

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

March 20, 2006

228 Events Registered So Far for Great PA Cleanup, How About Yours?



The [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance](#) wants to remind you to register your cleanup event for the third annual [Great PA Cleanup!](#) on April 22.

So far, 228 groups have registered with registrations running at 30-40 a day.

Last year, 140,000 volunteers cleaned up more than 11,000 miles of roadways, 12,000 acres of parkland and 3,500 miles of streams.

Groups that register their cleanup events through the Great PA Cleanup website will be eligible for free disposal of the trash they collect at participating landfills, get a supply of gloves and safety vests and are eligible for entry into reward contests in Pennsylvania and nationally to thank volunteers and groups for their participation.

Events must be registered by no later than April 20 to qualify.

For more information, visit the [Great PA Cleanup! website](#).

Link: [2005 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Annual Report - PDF](#)

Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session the week of March 20 and the House returns April 3.

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On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda

The Senate is in session the week of March 20 and the House April 3. Here's the rundown of what's on the calendars and in committees—

Calendars

The Senate will have these items on their Calendar March 20-- [House Bill 213](#) establishing penalties for eco-terrorism; and [Senate Bill 1063](#) providing additional funding to expand the PA Small Business Development Centers.

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The House will start April 3 with this bill of interest on its Calendar-- [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment.

Committees

In the House, the Republican Policy Committee holds a hearing on DEP Regulatory Process and Economic Development; the Game and Fisheries Committee meets to hear an update on the results of the three-year audit of the Fish and Boat Commission; the Democratic Policy Committee holds a hearing on deer management in DuBois.

In the Senate, the Public Health and Welfare and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committees hold a joint hearing to review energy assistance programs and outreach.

Senate Committee Schedules Hearing on MTBE, Gasoline Additives

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a hearing on the impact gasoline additives like MTBE and ethanol have on fuel supplies and the environment on April 5.

The Committee will hear testimony on proposals to ban the use of methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), the availability of ethanol, and the impact additives have on fuel supplies and the environment.

Scheduled to testify at the hearing are representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Agriculture, the Associated Petroleum Industries of PA, Lyondell Chemical Company and the Campaign for Clean Air and Clean Water.

A hearing agenda, witness testimony and a transcript of the hearing will be posted on the [Committee's website](#) as the information becomes available.

Senator Mary Jo White (R-Venango) is the Majority Chair of the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) is Minority Chair.

Senate/House Bills Moving/Introduced

Here's a rundown on the environmental bills that moved this week.

House

Fireworks: The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee amended and reported out [House Bill 2349](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) imposing further restrictions on fireworks displays.

Farmland Preservation: [Senate Bill 723](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) making changes to the definition of eligible entity in the Agricultural Security Law was amended and reported out of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. There were six amendments that added provisions, among them—

- Allow the donation of conservation easements to counties;

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- Expand opportunities for counties to develop conservation plans pursuant to [House Bill 671](#); and
- Reducing the minimum acceptable acreage to 25.

Land Trust Reimbursements: [Senate Bill 940](#) (Waugh-R-York) which would set aside up to \$200,000 per year from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund to reimburse Land Trusts for expenses incurred in acquiring agricultural conservation easements was amended and reported from the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

Small Business Development Centers: [House Bill 2357](#) (Killion-R-Chester) directing that an expansion study be undertaken to make recommendations on providing efficient service territories for the Centers was reported from the House Education Committee with the recommendation the bill be referred to the House Commerce Committee.

Senate

Small Business Development Centers: [Senate Bill 1063](#) (Pileggi-R-Montgomery) expanding and making an appropriation to the Small Business Development Centers was referred to Senate Appropriations.

Water Supply Shutoff: [House Bill 893](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) changing procedures for shutting off water for nonpayment of sewage bills was amended and reported out of Senate Appropriations.

One Call System: [Senate Bill 1104](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) amending the One Call System Underground Utility Line Protection Law was amended and reported from the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

Bills Introduced

Emission Inspection Fee Cap: [House Bill 2502](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) setting a fee cap of \$10 on vehicle emissions inspection exemption test.

Fireworks: [Senate Bill 1096](#) (Boscola-D-Lehigh) sets additional restrictions on the sale and storage of fireworks within 250 feet of a residential property.

Joint Committee's Environmental Synopsis, Annual Report Now Available

The March issue of the Environmental Synopsis published by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) and its 2005 annual report are now available.

The [Synopsis this month](#) features articles on EPA's Energy Star energy efficiency program, e-waste recycling, the proper disposal of mercury switches from vehicles and the problem of sewage overflows.

The Joint Committee also released copies of its [2005 Annual Report](#) which summarizes its activities and initiatives over the last year.

The Committee is chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and the Vice-Chairman is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

In Other News

Geisinger's Skip Wieder Receives Susquehanna River Basin Excellence Award

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission this week presented the Commission's fourth William W. Jeanes, Sr. Award for Environmental Excellence to Homer (Skip) W. Wieder, Jr. for his leadership and dedication to improving water quality and enhancing the quality of life in the Susquehanna River Basin.

Skip Wieder is currently the Sr. Vice President Emeritus and Sr. Consultant for Geisinger Health System and Vice Chair of WVIA – the public television and radio broadcasting affiliate in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Among his many notable environmental contributions, Mr. Wieder is a founding member and director of the [Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies](#). The coalition is an emerging watershed organization covering the entire West Branch Susquehanna River Watershed in Pennsylvania and comprised of six colleges and universities, the Department of Environmental Protection, Geisinger Health System, and regional governmental, land conservancy and planning organizations.

Its current projects include: monitoring water quality in the Lower West Branch Susquehanna River between Lock Haven and Sunbury; assessing the effectiveness of riparian buffers for reducing non-point source pollution in the Chillisquaque Creek at PPL's Montour Preserve; developing a field station and a mobile education and research center; assessing the endangered Lamp Mussel in White Deer Creek; and planning for a Susquehanna River Symposium in fall 2006.

Mr. Wieder was also recognized for his significant leadership and commitment to:

- WVIA's production of the Susquehanna River documentary, [Looking to the River](#). This film features the critical environmental issues of the Middle Susquehanna region and the impact of the entire Susquehanna watershed on the Chesapeake Bay.
- Geisinger's environmental advocacy program, which is working to improve the quality of life within the Susquehanna watershed. The program includes researching important health issues and understanding their relationship to water quality – information that



Skip Wieder (center), Col. Robert Davis, Commander, Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Cathy Myers, Pennsylvania's alternate on SRBC

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could have far-reaching benefits to people in the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

“Skip Wieder not only has tremendous vision, he has the drive and unique ability to bring together the partnerships currently working effectively to improve water quality and raise awareness,” said Paul Swartz, SRBC executive director. “As a protector of the Chesapeake Bay, William Jeanes was vigilant about the quality and quantity of the water coming from the Susquehanna River, the bay’s largest tributary. Skip Wieder shares that same vigilance about the Susquehanna River and as such he exemplifies the values of SRBC’s William Jeanes Award.”

William W. Jeanes, Sr. lived from 1909 to 1987. He was born in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Harvard University in 1931 with degrees in Engineering and Geology. He lived most of his life in the upper Chesapeake Bay region in Maryland where he became actively involved in the preservation of the Chesapeake Bay.

Among his many notable contributions, Williams Jeanes was the co-founder of the Upper Chesapeake Watershed Association in 1952 and served as the group’s president for eight years.

During his involvement with the watershed association, Jeanes led the group as an intervener during the relicensing proceedings of the four hydroelectric dams on the lower Susquehanna River. As interveners, the watershed association worked to ensure that fish passage facilities would be provided at the dams and that adequate minimum flows would be maintained to the bay from the Conowingo Dam – the last dam before the Chesapeake Bay.

For more information, visit [SRBC’s William W. Jeanes, Sr. Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#) for a description of the award and a list of past recipients.

Environmental Advisory Council Network Honors Local Councils

The [Environmental Advisory Council Network](#) honored three local councils as part of the ninth annual conference in Southeast Pennsylvania March 11.

[North Coventry Township’s EAC](#) won for its work on Clean and Green Day and GIS advancements, [West Vincent Township’s EAC](#) won for its Greenway Stewardship Guide (both are in Chester County) and the [Hatfield Township EAC](#) in Montgomery County won honorable mention for its newsletter.

“To me, this award ceremony is the highlight of the year for EACs,” commented Joe Feola, Regional Director of the DEP. “It’s great to see EAC’s working with municipalities to impress upon them the importance of environmental issues.”

From PA Highlands conservation to invasive species management, topics and speakers at the EAC Conference inspired participants to meet their community’s environmental goals.

Conference highlights included “Financing Stormwater Management” with Dan Nees, Director of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland, and updates from DEP Watershed Manager David Burke and DCNR Recreation and Parks Advisor Fran Rubert.

Breakout sessions gave EAC members a chance to learn about issues specific to their region. Liz Feinberg of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Susan

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McDaniels of Cahill and Associates presented stormwater retrofit case studies. Daniel Barringer of Natural Lands Trust offered management strategies for dealing with invasive species. Highlands conservation efforts were presented by Patrick Starr of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Andy Pitz of Natural Lands Trust.

The conference concluded with a presentation on regional EAC Collaboration – featuring five Buck’s County municipalities’ efforts to address stormwater, deer management, forest depletion and housing and commercial development.

EACs are appointed volunteers at work protecting the environment. Established by ordinance, EACs advise elected and other municipal officials about environmental matters; help draft plans and ordinances; review site plans; help protect water and open space resources; remediate brownfields; and raise funds to support these and other environmental projects.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council established the EAC Network in 1990 to promote the establishment of EACs throughout PA, provide technical assistance and promote EACs as a mechanism for local government involvement in conservation.

For more information visit the [Environmental Advisory Council Network website](#).

Friend of French Creek Award Winners Announced



The [French Creek Project](#) and the [French Creek Valley Conservancy](#) this week announced the five winners of the 2006 Friends of French Creek and Bailey Lifetime Achievement awards.

The awards are given annually at the Creekfest celebration to individuals and organizations who are working to improve environmental quality in the French Creek watershed. This year’s Creekfest will be at the Academy Theater in Meadville on April 8 at 7:30 pm.

Jim Holden, farmer and landowner along French Creek, and an active conservationist who lives in Sugarcreek Borough, Venango County, is this year's Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

Jim Holden has been a key player in the founding and management of the Allegheny Valley Trails Association, and in the formation and ongoing success of the Allegheny Valley Conservancy, a land trust active in the middle Allegheny River region, including French Creek.

“By conserving a sizable portion of the Holden farm, along with an adjoining VNA property, Jim has been instrumental in one of the most significant voluntary land conservation partnerships along the banks of French Creek,” noted Mark Gorman, Director of the French Creek Project. “Jim has worked tirelessly to conserve our landscape of working farms and woodlands that are so vital to the economy and culture of our region.”

The Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award is named in honor of Betty and the late Dr. John Bailey, founders of the French Creek Valley Conservancy. Mrs. Bailey plans to be in attendance at the April 8 Creekfest concert to help recognize and honor the award winners and their work.

The 2006 Friend of French Creek award winners and their corresponding award categories are:

Robert Wright from Cochranton (Farmer/Landowner Category).

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Robert Wright has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Crawford County Conservation District and many other partners over the years to make his replacement heifer operation both economically efficient and environmentally friendly, by, among other things, fencing streambanks, improving rotational grazing reinforcing heavy use areas, providing alternative watering hydrants for cattle and restoring streambank vegetation.

Attorney **Stephen Hall** from Meadville (Business Category).

Over a period of more than a decade, Steve Hall has donated innumerable hours assisting the French Creek Vally Conservancy, French Creek Recreational Trails, and other conservation and recreation groups, by providing them with legal advice, undertaking research, and drafting conservation documents and sales documents.

French Creek Recreational Trails (Community Group Category).

French Creek Recreational Trails is celebrating its 10th year anniversary in 2006 as the planner and manager of the immensely popular Ernst Trail, a beautiful recreational trail constructed on the abandoned bed of the former Bessemer - Lake Erie Railroad along the banks of French Creek. The completed segment of the Ernst Trail is part of a proposed trail that will eventually connect Meadville with Conneaut Lake.

Crawford County Conservation District (Education Category).

In 2006 the Crawford County Conservation District is celebrating 50 years of protecting, conserving, and restoring the County's natural resources. The Conservation District nurtures cooperative partnerships to achieve conservation through voluntary cooperation. One of the District's key tools in achieving this mission is conservation outreach and education. District Board members, associates and staff have been very successful in reaching out to landowners, businesses, children and numerous other partners to help assure that the natural resources of the county are conserved for present and future generations.

Creekfest 2006 will feature renowned folk singer-songwriter Iris DeMent. Tickets to the award ceremony and concert are available through the Academy Theater Box Office at 814-337-8000, and are \$25 (regular admission) and \$15 (students and seniors).

Creekfest is an annual event celebrating the biological diversity, exceptional water quality and beauty of French Creek, and those who contribute to conserving that national treasure, and one of The Nature Conservancy's "Last Great Places" on earth. In addition to the April 8 concert, this year's Creekfest will include a juried nature art exhibition featuring regional and local artists on April 8 from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. at the Kepler Building on Market Street in Meadville.

Creekfest is a cooperative effort of the French Creek Project, French Creek Valley Conservancy and the [Crawford County Historical Society](#).

Visit the [French Creek Project](#) and [French Creek Valley Conservancy](#) websites for more information.

Erie Access Improvement Grant Applications Due May 15

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission announced this week it is soliciting projects for a new [Erie Access Improvement Grant Program](#). Proposals are due May 15.

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In 2004 legislation created special Combination Trout/Salmon/Lake Erie stamps whose proceeds are deposited into a restricted account to be used to provide public fishing access on or at Lake Erie and in the Watershed of Lake Erie.

Grants can be used for site acquisition, easements, site design and engineering, development, expansion and major rehabilitation of sites to provide for enhanced fishing opportunities in the Pennsylvania portion of the Lake Erie watershed.

Partners will be required to keep the property open for public access in perpetuity. Activities must benefit and directly support recreational fishing. County and municipal government entities and conservation and sporting related, non-profit organizations or not-for-profit organization, are eligible for funding.

Successful applicants are strongly encouraged to provide matching funds and will be given priority funding consideration when they can provide at least a 50 percent match from another non-PFBC source.

For more information, visit the [Erie Access Improvement Program webpage](#).

Watershed Group Insurance Sharing Program Renewed for 2006 by POWR

The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers this week announced that its [insurance sharing program](#) for watershed groups has been renewed for another year for POWR members.

Harrisburg-Roy Klauber of The Glatfelter Agency which helps POWR arrange for the coverage said Millers Mutual decided to renew the general liability insurance policy program.

Under POWR's insurance sharing program, watershed groups that are members of POWR can be endorsed to POWR's general liability policy. For the second consecutive year, Millers has not raised their premium rates, which are \$0.50 per member with a minimum premium of \$100 for organizations with 100 members or fewer.

POWR's Executive Director, Judith Jordan, said that POWR's membership and insurance fees have also not been increased and would remain at \$30 and \$100 respectively this year.

[Insurance purchase and renewal forms](#) are available on POWR's website and should be returned with payment to POWR by April 6 in order to receive coverage for the entire policy term of April 14, 2006 to April 14, 2007.

Questions should be direct to: John Coutts, POWR, 717-234-7910 or by email to: jcoutts@pawatersheds.org.

Yellow Breeches Watershed Association Celebrates 5th Year Anniversary



This year marks the 5th Anniversary of the [Yellow Breeches Watershed Association](#) which supports environmental resource management and stewardship in the watershed.

The organization began in early 2001 thanks to the initiative and vision of several of the founding board members, the support of Lower Allen Township, and a Growing Greener planning grant from the Department of Environmental Protection.

An initial stakeholders meeting was held in January of 2001 and

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a planning committee was formed. The first public meeting was held in February 2001 followed by the filing of articles of incorporation with an effective date of April 18, 2001 - the official 5-year anniversary date.

Much progress has been made in five years and a lot of credit goes to the members, volunteers, and other partners that have actively participated in various initiatives.

A significant accomplishment was the completion of a Watershed Assessment and Rivers Conservation Plan project last year thanks to grants received from DEP and DCNR. This project was a major focus of the organization for several years and as a result has created much interest and provides the basis for many of the current initiatives within the watershed.

At the annual membership meeting in October 2005, the mission and goals of the organization were reviewed and the proposed goals/priorities for 2006 were presented that also included a proposed restructuring of committees. At the January meeting, the Board of Directors approved the organization goals and revised committee structure/priorities for 2006.

A few of the priority goals for 2006 include: the designation and establishment of a water trail in partnership with Cumberland County; membership recruitment and growth; increase publicity and outreach activities; and continue monitoring activities and partnering with other organizations including initiatives on Cedar Run, Trout Run, Dogwood Run, and Mountain Creek.

This year is shaping up to be very exciting and challenging. In celebration of the 5th year anniversary, many activities are being planned.

For more information, visit the [Yellow Breeches Watershed Association webpage](#).

Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Public Meeting May 5

The Cumberland County Planning Commission and the [Yellow Breeches Watershed Association](#) are hosting a public meeting on May 5 to introduce the Yellow Breeches Water Trail Project.

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

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

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

Pennsylvania Celebrates National Groundwater Awareness Week

The Department of Environmental Protection this week helped celebrate [National Groundwater Awareness Week](#) – March 12-18- by making recommendations on how to protect groundwater quality.

“A significant portion of the water used in homes, restaurants, schools, hospitals, office buildings and churches across Pennsylvania comes from groundwater systems --- making the protection everyone’s responsibility,” Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty said.

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About half of Pennsylvanians use groundwater as their source for drinking water and many of the state's industries, farms and electric plants relying on the resource for production.

The health of groundwater resources can be threatened by a variety of contaminants, but there are also threats residents can help to prevent. Protective measures include:

- Don't pour any toxic or hazardous substances (including paints, varnishes, thinners, waste oils, pesticides and herbicides) down the drain or into the toilet;
- If you change the oil in a car, recycle the used oil; and
- When using fertilizers or pesticides, follow the directions. Use only the amount recommended by the product label.

Knowing about groundwater is especially important to Pennsylvania well owners. According to the National Groundwater Association, Pennsylvania has more private water wells than any other state in the nation. It is estimated there are nearly 1 million private wells in the commonwealth, and they are the sole source of drinking water for most rural populations. As such, groundwater is key to the state's economic future.

Approximately 97 percent of all the available fresh water on the earth is groundwater. At any given moment, there is 30 times more groundwater than surface water.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Groundwater Association website](#) and the [DEP Groundwater Protection webpage](#).

DEP Provides Update on Senior Environment Corps, Citizens Water Monitoring



The Department of Environmental Protection provided the General Assembly with an update on activities of the [Senior Environment Corps](#) and other citizen water quality monitoring programs in the Commonwealth.

Volunteer monitoring is an integral part of comprehensive statewide water protection. By monitoring water quality, volunteers empower themselves and their communities to become better water stewards.

More than 160 groups that include 11,000 individuals are involved statewide in monitoring activities. More than 3,000 sampling stations are utilized.

A well-designed volunteer monitoring program helps participants understand the power and limitations of scientific inquiry. Volunteer monitoring can also supplement professional monitoring in a variety of important ways:

- It can provide a screening mechanism to determine where further study is needed;
- It can assess the effectiveness of restoration efforts in watersheds;
- It may provide the only data available for a particular watershed, especially in remote areas; and
- It may help collect environmental data during unusual conditions such as rainfall events or more frequently than routine sampling carried out by resource agencies.

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DEP has an ongoing program, the [Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program](#), which provides support and technical assistance to volunteer monitoring efforts.

Involvement of individuals and organizations in monitoring water quality of streams, lakes, and rivers enables them to become active participants in watershed programs and activities. It can also create an informed constituency that understands the power and limitations of scientific information.

The CVMP and the Department of Aging worked with the [Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement](#) to create the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#) in 1997.

The PaSEC uses standardized protocols to assess physical, chemical, and biological indicators in streams. This data can be used as a screening tool to determine where further study is needed and the success or failure of restoration efforts. The data is housed in a database that includes an open component with fields for a limited number of parameters and can be utilized by other volunteer monitoring groups not following the PaSEC's standardized protocols.

According to DEP, the PaSEC program is cost effective in a number of ways.

As of June 2005, there were 2,253 volunteers actively participating in PaSEC activities around the Commonwealth. These volunteers conducted 4,772 monitoring events during the 2004-2005 fiscal year, representing a total of \$343,584 in human resources dedicated to the assessment and protection of water resources in the Commonwealth.

However, the proposed 2006-07 state budget removed funding for the PaSEC because it was viewed as a legislative initiative.

For more information, download a copy of the [2004-2005 report from DEP](#), visit the [Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program](#) and the [Keystone Watershed Monitoring Network](#) webpages.

Special Events: [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps Chapters](#) will be holding regional training roundtables in March, April and May. They will be held--

- Western Region I— March 28 and 29 covering: Crawford, Venango, Jefferson, Indiana, Allegheny, Butler/Mon River;
- Central Region II—April 18 and 19 covering: Clearfield, Centre, Mifflin-Juniata, Blair;
- Central Region III—May 2 and 3 covering: Capital, York, Lancaster, Adams, Schuylkill; and
- Eastern Region IV—May 9 and 10 covering: Luzerne-Wyoming, Monroe, Delaware, Philadelphia (CIP and SCEE), Montgomery.

Nominations for 2006 Waste Watcher Awards Due May 2



Apply now for the 2006 Waste Watcher Awards sponsored by the [Professional Recyclers of PA](#), the [Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association](#) and the [Solid Waste Association of North America-PA Chapter](#).

Applications are due May 2.

The Waste Watcher program is open to all municipalities, counties, schools, colleges/universities, community non-profit groups (such as the Boy Scouts), business and industry and

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individuals that have made a significant contribution in recycling, composting and waste reduction/reuse efforts in calendar year 2005.

Applicants must demonstrate that their efforts are above and beyond the services that similar entities provide. To be eligible for the award, the applicant must be able to meet all of the judging criteria. Previous winners applying for an award in the same category must be able to show growth and improvement over last year's program. The judging panel has the discretion to recognize special efforts in each category for programs that demonstrate outstanding achievement.

All entries will be judged by a panel comprised of solid waste and recycling professionals from across Pennsylvania.

Entries can be made in the following categories:

- Outstanding Individual Achievement in Recycling, Composting and/or Reuse;
- Outstanding Recycling Achievement;
- Outstanding Composting Achievement;
- Outstanding Achievement in Public Education;
- Outstanding Achievement in Special Event Recycling;
- Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections;
- Outstanding Achievement in Commercial/Institutional Recycling;
- Outstanding Achievement in School Recycling;
- Outstanding Achievement in Materials Processing;
- Outstanding Achievement in Reuse; and
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Procurement.

For more information, [download the application package](#).

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful 2005 Anti-Littering, Beautification Accomplishments



The [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) Alliance published their [2005 annual report](#) this week cataloguing the anti-littering and beautification accomplishments of their partner agencies, businesses and nonprofit groups all over the state.

From a successful Great PA Cleanup that involved over 140,000 volunteers, to pilot beautifications projects, a new Community Greening Award, an updated and expanded website, an informative 2005 Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit, new initiatives with the Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, new business council members and partners, 2005 was a year of expansion for anti-littering and beautification activities.

To become a new partner, checkout the resources offered by KPB members or to download the [2005 annual report](#), visit the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful website](#).

How Will You Cope with 25-50% Increase in Electricity Costs? Workshops Can Help

The Department of Environmental Protection and the [Electrotechnology Application Center at Northampton Community College](#) are sponsoring half-day workshops this spring to help owners of small and medium-sized businesses reduce energy costs and increase profits.

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Each workshop will offer business owners information on energy supply options, illustrate how to identify energy cost-saving opportunities and explain how to initiate an energy management program. Particular emphasis will be given to easily implemented, cost-effective changes for small commercial and industrial facilities.

Small businesses and homeowners should be aware that caps on electricity costs will expire in most of Pennsylvania by 2010 when electric suppliers will have to go to the competitive market for power.

The [Consumer Advocate](#) at the Public Utility Commission reported to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee recently that significant cost increases have occurred where caps have been removed.

Customers of the Pike County Light and Power Company saw electric rates jump 129 percent, in Delaware and New Jersey electric companies saw rates increase by 59 and 55 percent respectively.

Now is the time to think about how you can reduce your energy use and these workshops can help.

Registration for the workshops is free, and the sessions are open to the general public. Local government officials also are encouraged to attend.

The workshops will be held on the following dates at these locations:

- April 18 at DEP's Southeast Regional Office, 2 E. Main St., Norristown, Montgomery County.
- April 25 at ETAC (Northampton Community College), 3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem, Northampton County.
- May 2 at DEP's Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, Dauphin County.
- May 9 at DEP's Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Dr., Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.
- May 11 at the North Central PA Regional Planning and Development Commission, 651 Montmorenci Road, Ridgway, Elk County.

Funding for the Energy Management Workshops is provided through a U.S. Department of Energy grant.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact DEP at 717-783-8411 or send email to Jeanne Dworetzky, [DEP's Small Business Ombudsman](#), at depombudsman@state.pa.us .

Mesa Environmental Seeks Farmers for Alternative Energy Audits

Rep. Armstrong (R-Lancaster) this week announced [Mesa Environmental Sciences, Inc.](#) is seeking farmers to participate in free energy audits designed to make recommendations on reducing energy use and determine the feasibility of installing alternative energy sources.

Mesa will do an audit that includes a detailed report on current energy usage, recommendations on ways to produce alternative power, grant and loan opportunities and funding strategies, along with projections about how much they could make by selling excess electricity, as well as renewable energy credits, for a profit.

Alternative energy sources include installation of wind turbines, solar panels and other means of producing energy on their farms.

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"This is a chance for farmers to get a firm grip on where their energy bill goes and learn about new ways to reduce or eliminate it. Even better, there is potential to make money by selling electricity back to the power companies," Rep. Armstrong said.

Sixty-three Pennsylvania farms will be selected thanks to a grant from the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, where Armstrong serves as Secretary. They will be a mix of small, medium, and large businesses in dairy, hog, horse, grain, food processor and fruit production.

For more information, contact [Mesa Environmental Sciences, Inc.](#) by calling 610-647-3809 or by sending email to owners Sarah M. Hetznecker at sarah@MesaEnvironmental.net or Gary T. Sheehan at gary@MesaEnvironmental.net

April 14 Wind Turbine Forum to Explore Impacts of Wind Power in Erie

The [Presque Isle Audubon Chapter](#) is sponsoring a Wind Turbine Forum on April 14 that will explore the benefits and impacts of wind farms on the environment and wildlife.

Speakers for the event will include representatives of Audubon's Important Bird Area Program, the Hawk Migration Association, North Coast Energy systems and Renewable Strategies LLC. Paul Burroughs, Presque Isle Audubon President, will moderate the panel.

The program will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Stull Interpretive Center at Presque Isle.

For more information contact Susan A. Smith by sending email to: ssmith@lea.earthforce.org.

Applications Being Accepted for Environmental Scholarship

[PA CleanWays](#) is accepting applications for the [Sue Wiseman Scholarship](#), a \$1,000 scholarship that honors a youth who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to the environment.

The deadline for applications is May 1.

The scholarship is open to Pennsylvania residents, ages 16-21, who have initiated and carried out a personal project that addresses littering, illegal dumping, recycling, proper disposal, beautification, or education. An education project must address one of the other topics listed.

The scholarship is named for Sue Wiseman, whose own commitment and dedication to a cleaner environment led to the founding of PA CleanWays.

Since 1990, PA CleanWays has been dedicated to empowering people to resolve and prevent these destructive problems.

For more information, visit the [PA CleanWays website](#) or call 724-836-4121.

March 19-25 is Wildfire Prevention Week in Pennsylvania

Warm and drying March winds and a winter of minimal precipitation, have combined to heightens dangers of wildfires and to focus attention on these dangers the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has designated March 19-25 as [Wildfire Prevention Week](#).

"Forests are a renewable resource, but they quickly can be endangered by acts of carelessness," said DiBerardinis. "People are responsible for 98 percent of wildfires. A mere spark by a careless person can touch off a devastating forest blaze during dry periods when conditions are especially ripe for wildfires to spread."

Nearly 85 percent of Pennsylvania's wildfires occur in March, April and May, before the greening of state woodlands and brush lands. Wildfires - named for their rapid spread through dormant dry vegetation under windy conditions - destroy nearly 10,000 acres of state forest - and even more private land annually - and threaten life, property and the sustainability of our valuable natural resources.

Campers and other state forest visitors are reminded that open fires are prohibited on state forestland when the fire danger is listed as high, very high, or extreme, unless authorized by the district forester. To protect life and property, communities in heavily wooded areas are urged to follow wildfire prevention and suppression methods approved by the [Pennsylvania Firewise Community Program](#).

For more information, visit the [2006 Wildfire Prevention webpage](#).

Game Commission Releases 2005-06 Deer Harvest Estimates

The Game Commission officials announced this week the [total deer harvest estimate for 2005-06 seasons](#) is 354,390, down from the previous year's harvest estimate of 409,320.

While the antlered harvest was similar to the previous year, the reduction in the antlerless deer harvest followed changes in antlerless license allocations, which were decreased in response to declining deer population trends in most Wildlife Management Units (WMUs).



"Going into the year, we expected WMU antlerless deer harvests to drop in most WMUs because the Board of Game Commissioners approved an overall antlerless deer license allocation that was down 15 percent from the previous year," said Carl Roe, Game Commission executive director. "For example, in WMU 2G, a 44 percent reduction in the unit's antlerless deer license allocation resulted in a 42 percent drop in the antlerless deer harvest. Most of the changes in the antlerless harvest can be accounted for by the change in antlerless allocations, and demonstrates the strong relationship between antlerless license allocations and harvests.

"Also, as general hunting license sales are down by five percent this year, it is unreasonable to expect the overall deer harvest would have increased."

The Game Commission's 2005-06 antlerless deer license allocations were intended to hold deer population trends steady until the agency's Deer Management Section completed development of a new system of measures to gauge the impact of deer on themselves, the habitat and people. That work, which should provide a solid foundation to manage deer more knowledgeably and progressively, is nearing completion.

"Overall, we are pleased with the percentage of older bucks in the antlered harvests, and we continue to receive overwhelmingly positive comments about antler restrictions," Roe said.

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Calvin W. DuBrock, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management director, noted that weather, once again this year, played a role at the beginning of the rifle deer season.

"Most deer are harvested during the first two days of the rifle season," DuBrock said. "This year, hunters in some areas experienced heavy fog on ridge tops during the opening day, while heavy rain impacted the second day in many areas. As a result, harvests during the first two days were down from 2004-05, but increased on the first and second Saturdays.

"Given the antlerless deer license allocations provided to hunters, we are pleased with the overall results. The 12-day concurrent season increases hunter opportunity, reduces much of the variability in hunter effort associated with shorter seasons and unpredictable weather, and gives our deer management team a more consistent method of monitoring the impacts of the harvest. Given the relationship of antlerless license allocations to antlerless harvest, the 12-day season is a win-win situation for hunters and managers."

DuBrock noted that deer harvest data, as well as comments from hunters, demonstrates that the agency's efforts in recent years to reduce the deer herd in some WMUs are working.

"We are asking hunters to work with us and endure some short-term pain, in terms of lower deer densities than in the past, so that we can achieve long-term gain, in terms of better habitat that supports deer and other wildlife for all Pennsylvanians. In fact, many hunters, landowners and foresters have commented to us about the changes and regeneration they're seeing in the forests they hunt or manage.

"Hunters have once again performed an important service for the rest of society by controlling the state's deer herd. They do it willingly, and without burden to taxpayers. They also will enjoy many nutritious meals from the venison they added to their freezers or provided to needy families through the Hunters Sharing the Harvest program."

"Now that these harvest data are compiled, the Deer Management Section in the Bureau of Wildlife Management can begin to assess the impact of last year's harvest and prepare antlerless license allocation recommendations for the executive director to review, prior to presenting it to the Board of Game Commissioners for its consideration," DuBrock said. "Additionally, as directed by the Board, we will explore possible changes in season lengths for the 2006-07 seasons."

As was announced last year, DuBrock noted that last year was the final year of providing county harvest estimates, as the Game Commission has completed its transition to WMUs.

Harvest figures for the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), which enables landowners to target hunter pressure where needed, are not available at this time, and were not included in these harvest results.

The [total deer harvest estimate for the 2005-06 season](#) is available online.

NewsClips: [Deer Season Kill Falls 13 Percent](#)
[Are Deer Hunters' Complaints on Target?](#)
[Oh Deer! Numbers are Shrinking](#)

Link: [Game Commission's Deer Management Program](#)

Game Commission - LBFC Report Supports Need for Increased Revenues

Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe said this week his agency agrees with most of the findings in the [Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's report](#) of the agency's adherence to its strategic plan and the need to address the financial condition of the Commission.

Roe noted that he believes the report provides the proof the General Assembly needs to act on legislation that addresses the agency's funding limitations, which currently impede the agency's ability to fulfill its mission to manage and conserve the state's 465 species of wild birds and mammals, as well as their habitats, for all Pennsylvanians.

One of the LBFC's key findings pointed out: "While the PGC has continued to experience problems in operationalizing its Strategic Plan, the agency's financial condition represents its most significant near-term challenge. Despite expenditure cuts and ongoing cost-containment measures, the Commission is in need of a substantial revenue augmentation in order to stem the decline in the Game Fund balance and avoid further reductions in programs, services, and staff."

Roe emphasized that the agency has attempted to follow its strategic plan, which was developed in 2003. However, limited financial resources has forced cuts in programs, projects and staff, thereby reducing the agency's ability to move forward.

"This report clearly notes that our efforts to implement a strategic plan is directly impacted by our ability to fund programs and projects that benefit wildlife and their habitats," Roe said. "Our current Strategic Plan includes a measurement system and we have collected two years of measurements from program areas. However, we have not been able to achieve the full implementation of the plan, because of financial constraints.

"During the 2005-06 fiscal year budget preparations, we developed our initial budget using a zero-based concept. This approach was designed to tie the budgeting process to the strategic plan. All operational plans are resource driven and, unfortunately, the cost-cutting measures we implemented to keep our expenditures in line with revenues have compromised our ability to continue the measurement system throughout the budget year."

Roe also noted that he concurs with the LBFC recommendation for the agency to fill the position of Strategic Planner, which has been vacant since early 2003, as soon as possible.

"We have no choice but to leave the strategic planner position vacant until we receive additional revenues," Roe said. "In fact, we have implemented a hiring freeze on all new positions and we are back-filling only positions that are critical to our mission."

The LBFC also recommended Roe issue an agency-wide directive clarifying the status of the Commission's strategic planning process and the role the plan plays in agency operations and budgeting.

"Not only do I agree with this recommendation, but we already have made progress in communicating the importance of the Game Commission's strategic plan," Roe said. "I have a strong commitment to the planning process and have informed staff that strategic planning will be incorporated into day-to-day operations. Bureau and Regional budgets will be linked to the Strategic Plan and performance reports will be an integral part of the implementation."

For a copy of the report, visit the [Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's report webpage](#).

Three Nominated to Fish and Boat Commission Board

Gov. Rendell has nominated Thomas C. Shetterly, William R. Worobec and Leonard Lichvar to be commissioners on the Fish and Boat Commission board.

If confirmed by the Senate, Shetterly will replace Ross J. Huhn, who passed away last August; Worobec will replace Ted R. Keir, whose term expired last October; and Lichvar will replace Rozell A. Stidd, who resigned in June 2003.

Shetterly, a fly fisherman and an avid angler and boater from Washington County, oversees the [Deep Water Project](#) at the Youghiogheny River and has helped raise almost \$1 million for a project to clean the river. In addition, he has volunteered for more than 10 years with Trout Unlimited, which recently awarded him its "Distinguished Service Award."

Worobec, an avid angler from Lycoming County, is a member of Trout Unlimited, the North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy Board and the [Dunwoody-Big Bear Fish and Game Club](#). He has helped secure more than \$1 million through Growing Greener grants and private donations to restore the Big Bear Creek.

Lichvar, a fly fisherman from Somerset County, has served as a volunteer with Trout Unlimited for 30 years and participated in the [Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project](#).

Council Seeks Candidates for the Game Commission Board

The [Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation](#) is seeking candidates to serve on the board of directors for the Game Commission's District Seven, which includes Susquehanna, Wyoming, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Carbon, Wayne, Pike and Monroe counties.

Applications will be accepted until April 21.

Commissioners of the Game Commission are responsible for establishing fishing and boating policy and long range planning. Potential candidates should have an interest in wildlife and land conservation.

All members of the Pennsylvania Game Commission are volunteers and do not receive compensation from the state, but are reimbursed all travel expenses. All nominations must be confirmed by the Senate.

Individuals interested in applying should send a resume and detailed cover letter to Robb Miller, Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., 7th Floor, P.O. Box 8767, Harrisburg, Pa., 17106-8767.

For more information, visit the [Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation webpage](#).

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

Help Wanted – Allegheny County PA CleanWays



The [Allegheny County PA CleanWays](#) is seeking an executive director to manage all aspects of the organization—fundraising, program management, membership recruitment, staff development, marketing and communications and financial management.

Allegheny County PA CleanWays is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing dumping and littering, the proper disposal of waste, changing people’s attitudes and behaviors about illegal dumping and permanently decreasing the number of illegal dumps in Allegheny County.

Interested and qualified candidates may apply in confidence by submitting a resume and cover letter by email to: cleanways06@hotmail.com .

Help Wanted: LeTort Regional Authority Executive Director

The LeTort Regional Authority is seeking candidates for a part-time executive director for this independent municipal body for the protection of the famous Letort Spring Run watershed near Carlisle, Cumberland County.

The position requires knowledge of government, management, scientific expertise in stream restoration, and aquatic habitat and recreation planning. Position duties include coordination of committee activities, monthly and special meetings, planning and leading public support meetings and preparation and supervision of projects.

The successful candidate will have excellent verbal and written communication skills and previous experience with public, private, governmental, and environmental groups. A BS/BA in environmental/natural/earth science or engineering experience is preferred.

Submit cover letter, resume, salary requirements, and three references to Shirley Ruhl, Chairperson, ruhls@dickinson.edu , 40 Kenwood Dr., Carlisle, PA 17013. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Interns Wanted for Paid Positions with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Projects

[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) is seeking 16 students to fill internship positions at several locations around Pennsylvania to help with community beautification and anti-littering projects.

The deadline for applications is April 30.

This ten week summer internship program will place seven intern teams in seven cities. Students studying landscape architecture, landscape contracting, horticulture, urban planning, public relations, public policy, geography, education or art are encouraged to apply.

At this point, projects are planned for Harrisburg, West Chester, Pittsburgh, Allentown, York and West Reading.

Interns will be given a \$2,000 scholarship to cover school and summer expenses. All interns are required to attend a KPB sponsored orientation and training at the PA Horticultural Society in Philadelphia.



Download the [internship description](#) and details on [how to apply](#).
Send questions to Jesse Hunting, KPB, jesse@keeppebeautiful.org.

See & Hear

Falcon Focus – Learn About Peregrine Falcons, Raptors



Learn all about peregrine falcons and other raptors at the special [Falcon Focus video website](#) developed by the GreenTreks Network.

Watch video features on the *Return of the Raptor*, *The Falcon Story* and the banding of peregrine falcons nesting on the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg.

Also featured are special webpages for students and a message board for asking questions of other falcon watchers.

Take time to check in on the peregrine falcons nesting on the [Rachel Carson Building](#).

You can also check in on the pair of falcons nesting on the [Cathedral of Learning](#) at the University of Pittsburgh sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy which typically lay their eggs before the Harrisburg pair.

Redtail Hawk Loses Battle with Female Falcon on Rachel Carson Building

The “turf war” between the female Peregrine falcon that resides in a nest on the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg and a large redtail hawk that has been seen in Capitol Park challenging the falcon’s home territory, is now over.

On March 14, the female falcon and the hawk engaged in an aerial battle, according to the Department of Environmental Protection. While the hawk was larger in size than the falcon, the falcon’s speed and cunning was no match. The falcon forced the hawk into a wall of the Capitol parking garage and was killed.

Capitol Police officers alerted DEP officials about the downed hawk. After close examination it appears the hawk broke its neck.

For the last several weeks, the redtail hawk, presumed to be a female due to its large size, had claimed a park at the Capitol Complex as its prime hunting ground.

See & Hear

Sustainable Financing for Watershed Groups Webcast – March 22

EPA’s Watershed Academy will hold an online webcast on Sustainable Financing for Watershed Groups March 22 starting at 1:00.

Wendy Wilson and Pat Munoz from River Network will explore the keys to effective fundraising, including organization essentials and top fundraising strategies and plans.

Registration is available on a first-come/first-served basis. Each webcast includes a webbased slide presentation with a companion audio portion that can be accessed either by phone or by streaming audio broadcast. For more information, go to link below.

To register or for more information, visit the [EPA Watershed Academy webcast page](#).

Feature

Caring for William Penn's Great Oak

By Jim Crater

The Great Oak, also called the Saunders Oak, is a very special tree. Identified in the book *Penn's Woods* written by The Green Valley Association, as one of the William Penn Oaks.

This is a white oak sitting back off of Saint Peter's Road in North Coventry Township, Chester County which has a span of over 135 feet.

I've watched this tree since elementary school when my bus passed by it every day, wondering at the things that have happened in its 400 year existence.

Some years back I began to notice the dead wood and vines on the tree and felt it needed attention. First thinking I'll talk with the owners, but then thought how do you approach someone you don't know and say you need to spend perhaps thousands of dollars to care for a tree on your property.

So...First estimates, then fundraisers.

A neighbor, while at a maple syrup boiling at my house, saw a tree design on a t-shirt. The design on the shirt was from a land preservation project. She then asked how to get one as her son works on trees. Perfect...I showed Rod Irwin of Arbor Care in Mohnton a picture of the tree and he said whatever the tree needs, he'll do it at a reduced cost.

I go then to meet with the owners who say, I know you, you're the recycle guy, but I also know you from the pre-school both our sons went to. The school was right down the road from the Great Oak, called the Little Acorn pre-school. The owners of the property, the O'Connor's were thrilled at being able to get the work on the tree started.

We mowed, cut off vines and also marked the small "Children of the Great Oak" that we have been selling to help pay for the tree work.

Then everything went into slow motion. Rod became too busy with his tree company to find time for the Great Oak. Now finally some three years after the plan began, we're moving ahead.

The first steps are removal of dead wood and general clean up. Second will be soil and tissue testing and introduction of beneficial growth. The third step will involve exploration and compartmentalization of decay from a lightning strike that happened approximately fifty years ago.

We have a local surgeon who has agreed to let us use a fiber optic probe, similar to the non-invasive approach used to explore human injuries, to look at the damage to the tree.

The removal of dead wood is important, as the tree, much like a human characteristic, wants to heal the wound. If it can't heal the wound, it will try to grow

around it, leaving a hole with internal decay. Knowing where to make the proper cut is also important, so proper healing can occur.

Another important clue about the Great Oak and the property owner came from an Irish woman.

She had heard of our "Common Thread" project and wanted to sell American denim products in her shop in Ireland. We talked about many things, but somehow the conversation turned to the Great Oak.

She asked, "Do you know the owners name?" Yes, I say, the O'Connor's. She laughs, saying, "Do you know what that name means?" I say, well...protector? She laughs again and says, "No, it means 'Keeper of the Great Oak.'"

Jim Crater is President of [Recycling Services, Inc.](#), a non-profit recycling and alternative energy resource center, 365 Elm St. Pottstown, Pa. 19465 and can be contacted at 610-323-8545 or by sending email to: JimCrater@aol.com.

Feature

Conservation Easement Assistance Helps Land Trusts Conserve 6,153 Acres



The [Conservation Easement Assistance Program](#) of the [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association](#) has helped land trusts conserve 6,153 acres in 13 counties over the past two years.

Through CEAP, land trusts may apply to the Association for up to \$5,000 in grant funding to help cover the transaction costs associated with conservation easement donations and bargain sales.

Rick Koval, Land Protection Specialist for the North Branch Land Trust, knows well the value of CEAP. Since the launch of CEAP in November 2003, NBLT has obtained CEAP grants for nine conservation easement projects.

"I am certain," Koval says, "that without CEAP many land conservation easements would never have been completed and thousands of acres of land in Pennsylvania would never have been conserved."

CEAP is intended to help in situations where the easement donor is unable or unwilling to cover transaction costs.

Andy Loza, PALTA Executive Director explains, "A goal of CEAP is to promote better stewardship. If CEAP funding can enable the easement donor to make a much larger stewardship endowment donation than otherwise possible, that's great. However, we don't want a land trust applying for CEAP funds without first trying to secure a cash donation from the landowner."

CEAP is made possible through generous grants by the William Penn Foundation and the Bureau of Recreation & Conservation, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Growing Greener Program.

"CEAP is a unique partnership between DCNR and PALTA that enables us to be more economical and efficient in fulfilling our mission to conserve and protect Pennsylvania's open space and natural resources," said Larry Williamson, DCNR Deputy Secretary of Conservation and Engineering Services.

To learn more, visit the [Conservation Easement Assistance Program webpage](#).

Special Event: [2006 Pennsylvania Land Trust Association Conference April 28-29.](#)

This article is reprinted with permission from the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association's Winter 2006 issue of *ConserveLand Newsletter*. Find these other informative articles online from this same issue—

- [Ranking Pennsylvania Land Trusts](#)
- [Land Trust Work in Pennsylvania](#)
- [An Interview with Rick Santorum](#)
- [Conservation Tax Benefit Update](#)
- [Transfer of Development Rights in Pennsylvania](#)
- [CEAP Expansion Planned](#)

Quick Clips

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

[Outdoors: Legislators Playing Pass the "Buck"](#)
[Agencies Team Up to Restore Wild Pheasants in Southeast PA](#)
[Second in Participants in Great Backyard Birdcount](#)
[Five Lehigh Students Receive Student Ecologist Awards](#)
[State Leads Way in Creating Farmland Habitat](#)
[Monroeville Gears Up for Annual Roadside Cleanup](#)
[Bethlehem Authority Reaches Agreement on Open Space](#)
[Growth in Chester County Calls for Smart Growth Update](#)
[Court Settlement Signals Cleanup Go-Ahead in Philadelphia](#)
[State Takes Lead on Alternative Energy](#)
[Coal Waste Power Plant Developer Gets Boost From County](#)
[Rendell Increases Low Income Energy Assistance Benefits](#)
[Philadelphia – RecycleBank Wants to Expand Throughout the City](#)
[Dredging Plan Debate Goes Green](#)
[Mine Safety Wall Standards Higher Elsewhere](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Groups Push for Federal Mine Cleanup Funds](#)
[Clean Water Assessment Underway in Plum Creek](#)
[Making an Environmental Come Back in Burd Run](#)
[DEP Awards Contract for Mine Reclamation Project in Butler County](#)
[Saucon Creek is Subject of Studies](#)
[Spring Creek Canyon Debate Centers on Conservation, Growth](#)
[PA Hopes Mine Drainage Becomes Boon of Cheap Water, Metals](#)
[Fly-Fishing Expo Snags Anglers](#)
[Pittsburgh Awash in 1936 Flood of Memories](#)

Regulations

The Fish and Boat Commission published proposed rules for comment [relating to the capture, breeding and handling of reptiles and amphibians](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – March 18, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published [two proposed guidance documents](#) relating to clean fill and mine reclamation bonds, issued a [final General Permit for processing used restaurant oils, greases and other materials for biofuel and biodiesel](#) and an update to the certified radon testing and remediation firms ([Pa Bulletin page 1293](#)).

DRAFT: DEP ID: 254-2000-715. Use of Waste from Land Clearing, Grubbing and Excavation (LCGE) and the Use of Concrete or Other Clean Fill Materials Containing Protruding Rebar or Other Metal as Clean Fill. This policy identifies requirements necessary to prevent nuisances or hazards from the placement of decomposable waste from land clearing, grubbing and excavation as clean fill and the placement of concrete or other clean fill materials that contain protruding rebar or other metal. Comments due: April 17.

DRAFT: DEP ID: 563-2504-201. Blanket Bonds. This policy describes the requirements and procedures used to regulate surface coal mine sites that cover their bonding obligation through Blanket Bonding. Blanket Bonding allows a surface coal mine operator to post a single bond which would cover all reclamation obligations at all of the operator's surface coal mine sites. Comments due: April 17.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **May 8-12** – [“Show Me the Money” Grant Workshop](#). Lewisburg.

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- **March 21** – House Republican Policy Committee hearing on DEP Regulatory Process and Economic Development. Room 140 Main Capitol. 1:00.
- **March 21** – Senate Public Health and Welfare and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committees joint hearing to review energy assistance programs and outreach. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:30.
- **March 21** – House Game and Fisheries Committee will hear a presentation by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee on their 3-year audit of the Game Commission. Room 60 East Wing. 10:00.
- **March 21** – **CANCELLED** – [Environmental Quality Board meeting](#). Next scheduled meeting April 18.
- **March 21** – [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) meeting to consider final State Conservation Commission Nutrient Management regulation.
- **March 21** – House Game and Fisheries Committee meets to hear update on the results of the three-year audit of the Fish and Boat Commission. Room 60 East Wing. 10:00.
- **March 22** – House Democratic Policy Committee holds a hearing on deer management. J.E. DuBois Hose Company Fire Hall, 301 First Street, DuBois. 2:00.
- **March 22** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Committee](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **March 22** – **CANCELLED** – DEP [Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board](#).
- **March 24** – DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Work Group Teleconference Meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00-11:00. Contact: Charles J. Zadakis, 717-772-3944 or send email to: czadakis@state.pa.us
- **March 25** – [PennFuture Global Warming Conference](#). Coraopolis.
- **March 28** – DEP Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee of Act 220 [State Water Plan Statewide Committee](#) meeting. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **March 31** – Pennsylvania State Planning Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **March 31** – [DEP Workshop on Wetlands, Stream Impacts, Permitting for Local Officials and Developers](#) in Mercer and Venango Counties. Mercer.
- **April 3** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum – PA CleanWays update on rural dumping in Pennsylvania. Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **April 5** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on gasoline additives and their impact on the environment and fuel supplies (MTBE, ethanol). Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:00.
- **April 18-19** - [Chamber Environmental Conference and Trade Show](#). Camp Hill (near Harrisburg).
- **April 28-29** – [PA Land Conservation Conference](#). State College.
- **May 5** – Forestry Task Force meeting (Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee). Penn Stater Conference Center. State College. 10:00.
- **May 18-19** – [2006 Pennsylvania Heritage Partnerships Conference](#). Preservation PA. Franklin, Venango County.

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- **June 12** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum](#) – Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) “Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania.” Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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 Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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