

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium Attracts 110+

The 4th [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium](#) was once again a success. Approximately 110 people participated in the annual conference, held this year at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College, PA, on July 18th and 19th.

Attendance included a good representation of government agencies, academic institutions, conservation organizations, watershed groups, Trout Unlimited chapters, and private industry.

Two dozen people also participated in the tour of the Bennett Branch Watershed abandoned mine drainage projects, in the heart of the PA Wilds region, on July 19th.

A copy of the [West Branch Susquehanna Symposium booklet](#) is available online.

Nearly 1,000 people have attended watershed improvement conferences so far this year. (See Links below)

Highlights of the symposium include the release of the West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin AMD Remediation Strategy and the Economic Benefit Analysis for AMD Remediation in the West Branch Susquehanna River Watershed.

The remediation strategy, developed by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, provides an in-depth look at the abandoned mine drainage problems that pollute 1,205 miles of stream throughout the river basin and offers suggestions for the next steps of this comprehensive AMD cleanup effort.

Development of this report also produced a companion interactive tool for the Department of Environmental Protection's West Branch Susquehanna River Task Force to help in determining not only important discharges and streams for future remediation work, but also those areas where additional monitoring and assessments are needed. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission was funded by grants from Trout Unlimited, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and DEP.

The economic benefit analysis, completed by Downstream Strategies, a private consulting firm based in Morgantown, WV, took a comprehensive look at a variety of economic benefits that may result from AMD remediation work throughout the river basin.

For instance, for every \$1 of external funds (money coming from outside the watershed, such as federal dollars) spent on remediation activities, local economies would actually receive \$1.36 to \$1.87 in local economic activity (i.e. jobs, treatment system material purchases, secondary purchases) – and that is in addition to the cleaner streams that would result!



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The report also took a look at sport fishing revenue loss on a sub-watershed basis across the West Branch, property value impacts, and public and private drinking water impacts.

Evan Hansen of Downstream Strategies gave an overview presentation of the study's findings at the symposium. The study was funded by Trout Unlimited.

Tim Palmer, award-winning author and photographer of 19 books on rivers, conservation, and adventure travel gave a memorable and inspiring keynote speech. His roots in Pennsylvania, not only from being native to the state, but his education at Penn State University more than three decades ago and work experience with the Lycoming County Planning Commission in areas such as Pine Creek, were important milestones for what would become his lifelong love and career of traveling, photographing, and writing about the importance of rivers conservation across the nation.

For more details on the great presentations and presenters, please see the symposium program:

Both the remediation strategy and economic benefits will be available for download on the [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition website](#) in the very near future. The website is currently under construction and new additions are being made every week so keep checking!

For more information, contact Amy Wolfe or Becky Dunlap of Trout Unlimited at 570-726-3118 or send email to: awolfe@tu.org for hard copies of the reports or for more information on the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative. *(Contributed by Amy Wolfe of Trout Unlimited)*

Links: [275 Attend Lehigh Valley Watershed, Shad Conference](#)
[500 Attend Keystone Coldwater Conference, Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#)

New StormwaterPA Website Features Online Video Case Studies, BMPs, More

The Department of Environmental Protection this week launched a new [StormwaterPA website](#) to help municipalities throughout the Commonwealth apply the most effective, proven techniques in stormwater management.

Flooding, erosion, polluted waterways and economic loss caused by stormwater affects communities all across Pennsylvania. Communities must match the tools available to the problems they have and that's where StormwaterPA comes in.

StormwaterPA is an essential reference that provides case studies, resource materials, and no-nonsense guidance to municipal officials, planners, engineers, builders, and other interested parties—all derived from experts working around the state to implement stormwater best management practices that improve our environmental, economic, and public health.

The website is based on the [Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual](#) developed by DEP that contains a wealth of technical information on practices communities can adopt.

Several online videos highlight case studies on BMPs communities can use. They include:

- **Plymouth Creek Restoration Project:** An eight acre drainage basin manages runoff from six square miles of parking lot and road adjacent to a large open air shopping center before it passes into Plymouth Creek (and into the Schuylkill River a few miles

downstream). A collaborative effort that included the DEP, Montgomery County Conservation District, the owner of the shopping center, and the [TreeVitalize program](#) pooled human and financial resources in a basin retrofit. The project offers flood control and improves water quality, while returning the basin to a more naturalized state. [Watch Video.](#)

- **Project Headwaters: A Watershed Approach:** What started as an epiphany to Trout Unlimited’s Mike Wilson has evolved into a model approach to stormwater management that involves a broad base of stakeholders and focuses on action. While working on a streambank restoration project in the lower Pennypack Creek, Mike began thinking about the larger Pennypack watershed and realized that his efforts would probably have a greater impact if they were taking place further upstream.

[Watch Video.](#)

Dozens of individuals and organizations provided valuable input and support in the early stages and continue to make their materials, advice, and expertise available as the project continues to evolve.

The conceptual development of StormwaterPA was guided by a Core Advisory Team comprised of members of Cahill Associates, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Clean Water Action, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and North Coventry Township.

[StormwaterPA](#) is a production of [GreenTreks Network, Inc.](#), a Philadelphia-based non-profit communications organization whose mission is moving people towards a more sustainable world.

For more information, visit DEP’s [Stormwater Management Program webpage](#) and the [StormwaterPA website](#)

Villanova Hosting “Day of Stormwater” Seminar, Tour, Summit August 14

On August 14 the [Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership](#) will host what it calls “[A Day of Stormwater](#),” featuring seminar presentation, a tour and a summit at Villanova University near Philadelphia.

The mission of the partnership is to advance the evolving comprehensive stormwater management field and to foster the development of public and private partnerships through research on innovative stormwater Best Management Practices, directed studies, technology transfer and education.

For more information and to register, visit the [Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership webpage](#).

Online Video Features

EPA, PA Sea Grant Unwanted Medicine Collection Event

This online video story tells how The Keep Unwanted Medicine Out of Lake Erie Medicine Collection Day in Erie resulted in the collection of 600 pounds of medicine and personal care products in April.

The collection event brought in over 73,000 pills and lots of controlled substances like narcotic pain medication, said Sara Grise, [Pennsylvania Sea Grant](#) coastal outreach specialist.

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The Collection Day was part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes 2008 Earth Day Challenge. The challenge involved over 100 collections across eight states.

The unsung heroes at the event were the police and pharmacists who accepted the pharmaceuticals for process. Also assisting at the event was ECS & R - Environmental Coordination Services and Recycling in Cochran, Pa.

Organizers of the Erie collection included PA Sea Grant, the City of Erie, Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force, LECOM School of Pharmacy, and Erie Times-News in Education. Organizers partnered with WJET-TV Erie Green Campaign.

Online Video: [Erie Drug Collection Event](#)

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars are listed here--

Session Schedule

The House and Senate released their fall voting schedule this week, but with only 10 days overlapping, it will not leave much time for legislative action--

House

September 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24

October 6, 7, and 8

November 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 24, and 25

Senate

September 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24

October 1, 2, 6, 7

The Senate will not be in session after the November election.

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars as they left them for summer recess--

Calendars

House (September 15): [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Bill 44](#) (Rublely-R-Chester) banning the sale, installation and unsafe disposal of mercury thermostats; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging

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Congress to investigate gas and energy prices;; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax; [Special Session House Resolution 6](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) designating November 15 as “Pennsylvania GIS Day” and the week of November 11-17 as “National Geography Awareness Week.”

Senate: All bills on the Calendar were tabled before the summer break.

Committees

House: the House Republican Policy Committee holds a hearing on electric rate caps and energy conservation in Pottstown.

Bills Introduced

The following bill of interest was introduced this week—

Hunting License Increase: [Senate Bill 1527](#) (McIlhinney-R-Bucks) increasing the cost of hunting license. (*Not online yet*)

Sludge Penalties: [House Bill 2725](#) (Kortz-D-Allegheny) providing penalties for the use of biosolids or waste for agricultural fertilization.

PA Center for Environmental Education Now Established in Law

[Senate Bill 356](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango), establishing the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) in statute, was signed into law by Gov. Rendell in early July as Act 71

“We are delighted to receive this vote of confidence from the Commonwealth,” said PCEE director, Kathleen Cowles Paul. “PCEE has been working hard to expand its services and outreach, providing a growing number of Pennsylvanians with the educational tools and information necessary to have environmental education make a difference in their lives.”

Senate Bill 356, co-sponsored by Sen. Mary Jo White, Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair, establishes a PCEE governing board, ensuring it remains focused on environmental education issues..

“The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education is a statewide resource for environmental education materials, with readily accessible web resources,” said Sen. White. “The state has set environment and ecology curriculum standards that students must meet. This new law will ensure that the PCEE will be able to count on stable support from the Commonwealth.”

“I’m proud that Slippery Rock University has turned the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education into a truly statewide resource,” said Sen. White. “Enacting this legislation will make learning tools available to teachers, home-school parents and students via the Internet and newsletters. It’s been a long time coming, but PCEE is a proven education program that finally has committed state support.”

The Senate approved similar legislation sponsored by Sen. White in the previous two legislative sessions, but the House of Representatives did not vote on the measures. The current version was approved by the Senate last year, and the bill received House approval today. Sen. White worked closely with Gov. Rendell to ensure he would support the measure.

The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education is a statewide environmental education resource for state agencies, county conservation districts, educators and nonprofit organizations.

The PCEE was established 12 years ago by Gov. Tom Ridge.

Game Commission Urges Support for License Fee Increase, Senate Sets Hearing

The Game Commission this week announced its support for [Senate Bill 1527](#) to increase hunting license fees introduced by Sen. Charles McIlhinney (R-Bucks), the Majority Chair of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee.

Sen. McIlhinney also announced the Committee will hold a hearing on the bill August 12 in Erie. (*See Calendar of Events*)

"It has been 10 years since the General Assembly approved the last license fee increase in 1998," said Carl Roe, Executive Director of the Game Commission. "During that time, the agency's cost of doing business - from gasoline to utility bills, from lime, seed and fertilizer costs to personnel costs - have increased significantly. All of these increasing costs are outside of our control, and leave us with the choice of cutting or eliminating programs and services.

"If approved, this license fee increase will enable the agency to restore pheasant production and stocking to 200,000 birds for small game hunting, move forward with planned habitat improvement projects stalled due to sky-rocketing fuel and fertilizer costs, and fill vacancies throughout the agency so that we can fulfill our wildlife protection, research and habitat improvement mission."

Roe offered special praise for Sen. McIlhinney proposing a significant reduction in the nonresident junior license fees.

"Increases in the nonresident adult license fees will be offset by the significant reductions proposed by Sen. McIlhinney in the nonresident junior license fees category," Roe said. "This reduction will give nonresident parents who want to bring their children to Pennsylvania to hunt a break.

"While increasing revenues is critical for the agency's wildlife management mission, we do not want to see young people, residents or nonresidents, discouraged from hunting due to license fees."

Roe noted that Sen. McIlhinney's effort to reduce nonresident junior license fees is consistent with the last license fee increase package that included the creation of a combination license for resident and nonresident juniors, and afforded these young hunters the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of hunting and furtaking seasons at a greatly reduced price.

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"We also salute Sen. McIlhinney's bill for reducing the amount of time a member of the armed forces reserve units must serve overseas in order to qualify for the reduced military license fees," Roe said. "These brave men and women who serve our country deserve this consideration."

Sen. Mary Jo White PennEnvironment Environmental Scorecard Gets “F”

[Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) Chairman Mary Jo White (R-Venango) issued the following response to the "environmental scorecard" recently released by [PennEnvironment](#).

"Unfortunately, scorecards from environmental groups have too often been utilized to portray as 'anti-environmental' legislators targeted by the group," said Sen. White. "Votes are apparently selected to ensure that only select legislators are portrayed favorably. To achieve this, many votes on critical environmental legislation are omitted. The result is a terribly misleading document."

The scorecard excludes the following environmental bills approved by the Senate:

- [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) -- Invests \$650 million in alternative energy investment;
- [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earl-R-Erie) -- Invests \$800 million in water, wastewater, dam and flood projects, signed into law as Act 62 by Gov. Rendell;
- [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware)-- Climate Change Action Plan (a priority of PennEnvironment), signed into law by Gov. Rendell as Act 70;
- [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) -- Creating Center for Environmental Education in statute, signed into law as Act 71 by Gov. Rendell;
- [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) -- Comprehensive mine safety update, signed into law as Act 55 by Gov. Rendell;
- [Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) -- Extended funding for Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, signed into law by Gov. Rendell as Act 77;
- [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) -- Coalbed Methane Dispute Resolution – additional protections for landowners;
- [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) -- Authorizes referendum for \$400 million in PENNVEST grants and loans, signed into law by Act 64 by Gov. Rendell;
- [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) -- Clarifies the solar share obligation of utilities under the AEPS act, signed into law as Act 35 by Gov. Rendell;
- [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) -- Protects Appalachian Trail (priority on PennEnvironment's website), signed into law by Gov. Rendell as Act 24; and
- [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) -- Great Lakes Compact (priority on PennEnvironment's website), Gov. Rendell signed into law as Act 43.

The scorecard includes the following votes:

- [Special Session House Bill 1](#) (DePasquale-D-York) -- House members were given credit for passage of the Alternative Energy Investment Act, signed into law by Gov. Rendell as Special Session Act 1; Senate members were excluded despite passing both Special Session House Bill 1 and Special Session Senate Bill 1;
- [House Bill 1590](#) (Markosek-D-Allegheny) -- Authorizes tolling of Interstate 80. Opposing tolling was regarded as "anti-environmental," signed into law by Gov. Rendell as Act 44; and

- Cabinet nominees – to our knowledge, votes on cabinet nominees under Republican governors have never been included, according to Sen. White.
The Environmental Scorecard is available on the [PennEnvironment website](#).

Other News

First Come, First Served REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Due

Pennsylvania farmers now have a second opportunity to apply for the first come, first served [Resource Enhancement and Protection Program \(REAP\)](#) tax credits that reward farmers for installing conservation practices that reduce erosion and sedimentation.

Applications will be accepted starting August 4 with postmarks after July 30.

"Pennsylvania is committed to helping farmers maintain viable businesses, and to improving conservation practices that protect water quality," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "Farmers need support in this time of rising production and energy costs, and programs like REAP provide a win-win for everyone."

REAP is administered by the State Conservation Commission and encourages farmers to use conservation best management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation impacting Pennsylvania's streams and watersheds.

Farmers can receive tax credits of up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation for 50 or 75 percent of the total cost of a conservation project, depending on the best management practice implemented. Farmers may also qualify for a 50 percent tax credit to purchase no-till planting equipment.

Applicants are encouraged to work with local county conservation districts or the Natural Resources Conservation Service before applying to ensure current plans are in place for each farming operation, including conservation, agricultural erosion and sedimentation control, and nutrient management plans, if required.

Guidelines and applications for the 2008-09 Resource Enhancement and Protection tax credit program are now [available now online](#). For those without Internet access, the commission can mail an application.

Part of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to reduce nutrients from wastewater treatment plants and farms called for an increase in the REAP tax credit from \$10 to \$35 million to help them meet this federal Clean Water Act mandate imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection, but the General Assembly and Gov. Rendell failed to take action on that proposal.

For more information about the program, contact Program Administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or send email to: mabender@state.pa.us. The Department of Revenue also has available a [special tax credit publication](#) with more background.

Link: [CBF, Fair Share Coalition Fight for Clean Water Funding in State Budget](#)



Penn State's Ag Progress Days Put Conservation, Agronomy in One Tent



[Penn State's Ag Progress Days](#), which highlight farm conservation programs and techniques, will be held August 19-21 in Rock Springs, just south of State College, Pa.

One of the highlights of the annual event will be a special hearing by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on the [Agriculture Conservation Fair Share Funding](#). Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Centre) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester) serves

as Minority Chair.

Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service often collaborate on programs related to crops, soils and natural resources and Ag Progress Days is no exception.

Video Blog: [View Video Blog Highlights from 2007 Ag Progress Days](#)

The NRCS and Penn State's Department of Crop and Soil Science will co-sponsor the new Crops, Soils and Conservation Area, which will incorporate exhibits and specialists from USDA's Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Game Commission, [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) and other agencies.

Exhibits, demonstrations and tours will reveal how federal, state and local agencies and private organizations work together to ensure the future of the state's natural resources. The partnership works, according to Douglas Beegle, professor of agronomy, because the disparate groups share a common purpose.

"People can meet, ask questions and talk to the Penn State departments, state and federal agencies, and public and private organizations that are working to support production agriculture in Pennsylvania while protecting our environment," Beegle said. "We will again have many of the best features from previous years, special plant and equipment exhibits, commodity groups and related associations in the tent, along with the hay competition."

Along with Penn State's agronomic activities, state agencies such as USDA-NRCS, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, conservation districts, Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry, and [Pennsylvania Certified Organic](#) will share space with allied organizations such as the [Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council](#), the Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association and the [Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance](#).

Among the special exhibits will be a plot of Pennsylvania wildflowers, demonstrating ways that the flowers can be useful in conservation planning. The Penn State Rainfall Demonstrator will illustrate the effects of 30-year continuous no-till crop production techniques on runoff and erosion compared with reduced tillage and conventional tillage.

The tent also will sponsor special NRCS presentations throughout Ag Progress Days, including:

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- Alternative Energy for Grazing Systems (10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday), with wind- and solar-powered water pump manufacturers presenting information on current products, and USDA grazing specialists discussing funding assistance;
- Horse Pasture Management (10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday), with USDA grazing specialists and producers explaining proper horse pasture management on limited acres; and
- Targeted Grazing (10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Thursday), featuring producers discussing the use of targeted grazing for forage harvesting and weed control on both owned and rented land.

No-till equipment also will be on display in partnership with the [Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance](#), whose members will be available to answer questions. Penn State Cooperative Extension specialists also will be on hand to talk to agricultural producers about any special problems at the ever-popular "Ask the Specialists" booth.

The common weeds exhibit and weed-identification display will offer fact sheets and examples of common weeds from around the state, with specialists on hand to help visitors formulate weed-management strategies. Teens also can get information on Penn State's academic degree opportunities in crop and soil sciences.

The ever-popular "A-Maze-N Corn" corn maze returns, as participants navigate the two-acre puzzle by answering general questions about Pennsylvania agriculture. The region's finest hay also will be selected at the annual Ag Progress Days Pennsylvania Hay Show. Visitors can submit entries to compete for prizes in 25 classes, with winning entries going to the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.

Penn State's Ag Progress Days is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, nine miles southwest of State College on state Route 45.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 19; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on August 20; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 21. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, visit the [Penn State's Ag Progress Days website](#).

Link: [CBF, Fair Share Coalition Fight for Clean Water Funding in State Budget](#)

DEP, Others Act to Protect Aquatic Life From Thermal Shock in Delaware River

With summer temperatures soaring in the upper Delaware River basin, the Department of Environmental Protection has signed an agreement that will help protect the region's recreational fishing industry.

Pennsylvania and its decree party partners -- Delaware, New York, New Jersey and New York City -- through the [Delaware River Basin Commission](#), unanimously agreed to allow New York's Department of Environmental Conservation to release up to 1 billion gallons of water under the flexible flow management plan to lower water temperatures.

The measure is designed to protect the trout in the upper reaches of the Delaware River from higher temperatures that result when water levels are low.

"It is imperative that the commission continues to work together and protect the recreational opportunities that span the length of the Delaware River, as well as the drinking water supplies that serve communities throughout the basin," said DEP Deputy Secretary Cathleen Myers. "The cooperative effort was necessary to safeguard the habitat of the aquatic life in the river and to illustrate the adaptive management style incorporated in the flexible flow management plan that was adopted last year."

Under the agreement, DEC can release water from the Cannonsville Reservoir anytime between now and Sept. 15, but not by more than 1 billion gallons in total, if water in the basin needs to be cooled.

It is anticipated that this bank of water should be sufficient to address acute thermal needs of the upper main stem of the Delaware River under extreme conditions.

Releases will occur when the three-day average of forecast high temperatures in the vicinity of Hancock, NY, exceeds 90 degrees and the minimum exceeds 65 degrees. Air temperature forecasts will come from DEC's meteorological staff working in conjunction with the National Weather Service.

The plan temporarily modifies the flexible flow management plan that is in place to control reservoir releases. The FFMP is designed to accommodate suitable temperatures and habitat for trout in the west branch of the Delaware and the upper sections of the east branch and Neversink River, but because of extremely high water temperatures that have been forecast, an augmentation was deemed necessary.

Chester Conservation District Constructs Mushroom Shaped Wetlands in Avondale

The [Chester County Conservation District](#) has created eight, unique mushroom shaped wetlands on the property of William Webb in Avondale, Pa to help manage stormwater and thermal impacts to Trout Run, a tributary to White Clay Creek.

The District is also looking for volunteers to help plant the wetlands in September.

Trout Run in Avondale has received many upstream efforts to reduce residential, highway, and industry run off and thermal pollution with the creation of forested riparian buffers and constructed wetlands, installation of Filter Soxx, and other best management practices (BMPs). However, the lower end was without conservation measures and funding for this project was granted in 2005 to provide the missing link.



The idea to create the wetlands is not an original, but borrowed from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, which has created wetlands in the shape of frogs, turtles, and even the mascot Blue Hen.

So, Chotty Sprenkle, Watershed Coordinator for the District, thought "what better way to promote water quality in a manner that will draw attention of the public, advertise the mission of the District, and promote the signature agriculture industry of the region?" She added, "I must admit, everyone was quite surprised when the funding was granted. Some people laughed, others just couldn't believe it was approved."

With the excavation completed, the site will be stabilized with riparian grasses until September. Then, the Conservation District will invite the public and other community groups to join them in planting the wetlands with over 2000 native herbaceous plants, like swamp milkweed, duck potatoes, and soft rush. The plants will utilize the nutrients in the runoff and overflow from Trout Run.

The second phase of the project is to construct a BMP that will direct the flow of the water through the wetland expanse to allow for greater NPS and thermal reduction and

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ground water recharge. Among the many other benefits, it is hoped that with cooler and cleaner water, the trout may just return to Trout Run.

The original design was created by [LandStudies, Inc](#), Lititz, modified and constructed by Rettew, Lancaster, and excavated by Flyway Excavation, Lititz.

The wetlands construction was funded with a Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grant (\$100,000), and were constructed to provide non-point source reduction and thermal reduction in Trout Run before it enters the exceptional value waters of the White Clay Creek.

For additional information and to help plant the wetlands in September, contact Chotty Sprenkle, 610-925-4920 ext. 103 or send email to: csprenkle@chesco.org.

Link: [CBF, Fair Share Coalition Fight for Clean Water Funding in State Budget](#)

Aid Available to Cleanup Leaking Underground Heating Oil Tanks

Anyone who owns an [underground heating oil tank](#) that holds up to 3,000 gallons can apply for financial assistance to help pay for cleaning up spills or leaks from those tanks, the Department of Environmental Protection said today.

"Underground storage tanks that leak heating oil pose a threat to the environment and the public's health," said DEP Waste, Air and Radiation Management Deputy Secretary Thomas Fidler. "Additionally, with heating oil prices having doubled in the past year, it's important that tank owners take steps now to conserve fuel and their investment."

Fidler said DEP has streamlined the grant application process and has eliminated a requirement that the application be notarized. Additionally, the application form's length has been reduced from four pages to two.

Up to \$500,000 per year is available for grants through the underground heating oil tank cleanup reimbursement program for those who own tanks that have experienced a leak anytime since January 30, 1998. The tanks must have a capacity of 3,000 gallons or less and be used to store heating oil that is consumed on the site where it is stored.

The reimbursement is limited to the actual costs of corrective action or \$4,000, whichever is less. A \$1,000 deductible must first be paid by the tank owner. The reimbursement and deductible apply on a per tank basis.

Costs that are eligible for reimbursement include excavating, emptying, cleaning, removing, transporting and disposing of a leaking storage tank; excavating contaminated soil; soil and water sampling and analysis; transporting and disposing wastes; and restoring disturbed or contaminated areas by backfilling, grading and re-vegetating.

The costs associated with removing underground storage tanks that have not leaked or repairing aboveground heating oil tanks—including those located in basements or cellars—are not eligible for reimbursement.

For more information, visit the [Underground Heating Oil Tank Cleanup Program](#) webpage or send email to: tankcleanup@state.pa.us or call 717-783-9475.

PA CleanWays Invites Community Cleaning Award Nominations

[PA CleanWays](#) is now accepting nominations for the [Community Cleaning Award](#) to recognize individuals, schools,



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government agencies, businesses and professional organizations, and nonprofit, civic, and community organizations who have made a significant difference in their community by cleaning and maintaining public spaces in Pennsylvania.

Nominations are due August 31

Activities nominated should have been completed in the last 12 months and can include, but are not limited to, illegal dump or litter cleanups, special collections and graffiti abatement.

Winning projects will receive a sign recognizing their achievement and will be eligible for additional awards from [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#), a partner of PA CleanWays.

You may nominate your project or the project of others. Applications are available by calling 724-836-4121 or visiting the [PA CleanWays website](#).

Link: [PA CleanWays 2006-07 Annual Report](#)

Volunteers Needed for Clarion River Cleanup on August 23

The Clarion River Municipal Partnership, [PA CleanWays of Elk County](#), and PA CleanWays are looking for volunteers to participate in the Clarion River Annual Litter Cleanup on August 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This cleanup will help to protect water resources, decrease health risks associated with illegal dumping and littering, and improve the scenic quality of the Clarion River Greenway to the benefit of all users and will focus on the shoreline between Wilcox and Cook Forest State Park in Elk and Forest Counties.

The Clarion River offers local communities and tourists a scenic view of Pennsylvania's mountains, serpentine valleys, and hardwood forests, the feeling of remoteness, a prehistoric animal footprint, the attraction and variety of recreational opportunities, and a rich history.

It also offers 110 miles of area for illegal dumping and littering; however, this will not be the case anymore.

A greenway is a linear corridor of open space. Some greenways are land trails for hiking, biking, and other forms of recreation. Others are water trails. Still others serve to protect the environment and are not designed for people to use.

The Clarion River Greenways serves all of these functions and connects the Allegheny National Forest and bordering open spaces to each other and the places where we live.

Greenways also create entirely new ways of accessing and enjoying our land and water resources. The goal in Pennsylvania is to develop a distinguishable system of greenways that connects open spaces across the state, similar to our interstate highway system.

Funding for this cleanup has been provided by the Stackpole-Hall Foundation and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

In addition, local donations have been secured to-date by BiLo Foods of Ridgway, Cook Forest State Park, CRMP/Millstone Township, Elk County Solid Waste Authority, PA CleanWays of Elk County, PennDOT of Clarion, Elk, and Jefferson Counties, and Veolia Environmental Services.

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Donations are also being accepted by PA CleanWays of Elk County at 300 Center Street, P.O. Box 448, Ridgway, PA 15853, or 814-776-5373.

Youth ages 12-17 years must have a signed PA CleanWays Parental Consent Form prior to participating. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers should wear long pants, long sleeves, and sturdy shoes.

Volunteers are asked to meet at 8:30 a.m. at one of the following meeting sites: South entrance of Bendigo State Park (SR 1004, near Johnsonburg), 11624 River Road, Sigel, and 4-Mile Launch (3.5 Miles on River Road from PA-36, Cook Forest State Park, Cooksburg). Look for cleanup signs near the parking areas.

Volunteers are asked to register their participation by August 20 with Pearl Wetherall at 814-927-5735 or online at the [Clarion River Cleanup webpage](#).

PA Greenways and Trails Summit September 28-30

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the [PA Recreation and Park Society](#) is sponsoring a [PA Greenways and Trails Summit](#) on September 28-30 at The Inn at Pocono Manor, Pocono Manor, Pa.

The theme of this year's Summit is "Greenways and Trails: Your Path to Active Living," with the program focusing largely on the health connection between wellness and trails.

In addition to statewide partners, local organizations such as the Wyoming Valley Wellness Trails Partnership are leading the way with practical approaches to connecting with local citizens.

The Summit will again feature a solid mix of well-known general session speakers, breakout sessions, and mobile workshops that bring the best in education and technical assistance to benefit managers and organizations across the Commonwealth who are responsible for the wealth of greenways and trails.

The agenda includes a set of facilitated forums and a networking lunch to gather ideas and opportunities for feedback from participants.

Keynote speakers include DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis as well as former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy will lead off on Monday morning to share his ideas and secrets of success in the "Steel City" in developing an expanded city-wide trail system.

Trail and wellness expert Mark Fenton will be a featured luncheon speaker to highlight his outstanding work in Pennsylvania. Finally, Pennsylvania Outdoor Life co-host Don Jacobs will entertain the group at dinner on Monday evening.

To complement the strong education offerings, the Summit will feature several networking and social opportunities starting with a Sunday evening reception with entertainment by The Shenandoah Allstar Band; a Monday networking luncheon; and a Tuesday evening social featuring Willy Jack and the Northern Light band.

For more information, download the [PA Greenways and Trails Summit brochure](#) and visit the Pennsylvania Environmental Council website for a [guide to registration](#).

\$1.25 Million Awarded to Protect Open Space in Montgomery County

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week awarded a \$1.25 million grant in Limerick Township, Montgomery County, to protect the Kurylo property – an 82-acre field and forest – from development.

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"The protection of this property for open space is important on its own, but is even more significant because of the landscape that it is in," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said at a media event where the grant was announced. "The Schuylkill Highlands initiative is a DCNR program working with external partners on land conservation, locally driven planning, and community economic revitalization efforts that are tied to the protection of our natural resources and cultural assets.

"Among the goals in the Schuylkill Highlands are to protect 50 percent of the remaining undeveloped land, and to provide more opportunities to connect residents and visitors to the outdoors. This project helps us meet those goals," Secretary DiBerardinis said.

Pennsylvania's investment is a [Community Conservation Partnerships Program](#) grant from the Keystone Fund, a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax. Other supporters of the acquisition include Montgomery County, \$1.14 million; \$403,000 from Limerick Township; \$10,000 from PECO; and a landowner contribution of \$250,000.

The acquisition of the Kurylo property is a part of conservation partnership and strategic investments in the landscape known as the Schuylkill Highlands, which is an area that includes 139 municipalities in portions of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh and Montgomery counties.

NewsClip: [Open Space Project Succeeds in Preserving Kurylo Farm](#)

PA Heating Oil Dealers, Motor Fuel Distributors: Close Oil Speculation Loopholes

[Pennsylvania Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association](#) this week called on Congress to take action immediately to plug legal loopholes that allow oil speculators to drive up the cost of energy and reap record profits.

"Everyone agrees one of the biggest factors in high oil prices is oil speculation by hedge funds and investment bankers," said John V. Kulik, Executive Vice-President, Pennsylvania Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association. "Some experts say as much as 60 percent of the cost of a gallon of gasoline or heating oil can be attributed to pure speculation and abusive trading practices."

"Petroleum product distributors are at the mercy of oil speculators just like consumers," Kulik explained. "We have no control over the price of oil, but we see the results of speculation first-hand from our consumers who are paying the bill."

The U.S. Senate is set to act on legislation sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid that would give the federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission more authority to limit oil market speculation and increase transparency in the future markets. This action follows weeks of hearings on the subject in Congress.

Pennsylvania U.S. Senator Bob Casey co-sponsored the legislation saying, "I strongly believe that we need long-term solutions for our energy future. But I also know that Pennsylvanians need short-term relief, especially with high gas prices and the winter heating oil season just around the corner. The Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act will rein in the middlemen who are increasing our gas prices through unregulated and undisclosed trading."

"We want to applaud the Senate for taking this step to bring the oil speculation issue into the light of day and urge an immediate vote to support the Reid bill," said Kulik.

“While there is no silver bullet that will solve the entire problem, this is a major step forward.”

“We also want to thank Senator Bob Casey for co-sponsoring this important measure,” said Kulik. “He realizes how much oil speculation is hurting homeowners and drivers across the state and we’re glad he’s on our side.”

PPMCA raised a warning flag about the impact runaway oil speculation will have on heating oil and propane customers this winter.

“Oil speculation has driven the cost of oil from \$75 dollars a barrel in July 2007 to more than \$131 a barrel today, almost double the price. Natural gas and other fuel costs have also increased dramatically in the last year, lead by the oil markets,” said Kulik. “Our customers who depend on these fuels to heat their homes could be facing a doubling of their heating costs starting this fall.”

“We urgently need Congressional action now to reign in oil speculators before the fall heating season and before our customers have to make some very difficult choices about how to pay for their heating bills,” said Kulik. “We also urge Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help those most in need deal with these dramatic cost increases.”

The Pennsylvania Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association is a not-for-profit trade association representing independent petroleum marketers at both the wholesale and retails levels and firms supplying petroleum products and other related services.

NewsClip: [Editorial: Oil Prices Expansion of LIHEAP Sought in Congress](#)

Online Video: [Stop Oil Speculators Now](#)

Link: [Conservation Groups Join Chorus of Voices Calling for End of Oil Speculation Stop Oil Speculators, Send Congress An S.O.S.](#)

DCNR Releases Guidance on Harvesting Forest Biomass for Energy

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week released [guidelines for harvesting forest biomass](#) as an alternative energy source.

Forest biomass, which is woody material that includes trees, tree branches and other vegetation, can be used to burn for heat and steam, or it can be turned into a gas that fuels a boiler to generate electricity, among other uses.

Technology is also being developed that would allow wood to be converted into ethanol and be used as a replacement for gasoline in motor vehicles.

"With 17 million acres of forests, Pennsylvania has generated significant interest from policymakers, energy analysts, industry representatives and others who are looking for new sources of energy," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "Our document balances the need for alternative energy sources with the need to protect our forests for all citizens and future generations."

The guidelines were prepared with comments from various stakeholder groups after DCNR's two-year study of forest biomass energy and related issues.

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DCNR is partnering with the state departments of Environmental Protection and Community and Economic Development to make the guidelines available to renewable energy companies and investors;

Among the conclusions in the report:

- Current estimates of available low-grade wood that is most likely to be sought for energy use are overly optimistic;
- Use of forest biomass for energy must first consider the many ecological, social, and practical concerns associated with its harvest;
- Harvesting forest biomass for energy production will compete with the commonwealth's forest products industry;
- The costs of harvesting forest biomass for energy production are not well understood by emerging industries; and
- Use of forest biomass may be most appropriate for use in single-facility or community scale heating or combined heat and power applications, such as promoted by the "Pennsylvania Fuels for Schools and Beyond" program, rather than to supply large-scale electricity generation or ethanol production operations that require huge volumes of feedstock.

Private forest landowners who allow biomass harvesting should carefully follow existing best management practices and get professional assistance to maintain the health of their land. For example, the guidelines include recommendations on how much biomass should be left in the forest during harvesting to protect soil quality, wildlife habitat and future forest productivity.

Responsible harvesting techniques may be best implemented to take advantage of wind damage, ice damage, pest invasions, invasive plants and fire that create large volumes of dead or damaged wood.

Forest health and energy goals can be met simultaneously by removing and using biomass in those circumstances.

Carefully implemented biomass harvesting, like the removal of competing vegetation, thinning and reforestation of abandoned mined lands, can help forest regeneration while providing renewable energy feedstocks.

More study is needed at the state level to develop a reliable estimate of available biomass and to assess the impacts this type of harvesting will have on specific flora and fauna, nutrient availability, tree growth rates, soil and other ecological processes.

A copy of [Harvesting Biomass for Energy](#) is available online.

Clean Diesel Emerging Technology Grant Funding Now Available

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting applications for approximately [\\$3.4 million in grants](#) to establish projects using emerging technologies to reduce emissions from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines.

Proposals are due September 21.

Addressing the existing fleet is important because it pre-dates EPA's stringent new particulate and nitrogen oxide standards and diesels remain in use for decades. This sum was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and funded for the first time this fiscal year.

State, local, regional and tribal governments may apply for the grants, as well as non-profits and institutions with transportation, educational service, and air quality

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responsibilities. Emerging technology manufacturers must partner with an eligible applicant to receive this funding.

The grants are targeting school or transit buses, medium and heavy-duty trucks, marine engines, locomotives and non-road engines.

The grants will be administered by EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign under the Emerging Technology Program. ETP supports the development and commercialization of new, cutting-edge technologies. The program gives manufacturers the opportunity to capture real world data and gain valuable operating experience on their technology while it is used by fleet partners.

An emerging technology is a device or strategy that reduces emissions from diesel engines or equipment that has not been verified or certified by EPA or the California Air Resources Board.

To qualify as an emerging technology, manufacturers must submit an application and test plan to EPA or ARB. Each technology will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if it qualifies as an emerging technology.

Qualified emerging technologies will be added to the Emerging Technologies List. The first three qualifying technologies are: 1) Caterpillars' Marine Emissions Upgrade Group (EUG), the 3500 Marine EUG; 2) Johnson Matthey's urea-based selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system for on-highway applications, the SCRT-1000; 3) and Nett Technologies' urea-based SCR for nonroad applications, the BlueMAX.

Specifics of each technology including the emission reductions and engine applications can be found on the [Emerging Technology List](#).

For more information about this grant, visit the EPA [Clean Diesel Grant & Funding webpage](#).

Electric Rate Increases: Generators Offer Customer Options

Terrance Fitzpatrick, General Counsel of the [Electric Power Generation Association](#), this week highlighted options for helping Pennsylvania customers deal with higher electricity prices being driven by higher fuel and commodity costs.

Fitzpatrick made his comments in testimony he delivered at a House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Fitzpatrick said, "Electricity prices are rising throughout the country - in both states that allow competition and in states that retained traditional regulation - because of increases in the cost of fuels used to generate electricity, and in the cost of building new power plants." He argued that Pennsylvania legislators can best respond to this challenge by educating customers on how they can conserve and save, giving customers options to phase-in higher prices, encouraging conservation and reductions in peak demand for electricity, and reviewing the adequacy of low income assistance programs.

Fitzpatrick cited a range of studies and media reports that have concluded that higher electric prices in both states that have and haven't restructured their markets have been driven by higher fuel and commodity costs.

"It is a hard reality," Fitzpatrick said, "that Pennsylvania cannot control the global conditions - surging demand for energy and commodities in countries such as China and India - that are driving up the underlying costs of producing electricity."

Fitzpatrick directly challenged claims that competition is to blame for higher electricity prices. "It is simply wrong to blame higher electricity prices on electricity

competition, on PJM's wholesale pricing rules, or on generators of electricity," Fitzpatrick said. "Policies that are based on these mistaken beliefs will lead Pennsylvania in the wrong direction, and will cause higher prices and less reliable service down the road."

Instead, Fitzpatrick said, "Pennsylvania can help customers adjust to higher prices by providing phase-in options, helping customers to conserve and reduce their peak demand, and providing assistance to low income customers."

EPGA is a regional trade association of major electric generating companies that supply wholesale power in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Its member companies own and operate more than 141,000 megawatts of generating capacity, approximately half of which is located in the mid-Atlantic region.

[A copy of Fitzpatrick's testimony is available online.](#)

Two PA Companies Join EPA Climate Leaders Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection agency welcomed 51 new partners as [Climate Leaders](#), including two from Pennsylvania-- SKF USA Inc., Norristown, Pa. and Wilton Armetale, Mount Joy, Pa.

Together, EPA's 200 Climate Leaders represent more than ten percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product and have pledged to prevent estimated GHG emissions equivalent to nine million cars annually.

"EPA's Climate Leader partners are proving that businesses don't need to break the bank to do what's good for the environment," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "These leading companies are reducing their climate footprints in cost-effective ways."

Other Pennsylvania companies included in the program are: ACE Group of Companies, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Alcoa, Inc., Mack Trucks, Inc., Mantria Corporation, PPG Industries, Inc. and U.S. Steel Corporation.

[Climate Leaders](#), launched in 2002, is a voluntary program that works with companies to measure greenhouse gas emissions and to set aggressive long-term emissions reduction goals. The partners represent a wide range of industries in all 50 states.

Dire Predictions Book Offers Easy Guide to Global Warming Science

Global warming, increasing greenhouse gases and melting ice sheets are all dire predictions by the Nobel-Prize winning [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), but understanding the scientific assessments, future impacts on our lives, and the things we can do to mitigate the situation is not easy.

Now, in a new book, two Penn State climate scientists present the information from the most recent IPCC reports in easily understood, sometimes amusing explanations and illustrations.

"Dire Predictions, Understanding Global Warming: The Illustrated Guide to the Findings of the IPCC" has the answers to all your questions about global warming with the graphs, images and layout expected from international publisher DK, which specializes in popular illustrated reference books such as "The Way the Universe Works."

The authors of "Dire Predictions" are Michael E. Mann, associate professor of meteorology and director of the Earth System Science Center, and Lee R. Kump, professor of geosciences, both at Penn State.

"It was gratifying to see how the DK folks helped us take the scientific information and make it leap off the page," says Mann.

And leap it does, from various images of the Earth and a multitude of maps to a page of mosquitoes emphasizing the increase in infectious diseases with global warming, with something in nearly every page that will stop you to read the text.

"Working with the DK artists -- what they call their 'information architects' -- translating the information-packed diagrams produced for a more scientifically literate audience by the IPCC into more accessible visuals for the general public was very interesting," says Kump.

The book is very successful from the point of view of the reader. Dynamic images outline topics such as an undersea diver and coral reefs pointing to "How Human Activity Has Changed the Rules of the Game," or polar bears and a golden toad illustrating the "Highway to Extinction?"

The authors divide the book into five parts beginning with "Climate Change Basics." Here, specific questions like "What are the important greenhouse gases, and where do they come from?" and "How does modern warming differ from past warming trends?" open several articles. The second part, "Climate Change Projections," presents "Fossil Fuel Emissions Scenarios," "Future Changes in Extreme Weather" and "The Geographic Pattern of Future Warming."

The third section, "The Impacts of Climate Change," asks, "Is it Time to Sell the Beach House?" and includes discussion of "War," "Famine," "Pestilence and Death," to be followed by "Earth, Wind and Fire."

The final two chapters deal with "Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change" and "Solving Global Warming." Articles such as "It's the Economy, Stupid!" show the costs of climate damage, mitigation and the benefits reaped. Other topics are "Keeping the Power Turned On," "Forests" and "Waste."

"I came in, knowing a great deal about the basic science so that part of the book was easier," says Mann. "I knew less about the projected impacts of climate change or the issue of climate change mitigation, so I had to study up on those areas."

The book covers not just the work of the IPCC Working Group One which covered "The Physical Science Basis," but also the work of Working Group Two, "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," and Working Group Three, "Mitigation of Climate Change." While the three reports of the latest IPCC efforts are available online, each is well over 700 pages plus appendices for a total of over 2,000 pages.

In the book "Dire Predictions," Mann and Kump have boiled the essence down to five parts, with mostly two-page articles full of colorful graphics, for a total of just over 200 pages of engaging science. A key element is accurate information debunking the most commonly held misinformation about climate change.

"The most fun for me was collecting the misinformation out there and debunking the myths surrounding global warming," says Kump. Mann also thought finding and debunking the myths was fun.

These myths include the idea that carbon dioxide is causing the holes in the ozone, that the increase in carbon dioxide is the result of natural cycles, and the possibility that our atmosphere is not warming at all. The authors consider each myth or misunderstanding and explain any kernel of truth within and why the myths are untrue.

While the book is perfect for people interested in global climate change, it is also a good beginning for an introductory course in climate change for students not majoring in

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science. College, high student and middle school students and most adults would find the book an easy roadmap to understanding the global warming debate.

Dr. Kump can be contacted at 814-863-7823 or send email to: kump@geosc.psu.edu and Dr. Mann can be contact at 814-876-0485 or by sending email to: mann@meteo.psu.edu .

Game Commission Presentation on Impact of Marcellus Shale Drilling August 8

The Game Commission officials will offer a public presentation to address the anticipated impacts to the agency from oil/gas leasing and development operations on State Game Lands derived from the Marcellus Shale gas formation underlying portions of State Game Lands.

The presentation will be held starting at 10:00 a.m. on August 8 in the auditorium of in the auditorium of the Game Commission's Harrisburg headquarters, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, just off the Progress Avenue exit of Interstate 81.

The presentation will be conducted by personnel from the agency's Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management.

Antlerless Deer License Applications Can Be Sent In Starting August 4

Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe reminds hunters the agency will begin accepting regular antlerless deer license applications from resident hunters beginning August 4, and nonresidents on August 18.

Antlerless deer license applications must be sent to the Game Commission via 22 different Post Office boxes and the agency, in turn, will forward them to county treasurers for processing.

All applications for antlerless deer licenses - regular, as well as unsold - must be submitted through the U.S. Mail (first-class only). Express and priority mail will not be accepted.

Hunters are provided with a regular antlerless deer license application when they purchase their general hunting license. Applications for unsold antlerless deer licenses can be found on pages 54 and 60 of the 2008-09 Pennsylvania Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations, which is presented to each license buyer, along with harvest report cards, an antlerless deer license application and envelopes.

For details, visit the [Anterless Deer License announcement](#).

Tests Confirm First Human Case of West Nile Virus in PA

State Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson this week reported this year's first confirmed human case of [West Nile virus](#) in Pennsylvania.

The individual, a 27-year-old Montgomery County female, is recovering and has been discharged from the hospital.

"Every case of human infection from West Nile is a reminder that we can take precautions to help reduce the risk of illness," Dr. Johnson said. "The chance of contracting West Nile virus from an infected mosquito is small, and your chances of becoming seriously ill are even smaller. However, it is important to remember that everyone –

particularly older adults and people with compromised immune systems – should take simple steps to reduce their risk."

Secretary Johnson recommended these simple precautions to prevent mosquito bites, particularly for those most at risk:

- Make sure screens fit tightly over doors and windows to keep mosquitoes out of your home;
- When possible, reduce outdoor exposure at dawn and dusk, the times of day when the mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus are most active, during the warmer months of the year (usually April through October);
- Consider wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors, particularly at dawn and dusk, or in areas known for having large numbers of mosquitoes;
- Use insect repellents according to the manufacturer's instructions. Effective repellents contain DEET. Consult a doctor if you have concerns about the use of repellent on young children, as repellent is not recommended for children under the age of two months. Two other insect repellants, Picaridin (KBR 3023) and oil of lemon eucalyptus, a plant based repellent, were tested against mosquitoes and provided protection similar to repellents with low concentrations of DEET.
- Pennsylvanians also can reduce the risk of West Nile virus by eliminating the places where mosquitoes breed. Mosquitoes can breed in standing water that is present for four or more days.

"We encourage the public to do its part to help control the population of mosquitoes that could carry the West Nile virus," said DEP Acting Secretary Joseph Powers. "To protect yourself and your family, eliminate any standing water on your property where mosquitoes can breed. Remember: dump it, drain it, treat it."

Powers suggested some simple steps that can be taken around the house:

- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, discarded tires, or any object on your property that could collect standing water;
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors;
- Have roof gutters cleaned every year, particularly if the leaves from nearby trees have a tendency to clog the drains;
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use;
- Don't let water stagnate in birdbaths;
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish;
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and remove standing water from pool covers;
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property;

Standing water that cannot be eliminated should be treated with Bti products, which are sold at outdoor supply, home improvement, and other stores. Bti is a naturally occurring bacterium that kills mosquito larvae but is safe for people, pets, aquatic life and plants.

West Nile virus is spread to people and animals by infected mosquitoes. Usually, the infection does not result in any illness. Older adults and persons with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk of becoming ill after a West Nile infection.

The disease can take two forms. The milder form is known as West Nile fever. In addition to fever, people with this form of the disease may also experience headache, body aches, skin rash, and swollen lymph glands. The more severe form of West Nile infection is known as encephalitis (an inflammation of the brain). People with encephalitis may

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experience high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, and coma. Dr. Johnson advises anyone with any of these symptoms to immediately contact their health care provider.

There is no specific treatment for West Nile virus. For severe cases, hospitalization is needed and illness can be associated with long-term disabilities and death.

Since West Nile was first identified in Pennsylvania in 2000, the virus has been found in all areas of the state and has returned each summer. Pennsylvanians should presume that West Nile virus is present throughout the state during the warmer periods of the year and should take appropriate precautions.

In 2007, there were 10 human cases of West Nile virus and no related deaths. In 2006, there were nine human cases of and two related deaths. In 2005, there were 25 human cases and two related deaths. In 2004, there were 15 cases of human West Nile virus that resulted in two fatalities.

For more information, visit the [West Nile website](#) or call the Department of Health at 1-877-PA HEALTH.

July Environmental Education Connections Newsletter Now Available

The [PA Center for Environmental Education](#) now has available the [July issue](#) of the EE Connections newsletter covering a variety of topics of interest to the environmental education community. This issue includes:

General News: Job Opening at PCEE, NWF Report Says Children Losing Contact With Nature, Free 2008 Pennsylvania Travel Guide, Educational TV Series on 'Sustainability in Philly' Produced, Community Wind Project Accepting Applications, EPA's New GreenScapes Website

K-12 News: Pennsylvania Team to Compete in National Envirothon, RiverQuest Program Dates Available for '08-09 School Year, MEERA Makes it Easy to Evaluate Programs, briefCAISE: New E-Newsletter for Informal Educators

Higher Education: U Penn Increases its Wind Power Purchase, SPIN Farming Workshop first of its kind on Campus, SRU's MS3 Grads Get National Attention for Green Projects, Composting begins College's Numerous Green Initiatives

Professional Development: PA Game Commission 'Project WILD Wetlands' Workshop, 'PA Amphibians and Reptiles' Teacher Workshop, Aug. 7-8 Susquehanna Aquatic Biodiversity Workshop, NAAEE Conference in Wichita

Grants/Awards: WREN Awards \$90,000 in Water Education Grants, Composting Grant Deadline Extended, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Now Available, 'TogetherGreen' Seeks Innovation Grant Proposals, Glynwood Center's 6th Annual National Harvest Awards

Contributions welcome! The Center receives news and information from a variety of sources across Pennsylvania and beyond. Center staff appreciate all of the

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organizations, agencies and individuals who provide EE services and share their relevant information.

If you would like to contribute to future issues of EE Connections, please submit your article before the 15th of the month. Articles should be of statewide interest and are subject to space availability. Send email to: info@pcee.org for more information.

Share EE Connections! If you know of others who would appreciate receiving EE Connections, please [complete the on-line form](#) or call 724-738-9020.

Teachers: Susquehanna Aquatic Biodiversity Network Workshop August 4-8

The [Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program](#) is sponsoring a five-day teacher development workshop for middle and high school teachers on the [Aquatic Biodiversity of the Susquehanna River](#) August 4-8 in Towanda, Pa.

This field, lab, and classroom course will provide you and your students with the opportunity to team-up with practicing scientists to explore aquatic biodiversity issues in the context of the Susquehanna Watershed and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Susquehanna Biodiversity Network activities will help teachers provide students with: meaningful lab and field experiences and real world monitoring that will document native crayfish, freshwater mussels and aquatic invasive species;

Participants will receive many valuable resources including: a Pennsylvania standards-based activity guide, an introduction to using Google Earth satellite imagery software, collecting equipment, and field guides and schools participating in the monitoring network will also be eligible to receive hand-held global positioning units and field trip implementation grants.

For more information, download the [Aquatic Biodiversity of the Susquehanna River brochure](#) or contact Ann Faulds at 215-806-0894 or send email to: afaulds@psu.edu

EPA Region 3 Conference on Children's Health and the Environment in September

Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will sponsor its annual [Children's Environmental Health Conference](#) in Philadelphia on September 18-19.

The Conference will be held at the Perelman Quadrangle at the University of Pennsylvania in cooperation with the [Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment](#).

The goal of the Conference is to advance the goal of working with regional partners to mitigate the adverse impact of environmental pollutants on the health of children within the Mid-Atlantic States and beyond.

The first day of the conference will include a guided tour of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. On the second day, we will focus on engaging discussions on Children's Environmental Health.

For more information and to register, visit the [Children's Environmental Health Conference webpage](#).

15th Annual Ned Smith Center Nature and Arts Festival July 25, 26

The annual [Ned Smith Center Nature and Arts Festival](#) will be held on July 25 and 26 at MYO Park in Millersburg, Pa.

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Ned Smith was a self-trained artist, writer, and naturalist who created thousands of drawings and paintings of wildlife. Ned and Marie Smith spent long hours exploring and chronicling what they saw along the back roads of Pennsylvania.

An extraordinary mix of recognized experts will be on hand to honor Ned and Marie. Presentations include ZOOAMERICA's North American animals; John D. Laskowski, the Mothman; Cal Butchkoski, PGC biologist and expert on bats; and Kermit Henning on edible wild plants. The ever-popular Mid-Atlantic Disc Dogs will join us as will Missy Meloi and her retriever dogs.

A musical jam, sponsored in conjunction with the Susquehanna Folk Music Society, will begin at 2:30 p.m. This year the Perry County Council of the Art's educational affiliate, The Center for the Education of the Imagination, will be sponsoring student performances from Juniata, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and Union counties to celebrate their week-long Summer Arts Institutes. Four professional theater artists will be on hand at the Ned Smith Festival to work with interested youth.

On the main stage, there will be a performance by the Pennsylvania Regional Ballet. The Twin Valley Players will present sections from this year's play, *Beauty and the Beast*.

During the Festival, a shuttle will be available for attendees to visit the Center's Olewine Gallery and tour the exhibit, *Butterflies and Moths: The Faye Arleen and Lawrence Joseph Kopp Collections*. Special thanks are due Faye Kopp for her generous gift of this exceptional collection. The exhibit features the largest moths and butterflies in the world. The exhibit is free to members and only \$4 for non-members over twelve.

While at the Center, be sure to visit the Seraph Education Room to see our 2008 Youth Art Contest winners and other educational exhibits. Also take a look at the site for our proposed new amphitheater and enjoy strolling on the new bridge over Wiconisco Creek to our hiking trails.

Visit the [Ned Smith Center for Nature & Art](#) for more information.

Audubon Pennsylvania Hires Phil Wallis as New Executive Director

[Audubon Pennsylvania](#), one of the state's leading conservation organizations, is proud to announce the selection of one of the Commonwealth's best-known conservation leaders as its new Executive Director.

Phil Wallis, former head of Natural Lands Trust and founder of Keystone Conservation Trust, will lead Audubon Pennsylvania as it embarks upon a bold new vision to protect birds and habitat across the state through science, education, and policy.

Audubon Pennsylvania is a division of National Audubon Society, America's oldest conservation organization, whose mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

In Pennsylvania, Audubon works with 21 local Audubon Society chapters, oversees 85 Important Bird Areas, connects children with the wonder of nature, and engages citizen scientists in the monitoring of bird species and projects that protect habitat.



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Mr. Wallis will be based at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove located in Audubon, Pennsylvania. He will also spend considerable time working in Audubon's Harrisburg office as he shapes the organization's conservation policies and priorities while building partnerships with other organizations throughout the state.

Joe DeMarco, Chair of the Audubon Pennsylvania board says, "We are delighted Phil has joined Audubon Pennsylvania. He is a well-known conservationist whose reputation for achievement and success has preceded him. The board and I are looking forward to working with him."

"Connecting people to nature is one of my primary lifetime goals," Mr. Wallis states. "I intend to build upon my experience in conservation by helping Audubon's people, science, and programs achieve powerful conservation results in the years to come. Together with its conservation partners, Audubon can help to define a bold, new course for conservation as we all tackle the daunting and daily issues of energy, responsible stewardship of our resources, and basic costs of living."

A native of southeastern Pennsylvania, Phil has led several conservation organizations over the past 20 years.

Directing land protection for The Nature Conservancy and managing Natural Lands Trust as its President, Phil brings solid experience as a conservation leader. As a board member, he has engaged a variety of conservation organizations across Pennsylvania – the PA Land Trust Association, GreenSpace Alliance, the PA Governor's 21st Century Environmental Commission, and the Radnor Conservancy.

Phil comes to Audubon Pennsylvania from Keystone Conservation Trust, where as President and CEO, he created the innovative and very successful Legacy Property Fund, which (through gifts of real estate and tax incentives) has distributed \$1.8 million in capital for critical projects of 30 conservation organizations.

Phil will lead Audubon Pennsylvania as it focuses on conserving high priority bird species and habitats within the Commonwealth's 85 IBAs; restoring and reinterpreting the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove; creating bird sanctuaries within the City of Philadelphia at Fairmount Park and at the Audubon Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap near Carlisle; and advancing the connections of children and families to nature through its award winning Audubon at Home program.

Audubon Pennsylvania is the state office of the National Audubon Society, an organization celebrating more than 100 years of service to the nation in conservation and public education.

While Audubon Pennsylvania is part of the national organization and shares the national mission and public policies, Audubon Pennsylvania is mandated to establish statewide conservation and education programs and independently pursue local funding to support these efforts.

Audubon Pennsylvania's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity in Pennsylvania.

Tataboline Brant Named New Pennsylvania Wilds Ombudswoman

A Warren County native Tataboline Brant has been named the first [Pennsylvania Wilds](#) ombudswoman, the state's top economic development official said today.

Brant will travel through the 12-county region in north central Pennsylvania, known as the Pennsylvania Wilds, helping small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs to develop services that will encourage the growth of tourism in the region and provide information about financial and technical assistance available from the Commonwealth.

Prior to her appointment, Brant managed two canoe and kayak liveries along the Allegheny River, doubling the revenue at each business and creating new jobs.

She published a waterproof guidebook, “The Allegheny River Paddling Guide,” highlighting businesses and communities along the first 45 miles of the river. Brant also has been a journalist, most notably at the *Anchorage Daily News*, where she served as senior breaking news and military reporter for the paper, the second largest daily in Alaska.

Brant is also a Medill War Course Fellow, one of only 13 journalists nationwide selected to attend the Washington D.C. symposium, which teaches reporters how to handle war zone hazards, including gunfire, kidnappers, mines, and security checkpoints. She is also a multiple recipient of several Alaska Press Club awards, including best general news story for her Indonesia tsunami coverage. She was also named Alaska Press Woman in 1998 and in 2004.

Brant has a bachelor’s degree in journalism and public communications from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She also studied at the University of Montana and Carlow College in Pittsburgh.

Environmental Heritage

Curbside Recycling Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On July 28, 1988 Pennsylvania, faced with the prospect of running out of municipal waste disposal capacity, adopted and Gov. Robert Casey signed into law what was then one of the most sweeping waste planning and recycling laws in the country—Act 101 the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act.



[Senate Bill 528](#), sponsored by Senators Mike Fisher (R-Allegheny) and Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), included the largest mandate in the country for curbside, community-based recycling programs for communities of 5,000 or more.

Now more than 9 million Pennsylvanians in 1,364 communities (more than half voluntarily) are recycling.

Grants to municipalities paid for 90 percent of the cost of setting up local programs which had to recycle at least three of seven materials outlined in the law and separate leaf and yard waste from other trash for handling.

Since 1988, these programs have resulted in the recycling of over 45.3 million tons of municipal waste, or put another way, almost the same amount of municipal waste that’s disposed in Pennsylvania in two entire years.

Pennsylvania’s recycling and reuse industry includes more than 3,247 recycling and reuse businesses and organizations made more than \$18.4 billion in gross annual sales,

paid \$305 million in taxes, and provided jobs for more than 81,322 employees at an annual payroll of approximately \$2.9 billion.

Aside from the economic benefits, the environmental benefits have been significant: recycling has saved enough energy in one year to provide power to 940,000 homes for one year, according to DEP.

Roadside littering of beverage containers, now collected in recycling programs, declined by 64 percent between 1988, the first year of the program, and 1999, according to a state Department of Transportation survey.

Local governments and private industry have creatively implementing recycling programs throughout the state.

[RecycleBank](#), a private firm, works with communities and local businesses to provide residents with a dollar-incentive to recycle. In communities that sign on, residents earn RecycleBank “dollars” for each pound of material they recycle. These dollars can then be redeemed for coupons worth real dollars at local food stores, clothing shops and can even be donated to non-profit groups, up to \$300 per year.

Since the pilot program in Philadelphia tripled the amount of recyclables collected and participation, RecycleBank has taken its program to dozens of other communities in Pennsylvania and other states with similar results.

But Act 101 had other innovative features as well: it required counties to plan for waste disposal and recycling, a ban on the landfilling of yard waste, the mandatory recycling of lead acid vehicle batteries, support for household hazardous waste collection events, requires a waste and litter reduction program, added incentives for state and local government agencies to purchase products with recycled content, authorized host municipality inspectors for waste disposal facilities and benefit fees for municipalities hosting landfills and resource recovery facilities, established certain siting criteria for waste disposal facilities, and protection from groundwater contamination, set up county Landfill Closure Accounts to insure funds were available to properly close landfills at the end of their useful life and provided funding for independent evaluations of waste facility permits by municipalities.

Funding for these programs was provided by a \$2/ton fee on municipal waste disposed in the state that generates about \$45-48 million annually. This fee has not changed since 1988.

Links: [PA Recycling Program](#)
[Pennsylvania Resources Council](#)
[Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania](#)
[PA CleanWays](#)
[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#)
[RecycleBank](#)

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **August 1**—[NFWF Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program](#)

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- **August 1**—[NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Grants](#)
- **August 4**—[Start Submitting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
- **August 29**—[DEP Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants](#)
- **August 29**—[DEP Small Business Advantage Grant Program](#)
- **August 29**—[EPA Water Efficiency Leaders Awards](#)
- **August 29**—[PPL Territory Small Business Lighting Energy Efficiency Rebate](#)
- **August 31**—**NEW.** [PA CleanWays Community Cleaning Award](#)
- **First Come, First Served--** [DEP \\$500 Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate](#)
- **September 9**—[EPA Water Quality Trading Funding Proposals](#)
- **September 12**—[Green Building Alliance Product Innovation Grants](#)
- **September 15**—[Vote for Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest Winner](#)
- **September 20**—[Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 21**—**NEW.** [EPA Clean Diesel Emerging Technology Grant](#)
- **September 24**—[Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **October 1**—[Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Grants](#)
- **October 3**—[NOAA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Grants](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Year's First West Nile Case in Humans Reported](#)

[Keystone Help Loans Help Homeowners Save Energy](#)

[Midstaters Switch From Heating Oil to Natural Gas](#)

[Residents Search for New Ways to Heat Homes](#)

[Hold the Fries, All We Need Is the Oil](#)

[Attorney Recycles Cooking Oil Into Fuel](#)

[Is Corn Ethanol a Big Mistake?](#)

[Snyder County Pastor Improves Fuel Economy With Water](#)

[Penn State Researchers Generate Hydrogen Without the Carbon Footprint](#)

[Near \\$1 Million Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle at Penn State](#)

[Wind Sails Into the PA Power Scene](#)

[Natural Gas in Marcellus Shale Can Create Revenue, Jobs](#)

[Conflict Over Heating With Natural Gas Develops in Eastern PA](#)

[Paying to Save Energy, \\$650 Energy Plan](#)

[Energy to Compete](#)

[Building Retrofits Can Be Green](#)

[Dansko Opens Green Building in West Grove](#)

[Dickinson College Treehouse Captures Gold LEED Rating](#)

[Lackawanna County Pushing Greener Options](#)

[No High Heating Costs for This Family](#)

[Old Doesn't Always Mean Inefficient](#)

[College Puts Alternative Energy to the Test](#)
[Ben Franklin Invests \\$34 Million in Fuel Technology](#)
[PNC Bank’s Investment in Green Branches Pays Off](#)
[High Marks for Green Office](#)
[How Companies Are Going Green](#)
[Wholesale-Electricity Market Flaws Must Be Fixed](#)
[PUC Approves Allegheny Power’s New Rate Plan](#)
[Electric Companies Adjust to New Age](#)
[Pike County Power Company Seeks 23% Increase in Gas Rate](#)
[Future Gen Clean Coal Project Stalls](#)
[Editorial: CO2 Benefits](#)
[Free LANTA Rides Helping Local Residents Beat the Heat \(Online Video\)](#)
[Forum: Rebuild America’s Hometowns](#)
[Towns Working Together to Save Environment](#)
[Adams County Open Space Program Protects Farmland, Bird Habitat](#)
[Water Trails Program Draws Attention](#)
[Groups Backing Connecting Trails Report Progress in Luzerne](#)
[Some Environmental Proposals Aren’t So Green After All](#)
[Editorial: Green Energy Makes Sense](#)
[Philadelphia Litter Prevention Group Cracks Down on Cigarette Butts](#)
[Prolific Graffiti Vandal Sentenced to State Prison](#)
[Bill Critical to Future of Recycling](#)
[DEP Holding Back Recycling Performance Grants](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Editorial: Vote Yes to Improve Water, Sewer Systems](#)
[CBF, Fair Share Coalition Fight for Clean Water Funding in State Budget](#)
[State to Spend \\$400 Million on Mine Drainage](#)
[Study Details Impacts of Mine Cleanup](#)
[Column: Region’s Water Sparkles Under DEP Mine Cleanup Plan](#)
[Decision Awaited On If Mine Water Program Should Continue](#)
[Pine Creek Monitoring System Would Alert of Floods](#)
[Study Finds More Work is Needed on Stoneycreek Watershed](#)
[Paying for Environmental Performance in Conestoga Watershed](#)
[Adams County Forms Committee to Focus on Water](#)
[Day in the Life of Jill Shankel, Mercer Conservation District](#)
[Editorial: Local Springs Amount to a Precious Water Resource](#)
[Time to Celebrate the Susquehanna](#)
[Wyoming County Residents Ready to Celebrate the Susquehanna](#)
[Lake Wallenpaupack Highlighted By DEP](#)
[Volunteers Set Out to Delaware River for Yearly Cleanup](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) of a stream redesignation evaluation and water quality standards review for the Loyalsock Creek.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – July 26, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [gave notice](#) of a proposed land exchange in Perry County. State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers [examination announcement](#).

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

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

Calendar of Events

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

- **NEW.** [Revised Schedule of meetings for DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.](#)
- **July 30**—House Republican Policy Committee hearing on electric rate caps and energy conservation. Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown. 11:00.
- **August 4**—**CANCELLED.** DEP Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).
- **August 5**—**CANCELLED.** DEP Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).
- **August 7**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **August 7**—DEP Solar Work Group meeting. Second Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **August 11**—**CANCELLED.** DEP Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).

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- **August 12**—**NEW**. Senate Game and Fisheries Committee hearing on [Senate Bill 1527](#) (McIlhinney-R-Bucks) increasing the cost of hunting license. Northwestern Rural Electric, 22534 State Highway 86, Cambridge Springs, Pa. 9:30.
- **August 20**—**NEW**. House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on farm conservation fair share funding. Ag Progress Days, State College. 10:00.
- **August 20**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).
- **August 22**—**NEW**. DEP [Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council](#) meeting. DEP Mine Rescue Stateion, 286 Industrial Park Rd, Ebensburg. 10:00.
- **September 3**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 4**—DEP Solar Work Group meeting. Second Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **September 9-10**—[DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Best Western Grand Victorian Inn, Sayre.
- **September 11**- **Location Change**. [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#) will now meet on the 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 18**—Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 19**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).
- **September 23**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Stories Invited

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

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

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