

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 5, 2005

Pennsylvania Sends Relief Help, Steps Taken to Ease Potential Fuel Shortage

Gov. Rendell offered Pennsylvania's help to areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina this week and took steps to ease potential fuel shortage concerns caused by damage to Gulf Coast refineries and petroleum product distribution systems.

In addition to National Guard troops, the Governor mobilized the PA Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Unit that includes not only experts in search and rescue techniques, but also staff, including DEP employees, trained to deal with hazardous materials the unit might encounter.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has also dispatched three staff from its forest fire protection units to hurricane duty.

Gov. Rendell also asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to grant Pennsylvania a waiver to allow gasoline suppliers the flexibility to switch to winter time formulations of gasoline earlier than the normal September 15 deadline. In the meantime, he [suspended DEP enforcement of the requirement.](#)

Gov. Rendell also encouraged drivers to conserve gasoline to help avoid a shortage by --

- Avoiding quick stops and starts. This can save up to two miles a gallon.
- Don't be an aggressive driver. It lowers gas mileage by as much as 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent on city streets.
- Avoid excessive idling. Sitting idle gets zero miles per gallon and consumes between one-half and one gallon of gasoline per hour.
- Check the vehicle's gas cap. Loose, damaged and missing gas caps allow 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.
- Check tire pressure. When tires are under inflated, it is like driving with the parking brake on and can cost a mile or two per gallon.



DEP Secretary McGinty and Gov. Rendell talk with mechanic Dave Schade about car maintenance and gas mileage.

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- Replace worn spark plugs. A vehicle can have up to eight spark plugs, which fire as many as 3 million times every 1,000 miles. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring, wasting fuel.
- Replace dirty air filters that waste gas and cause engines to lose power. Replacing these filters can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent, saving about 25 cents a gallon.
- Combine errands to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Take unnecessary weight out of trunks or back seats. By some estimates, hauling around an extra 100 pounds can cost 1 mile a gallon.
- Whenever possible, take public transportation or carpool.

To help the state itself conserve fuel, Gov. Rendell issued [Executive Order 2005-7](#) Friday directing each state agency to develop and immediately implement a fuel conservation program over the next 30 days.

Fuel Conservation Plans could include curtailing unnecessary travel, increase use of video and teleconferencing and limiting the use of high fuel consumption vehicles.

In addition the Department of General Services was directed to review the heating, cooling and energy conservation measures of state owned buildings to insure energy is used efficiently.

DEP was directed to develop outreach programs for the public and local governments regarding their fuel consumption programs and monitor the fuel situation across the country and provide a daily status briefing for the Governor.

NewsClips: [Governor Urges Fuel Conservation to Lesson Hurricane's Impact](#)
[State Leaders Urge Drivers to Conserve](#)
[Three DEP Employees Helping Katrina's Victims](#)

Session Schedule

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On the Hill

House Environmental Committee Hears Comments on Health of State's Forests

Learning more about the strength and weaknesses of Pennsylvania's forest system was the reason behind a recent informational meeting of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, said Rep. Adolph (R-Delaware), chairman of the committee.

"Pennsylvania's forests affect all state residents, whether you like to camp, ride all-terrain vehicles, go horseback riding, or hunt, or you simply want fresh air and open space to remain prevalent in the Commonwealth we need to investigate how best to manage our forests," said Adolph. "This informational meeting gave the committee a lot of good information that will help guide legislation that impacts Pennsylvania's forest system and forestry industry."

Those providing testimony at the informational meetings included, Craig Brooks, executive director of the Joint Legislation Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, and Paul Lyskava, executive director of the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association.

Both men provided in-depth reports on how Pennsylvania's forests impact the environment, recreational activities and the economy.

Both testifiers said more studies need to be conducted on the impact of new deer management programs, and that a strategic plan for government acquisition of forests needed to be developed to make sure the state is not purchasing more or less land than is needed.

Also highlighted during the testimony was some of the many successes the state has already achieved in regard to forestry management, including obtaining more dedicated funding for forestry research and management, improving forest regeneration rates, increasing public education of responsible forest stewardship, and ensuring the

laws and regulations pertaining to recreation and manufacturing of the state's forests are administered in a fair and efficient manner.

Rep. Adolph noted that the state's forests cover more than 17 million acres, or approximately 50 percent of the Commonwealth's total land area. According to the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, forest products manufacturing produces annual revenues of \$5.5 billion for Pennsylvania and provides nearly 90,000 jobs.

Rep. Adolph said additional committee meetings on the states forest lands are scheduled for the fall.

House Republican Policy Committee Announces Hearing on Rising Gas Prices

The House Republican Policy Committee is holding a hearing on September 7 in Harrisburg, according to Rep. Civera (R-Delaware), chairman of the committee.

The hearing will be co-chaired by both Rep. Geist (R-Blair), chairman of the House Transportation Committee, and Rep. Flick (R-Chester), chairman of the House Consumer Affairs Committee.

The committee will be investigating legislative options pertaining to fuel pricing and availability in the Commonwealth.

Senate Agriculture Committee Holds Hearing on Funding Farmland Preservation

On September 6 the Senate Agriculture Committee will hold an informational hearing in Lancaster on using Realty Transfer Tax from the sale of farmland as a source of funding for farmland preservation and hear comments on other potential changes to the Agricultural Security Areas law and tax policy related to farmland.

The hearing will focus on farmland preservation initiatives in Pennsylvania and current efforts underway to preserve family farms. Among those scheduled to testify are Secretary of Agriculture Dennis Wolff, representatives of agricultural and land preservation organizations, the Lancaster County Blue Ribbon Commission and area farmers. There will also be panel discussions on local efforts to preserve farmland.

Under consideration are changes included in [Senate Bill 252](#) (Thompson-R-Chester) [Senate Bill 723](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) and [House Bill 629](#) (Bunt-R-Montgomery.)

In Other News

\$5.5 Million for Greenways, Open Space, Recreation in Grants Awarded

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced almost \$5.5 million in grants to undertake 47 local and regional greenways, open space, community park and recreation projects in 30 counties across Pennsylvania under the [Community Conservation Partnership Program](#).

Statewide, the grants will fund a variety of open space acquisition, greenways and community park and recreation projects, including:

- Acquisition of 18 tracts and the protection of 1,291 acres;

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- Exploration of an Urban Audubon Center in Philadelphia;
- Development plans for six parks in Williamsport;
- Outreach to implement the Susquehanna Greenway Strategic Plan that covers 500 miles through 22 counties; and
- Development of a growth model for Pike and Wayne counties that will identify environmentally sensitive lands that are projected to be under future development pressures.

The largest tract of land affected - a 524 acre tract in Luzerne County - involves acquisition of the property along Route 309 in Ashley Borough and Hanover and Fairview townships for open space and land preservation.

The largest grants - \$500,000 - went to Willistown Township in Chester County for acquisition of approximately 10 acres adjacent to West Chester Pike and Delchester Road for preservation of open space and natural areas for the Okehocking Preserve.

This round, DCNR received a total of 96 applications for projects requesting more than \$17.7 million in grant assistance.

The Community Conservation Partnership Program grants are funded through DCNR by Growing Greener, Keystone '93 and federal funds.

[A complete list of the grants is available online.](#)

New Game Commission Biologists Helping Landowners Do Something Wild



A new team of Pennsylvania Game Commission biologists is helping landowners throughout the Commonwealth make their properties more attractive for wildlife species of concern.

Since being hired in 2004, these biologists, working under the Game Commission's new Private Landowners Assistance Program (PLAP), have helped in excess of 220 landowners develop habitat management plans for more than 33,000 acres of prime Pennsylvania private property, increasing its value to wildlife and helping to keep at bay the state's ongoing

decline in habitat quality and loss of wildlife habitat on lands in private ownership.

This landowner assistance initiative, made possible with grant monies from the federal State Wildlife Grants Program and Landowner Incentive Program, both administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has the potential to be incredibly beneficial to many wildlife species, especially those in need of specialized management assistance.

"The four biologists currently heading up this program have done a remarkable job of getting it off the ground and have made a tremendous difference for wildlife communities throughout the Commonwealth," noted Vern Ross, Game Commission executive director. "Much of the work focuses on helping wildlife species of concern, but in the process, scores of other species are benefiting from the effort.

"We are, of course, indebted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its funding generosity and organizational insight to provide a means for state wildlife agencies to work with private landowners to make habitat improvement. This program's worth is

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virtually immeasurable to both wildlife and landowners, and yet, we would not be administering it without the funding assistance provided by the Service, because the agency's existing revenue streams couldn't support it. This is truly a phenomenal opportunity for Pennsylvania."

Before the establishment of PLAP, the Game Commission provided limited habitat management assistance for species of concern on private properties, which comprise more than 85 percent of the Commonwealth's 45,000 square miles. The Game Commission has invested millions of dollars annually in habitat efforts to benefit all wildlife on its own 1.4 million-acres of State Game Lands, which represents about five percent of the state.

With federal funding, the agency created its landowner assistance initiative and hired regional wildlife diversity biologists (RWD biologists) to aid interested landowners in developing wildlife conservation plans for their properties.

Most plans focus on creating or maintaining habitat for the state's 22 threatened or endangered birds and mammals or 88 bird and mammal species of concern recently identified in the state's draft Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Pennsylvania is home to 495 species of birds and mammals.

Catering to species of concern, RWD biologists develop habitat recommendations for interested property owners that are weighted by the needs of species of concern, as well as the landowner's objectives, cohesiveness with neighboring natural features and the uniqueness of the habitat under consideration.

"Although a wide variety of species will benefit from the habitat plans RWD biologists are writing, we're still placing emphasis on species of concern such as the bald eagle, woodcock, barn owl, eastern meadowlark, several bat species and snowshoe hare," noted Dan Brauning, who supervises the Game Commission's Wildlife Diversity Section.

"The creation of this landowner assistance program is truly an important event in Pennsylvania's unfolding wildlife management history," noted Cal DuBrock, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management director. "It embodies increased emphasis on helping species of concern on lands that normally wouldn't have received much professional management attention, largely because of insufficient staff.

"We've known for years, there is tremendous interest among private and public landowners to do something more for wildlife on their properties, particularly if their land is providing habitat for something special such as bald eagles, river otters, or barn owls. Now, we can do more than provide some guidance. We're offering plans to help these landowners maintain or enhance their property's attractiveness and value to species of concern."

RWD biologists will work with any landowner whose property has something to offer wildlife. They also are interested in helping municipal parks, landowners with wildlife refuges, even people with outbuildings that are housing barn owls or bat colonies. If landowners are interested in creating, preserving or enhancing wildlife habitat, PLAP is a program custom-made to accommodate them.

The first step in PLAP is to contact the RWD biologist or region office serving your county. After a short interview, the biologist will send the interested property owner a landowner objective survey, which identifies the property by habitat features and types, ranks the landowner's management goals and species preferences, and lists property uses and activities.

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After reviewing the survey, the biologist will visit the property and walk it with the landowner. A detailed plan will be developed based upon the biologist's findings and landowner's chosen level of involvement. Biologists do not inventory species found on the property.

There is no charge for participating in PLAP, nor is there a public access requirement. Biologists will follow-up their planning effort by checking with participating landowners if they have questions or need additional direction.

"What happens after a plan is developed is largely up to the landowner," explained Game Commission Southeast Region RWD Biologist Jamie Zambo. "There's no pressure. The landowners who have sought help in my region have all been enthusiastic about wildlife and conservation, because they see firsthand and daily how habitat is disappearing in the southeastern counties. They're excited to do something that makes a difference for species of concern.

"Plans don't call for wholesale changes on most properties. In fact, some management recommendations are to simply leave the land as it is. But if a landowner is interested in enhancing habitat to attract wildlife, and has the time and/or money to subsidize the habitat modifications needed, this program will help him or her get the job done."

Jeremy Freymoyer, a Berks County farmer and landowner who manages about 120 acres in Upper Bern Township, said he was very satisfied with the recommendations for his property.

"I think the Pennsylvania Landowner's Assistance Program is one of the best starting tools available for property owners interested in doing something more for wildlife," Freymoyer said. "It shows them what they have and provides a roadmap for making it better. The plan really opens your eyes and provides tangible steps you can take to help your property and the wildlife on it.

"I've been involved with several habitat management programs and the Game Commission's program is one of my favorites. What attracted me to it is that it costs zero dollars. The biologist who visited my property was friendly and very professional. The plan she produced for our property was over 20 pages long!"

The response to PLAP has been overwhelming. RWD biologists have already written plans for more than 150 landowners providing recommendations for the conservation of species of concern. Landowners are following through by carrying out some of the recommendations to make their properties more attractive to species of concern, as well as many others.

The decline of species of concern is often closely related to habitat loss and destruction. The American woodcock population in the Northeastern states, for instance, has declined about 40 percent over the past 30 years because of early successional habitat losses. Grassland nesting species, too, such as the bobolink, bobwhite quail and grasshopper sparrow, also have declined sharply over the same period as a result of changes in agricultural practices and development.

The species at greatest risk currently are those that spend at least part of their lives in wetlands, riparian areas, old-field-shrub/grasslands, and within large contiguous blocks of mature forests. Also at great risk are those that use special habitats such as caves, talus slopes and vernal ponds.

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PLAP aims to protect and restore at least 50 miles of riparian buffers, 50 acres of wetlands, and 24,900 acres of upland habitat for species at risk by December of 2007. Additionally, over the same period, PLAP aims to establish conservation practices on 2,000 grassland acres to support declining bird species.

If you're interested in participating in PLAP, please use the following listing to determine what region your property is found in and where to call for assistance:

- Northwest: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties - RWD Biologist Tim Hoppe at 814-860-8123.
- Southwest: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland counties - RWD Tammy Colt at 724-238-9523.
- Northcentral: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga and Union counties - Region Office at 570-398-4744.
- Southcentral: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry and Snyder counties - RWD Biologist Dan Mummert at 814-542-8759.
- Northeast: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties - RWD Biologist Kevin Wenner at 570-788-8194.
- Southeast: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill and York counties - RWD Biologist Jamie Zambo at 610-589-4913.

Dzemyan, Land Management Supervisor, Recognized for Conservation Work



Vern Ross, Executive Director,
John Dzemyan and John Riley,
President Board of Game
Commissioners.

John Dzemyan, Pennsylvania Game Commission Land Management Group Supervisor in Elk and McKean counties, recently was presented with the Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year Award.

"LMGS Dzemyan has a reputation for working above and beyond the call of duty, whether making habitat improvements on State Game Lands, promoting the deer management program or responding to an emergency," noted Dennis Dusza, Game Commission

Northcentral Region director. "His interest in and passion for wildlife and wild places is unmistakable."

A 26-year veteran of the agency, Dzemyan got his start with the agency as a member of a Cameron County Food and Cover Corps crew. He later was

accepted into the 18th Class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation, where he graduated in 1982. He was assigned to the Smethport region of McKean County, and later became a land management group supervisor for McKean and Elk counties, a position he still holds.

Over the years, Dzemyan has forged a valuable working relationship with members of the Allegheny National Forest, the Pennsylvania Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources' bureaus of State Parks and State Forests, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the National Wild Turkey Federation, as well as important business connections, such as Weyerhaeuser Paper Co., P&N Coal Co., Seneca Resources and the National Fuel Gas.

Dzemyan and the Food and Cover Corps crews he oversees have played large roles in establishing and shaping the state's best elk-watching locations, including Winslow Hill, which attracts about 75,000 tourists annually. Dzemyan also has been instrumental in getting an \$11 million mine reclamation project started in Dent's Run. The work is expected to reduce by 40 percent the acid mine drainage currently impacting the water quality of Bennett's Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek.

"LMGS Dzemyan has worked hard to enroll a considerable number of private properties in the agency's Cooperative Forest Game Program," Dusza said. "Some of these landowners have as much as 145,000 acres enrolled in the program, all of which they make available to hunters. It's a tremendous benefit to sportsmen and sportswomen, one that Dzemyan works hard to maintain."

Nine Mile Run Partners To Celebrate Completion of First Phase

The rebirth of Pittsburgh's [Nine Mile Run Watershed](#) marks the largest urban stream restoration project in the nation. A dedication on September 9 and a community celebration and tour on September 10 will highlight the completion of the first phase of the project through Frick Park.



The 6.5 square mile Nine Mile Run Watershed includes the boroughs of Edgewood, Swissvale, Wilkinsburg, and part of the City of Pittsburgh. It is home to close to 48,000 people as well as 250 plant species, 22 different mammals, and 189 types of birds. Water from the Nine Mile Run Watershed flows into the Monongahela, then the Ohio, then the Mississippi River, and eventually reaches the Gulf of Mexico.

Nine Mile Run was put in underground pipes, or culverts, starting in the early 20th century. However, because the stream runs through Frick Park, about a third of the stream was left above ground. Today the stream first emerges from its culverts in Frick Park just off Braddock Avenue. It then flows through the park to the Monongahela River. That's a 2.2 mile stretch of open water, a nearly unheard of amount for a city the size of Pittsburgh .

In urban watersheds like Nine Mile Run, much of the land is covered with impermeable surfaces such as blacktop, concrete, roofs, and sidewalks which do not allow water to filter into the soil. Approximately 27% of the Nine Mile Run watershed is covered by impermeable surfaces. Water flows quickly over these impermeable surfaces into storm drains.

During wet weather, Nine Mile Run is quickly overloaded with water, causing stream bank erosion and degrading animal habitat. The water also carries everything it picks up (dirt, litter, road salt, pesticides, oil, etc...) into storm drains and then, ultimately, the stream. This is called non-point source pollution.

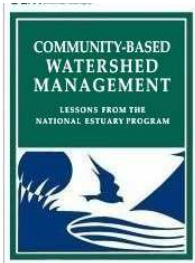
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The current phase of the restoration involves planting the newly-created wetland with native shrubs and grasses. Planting crews put hundreds of native wetland plants into the ground at the beginning of June.

The restoration effort [began in 2001](#) with a Growing Greener Grant.

Join in the celebration by going to the [Nine Mile Run webpage](#).

New Handbook on Community-Based Watershed Protection



Questions about managing pollution runoff, increasing wildlife habitat and controlling invasive species in the nation's estuaries are among those addressed in a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Community-Based Watershed Handbook](#) released this week at the [White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation](#) in St. Louis.

“Community-Based Watershed Management-Lessons from the National Estuary Program” is an update to *Saving Bays and Estuaries*, published in 1989. While the new handbook focuses on estuaries, its principles and examples are relevant to any organization involved in watershed management.

The 98-page handbook describes innovative approaches developed and conducted by the 28 National Estuary Programs, which are community-based watershed-management organizations that restore and protect coastal watersheds. Topics covered range from starting a program, identifying problems and solutions to plan development and action steps.

Estuaries and the lands surrounding them are where rivers meet the sea, and where fresh water meets salt water. The National Estuary Program centers on four areas of the United States: Northeast, Middle and South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the West Coast.

A copy of the [Community-Based Watershed Handbook](#) is available online.

Grants Available for Codorus Creek Projects in York County

Local nonprofit and governmental organizations are invited to apply for grants to fund projects to improve the Codorus Watershed in York County from the [Codorus Watershed Endowment Fund](#). Applications are due October 10

The projects must focus on education, recreation, watershed protection, restoration and/or improvement efforts. Grant awards will come from the Codorus Watershed Endowment at [York County Community Foundation](#).

At least \$20,000 will be available this grant cycle. Awards are provided in response to competitive proposals. Proposals are requested once a year. Guidelines for proposals along with a summary application can be downloaded from the [Community Foundation's website](#).

Open Rivers Initiative Offers Grants to Remove Stream Barriers

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association announced a new [Open Rivers Initiative](#) designed to spur economic and environmental renewal and improve public

safety in small towns and communities through the removal of obsolete or derelict stream barriers.

The announcement featured the [Wyomissing Creek dam removal project](#) in Berks County.

There are an estimated 2.5 million dams across the country, many less than six feet tall and some up to 200 years old. The ORI will target only those small dams where community consensus and the dam owners support removal, the dam no longer serves a useful purpose, and removal will have the greatest benefit to anadromous fish like salmon, striped bass and shad.

Many derelict dams pose a safety hazard, particularly to downstream communities; cause economic hardship for towns forced to pay for upkeep and liability; and disturb delicate ecosystems by preventing the free flow of water and species through the river. Removing dams and other blockages opens habitat for migratory fish and can help boost local economies by increasing property values and increasing recreational opportunities such as fishing and kayaking.

The [Open Rivers Initiative](#) will be a grant program administered through the NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation.

Drinking Water Plant Performance Shows Improvement, Areas Needing Work

The Department of Environmental Protection this week released a report showing continued improvement in the state’s filtered surface water suppliers under the [Filter Plant Performance Evaluation Program](#) and [Partnership for Safe Water](#).

The report shows reported outbreaks of waterborne disease remain low in Pennsylvania, in contrast to the 1980s when the state lead the nation in outbreaks.

Eleven more water treatment plants upgraded their performance over the last year for a total of 65 plants that received a “commendable” or “satisfactory.”

For a complete summary of the report, visit the [Filter Plant Performance Evaluation webpage](#).

Draft Policy to Designate Critical Water Planning Areas Available for Review

The draft policy outlining procedures for designating [Critical Water Planning Areas](#) under the Water Resources Planning Act is now available for public review. Comments are due September 19.

Critical Water Planning Areas are “significant hydrologic unit where existing or future demands exceed or threaten to exceed the safe yield of available water resources.”

The draft policy outlines the procedures for nominating areas through the Regional Water Resources Committees and petition the Department of Environmental Protection and doing the detailed evaluation and public participation process required by the Act.

NewsClip: [Guidance for Critical Water Planning Areas Available](#)

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Applications Due October 1 for Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards



The [2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) honor Pennsylvania businesses, individuals, municipalities, agribusiness, and non-profit organizations that show a commitment to develop and build environmental stewardship and economic development in Pennsylvania.

Applications for the awards are due

October 1.

Eligible projects must have been completed between August 1, 2004, through July 31, 2005. Examples of projects and the categories for consideration include, but are not limited to: Environmental Technology Innovation, Pollution Prevention and Resource, Efficiency, Community Revitalization, Environmental Education and Outreach, Watershed Stewardship, Mine Safety, and Clean Energy Innovations and Environmental Market Development.

Winners of the 2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence will be presented with an exclusive award at a press event at the winner's location by the Governor, the Environmental Protection Secretary and/or Commonwealth legislators.

In addition, the winners' projects will be showcased in numerous DEP publications and editorials and highlighted on the DEP's website.

The projects will be evaluated based on environmental protection, teamwork, public service, environmental education and outreach, pollution prevention, economic impact, and innovative technology.

For an application, visit the [Governor’s Awards webpage](#).

Environmental Leadership Program Applications Due October 1

The [Environmental Leadership Program](#) seeks to transform public understanding of environmental issues by supporting a network of visionary, action-oriented emerging leaders by providing 20-25 individuals a year with educational grants and training.

Applications are due October 1.

The ELP Fellowship provides training, project support and a vibrant peer network of talented and diverse individuals each year from all sectors of the environmental field, including nonprofits, business, government, and higher education.

The Fellowship targets newly established environmental and social change practitioners eager to connect their specialized work to larger environmental and social concerns.

Fellows receive travel and accommodations for four fellowship retreats, access to funding for leadership-building projects, and national recognition through the program.

For application information, visit the [Environmental Leadership Program webpage](#). (Courtesy [York Watershed Alliance](#).)

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

EPA Honors Penn State Student as Rising Star in Environmental Science



Offering financial support to young scientists to meet the nation's mounting environmental challenges has been an ongoing mission of the Environmental Protection Agency. Recently, the government agency found a rising star at Penn State.

Recognized for excellence in her young, but burgeoning career, Tiffany L. Bogich, a fifth-year student completing a B.S. in mathematics and an M.S. in ecology, has been awarded the [EPA Science to Achieve Results \(STAR\) fellowship](#) in support of her research on "Optimization of the Monitoring and Management of the North American Gypsy Moth."

The purpose of the EPA STAR fellowship is to encourage promising and committed students to obtain advanced degrees and pursue careers in environmentally related fields.

The Moon Township, Pa., native was one of 130 students selected from among 2,100 applicants to receive the STAR fellowship for 2005-2006 due, in part, to her work on a unique project that has allowed her to combine her love of mathematics and ecology.

NewsClip: [EPA Honors Penn State Student as Rising STAR](#)

16 PA Students Graduate from EPA Student Environmental Development Program

Sixteen students graduated from the Region 3 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Student Environmental Development Program](#) in Philadelphia this summer.

Participating students spent seven weeks between July and August learning about communication and public speaking and how to communicate environmental knowledge in their communities.

The students were taught by a middle school science teacher and given topic lectures by EPA employees and local professionals. The students participate in hands-on learning activities and extended learning experiences (field trips) which supplement their in-class learning. The versatile format can be used as a model for after school, summer, and/or day camp programs. The students are from diverse racial, economic, and cultural backgrounds and range in age from 12-14.

At the graduation, students participated in a group presentation of an environmentally related topic of their choosing and the impact it can have on their lives.

For more information, visit the [Student Environmental Development Program webpage](#).

DOE Announces \$4 Million Solicitation for Solid-State Lighting Research

The U.S. Department of Energy has announced a \$4 million solicitation for research into solid-state lighting. The solicitation closes October 18.

Solid-state lighting has the potential to create light with virtually no heat and double the efficiency of general lighting systems, saving energy costs for consumers and reducing lighting's environmental impact. Core SSL technologies include light-emitting diodes (LEDs), organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) and light-emitting polymers.

For more information visit the [SSL webpage](#).

2005 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit October 4 & 5



The 2005 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit will be held on October 4 and 5 and offer participants the opportunity to learn about local, state and regional anti-litter, beautification and enforcement projects from around the state.

This year's Summit is co-sponsored by the Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Featured speakers will include DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Bill Heenan, Steel Recycling Institute, co-chairs of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and Rep. Scott Hutchinson, Chair of the Joint Conservation Committee.

For more information see the [2005 Keep PA Beautiful Summit Flyer](#) or call KPB at 717-214-7901 or send email to info@KeepPaBeautiful.org.

Ned Smith Artwork Featured on 2006 Trout/Salmon Stamp



A painting by the late Pennsylvania wildlife artist Ned Smith has been selected to appear on the [2006 Pennsylvania Trout/Salmon Stamp](#).

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/2tstamp/2006/1981_coverscanx400.jpg

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/2tstamp/2006/1981_coverscanx400.jpg “Sting of the Hook,” an acrylic depicting a brook trout – the state fish – surging for freedom against a fly expertly hooked in the corner of its mouth, was created for the 50th anniversary edition of the-then Fish and Boat Commission’s Pennsylvania Angler magazine in 1981.

In homage to its roots, the painting will also again grace the cover of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s magazine when the 75th anniversary issue of Pennsylvania Angler & Boater is published in the fall of 2006.

The PFBC has teamed with the non-profit [Ned Smith Center for Nature & Art](#) for this endeavor. As part of the partnership, the center will offer a six-month gallery showing of the complete Trout/Salmon Stamp artwork dating from the program’s inception in 1991.

To kick off the public opening of this art exhibit, the center will host a special event on its grounds in Millersburg from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on September 10.

In addition to viewing the art exhibit, attendees can join representatives from the center, the PFBC, Bass Pro Shops, the [Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum](#) and the [Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#) for a variety of exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on activities. Casting demonstrations, fish print making, and a fly tying seminar will all be part of the fun.

The Wiconisco Creek, a stocked trout stream, borders the site so anglers can bring their rods. The Commission recently designated a 0.74-mile section of stream starting at the center’s western border for inclusion in the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only special trout regulation program beginning in 2006.

Fall Touring Ideas Available at FallinPA.com

The www.FallinPA.com website will again be available this year to help visitors plan trips, tours and activities to take advantage of the Fall season in Pennsylvania.

Visitors will have the option to receive the most current updates in our spectacular fall foliage via their cell phones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and BlackBerrys in addition to three live remote controlled Web cameras.

Once again, webcams will offer vivid scenes of Bushkill Falls, sights of the rapids at Ohiopyle in the Laurel Highlands, revolutionary views at Valley Forge, and glimpses of Benezette where last year's most popular camera captured both the changing flora and the occasional roaming elk in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

FallinPA.com includes a comprehensive selection of driving itineraries across Pennsylvania based on interests and activities. Whether visitors are looking for a three-day road trip to local wineries, bed and breakfasts, fairs and festivals, or for just a quick day trip into the countryside to see the foliage, FallinPA.com and VisitPA.com provide various colorful fall destinations.

Pymatuning, Middle Creek to Host Wildfowl Shows Set September 17-18

The Game Commissions [Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center](#) and [Middle Creek Wildlife Center](#) will host Waterfowl Expos on September 17-18.

The 2005 Pymatuning Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Expo in and around Linesville, Crawford County. A highlight of the two-day event is the selection of the Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp from entries by many of the Commonwealth's most accomplished wildlife artists will be held at 1 p.m. on September 17, at the Linesville High School, 302 West School Drive.

Exhibits by woodcarvers, crafters, hunting equipment vendors and others will be featured on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, hunting dog demonstrations and duck calling contests will be held Saturday and Sunday.

The Learning Center activities and exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on September 17 and 18. Exhibits on the grounds of the Learning Center include those from: the Purple Martin Conservation Association; the Conneaut Lake/French Creek Valley Conservancy; the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry; the Natural Resource Conservation Service; and the Northeast Ohio Loggers' Chapter.

Additional activities at the Learning Center include: at 11:30 a.m. on September 17, a waterfowl information and banding program, with the opportunity for children to assist in the release of wild ducks; a tree identification tour will be conducted by Mark Lewis, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources service forester, at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 17; and a soils program by the U.S. National Resource Conservation Service at 1 p.m. on September 17 and 18.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area will host its 19th Annual Middle Creek Wildfowl Show. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission is free, but donations are graciously accepted and benefit the Wildlands Preservation Fund to preserve wild lands. Middle Creek is along

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Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, on the Lebanon-Lancaster county line.

The show features wildfowl carvings, artwork, collectibles and carving supplies from over 60 vendors.

Retriever demonstrations will be at 10 a.m. and noon on September 17, and at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on September 18. Two different retriever clubs will display their dogs' abilities, both with water retrievals, and upland retrievals.

Decoy competitions will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, and winners will be announced at 4 p.m.

Pennsylvania State Duck and Goose Calling Championships will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Food vendors will be selling throughout the show.

For further information or directions, call 717-733-1512.

President to Name PA's Jarrett to DOE Assistant Secretary Post



President Bush intends to nominate [Jeffrey D. Jarrett](#), of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy). Mr. Jarrett currently serves as Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement at the Department of the Interior.

He previously served as Deputy Secretary of Mineral Resources Management at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Feature

Remining Program Leads to Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines in Westmoreland

Here are two examples in Westmoreland County of how today's coal mining industry finds it profitable to reclaim previously mined areas at no expense to taxpayers.



Back in the old, unregulated days of coal mining, extracting coal from the ground at the least possible cost was the top concern of coal operators. But cheap ways too often turned out to be the most expensive in the long run.

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The legacy of hazardous, scarred landscapes and polluted water that resulted from those “bad old days” of coal mining lives on today, exacting a cost in both local environmental quality and economic potential.

Current coal mining practices are a vast improvement over the old ways. So much so, that today one of the best ways of cleaning up old problems is to actually mine the coal again, using these up-to-date methods.

“Remining” is the term used for returning to an area that was previously mined, and using modern equipment and methods to surface mine the very same site to retrieve the coal left behind.

Remining can be profitable for the coal operator and the landowner. It also is beneficial for the environment and the community because, in the process of removing more coal, the remining operator often cleans up the pollution and reclaims the land to modern standards.

Some coal operators such as Coal Loaders, Inc. of Ligonier have embraced remining into their business strategy.

General Manager Don Lupyán said, “Of course we’re here to make a profit, but we also believe in being a good corporate citizen and a good neighbor in the communities where we work. Remining allows us to do that. It’s our best advertisement.” Roughly half of Coal Loader’s business is now remining projects.

One such project is the former Marguerite mine in Unity Township. Up through World War II, coal was mined at this site, using the underground room and pillar method. A labyrinth of tunnels was created throughout the seam as coal was extracted.

After mining ceased and the site was abandoned, roof-falls became common. The ground surface above the mine began to look like a moonscape of sink holes and subsidence. Making matters worse, former passageways in the underground mine complex acted as efficient conduits of water and air resulting in numerous discharges of rust-colored polluted mine water.

The property owners were interested in using the land for a residential development, but couldn’t do so because of the subsidence. Lupyán recognized an opportunity and a solution.

Enough coal remained on the 48-acre tract to profitably surface mine it, so he entered into an agreement with the landowners to remove the remaining coal. In return, Coal Loaders paid a royalty, installed measures to reduce the water pollution, re-graded the land, and planted grass on the entire site. A year later, the former eyesore is now an attractive field with high grass and flowers. And the polluted water has all but been eliminated.

The Department of Environmental Protection also was instrumental in moving this project forward. Mine operators are often reluctant to get involved with a previously mined site because they inherit the full and often costly responsibility for the problems created by former operators.

However, because of the environmental benefits re-mining can provide, a special DEP program called a Government Financed Reclamation Contract (GFRC) relaxes some of the permitting requirements and waives some fees. This includes the usual requirement that water emanating from the site meet very strict pollution standards.

With a GFRC, DEP requires the coal operator to reclaim the land in ways likely to reduce the quantity of water while improving its quality, but without holding the operator

to the strict pollution-cleanup standards. Nonetheless, a significant environmental improvement usually results. Such was the case with the site at Marguerite.

Lupyan confirmed that, without the GFRC, his company would not have worked at the site. He said that once the DEP was convinced that the site was suitable for remining, they issued the GFRC and worked cooperatively ensuring a good final product.

He did, however, have one minor complaint. “I’m not sure why it’s called a Government Financed Reclamation Contract. It gives the impression we received tax dollars to do this. We didn’t. Our primary benefit was the waiver of some permitting requirements.” But Lupyan was quick to add that “GFRCs are valuable by any name” and that “the key to success is cooperation. In the end, everyone wins!”

Lupyan took special pride in showing off another of his pet projects: a remining site that is the home of a shooting range owned by the Sportsman’s Association of Greensburg in Mt. Pleasant Township. The range originally was placed on land that club president Dave Demangone said “was a mess”.

He admitted that when Lupyan first approached the club in 2002 with a proposal to improve the range and to put money in the club’s pocket, it was met with some skepticism. “I’m sure glad Don convinced us. It really worked out,” said Demangone.

The 20 acre site was surface mined to remove the remaining coal, then regraded to fit the needs of the club. One range was lengthened and made safer with higher bunkers. Another completely new range was added near by. Demangone added that “the royalties we received were a real blessing, club membership is up, and because of the longer range, we can now hold sanctioned shooting meets.”

In addition to the work done, Lupyan is very proud of national recognition the job has received. The federal Office of Surface Mining awarded the job the 2004 National Reclamation Award.

“It just makes you feel good about the whole process,” Lupyan said

Greg Phillips, district manager/CEO of the Westmoreland Conservation District, noted the important role industry can play in the state’s reclamation effort.

“The job of reclaiming all the abandoned mine sites and cleaning up all the abandoned mine drainage just in Westmoreland County is enormous,” said Phillips. “It’s realistically not possible for government to pick up the entire tab of doing the job. Having industry as a partner, as with the remining program, is a great way to get more reclamation done quicker while not using taxpayer dollars.”

He added that “it allows us to do more with the limited grant dollars we receive and it has the advantage of contributing to our local economy.”

(Contributed by [Bruce Golden](#), [Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#))

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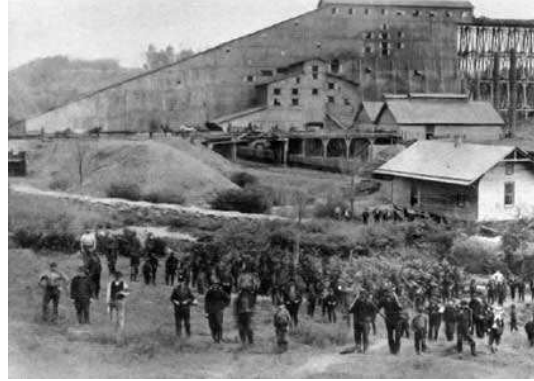
Environmental History

Group Fosters Support to Preserve the Avondale Mine Disaster Site

On September 6, 1869 110 coal miners died in the tragic [Avondale Mine Disaster](#) in Luzerne County. To remember the miners who lost their lives, the [Anthracite Living History Group](#) is working with many partners to permanently preserve the mine site.

On September 10 and 11 the Group will sponsor the annual commemorative program.

The Avondale Mine Disaster occurred along the former Delaware Lackawanna & Western Rail Road grade, which is now known as the Susquehanna Warrior Trail, that parallels US Route 11, below Avondale Hill, in Plymouth Township, Luzerne County.



Avondale Coal Breaker

On that fateful September 6, fire destroyed the old wooden breaker and suffocated 110 miners, including breaker boys who worked sorting clumps of coal from stone. As a result of the tragedy, one of the first mine safety laws was passed in Pennsylvania in 1870 making it illegal to build coal breakers directly above or near a mine entrance.

In 1994 the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum commission dedicated a historical marker to commemorate the disaster.

The Anthracite Living History Group, under the leadership of its founding member Joe Keating, has worked for the last two years to gather support for preserving the Avondale site from local non-profit historical and preservation societies, regional partners, and the coordination efforts of Robert Hughes, Regional Coordinator for the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and from California to the hills of West Virginia and throughout the Anthracite Coal Fields of Pennsylvania.

Prior to 2004, the foundation walls of the Avondale Breaker, the location of the mine shaft, the mine tunnel, and all of the other patch town buildings which made up the Colliery in Plymouth Township were hidden from the public's view by vegetation and illegal dumping. The entrance of the mine had been backfilled by the Federal Office of Surface Mining for public health and safety reasons

Members of the Anthracite Living History Group decided to seek permission from the owner of the property, the [Earth Conservancy](#), to open the site to allow the public to view the hidden treasure that we all knew was in Mother Nature's grip.

Many weeks of sweat equity by Anthracite Living History and community youth volunteers had gone into clearing the site of tons of debris. The cleanups were coordinated with the help of the Plymouth Township Planning Commission, the Plymouth Township Board of Supervisors, Luzerne Conservation District, and the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation over the last two years.

Members of the Anthracite Living History Group decided to pull together an inaugural Memorial Service Program to commemorate the 135th Anniversary of the Avondale Mine Disaster to begin to tell the tale of Avondale.

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On September 11, 2004, the event was held at the grounds and drew in nearly 80 people interested in the Program. The event included Welsh Hymns, an Invocation from the St. David's Society, a Tour of the Avondale Mine Site, Placement of Flowers at the entrance to the mine, real live Breaker Boys, Welsh Singers, myself, as the Principal Speaker, Avondale Memorabilia for Sale, and literally a dozen other groups in the crowd that were excited about the possibilities for the future preservation of the Avondale Mine Disaster Site.

It was a beautiful, hot and humid day in September, where the sun shined down on us the entire afternoon, showing us many rays of hope. They seemed to be fallen on the people all around the site, somehow as if to foreshadow the events to follow. These people became the base supporters for the continued efforts that are currently taken place today.

Nearly one year later, here we are in August of 2005, planning for the second annual Memorial Service to Commemorate the 136th Anniversary of the Avondale Mine Disaster Site thanks to the leadership of the Anthracite Living History Group and literally dozens of organizations and volunteers who decided through consensus that it was time to form the Avondale Mine Disaster Site Preservation Committee.

This committee has been meeting for the last several months planning for the upcoming September 10th & 11th commemoration.

Hard work, coordination, new ideas, collaboration, volunteer support, phone calls, and commitments to pulling off an even bigger event than in 2004, had led to the decision to hold two events, one at the Avondale Site where the tragedy occurred, and the other at the Washburn Cemetery in the Hyde Park Section of Scranton, due to the overwhelming interest from interested parties in Scranton, and partially because 61 of the 110 miners who died were interred at that particular Cemetery, the other being the Shoup Cemetery.

People and organizations have been literally crawling out of the wooden timbers to lend a hand, attend meetings, make phone calls, create crosses to be placed at the graves of many of the miners, take on the development of the program, publicity, sponsorship, fundraising, and spreading the word. You will find out who those people are in the Program.

The culmination of this extraordinary coalition of regional groups with preservation in mind for "Anthracite Living History" can be enjoyed by all who attend and participate in supporting the future preservation of the Avondale Mine Disaster Site and its historical interpretation and vital importance to our Country, not just the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys. Program Brochures and Flyers will be printed up and ready hopefully by the third week in August to give everyone an opportunity to draw an even larger audience to the Memorial Service.

Contact Joe Keating (717-779-2526) or Robert Hughes (717-779-5649), who are serving as Co-Chairs of the Avondale Mine Disaster Site Preservation Committee for details. (*Contributed by [Robert Hughes](#)*)

Attachment: [September 10-11 Remembrance Flyer - PDF](#) The flyer includes additional links to information about the disaster.

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

Quick Clips

[Alcoa Sends Volunteers on Earthwatch Institute Expeditions](#)
[Coal-Waste Power Plant Moves Ahead](#)
[Emerald, CONSOL, Eighty-Four Teams Earn Rescue Contest Honors](#)
[DEP Responds to Mine Subsidence Incident](#)
[PG Energy Begins Voluntary Assessment of Gas Plant Sites](#)
[Rt. 82 Could Stay Closed, Return to Nature](#)
[CMU Researchers Detoxify Toxins](#)
[Editorial: Taking stock of Allentown's renewal](#)
[Indiana County Natural Heritage Inventory](#)
[Tipping Fee Stays the Same, Waste Tax Not Imposed](#)
[Storm Season Puts Dam Watchers on Edge](#)
[200 Paddlers Soar Over Ohiopyle Falls](#)
[McConnell's Mill Hidden Jewel Among State Parks](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Tom Shetterly – Trout Unlimited Distinguished Volunteer of 2005](#)
[2005 PA Sojourn Program Ends with a Splash](#)
[Two Heathers Changing the Face of Fayette County](#)
[Bringing the Delaware to Life](#)
[Flood Protection Grant Awarded in Lycoming County](#)
[Massive Mussel Move Being Made to Protect Endangered Species](#)
[Editorial: Water Plan is Crucial to Growth](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board published [notice of its formal acceptance](#) of the regulatory proposal to reduce mercury emissions.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 3, 2005](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published notices announcing a new waste general permit for mushroom substrate, draft and final guidance on the drinking water information system and the 2006 Environmental Education Grant Program.

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DEP [published a notice](#) announcing the availability of a waste management general permit for the processing and beneficial use of non-liquid spent mushroom substrate.

Draft: DEP ID: 383-3310-109. Pennsylvania Drinking Water Information System (PADWIS) Inventory Users Manual. This document proposes guidance on the establishment, use and maintenance of a computerized public water system inventory for management of the Safe Drinking Water Program. Comments due: October 3.

Final: DEP ID: 012-5500-001. 2006 Environmental Education Grants Program Manual and Forms. This manual is a guide for eligible organizations interested in applying for the Department's Environmental Education grants program. *(not yet available online)*

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **September 6** – Senate Agriculture Committee informational hearing on using Realty Transfer Tax from the sale of farmland as a source of funding for farmland preservation and making other changes to the Agricultural Security Areas [Senate Bill 252](#), [Senate Bill 723](#) and [House Bill 629](#).
- **September 7** – House Republican Policy Committee hearing to investigate rising fuel prices.
- **September 11-14** – [PA Municipal Authorities Association Annual Conference](#). Hershey.
- **September 14** – CANCELLED – Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for November 9.
- **September 14-15** – PA Rural Water Association “[The Professional Office](#)” Conference. Lancaster.
- **September 15** – CANCELLED – Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.
- **September 15** – NEW - Recycling Fund Advisory Committee meeting.
- **September 15** – Plant ID and Stream Buffer Workshop. Lebanon County Conservation District. Contact: 717-272-3908 ext. 4 or send email to: stephanie.harmon@pa.nacdnet.net
- **September 16** – [Westmoreland County Smart Growth Summit](#)
- **September 23** – “[Pigs, Parks & Superstores – A Conference on the Sustainability of York County.](#)”
- **September 20** – CANCELLED – Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- **September 27** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on [House Bill 1249](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) Uniform Environmental Covenants.

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- **October 4** – [Clean Energy Executive Summit](#) by PECO, Community Energy, Inc. and PennFuture. Philadelphia.
- **November 4-5** – [Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference](#). West Virginia.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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