanup Plant Opens](#)
[Brandy Camp Treatment Plant Activated](#)
[GreenWorks Gazette – Toby Creek Cleanup](#)

Feature

Along Mill Creek, Amish Do The Right Thing

By Ad Crable

Lancaster New Era



Along Mill Creek, Amish do the right thing.

“Do you see the bottom in there?” says Dave Putnam, pointing toward a section of Mill Creek through the heart of Amish country near Bird-in-Hand. “You could never see the bottom before. You ask these Amish guys — they’ve never seen the bottom in their lifetimes.” “It was dead water,” agrees Marvin Esh, one of those Amishmen. “You couldn’t tell the creek was flowing and there was scum on top.”



In front of Putnam, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a Trackhoe was anchored in the middle of the stream, lifting and placing 2-ton boulders into an upstream “V.”

The rock vane, as it’s called, will redirect the flow of the stream away from the banks where it has been eroding farmland and into the center,

where the stronger current carrying oxygen and submerged boulders will attract fish.

It’s just the latest stream-improvement project of the Mill Creek Preservation Association.

Besides being the newest of the county’s 15 citizen watershed groups, it’s the only one in Pennsylvania formed by Amish.

The chairman is Amish. So is the vice chairman and the treasurer. Though the group is open to anyone, the lone English on the board is John E. Smucker II, whose farm sits in the midst of Amish farms.

The group, officially formed in 2003, meets monthly and publishes a newsletter three times a year. They recently named an unnamed tributary to Mill Creek and hold a fishing derby each spring that attracts dozens of families along the banks of the stream that ties them together.

Mostly, though, the group tries to inspire landowners along the stream, which runs from the Welsh Mountains to the Conestoga near Willow Street, to better their strip of streamfront.

The most dramatic improvements have come from a simple step: erecting fences along the banks to keep cattle and livestock from pooping in the stream and crumbling the banks.

Inside the newly created buffer, vegetation quickly flourishes, attracting wildlife and filtering soil and manure that would run off fields into the water. Additional plantings of trees stabilize the banks and provide shade for fish.

In the last three years, the group has enticed more than 15 landowners to fence off livestock. Three years ago, on Esh’s farm, a 60-year-old low-head dam that had halted fish migration and stockpiled silt was demolished while more than two dozen Plain Sect farmers looked on.

Though there is much work to do, there already are dramatic signs of a more healthy stream.

Ducks have returned to the now-grassy stream in such numbers that the Amish hunt them. Esh has seen a pair of eagles hanging around. Kids are now allowed to frolic in the stream.

And the biggest surprise of all: trout.

“When we first started, we were just trying to grow ducks,” says Putnam. “We never dreamed we would get trout.” The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Paradise Sportsmen’s Association already stock trout in some sections.

With the discovery that Mill Creek is fed by a number of limestone spring tributaries, Putnam and others are convinced that eventually at least some tribs and even portions of Mill Creek itself will support a reproducing population of wild trout.

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The Mill Creek watershed has been the focus of state and federal cleanup efforts for 20 years due to intense runoff problems that figure prominently into the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay.

A cattle-fencing project launched 15 years ago here was the first in the nation.

The formation of a watershed group composed of the very landowners who live there is proving instrumental in carrying on that work.

“It’s remarkable, considering that they didn’t have a lot of background in this,” marvels Matt Kofroth, watershed specialist with the Lancaster County Conservation District.

“They’ve really taken the reins here and taken off with it.”

So far, the group has received a \$100,000 grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection, another \$49,000 from the local Ressler Mill Foundation and \$22,200 from the federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under its Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

The inspiration for the group was Henry Beiler, an Amish farmer who lives near Leola.

Beiler was working as a liaison between Amish and conservation agencies in the Octoraro watershed when he saw the opportunity for a similar effort closer to home.

“To me, this is important that each person work to make his part of the county a better place than when we came here,” he says. “We’ve only begun to fight,” he says of the Mill Creek group, of which he is a board member.

“There’s yet a lot of work.”

The group expects to soon be designated as a nonprofit group. That will open up tax-deductible contributions and more grants from both the government and private groups such as the Izaak Walton League. The group also will then make a push for expanded membership.

It is hoped the rock vanes, mud sills, cattle crossings, streambank fencing and plantings going in will inspire other landowners to become better stewards of their land.

Says Smucker, who owns the Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant, “We talk a lot about leaving the environment in a better condition than we found it and that’s one of our chief goals. We work at trying to improve it for the next generation.”

“I’m really excited,” says Putnam, who has been working along Mill Creek for 15 years.

“It’s like a tree growing — and now it’s finally bearing fruit.”

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Quick Clips

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

[Field Guide- PA Cleanways Focus on Cleanups in Bird Areas](#)

[Northeast Good at Recycling, But Could Benefit More](#)

[Nurturing Dream of Green Home](#)

[Philadelphia Car Share Project Wins National Recognition](#)

[PNC Goes Green in Building Branch at Mount Nebo Pointe](#)
[Pollution Prevention Saves Money, Reduces Waste](#)
[Coal-based Jet Fuel Poised for Next Step](#)
[Student Turns Corn Into Energy](#)
[Biodiesel Achieves Significant Milestones in PA](#)
[FirstEnergy to Purchase Wind Farm's Electricity](#)
[Wind Farm Construction Begins in Portage](#)
[Lehighton Re-Energizes Hydroelectric Dam Plan](#)
[Allegheny Power Calls for New Power Connection in Kempton](#)
[Lehigh, Northampton Get Boost in Farm Preservation Funds](#)
[Officials in Rush to Preserve Open Space](#)
[PA Leads Nation in Land Preservation, Bradford Leads State](#)
[Editorial: Green Space in Cumberland County](#)
[Waste Tire Reuse Project Could Protect Environment](#)
[Wildlife – Gathering of Cranes Quite a Sight](#)
[In PA, Urban Indian Life is Vanishing Fast](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Rules Slow Cleanup of Mines, Congressional Panel Told](#)
[Assessment of Plum Creek to be Focus of Upcoming Meeting](#)
[Grant Awarded to Cleanup Abandoned Mine in Luzerne County](#)
[Grant Awarded to Cleanup Abandoned Mine in Lackawanna County](#)
[150+ Attend Somerset Water Forum](#)
[Be a Water Detective Teacher Workshop](#)
[EPA Report Says Bay Will Miss 2010 Cleanup Deadline](#)
[Fish Project Could Give Lift to Power Production at PPL Holtwood Dam](#)
[April 2006 Issue of Chesapeake Bay Journal online](#)
[POWR Programs Start 2006 Strong](#)

Watershed Awareness Month Activities

This special Calendar section is devoted to activities going on in and around Watershed Awareness Month in May. If you have events to add, send them to:
DHess@HolstonCrisci.com.

Blair County (New)

- **May 12** – Water Festival sponsored by the [Blair County Conservation District](#), the Altoona City Authority, the Allegheny Ridge Corp and local watershed groups to educate the public of all ages on the value and necessity of protecting water through fun indoor and outdoor activities. Contact: Becky Albaugh, 814-696-0877 ext. 5 or send email to: americorps@blairconservationdistrict.org.

Centre County (New)

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- **April 22** – [ClearWater Conservancy](#) annual Watershed Clean Up day, State College. Contact Becky Dunlap at becky@clearwaterconservancy.org or at 237-0400 for more information.
- **May 1- 6** – [ClearWater Conservancy](#) is sponsoring the Beatty Memorial Arbor Day Planting of a 500-foot long riparian buffer at the State College Elks country Club. Volunteers are need to plant 600 native trees and shrubs. RSVP for May 6 by calling 717-237-0400 or emailing katie@clearwaterconservancy.org .

Erie County (New)

- **April 24-28** – Earth Force Storm Drain Stenciling Week – Call 814-835-8069 to participate
- **May 3** – Earth Force Annual Youth Summit, Presque Isle State Park – Call 814-835-8069
- **May 20** – 4th Annual Bike Around the Bay event for Earth Force youth program, 10, 30 and 50 mile routes - all proceeds go to Earth Force youth program – Call 814-835-8069 or bab@lea.earthforce.org
- For more information on Erie County events, send email to: ssmith@lea.earthforce.org.

Fayette County (New)

- **May 8** – **Fayette County Children’s Water Festival.** Penn State Fayette-The Eberly Campus. 1,000+ sixth graders will hear presenters, participate in demonstrations and visit exhibitors organized by 150 volunteers and is funded by the Conservation District, Western PA Conservancy, local water suppliers, watershed groups, school districts, DEP, Ohiopyle State Park and local businesses. Contact: heatherdfowler@yahoo.com .
NewsClip: [Fayette Water Festival-GreenTreks Network](#)

Greene & Washington Counties (New)

- **April 30** – [Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy](#) holds its annual Spring Wildflower Walk and Enlow fork Spring Extravaganza near Wind Ridge on Gamelands 302. Migratory bird, wild flower, tree and butterfly identification along with other critters with background presentations on watershed conservation topics. Contact: 724-627-7871 or send email to: cnelson@greenepa.net .

Lancaster County

- **May 9-** [Lititz Run Watershed Alliance Watershed Day](#) for 350+ 5th graders in Warwick School District spend a day filled with conservation/wetland/watershed information and activities. Volunteers from numerous businesses and organizations who volunteer every year. Lancaster County Conservation District, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Game Commission, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Severn Trent, Lititz Sportsmen’s Assoc. Trout Unlimited, and numerous others sponsor the event. This event is not open to the public limited to the children and their teachers.

Montgomery County

- **May 6** – [Green Valleys Association Envirofest Family Fun Festival.](#) A 5K run, birds of prey, music, environment-friendly living demonstrations, native plant sale, displays and food will all be part of the fun.

Philadelphia County

- **May 23** – [Saylor Grove Wetland Dedication](#), Philadelphia Water Department. Lincoln Dr. & Wissahickon Dr. and Rittenhouse Ave, Philadelphia. 6-8:00 p.m. Contact: Tiffany.Ledesma@phila.gov 215-499-3756.

York County

- **April 22** – York County Stream Steward Cleanup Day, 9 am to 1 pm, multiple locations (6 so far)
- **April 30 to May 7** – [National Soil & Water Stewardship Week](#)
- **May 2-3** – York County Envirothon grades 7 & 8 and 5 & 6
- **May 5** – Greater Hanover Alliance hosting Regional Watershed Protection Workshop for Municipal Officials, 8 am to 4 pm, location TBA
- **May 9**- York County Envirothon grades 3 & 4
- **May 9**- York County Envirothon grades 3 & 4
- **May 13**– Restoration Monitoring Workshop, 8 am to 4 pm, at Penn State York
- **May 18**– CCWA’s 9th Annual Meeting, 7 pm, at York Water Company’s Lake Redman facility
- **May 22**– What’s the Big Deal about Invasives? Workshop, 7-9 pm at ANNEX, sponsored by MAEscapes

For more information on York activities is available from Gary Peacock, York Watershed Specialist, by sending email to: GPeacock@Yorkccd.org .

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of [Nitrogen Oxide Trading Allocation for 2006](#),

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 1, 2006](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations \(DEP website\)](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new guidance documents were published this week.

[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](#)

- **May 8-12** – [“Show Me the Money” Grant Workshop](#). Lewisburg.
- **April 3** – Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2054](#) (Grell-R-Cumberland) making changes to the Eminent Domain Code in response to the *Kelo* Supreme Court decision and [House Bill 2317](#) establishing the 2005-2006 Capital Budget for flood control, Keystone Recreation, Environmental Stewardship projects. Rules Committee Room. Off the Floor.
- **April 3** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum – PA CleanWays update on rural dumping in Pennsylvania. Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **April 4** – House Agricultural & Rural Affairs Committee hearing on deer damage. Hearing Room 1, Keystone Building. 9:00.
- **April 4** – House Finance Committee meets to consider [House Bill 906](#) (S.Miller-R-Berks) phasing out the Inheritance Tax. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:30.
- **April 4** – Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing on deep mine safety. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:00.
- **April 5** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on gasoline additives and their impact on the environment and fuel supplies (MTBE, ethanol). Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:00.
- **April 13** – DEP [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 2:00 to 5:00.
- **April 18-19** - [Chamber Environmental Conference and Trade Show](#). Camp Hill (near Harrisburg).
- **April 28-29** – [PA Land Conservation Conference](#). State College.
- **May 5** – Forestry Task Force meeting (Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee). Penn Stater Conference Center. State College. 10:00.
- **May 18-19** – [2006 Pennsylvania Heritage Partnerships Conference](#). Preservation PA. Franklin, Venango County.
- **May 26** - DEP [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 to 1:00.
- **June 12** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum – Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) “Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania.” Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

(courtesy [PA Organizations for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[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@HolstonCrisci.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

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Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)