

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

April 10, 2006

House Passes Its Own Version of the Budget

The House this week officially started the state budgeting process by passing [House Bill 2499](#), a version of the budget proposed by House Republicans, after considering some 207 amendments in a marathon session.

Because House Bill 2499 starts with the current year's budget, many of the environmental funding cuts in the 2006-07 proposed budget were restored to items like support for county conservation districts, nutrient management, agricultural research, river basin commissions, the PA Senior Environment Corps and the PA Center for Environmental Education.

Among the amendments added by House members was one by Rep. Hershey (R-Chester) which successfully added a \$6.1 million appropriation to the state budget to fund the [Barnes and Tucker mine water treatment project](#) to provide agriculture make-up water during times of drought.

Another amendment by Rep. Carole Rubley (R-Chester) to restore \$30 million monies for watershed restoration and mine reclamation in the Environmental Stewardship Fund was offered, but not considered.

Budget amendments at this stage in the House have to cut money from one area of the budget to restore it in others. The source of the funds for the Rubley amendment were exhausted by the time the amendment came up for consideration.

This is just the beginning of the budget process with a long way to go.

Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session on April 18, the House returns April 24.



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*Photo: 2005 clean up in Sandy Run, Ft.
Washington State Park*

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PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

On the Hill

- On the Senate, House Agenda
- Senate/House Bills Moving/Introduced
- Committee Hears Comments on MTBE, Service Station Dealers Support MTBE Ban
- Too Many Deer Cause Over \$314 Million in Damage Annually Committee Told
- PA CleanWays Outlines Accomplishments, Future Plans to Joint Committee

Other News

- Surface Water Supplies in Many Counties at Drought Emergency Levels
- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces 2006 Grant Awards
- Conowingo Reservoir Operations Plan Released for Public Comment
- DEP Schedules Two Public Sessions on Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy
- Eastern Abandoned Mine Coalition Workshop on Culm Banks, Abandoned Mines
- Counties Can Share Litter Fines with PennDOT Under Little-Used Program
- Heat & Steam System Workshops to Help Businesses Reduce Energy Costs
- Apply Now for Wind Turbines for Local Governments, Schools, Authorities
- PUC OKs Program to Help Pike County Cope With 129% Electric Cost Increase
- Dirt and Gravel Road Center Receives Grant To Prove Tire Recycling Concept
- PA Celebrates Earth Day and National Environmental Education Week
- April Issue of PCEE Connections Newsletter Now Available

See & Hear

- A Falcon First -- Five Eggs! In the Harrisburg Nest

Opinion

- *Green Buildings Need Green Light*, By Patrick Starr and Jill Kowalski

Feature

- *Got Hummingbirds?*, by Joe Kosack, Pennsylvania Game Commission

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

Here's the rundown of what's on the calendars and in committees—

Calendars

The House will start with these bills of interest on its April 24 Calendar--[Senate Bill 881](#) would tighten the definition of “blight” to prohibit local governments from using eminent domain authority to take private businesses; [House Bill 1588](#) providing for the fluoridation

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

of public water; [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment; [House Resolution 661](#) designating May as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month;” and [House Resolution 679](#) designating May as “Drinking Water Awareness Month.

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.

Bills on Governor’s Desk

Ecoterrorism: [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) establishing penalties for ecoterrorism was signed in the House and now goes to the Governor for his action.

Water Shutoff: [House Bill 893](#) establishing procedures for shutting off water service for nonpayment of sewer bills was amended by the House and now goes back to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

Senate/House Actions

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 passed by the Senate and returned to the House for a concurrence vote.

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 referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Bills Introduced

School Impact Fund: [House Bill 2550](#) (Grucela-D-Northampton) authorizes a school boards to levy an educational impact fee on new subdivisions and building permits.

Solar Tax Credit: [House Bill 2565](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) amends the Tax Reform Code to exclude solar equipment and installation from state Sales and Use Tax.

Solar Installation Grants: [House Bill 2566](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) authorizes the use of Growing Greener II environmental bond proceeds to provide funding for the installation of residential solar energy systems and related education.

Solar Feasibility Study: [House Bill 2567](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) directs the Department of General Services to conduct a Solar Power System Feasibility Study on all new state-construction buildings.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Farmland Preservation License Plate: [House Bill 2591](#) (Armstrong-R-Lancaster) creating a special vehicle license plate with proceeds going to farmland preservation.

Lyme Disease Awareness Month: [House Resolution 661](#) (E.Z.Taylor-R-Chester) would designate May as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month.”

Drinking Water Awareness Month: [House Resolution 679](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) would designate May as “Drinking Water Awareness Month.”

Greenhouse Gas Report: [House Resolution 692](#) (Ross-R-Chester) directs the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to study and report on the issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Alternative Energy: [House Resolution 694](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) calls for the holding of a conference on the use of alternative energy sources in honor of Benjamin Franklin.

Rachel Carson Day: [House Resolution 702](#) (Josephs-D-Philadelphia) designating May 27 as [Rachel Carson](#) Day in recognition of the birthday of the author and environmentalist from Springdale, Allegheny County. She would have been 99 this year.

Committee Hears Comments on MTBE, Service Station Dealers Support MTBE Ban

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee heard comments supporting and opposed to a ban on MTBE in gasoline at a hearing this week and, separately, service station dealers and petroleum distributors in Pennsylvania came out in support of a ban on MTBE for the first time.

[Senate Bill 824](#) sponsored by Sen. Conti (R-Bucks) would phase out the use of MTBE in gasoline over five years and was introduced in response to concerns that MTBE has been linked to increased rates of cancer and that once in groundwater is very difficult to remove from water and soil.

The Department of Environmental Protection noted 25 states have already banned MTBE in gasoline and highlighted two recent cases of MTBE contamination in Montgomery and Luzerne counties that have so far cost over \$12.5 million to cleanup.

DEP said the recent removal of the federal requirement to have an oxygenate like MTBE in gasoline and the absence of any provisions in law for product liability protection for MTBE are driving refiners to limit or eliminate the use of MTBE.

MTBE is being replaced with the use of ethanol, which DEP said has many advantages over MTBE. DEP also said, based on information from industry and the U.S. Department of Energy, Pennsylvania should have an adequate supply of ethanol to replace MTBE.

DEP concluded that a ban on MTBE would have minimal impact on the industry and would prevent any future MTBE product from coming into the state.

The Department of Agriculture and the environmental group Campaign for Clean Air and Clean Water also supported ethanol as an alternative to MTBE or the ban on MTBE.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The Associated Petroleum Industries of PA highlighted the choices given to refiners on the use of MTBE or ethanol in gasoline as a result in the change in federal law, and recommended monitoring gasoline supplies to determine if shortages would develop from discontinuing the use of MTBE.

The only witness to support the continued use of MTBE was Lyondell Chemical Company from Texas which makes MTBE. They cautioned that a premature action to ban the product could reduce gasoline supplies and raise costs for consumers.

[In a letter this week to Sen. Conti](#), the Pennsylvania Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, which represents 5,000 service stations and retail gasoline facilities in the state, expressed its support for the principles in Senate Bill 824 saying, “it is unprecedented that this organization has taken a position to ban an additive or particular petroleum product.”

The group noted that several refiners and pipelines have already curtailed the use or shipment of the additive.

“The Association strongly feels that a ban of the additive will level the playing for all refiners, distributors and retailers. Ohio, New York and New Jersey have taken action to restrict or ban MTBE now or in the coming years. We do not feel that leaving Pennsylvania a safe zone for the additive is in the best interest of the Commonwealth.”

[Copies of testimony presented to the Committee is available online.](#)

Too Many Deer Cause Over \$314 Million in Damage Annually Committee Told

Agriculture, forest, nursery and Audubon PA testified before the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee this week that over-browsing by too many deer causes over \$314 million in damages and significant habitat loss in Pennsylvania’s forests.

In his testimony, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff provided the Committee with damage estimates by industry-- \$75 million in crop damage, \$91 million in damage to forests and \$78 million in costs associated with over 39,000 collisions between deer and cars.

Gregg Robertson, President of the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association, reported damages of between \$5 and \$8 million in what is the fastest growing segment of agriculture in the state.

PLNA recommended the Game Commission adopt policies that allow eliminating concentrations of deer outside of the recreational hunting seasons, provide DMAP permits at no cost directly to landowners and communities and permit regulated baiting by hunters to increase deer vulnerability to allow thinning of local herds.

Dr. Tim Schaeffer, Audubon PA, noted his group strongly supports hunting as a tool to bring deer into balance with their habitats.

“Hunters are critical to the success of deer population management because hunting is currently the only feasible method of regulating deer populations on a large scale,” said Schaeffer.

“Over time, high deer populations in most of Pennsylvania and across nearby states have greatly altered forest understories,” said Dr. Schaeffer. “The abundance of native wildflowers and other forest-floor plants has been greatly diminished, shrub species have been dramatically decreased or eliminated, and the variety of tree species has declined. Birds and other wildlife that depend on forest vegetation have also been affected.”

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Dr. Schaeffer made several recommendations to the Committee-

- Adopt a more stable and equitable funding base for the Game Commission so it is not so dependent on hunting license dollars and timber sales for funding in order to shift the agency from single-species management to ecosystem management; and
- Encourage the Game Commission to reveal the science behind its deer management decisions and ask individuals nominated for the Game Commission board to commit to using transparent science to make their decisions.

“Our forests have been operating in the red for decades and will never be able to get back in business until we find a way to make natural resource management decisions that are truly in the best interest of the resources themselves,” said Dr. Schaeffer.

Betsy Huber, PA State Grange, echoed the comments of Secretary Wolff on crop damage reported by their members.

“In more recent years, our members have become even more concerned with the threat of Lyme disease spread by the deer tick,” said Huber. “Many of our members have been disastrously affected by this disease. It’s the Grange’s opinion that the health concerns affiliated with the deer management issue should take center stage.”

Huber made ten recommendations to the Committee, including letting communities decide what deer management tools are most suitable to their needs, engage hunters in the effort to determine what policies now inhibit their effectiveness and local deer control efforts should be allowed at any time of year, not just during recreational hunting seasons.

Craig Sweager, a farmer representing the PA Farm Bureau, said they believe damage to agriculture and “green industries” alone may exceed \$90 million annually and recommended the Committee update a 1997 study done by Penn State to document damage.

The Committee hearing was cut short by the House session schedule for the day and another day of hearings on deer damage will be scheduled. Witnesses at that time will include: DCNR Bureau of Forestry, the PA Forest Products Association, the Department of Health, a homeowners’ association, a lumber mill owner and the Game Commission.

[Copies of the testimony presented are available through PLNA’s website.](#)

NewsClips: [Editorial: PA Hunting License Fee Increase Justified](#)
[Gary Alt to Address Deer Management Conference](#)
[Point of Sale Licensing System Coming for Game, Fish Licenses](#)
[Hunters – A Dying Breed](#)

PA CleanWays Outlines Accomplishments, Future Plans to Joint Committee



PA CleanWays has organized nearly 29,000 volunteers to cleanup 547 illegal dumps, conduct 1,226 litter cleanups and remove over 7,360 tons of trash from the state’s roads, trails, waterways, State Parks and Forests and educated over 221,600 children about littering and dumping over the last 15 years. But, there’s more work to be done.

That was the key message delivered by Karen McCalpin of PA CleanWays, the featured speaker at the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee’s](#) Environmental Issues Forum this week.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

PA CleanWays illegal dump surveys in just eight counties have documented over 1,018 dump sites containing over 4,000 tons of trash. And 671 more sites were documented on State Park and Forest lands as part of the Forest Lands Beautification Program sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

These dumps not only catch on fire and pollute streams, they act as breeding grounds for disease carrying mosquitoes.

And the problem is just not in rural areas. The City of Philadelphia spends over \$5 million every year cleaning up litter and dumping and enforcing anti-dumping laws.

Trash not only costs money to cleanup, it negatively affects property values, ruins hunting and fishing areas decreasing tourism and trash often invites other criminal activities in communities because it is viewed as evidence that people just don't care.

PA CleanWays works to cleanup and keep areas clean through several core programs: organizing community cleanups and monitoring sites after they are clean; beautifying areas and creating physical barriers to dumping; an adoption program that lets individuals and groups adopt local areas to keep them clean; organizing events to collect hard to dispose of or recycle items to deter dumping; and education programs which create awareness in communities about the harm illegal dumping can do.

By creating effective partnerships, PA CleanWays has helped spread its efforts across the state.

Through the Department of Environmental Protection and as a founding member of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, PA CleanWays has created anti-dumping education programs, conducted cleanups, created local county chapters and helped manage programs like the [Great PA Cleanup](#) and the Clean Our Anthracite Lands and Streams Project.

With the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA CleanWays helped cleanup illegal dumps through the [Forest Lands Beautification Program](#).

PA CleanWays partnered with the [Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#) which helped fund county surveys of illegal dumps and watershed cleanups.

What does the future hold? PA CleanWays "Campaign to Clean the Commonwealth" would extend its programs across the state.

They presently have formal chapters in 21 counties, primarily in western and central Pennsylvania, but operated programs in 57 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

They would like to create a Comprehensive Illegal Dump Survey Report for the entire Commonwealth to document illegal dumps which would create a local focus for organizing more volunteers to deal with these problems.

Completing illegal dump surveys in all 67 counties would take about five years.

With the appropriate financial support, PA CleanWays believes it can annually coordinate 25 to 35 high priority cleanups across the state in collaboration with other nonprofit and government agencies.

McCalpin closed her presentation with this quote - "It is said that the activist is not the one who says the river is dirty, the activist is the one who cleans it up."

A complete copy of [McCalpin's presentation is available online](#).

For more information visit the [PA CleanWays website](#) or send email to Karen McCalpin at: kmccalpin@pacleanways.org or call 724-836-4121.

The next Environmental Issues Forum will be held on June 12 and will feature a presentation by Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#), entitled, "Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania."

NewsClip: [DEP Expands Coal Country Anti-Dumping Program](#)

In Other News

Surface Water Supplies in Many Counties at Drought Emergency Levels

Water levels, especially in rivers and streams, in Pennsylvania are at or approaching drought emergency levels in many parts of the state and groundwater levels have been declining.

Surface water levels in at least 46 counties in Central and Eastern Pennsylvania are now at [drought emergency levels](#), according to the U.S. Geological Survey Drought Condition Monitoring Program.

In at least 23 counties, [groundwater levels](#) in Central and Northeast parts of the state are at drought emergency levels.

Conditions in the [Susquehanna and Delaware river basins](#) are at low flows for this time of year, with the [National Weather Service](#) is saying the entire Mid-Atlantic Region is experiencing abnormally dry weather.

The U.S.G.S. also reported [freshwater streamflow](#) to the Chesapeake Bay set a March record low in 2006. Streamflow to the Bay averaged 515,000 cubic feet per second or 333 billion gallons per day, which is about 65 percent below average.

A lack of snow cover and rain during the winter and early Spring has contributed to the low stream flows and groundwater levels.

Officially, the Commonwealth uses five parameters to assess drought conditions—stream flows, precipitation, reservoir storage levels, groundwater elevations and the Palmer Soil Moisture Index to determine whether a drought watch (lowest level), drought warning or drought emergency exists.

No drought warnings or watches have yet been posted.

For more information on water level and drought conditions, visit the [DEP Drought Information Center](#).

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces 2006 Grant Awards



The [Coldwater Heritage Partnership](#) announced that over \$35,000 in grants have been awarded to local organizations to protect and conserve Pennsylvania's coldwater stream habitats.

"Pennsylvania Trout is excited to award grants to worthy organizations for the conservation and protection of their local streams," stated Ken Undercoffer, President of the [Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#).

Grants have been made to the following organizations:

- \$5,000 to the Wildlands Conservancy to implement a qualitative, visual-based stream habitat assessment and develop a series of site-specific recommendations designed to protect and enhance the Little Lehigh Creek in Berks and Lehigh counties;
- \$1,696 to the Sandy Lick Conservation Initiative to assess the current conditions of Schoolhouse Run, Jefferson County, and to gather data for possible re-designation to an Exceptional Value stream;

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- \$5,000 to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to study the aquatic health and natural reproduction of brook trout in Laurel Run, Somerset County, and to make recommendations towards its future protection;
- \$5,000 to the Westsylvania Heritage Corporation to inventory and assess the Clearshade, Cub and Piney Run in Somerset County, and to identify potential threats, educate volunteers, and determine the economic impacts of the coldwater fishery;
- \$4,598 to the Pennsylvania State University Center for Watershed Stewardship on behalf of the Beech Creek Watershed Association to assess and evaluate present status and trends in wild trout populations and monitor acidic spring runoff of 13 Beech Creek sub watersheds. They will also develop plans and strategies to protect these watersheds in Centre and Clinton counties;
- \$4,900 to American Littoral (Delaware Riverkeeper Network) to do a targeted study of the Mil Creek Watershed in Berks County and to provide the data necessary to pursue a stream upgrade for long-term protection. This project will also identify potential restoration projects to improve habitat and water quality;
- \$5,000 to the Venango County Conservation District on behalf of the South Sandy Creek Watershed Association to collect and analyze data and write a watershed plan including prioritization of projects for the Williams Run watershed, a sub watershed of South Sandy Creek in Venango and Mercer counties; and
- \$4,127 to Youngsville Borough on behalf of the Brokenstraw Watershed Association to gather public input, conduct an assessment, and develop a coldwater conservation plan for Spring Creek in Warren County.

"We were happy to see so much interest in the CHP program from the conservation community. This program is modeled on the efforts of many fine organizations working to restore stream health, but is different in that it provides opportunities for groups to develop proactive strategies for protecting some of our best coldwater resources," Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Doug Austen said. "Because this type of grassroots conservation work is vital for the future of the state's coldwater streams and wild trout fisheries, organizations will have the opportunity to submit applications again this fall."

"Our world-class coldwater streams, many of them flowing through state forest and park lands, are dependent on this partnership and its much-needed funding," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "Not only does this effort have a pronounced conservation value, it is helping to protect our outdoor legacy for the enjoyment of future generations."

Besides offering grants, the Coldwater Heritage Partnership works to provide technical and educational assistance to organizations interested in protecting coldwater ecosystems. Over the past four years, the Coldwater Heritage Partnership has awarded over \$155,000 to protect our coldwater streams.

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership is a cooperative partnership among Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program.

For additional information, visit the [Coldwater Heritage Partnership](#) or contact Deborah Nardone at 814-359-5233 or send email to: dnardone@coldwaterheritage.org.

Conowingo Reservoir Operations Plan Released for Public Comment

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission this week released a [draft plan on the management of the Conowingo Pond](#) in the lower Susquehanna River for public review.

May 17 is the deadline for public comments.

The Conowingo Pond is a 14-mile interstate reservoir formed behind the Conowingo Dam on the lower Susquehanna River that straddles the Pennsylvania-Maryland state line.

The 100+-page report, Conowingo Pond Management Plan, is the result of a 4-year planning initiative led by SRBC and the Conowingo Pond Workgroup and includes a proposed protocol for reservoir operations during times of critical low flows to meet public health and safety, environmental and economic needs.

The Conowingo reservoir provides water for public water supply systems, energy production, recreational activities and aquatic habitat, and provides fresh water to the upper Chesapeake Bay. Current reservoir users include the Chester Water Authority, City of Baltimore, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and Muddy Run Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Facility, Conowingo Hydroelectric Station, and many recreational users.

On March 15, 2006, SRBC approved an application by Conectiv Mid-Merit, LLC to withdraw 19.01 million gallons per day from the pond and to consumptively use 8.72 million gallons per day for cooling purposes.

The purpose of the Conowingo management plan is to minimize the stresses on the water resources during times of drought to help avoid the water use conflicts and ensure adequate flows to the lower Susquehanna River and the upper Chesapeake Bay.

[The draft management plan is available online.](#)

Persons interested in commenting on the draft plan should direct their comments to Andrew Dehoff, Director of Planning and Operations, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17102, 717-238-0423, ext 221, Fax: 717-238-2436, by sending email to: adehoff@srbc.net .

DEP Schedules Two Public Sessions on Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy

The Department of Environmental Protection has scheduled two public meetings to discuss the [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy](#) in Williamsport and Harrisburg.

The upcoming meetings will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates and locations:

- April 11 -- Goddard Room, DEP Northcentral Regional Office Building, 208 West Third St., Suite 101, Williamsport; and
- April 12 -- Conference Room, DEP Lab Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg.

Developers and consultants are invited to discuss and give feedback on implementation issues related to the Tributary Strategy, as well as the department's permitting procedures. The goal is to share ideas to improve predictability and assure that the compliance obligations do not upset development plans and schedules.

To confirm attendance or for more information, contact Ann Smith of DEP's Water Planning Office at 717-772-4785 or e-mail annsmith@state.pa.us .

Eastern Abandoned Mine Coalition Workshop on Culm Banks, Abandoned Mines

Municipal officials are invited to a free workshop April 19 in Wilkes-Barre on using GIS maps to help plan and target the clean up of abandoned mines and to restore watersheds.

The session will begin at 9:30 a.m. in City Hall, 40 E. Market St.

Participants will learn about the availability of GIS maps showing the location of a variety of environmental and community features to be used in planning community-enhancement projects.

The workshop is offered by the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation under a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Luzerne County Conservation District under the Coalition's program to provide [GIS mapping support to municipalities](#).

For more information, contact Rob Lavelle, GIS Outreach Technician at EPCAMR, 570-674-3409 or send email to: rlavelle@epcamr.org.

Counties Can Share Litter Fines with PennDOT Under Little-Used Program

Counties with PennDOT-approved litter control programs can share in littering fines imposed by the state under a little-used program created in 1990.

Normally the state keeps all fines imposed under state law for littering, however, counties that apply to PennDOT for an approved local litter control program can share those fines 50-50 with the state creating a source of local funding for litter control efforts.

[PennDOT guidelines](#) for what constitutes a local litter control program and a description of the application process are available online.

Questions about the program should be direct to Richard Ebeling, PennDOT Bureau of Maintenance and Operations, 717-705-1552 or by sending email to: rebeling@state.pa.us.

Heat & Steam System Workshops to Help Businesses Reduce Energy Costs

Industrial and commercial businesses and institutions searching for ways to reduce energy costs can attend two U.S. Department of Energy workshops planned for western Pennsylvania during mid-April.

A process heating workshop will be held on April 13 in the DEP Pittsburgh Regional Office, and a Steam System Assessment workshop is set for April 19 in Erie.

The workshops are provided through DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Industrial Technology "Best Practices" Program.

The day-long events focus on reducing process energy consumption and provide attendees with copies of DOE's energy assessment software tools. Energy-saving fact sheets, case studies and additional program resources are available on the [EERE website](#).

The process heating workshop is co-sponsored by the Southwest Pennsylvania Energy Efficiency & Pollution Prevention Roundtable, the Electro-Technology Applications Center at Penn State McKeesport and the DEP Office of Energy & Technology Deployment.

The workshop will be taught by DOE Energy Specialist Dennis Quinn and will provide an introduction to process heating concepts and equipment, such as furnaces,

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

ovens, dryers, heaters and kilns. The discussion of advanced technologies and operating practices will offer significant energy saving opportunities. According to the DOE, nearly 5.2 quadrillion Btu, or 17 percent of all industrial energy use, is consumed annually by process heating equipment.

For more information or to register for the workshop call or e-mail Roxanne Daykon at 412-675-9049 or rx18@psu.edu.

The Steam System Assessment workshop on April 19 is being held in conjunction with the Manufacturers' Association Conference Center in Erie. The workshop is co-sponsored by National Fuel, The Pollution Prevention Roundtable for NW PA Business and Industry, and DEP's Office of Energy & Technology Deployment.

DOE Energy Specialist Dr. Steven Terry will lead the discussion of steam system operation and efficiency improvements. This workshop offers significant opportunities for attendees to reduce fuel costs associated with raising steam. More than 45 percent of all fuel consumed by U.S. manufacturers is used to raise steam.

Contact the Manufacturers' Association of Northwest Pennsylvania to register for the workshop by calling 814-833-3200 or [visit their website](#).

Apply Now for Wind Turbines for Local Governments, Schools, Authorities

Municipalities, authorities and school districts can now apply to participate in the [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority's Small-Scale Community Wind Project](#).

The deadline for applications is May 12.

PEDA will select the 15 best proposals to receive Southwest Windpower's next generation small-scale wind system for permanent deployment at a public building or facility. Appropriate sites could include town halls, libraries, court houses, visitor centers or any other public building that will enable local communities to see and learn about the system.

In some cases, an applicant may designate a site on privately owned land for the proposed project, if the privately owned site is better suited for the project than property owned by the applicant. If it does so, a letter of authorization from the landowner must be included with the application.

The Southwest Windpower system includes a 1.8kW turbine, a 35-foot tower, an inverter, concrete foundation, wiring, an installation manual and technical support from the manufacturer. Department of Environmental Protection technical staff, PEDA and Southwest Windpower will review the applications to ensure that the selected sites can support a wind project.

PEDA is looking to deploy wind systems in locations highly visible to the public and with applicants that have the financial and technical wherewithal to properly install and maintain the system and those that include a substantial outreach and education component.

In order to qualify, a proposed site must have class 2 winds or better (or an average wind speed of 12 mph or more). If you do not have the site-specific wind speed data, please refer to the interactive evaluation tool at [Pennsylvania Wind Map](#) to determine the estimated class of wind at the proposed site.

Applications may also be obtained by visiting [PEDA's website](#) or by contacting Lawrence Middleton by phone at 717-783-8411 or by e-mail at lmiddleton@state.pa.us .
[Official notice in PA Bulletin.](#)

PUC OKs Program to Help Pike County Cope With 129% Electric Cost Increase

Because a growing number of Pike County Light & Power consumers are seeking help with their bills, the Public Utility Commission this week reinstated the Pike County Light & Power's Low Income Pilot Program.

Pike County consumers are trying to cope with a [129 percent increase](#) in their electric rates brought about by the end of caps imposed by electric deregulation in 1996. The Pike County Light & Power Company, in somewhat unique circumstances, went to purchase electric in the competitive market for their entire load from New York's electricity market at a time when prices were high.

"Pike County consumers are faced with unprecedented increases in their electric bills that has left many families seeking help in paying their bills," said Commissioner Bill Shane. "Restoring the Low Income Pilot Program will help needy families by providing an opportunity to have their arrearages forgiven."

"The spike in electric prices in Pike County has left many low-income families who had been struggling to get by unable to make ends meet," said Commission Chairman Wendell F. Holland. "Reinstating this program takes the steps necessary to allow those who are in need to get the help they need."

The Commission also directed the company to continue providing assistance to qualifying Pike consumers through its Neighbor Fund, increasing the benefit by \$200 for residential electric customers and by \$300 for heat customers. The Neighbor Fund provides crisis grants to customers who are unable to pay their electric bills.

The Commission is continuing with its fact-finding inquiry into the competitive electric market in Pike County. The Commission is seeking ways to attract more and lower-cost choices for electric customers and the way power is purchased as well as the short and long-term electric generation supply outlook for the region.

Electricity rate caps are due to come off consumer bills in most areas of the state in 2010, along with the removal of stranded costs imposed as part of deregulation to allow utilities to recover the cost of their nuclear power plants. The difference between these charges in some areas of the state could result in increases in electricity rates anywhere from zero to 40 or 50 percent.

Power companies going into the competitive market to buy electricity have seen rates jump from 55 to 59 percent in Delaware and New Jersey respectively.

PUC Consumer Advocate [Sonny Popowsky](#) told the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee recently that if the PUC does not take steps now to mitigate the impact of rate increases after the caps are removed, electricity rates could increase by over 50 percent.

NewsClip: [Electric Costs Could Soar After Lifting of Rate Caps](#)
[PUC Looks Into Pike County Electricity Price Increase Issue](#)

Public Supports Energy Assistance Program, \$100 Million Balance Remains

About \$100 million of the \$218 million in state and federal funds for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program remains unused this heating season due in part to the milder than expected winter weather.

Community advocates and energy companies both expressed a concern that if funds are not used it may be difficult to get support, in particular for state funding in the program next year to prepare for cold weather.

A poll released this week by UGI, Columbia Gas and Equitable Gas found 74 percent of the public supported state funding for low-income energy assistance.

The proposed 2006-07 budget request did not include state funding for the program.

NewsClip: [Energy Assistance Surplus Causes Worry](#)

Dirt and Gravel Road Center Receives Grant To Prove Tire Recycling Concept

Penn State's [Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies](#) received a \$696,685 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection to use waste tires to improve dirt roads that are causing silting of local waterways.

The demonstration project, which is intended to use some 500,000 discarded tires from the Starr Tire Pile in Columbia County, which is estimated to hold between six and eight million waste tires. The tire bales as road fill project will take place in Madison and Greenwood townships, near the Starr tire pile.

Penn State's Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies will use the tires to fill entrenched and degraded dirt and gravel roads. These roads were identified by Columbia County's Dirt and Gravel Road Program as sediment pollution sites to Mud Creek a tributary of the east branch of Chillisquaque Creek.

The tires will be bailed into 2.5- by 4.5- by 5- foot blocks containing about 100 tires, reports Kevin Abbey, director of the Center. About 5,000 bails will be used to fill the two roads and will incorporate drainage structures to channel runoff to surrounding vegetated areas rather than running down the road into the streams.

This project, if successful, could be applied throughout the Commonwealth and could alleviate not only the problems with some unpaved rural roads, but also the problems surrounding tire piles, which include fires, chemical leaching and the creation of breeding grounds for mosquitoes, including those that carry West Nile disease.

For more information, visit the [Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies website](#).

PA Celebrates Earth Day and National Environmental Education Week



The [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) has put together special webpages and resources to help students, teachers and everyone celebrate Earth Day (April 22) and Environmental Education Week (April 16-22).

The [Earth Day Events and Activities webpage](#) links you to special events all over Pennsylvania to help people of all ages learn about the environment and the role everyone can play in restoring and

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

protecting our common-wealth.

PCEE also links you to the [National Environmental Education Week webpage](#) with even more projects and activities of interest to everyone.

Also check out the [Great PA Cleanup webpage](#) for cleanup opportunities in watersheds and roadsides near you for Earth Day.

April Issue of PCEE Connections Newsletter Now Available

The [EE Connections newsletter](#) published by the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online.

This month's issue features these items:

PCEE News: PCEE Attended the PAEE Conference; PCEE Events Calendar.

General News: PA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Leads the Nation; Montgomery County Conservation District Receives Grant; Homeowner's Guide to Storm-water Management Now Available; Barn Owl Conservation Initiative Extends to Southwest PA; Alien Invaders Workshop; 2006 Watershed Snapshot; 2006 Ohio River Basin River Sweep; Volunteers Wanted; Water: An Endangered Resource Documentary to Air on Pittsburgh's WQED; Pennsylvania Helps Lead Nation with 73 Energy Star Buildings; Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Public Meeting; Volunteers Sought to Help with Darby Creek Cleanup; Mesa Environmental Seeks Farmers for Alternative Energy Audits; Recycling Drop-off Locations website.

K-12 News: NASA Educator Conducts GLOBE Land Cover Workshop; 2006 Pennsylvania Envirothon Teacher Resource Packet; River of Words: Teacher Workshop; EARTH WATCH seeks Pittsburgh Public School teachers and other participants; Kids and Teachers: 'Join Our Pest Patrol'; Environmental Education Resource Guides on CD; GEOEC Lesson Plans.

Higher Education: Organic Gardening 101 Workshop; Footprints: An Ecological Art Exhibition; SRU Receives \$27,000 Grant for Solar and Wind Energy System.

Professional Development: Celebrating the Headwaters Program; Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference; Black Bass Workshop; West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium; Aldo Leopold Education Project; Host a Local Environmental Education and Diversity Workshop.

Grants/Awards: Northeast Environmental Partners Awards; 2006 International Paper Environmental Education Award; Fishing and Aquatic Education Grant Program; Applications Due for Game, Fish and Boat Commissions' Landowner Habitat Projects; Erie Access Improvement Grant Applications; 2006 Waste Watcher Awards; Environmental Scholarship; Braitmayer Foundation K-12 Education Grants.

To receive your own copy of EE Connections by email, fill on the [online request form](#) or send email to: info@PCEE.org. Visit the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education website](#) for more on the resources available through the Center.

See & Hear

A Falcon First -- Five Eggs! In the Harrisburg Nest



The female [Peregrine falcon](#) nesting on the ledge of the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg has laid five eggs this spring -- a first for this particular female.

"This is good news because egg production is determined mainly by nutritional value," DEP Director of Environmental Education Jack Farster said. "This means that the prey base is good and both of these birds are hunting successfully."

Currently, the female falcon is brooding the clutch of eggs while the male hunts and brings her food. The eggs should begin to hatch in early May, typically around Mothers Day and take their first flights or fledge around Father's 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.

Opinion

Green Buildings Need Green Light

By

Patrick Starr, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

and

Jill Kowalski, Delaware Valley Green Building Council

Note: This opinion piece addresses a recent controversy in Philadelphia over putting waterless toilets in the 57-story [Liberty Property Trust Comcast Center building](#), the largest green building project in the United States so far. The issue was resolved this week.

Waterless urinals are part of the green-building movement across the nation, one that seeks to reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Many cities, from New York to San Diego, use the technology to reduce cost and conserve water. Desert-based Phoenix, Ariz., turned waterless urinals from a good idea into legislation by requiring waterless-urinal installation in all state buildings. San Diego, Raleigh, Orlando and Pasadena all use waterless urinals at major venues, such as airports, sports arenas or local attractions.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

With some thoughtful caveats on installation and maintenance, the board of directors of the National Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors is in agreement with the concept of waterless urinals.

But before we become too critical of Pennsylvania for not adopting this technology, let's remember that there are waterless-urinal installations in private offices and public buildings here (in Philadelphia).

The state Turnpike Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, the headquarters of Liberty Property Trust in Malvern, and the W. S. Cumby & Son office building in Springfield, Delaware County, are some examples.

Harrisburg is on board, so what's going on with Philadelphia?

In other locales, this green-building technology wasn't embraced overnight. Like most successful environmental solutions, this approach required an education component and more than a few successful demonstrations before becoming widely accepted. But being in the vanguard is not easy.

We should be thankful that Liberty Property Trust is willing to exemplify sustainable business practices in Philadelphia by seeking to install 116 waterless urinals. It may be instructive that, in spite of the Department of Licenses and Inspections' review of Liberty's permit request, Philadelphia already has two buildings with waterless urinals: the Police Forensic Center and SEPTA's Market Street building. Those installations inadvertently got by the plumbing review board.

Organizations such as the Delaware Valley Green Building Council and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council have been working with developers and architects to encourage the use of sustainable building features such as green roofs, energy-efficient windows and machinery, and nontoxic, local materials. The Philadelphia region boasts several of these green buildings and buildings certified for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED, the national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings).

Licenses and Inspections, city contractors and tradesmen need to prepare for a tidal wave of these types of buildings. As energy costs escalate and consumers clamor for economical buildings that don't lay waste to our air and water, the demand for green building practices will swell. We need to scour the building code now to remove barriers to these environmental and economical practices.

Waterless urinals can contribute to a sustainable Philadelphia by conserving billions of gallons of water annually. They require about the same amount of maintenance as regular urinals, plus they are safer for installers, maintenance workers and users. We also need to preserve the competitive advantage of our labor force.

Unions have an opportunity to embrace this new product, which could lead to the additional work of replacing the more than 50,000 urinals throughout Philadelphia in the next 10 years. Either unions can lead the way, or nonunion workers, who already have installed green technologies, can lead the way.

In our experience, encouraging collaboration between unions, architects, developers and environmental organizations is vital to ensuring that we best meet the needs of our growing city, manage our limited resources, and maintain standards we've set for today. The stage is already set. The membership of the Delaware Valley Green Building Council includes several union representatives and has developed Green Advantage for Commercial Construction, a green-building training program for contractors.

The Urban Sustainability Forum, of which the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Delaware Valley Green Building Council are partner organizations, brings Philadelphians together to set an agenda for making ours the greenest, most livable city in America.

Only through continued cooperation can we hope to make green-building initiatives a success in Philadelphia. We shouldn't let the idea of waterless urinals go down the drain.

Patrick Starr is vice president of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#).

Jill Kowalski is executive director of the [Delaware Valley Green Building Council](#).

NewsClips: [Truce Over Waterless Urinals](#)

[Plumbers' Board Approves Waterless Urinals](#)

[Editorial: Flushing Away an Opportunity](#)

[Take a Stand on No-Flush Urinals - Anyone?](#)

Feature

Got Hummingbirds?

by Joe Kosack

Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Some people are convinced there's a secret to getting hummingbirds to visit their yards. They believe they need special feeders. Perfectly mixed nectars. Precision feeder placement. But, hummingbirds really aren't that finicky.

As a rule, if you set the table for hummingbirds, they will come. Ruby-throated hummingbirds - the only ones regularly found in Pennsylvania or east of the mighty Mississippi River in spring and summer - aren't necessarily very timid and seem begrudgingly tolerant of people. As long as they can find your feeder, they'll figure out when it's best to use it.

"As long as the feeder is noticeable, filled with relatively fresh nectar or sugar water, and hummingbirds have returned from their wintering grounds, there's always a good chance that it will attract hummingbirds," noted Dan Brauning, Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Section chief. "It doesn't hurt to window-dress your rock gardens or flowerbeds with plants that hummingbirds seek out. But the feeder is your first and best shot to attract early hummingbirds."

According to Brauning, hummingbirds begin to trickle out of their wintering grounds in Central and South America in April. In the process, they will fly nonstop across the massive Gulf of Mexico and then flit from flowerbed to feeder to flowerbed through the South as they work their way north to their nesting grounds. They begin to show up in Pennsylvania in late April or early May. Pennsylvania's time-honored standard arrival date is May 1.



Photo: Game Commission

Plants are great hummingbird attractors. Some of their favorites include red salvia, coral bells, trumpet vine, honeysuckle, gladiolus, jasmine, begonias, and scarlet morning glory. Other flowering magnets include hanging fuchsias, morning glory, paintbrush, petunias and trumpet-creeper. Wild flowers, such as columbine and beebalms (*Monarda*), are very appealing to hummingbirds and are easy to grow. Flowering trees and shrubs, such as mimosa (silk tree), or those that blossom, including rose-of-sharon, black locust, horse chestnut and sweetgum, also are great attention-getters.

Color is the key to stopping hummingbirds in your yard, so catch their eye with something colorful, particularly vibrant reds, oranges and yellows, even pinks and purples. Hummingbird feeders usually have red and yellow parts for flagging that get the job done. Then it's up to the day-glow of your flowers to convince hummingbirds to drop their landing gear.

Some of the best flowers for attracting hummingbirds are those of tubular design. So go tubular and select festive colors. It's also a good idea to create large patches of similar flowers, rather than to put together a mish-mash in each bed. If your flowerbeds are near where you'll hang your feeder, they'll definitely serve as billboards to hummingbird traffic.

"The first step to attracting hummingbirds to your yard is getting them to stop," Brauning said. "So long as your home isn't situated in a highly urbanized area, it shouldn't be hard to get a hummingbird to stop in your yard using flowers and feeders. Hummingbirds prefer more open areas with ample vegetation. They aren't opposed to zipping around houses, or approaching people. But it's always best to get them coming to your property first. Then direct the hummingbirds to where you'd like to watch them.

"It's usually a good idea to try attracting hummingbirds to a location on your property where disturbances are minimal and there is at least partial shade," Brauning said. "Whether that's a feeder off the back-porch, or suspended from a rod-iron stand in a rock garden in front of the house, doesn't really matter. Once hummingbirds are using the feeder, move it five or 10 feet every other day toward the location you'd prefer they use for your viewing pleasure. They will follow readily."

Male hummingbirds are extremely territorial; they guard feeders from lookout posts and chase one another away with the ferocity of maddened hornets. But they also will occasionally and enthusiastically attempt to chase bees, small mammals and other larger birds. It is because of this aggressive nature that it's never a good idea to place hummingbird feeders near windows, particularly picture windows.

The hummingbird's scrappiness is legendary, but their "no quarter," lightning-quick pursuit of intruders can send these feathery hotheads rushing 20 to 30 miles per hour into a window, a battle they never win. Sometimes they fly toward windows because they see and decide to attack their mirrored image. Other times, they're fleeing pursuit and slam into a reflected skyline with no give.

"If you keep feeders away from windows, it reduces your chances of placing hummingbirds in harm's way, because hummingbirds - like all birds - cannot see glass," noted Doug Gross, Game Commission ornithologist. "If you want to get close to the action, do it through plantings by the your patio, deck or porch, or by placing a feeder near your favorite lounge chair or vegetable garden. Windows can be and are deadly to birds with anger-management issues, and hummingbirds surely qualify!"

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

What makes the hummingbird so susceptible to glass - and each other - is the fabulous flight gear nature has provided. Its body can hum to a beat of up to 80 wing strokes per second. It can fly backwards, hover and rise like a helicopter and go from zero to 30 miles per hour in 20 feet. The bird is a natural wonder, one that few people ever tire of watching.

Of course, to keep its finely tuned body operating smoothly, the hummingbird requires an ample supply of nectar that is readily available. Nectar is as potent as rocket fuel to hummers because of its high-caloric content. But given the hummingbird's limited ability to store energy and its high metabolic rate, the bird must constantly eat to satisfy its body's needs and fuel flight. That's why flowerbeds and feeder bottles are so "sweet" and essential to hummingbirds.

One word of caution about these feeders, however, is to be careful if you live in "bear country." Due to their high-caloric offering, hummingbird feeders may attract any of Pennsylvania's nearly 15,000 bears, many of which will soon be out of their winter dens if they are not already. So, if you want to feed hummingbirds, but want to avoid attracting bears to your property, consider bringing feeders inside at night or suspend feeders from high crosswires so they are at least 10 feet above the ground and four feet from anything a bear can climb, including overhead limbs.

If you do attract nuisance bears and either you or your neighbors contact the Game Commission, the first thing you will be instructed to do is to remove the feeders. Capturing and moving bears that have become habituated to humans is a costly and sometimes ineffective way of addressing the problem, especially when faced with the possibility of merely moving a problem bear from one area to another.

Wherever you suspend your feeder, it's likely to attract insects. Hanging a feeder filled with sugar water is like placing a "welcome" mat for ants and bees. So if you or someone in your family is allergic to bee stings, it's not a good idea to put a feeder on the porch. There are bee-proof feeders available on the market, but they still attract bees. Ants can be deterred by smearing oil or petroleum jelly - or placing a commercial ant barrier - on the suspension string.

Hummingbirds prefer edge and shrubby habitat for foraging and nesting. In addition to nectar, they consume flying insects, particularly gnats. Females on nest duty often strike flying insects as they pass and occasionally pirate insects tangled in spider webs.

With each passing year, feeding hummingbirds is becoming more popular. A visit to just about any home-improvement store or garden center will uncover a bevy of bottle feeders for hummingbirds. Some are inexpensive. Some are elegantly decorated. Some are better at attracting hummers than others.

"To be honest, hummingbirds really don't care whether feeders are made of glass or plastic, or whether they're filled with a store-bought nectar mixture, or a homemade recipe," Gross explained. "What matters is that the bird can find the feeder, and that it has fresh nectar within its reservoir. A hummingbird will drink nectar from a milk glass, a soda can, or a tin pan if they can find it.

"So don't feel there's a need to go expensive in this department, because you can't impress a hummingbird! But if you'd like to make a style statement with a handmade glass feeder, or prefer glass feeders over plastic ones for reasons of durability or cleaning ease, then go ahead, have at it!"

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The most inexpensive recipe for hummingbird nectar is a solution containing one part sugar and four parts water. The mixture should be boiled and cooled before filling your feeder reservoir. Store unused nectar in the refrigerator until you need it. Commercial mixtures that are available are convenient and effective, too.

It is not necessary to add red food coloring to mixtures to attract hummingbirds. In addition, never use honey in your feeder; it ferments and birds can become ill from consuming it.

Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned once a week in warm weather, twice a week in hot weather. Otherwise, they will become holding tanks for fungi that are harmful to birds. Feeders should be stripped down and washed in warm soapy water. Wipe all surfaces and rinse thoroughly.

Once birds begin using your feeder, you'll have to keep an eye on it, because they can drain it in relatively short order. Hummingbirds usually visit feeders about every 10 to 15 minutes. If hummingbirds were using your feeder last year, re-hang it where it was. They often check known locations first.

If hummingbirds routinely use your feeder in May, they'll likely build a nest nearby. Females - the dull-colored ones - primarily build their half-dollar-sized nests with plant fibers and spider webs, and with twigs or branches of deciduous trees. Nests are camouflaged with lichens. The two white, pea-sized eggs laid in the nest hatch after about two weeks of incubation. The hatchlings are under their mother's care for about 25 days, then the young are on their own.

For more information, visit the Game Commission's [hummingbirds wildlife notes](#).

Quick Clips

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

[Electric Costs Could Soar After Lifting of Rate Caps](#)

[Energy Assistance Surplus Causes Worry](#)

[Recycling Starting to Pay Off for Pittsburgh](#)

[DEP Expands Coal Country Anti-Dumping Program](#)

[DEP Awards \\$3.6 Million in Recycling Performance Grants](#)

[Op-Ed: Green Buildings Need Green Light](#)

[Editorial: Building Fees Needed to Deal with Explosive Growth](#)

[Drilling for Gas in Bucks County](#)

[DEP OKs Conestoga Landfill Gas to Energy Project](#)

[Rendell – Coal is Significant Piece of PA's Clean Energy Future](#)

[Editorial: On the Road to Biodiesel](#)

[Northampton Greenway Gets Brochure](#)

[Shippensburg Eyes Nature Trail Development](#)

[Op-Ed: Smart Growth Will Help L.V. Retain Young Professionals](#)

[Lancaster - \\$4.5 Million for Smart Growth](#)

[TreeVitalize to Plant 1,440 More Trees in Southeast PA](#)

[Editorial: PA Hunting License Fee Increase Justified](#)

[Gary Alt to Address Deer Management Conference](#)

[Point of Sale Licensing System Coming for Game and Fish & Boat Commission](#)

[Game Commission Has Only Itself to Blame for Deer Management Hunters – A Dying Breed](#)
[PA Mine Inspectors Find No Major Violations](#)
[Baby Seal in Delaware Likely Here for the Fishing](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Scouts Tidy Up Deer Creek](#)
[Pine Creek Study to Look at Banks, Streambed](#)
[Eastburg South Students Study Changes in Brodhead Creek](#)
[Clinton County Allocates Growing Greener Funding to Sewers](#)
[Wayne County Residents Learn Stream Bank Management](#)

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.

Beaver County (NEW)

- **April 8, 29, May 6, 13, 20, June 3** – [Tire Collection Events](#) at various locations around the county starting at 9:00 a.m. at all locations.
- **April 22** – [Route 68 at Industry Borough Cleanup](#) from Sebring Road to Barclay Hill Road. Meet at Merrill's Landing Restaurant at 8:30.

Blair County

- **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.

Bucks County (NEW)

- **April 22** – Neshaminy State Park Cleanup. Meet at State Park Office at 9:00. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org.

Centre County

- **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.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

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

- **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

- **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, Ohio State Park and local businesses. Contact: heatherdfowler@yahoo.com .
NewsClip: [Fayette Water Festival-GreenTreks Network](#)

Greene & Washington Counties

- **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.

Monroe County (NEW)

- **May 20** – [Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association](#) Wetland Trail Ribbon Cutting. Pocono Mountain West High School. 10:00 a.m. Contact: 570-643-2001 or send email to: mlord@ptd.net .
- **May 20** – [Aquashicola Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy](#) Open House. Polk Township Park (Rt. 534 in Kresgeville). 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact 610-681-4873 or send email to: info@apwc-pa.org .
- **May 21** – Bank and Stream Life in Our Watershed Program by [North Poocono CARE](#). Learn how you can help to preserve this heritage by visiting the Thornhurst Volunteer

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Fire & Rescue Company Annual Auto, Truck and Motorcycle Show. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact: 570-472-3274 or send email to: NPCARE@att.net .

- **May 27** – [Broadhead Watershed Association](#) River Ramble III. Pick up your map and directions and set off on this self-guided tour of creeks and other waterbodies in the Broadhead Watershed. An “after-Ramble” gathering is planned at 4:30. Meet at the Barrett Friendly Library in Mountainhome at 1:00 p.m. Contact: 570-839-1120 or send email to: broadheadwater@enter.net .

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

- **(NEW) April 22** – Poquessing Watershed Cleanup, Philadelphia. Meet at Frankford Ave. and Hegerman St, behind 7-11 at 9:00 a.m.. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .
- **(NEW) May 6** – Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Cleanups, Philadelphia. Meet at Bingham St. & D St and look for cleanup signs at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .
- **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.

Venango County (NEW)

- **May 13** – South Sandy Creek Watershed Association [recycling and reptile program](#) at the Mineral Township Building along Rout 965. Contact: Valerie Tarkowski at 814-425-7308 or send email to: penguin42@earthlink.net.

York County

- **(NEW) April 22** – York County Stream Steward Cleanup Day, 9 am to 1 pm, multiple locations: The locations are: 1) PPL’s Susquehanna River Boat Access Area on Wago Road, E. Manchester, 2) Outboard Boating Club, Pequea Borough, Lancaster County, 3) Lock 12 Public Access Area, Holtwood, York County, 4) Mill Creek at Chestnut Hill Road, York Township, and 5) Willis Run, Lincoln Park, City of York. Please contact Gary R. Peacock at 717-840-7430 or by email to gpeacock@yorkccd.org to register.
- **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

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- **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 a [notice correcting the list of stream classification](#) published in 2001.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 8, 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 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](#)

- [Notice of Regional State Water Plan Advisory Committee meetings.](#)
- [No cost Internet-based Remediation Training Courses Available](#)
- **April 12** – [DCNR Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **April 13** – DEP [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 2:00 to 5:00.
- **April 17** – DEP [State Water Plan Statewide Committee](#) meeting. Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, 1735 Market St, 42nd Floor, Philadelphia. 10:00.
- **April 18** – **CANCELLED** – Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- **April 18-19** - [Chamber Environmental Conference and Trade Show](#). Camp Hill (near Harrisburg).

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- **April 20** – [Rachel Carson Forum](#). Guest speaker Dr. Will Delavan, DEP Economist, on environmental economics. Auditorium. Rachel Carson Building. Noon.
- **April 21** – Senate Local Government hearing on watershed planning and management relating to stormwater and flooding. Darby Twp. Municipal Building, Upper Darby, Delaware County. 10:00.
- **April 25** – [PA Energy Development Authority](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 2:00.
- **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](#))

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Stories Invited

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