

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

May 30, 2005

Need to be “Deliberate” in Crafting Growing Greener Implementing Legislation

In a [letter to the Philadelphia Inquirer](#) this week, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee chair Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) said the Governor and the General Assembly need to be ‘deliberate’ in crafting legislation to implement the \$625 million bond issue passed by voters May 17 to avoid “political mischief.”

She also said she was disappointed the paper had dismissed a Senate proposal to consider allocating some bond proceeds to counties, saying she and other Senators will “remain committed to involving counties to ensure that all who pay for the bond will also realize its benefits.”

Sen. White said there was time to work out the important details of how to spend the funds because there is no statutory time frame attached to passing the implementing legislation, noting Pennsylvania would continue to benefit from the \$88 million that is already allocated every year through June 2012 for the existing Growing Greener Program.

NewsClips: [Lake Cries for Water – Growing Greener Could Help Spending Borrowed Money May Not Be So Easy](#)
[Getting a Head Start on Growing Greener Plans](#)
[Growing Greener II What’s Next?](#)
[PA Voters Back \\$625 Growing Greener II](#)

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*Thank
a Veteran this
Memorial Day*

Budget Clock Ticking

- 13 voting days are scheduled through the June 30 budget deadline in the House
- 14 voting days in the Senate

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

On the Hill

The Senate and House return to voting session on June 6 and there are no scheduled meetings this week on environmental issues.

Innovative Philadelphia Recycling Program to Be Topic of Issues Forum

On June 13 the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) will hold its next Environmental Issues Forum on the new [RecycleBank program in Philadelphia](#) operated by the City, RecycleBank, Inc., [Blue Mountain Recycling](#) and other partners.

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The guest speaker will be Patrick Fitzgerald, the president of [RecycleBank](#), a for-profit business that has developed an innovative, incentive-based recycling pilot program with the City.

The new program introduces single stream recycling to residents as well as an incentive program that gives them dollars off grocery bills, movie rentals, sneaker purchases and other based on the amount of material they recycle each week. Incentive program sponsors include Coca-Cola, Starbucks, Rite Aid, Whole Foods and more.

New technology, pioneered by Blue Mountain Recycling, will separate the recyclables at their processing plant under their existing contract with Smurfit-Stone.

[Early returns on the program](#) are promising with monthly participation rates in the pilot area of 90 percent and 30 pounds of recyclables being collected from the average household every week. Participation rates in Philadelphia were as low as 15 percent in the past.

May Environmental Synopsis Features Safe Drinking Water Week

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) published its [May issue of Environmental Synopsis](#) this week which features information on Safe Drinking Water Week, guarding critical infrastructure, wind energy and more.

In Other News

Over 300 High School Students Participate in PA Envirothon Competition



More than 300 high school students from 64 counties took part in Pennsylvania's 22nd Annual State Envirothon this week held at Bloomsburg University and the [PPL Montour Preserve](#).

Participating teams represent the best and the brightest of the thousands of high school teens who competed in local Envirothons sponsored by county conservation districts across the state.

The champions of the 2005 State Envirothon are from Penncrest High School in Delaware County. Team members include: Joe Walker, Aimee Davis, Michelle Henry, Emily Moberg, and Vic Janmey. Team advisors are: Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz.

Second place was captured by the team from Blue Mountain High School in Schuylkill County. Teams finishing out the top five were North East High School, in Erie County; Future Hope Homelearners in Snyder County; and Center Area High School, Beaver County.

For the first time ever, the PA Envirothon awarded scholarships to the first, second, and third place teams. The scholarships were sponsored by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission.

DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Dennis Wolff, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, presented the awards to the top teams.

The Envirothon is designed to give students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate knowledge of environmental resources and their connection to each other

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and human activities. The students are challenged in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil, land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. The 2005 current environmental issue was managing cultural landscapes.

At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's sixty-six conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. The program is managed by a board of directors representing those sponsors. Technical expertise is provided by the following agency partners: Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Financial sponsors of the 2005 Envirothon are Air Products and Chemicals, PPL Corporation, PA Outdoor Writers Association, Nestle Water North America, the PA Growing Greener Program.

The 2005 Pennsylvania Envirothon champions will represent the Commonwealth at the 18th Canon Envirothon North American competition planned for mid-July at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.

Pennsylvania won the national event in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001 and 2003. More than 40 states and nine Canadian provinces have Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

For the fourth year, an oral component event was held on the Monday before the testing event. The oral component consists of a team presentation to a panel of judges taking part in a question/answer session based on the current issue theme. A timed event, the competition tests a team's ability to consider an environmental issue, discuss its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, and then make a presentation before a group of judges and answer their questions.

This year's oral component scenario was based on how to manage cultural landscapes. Participation was voluntary and was not included in the overall competition score.

The top five teams in the oral component: First Place – Westmoreland County; Second Place – Warren County; Third Place – Lawrence County; Fourth Place – Delaware County; and Fifth Place – Northampton County.

For more information contact your local conservation district, visit the [PA Envirothon webpage](#), call 814-623-7900 ext. 111 or send email to: paenvirothon@pennswoods.net.

NewsClips: [Snyder County Homeschooled Students Place 4th in Envirothon](#)
[Delaware County Team Wins 2005 PA Envirothon](#)

Energy Standards Offer Environmental, Economic Benefits Conference Told

Over 285 people crowded into the “Spinning Green Energy into Gold” conference this week in Mechanicsburg and heard speakers describe the potential environmental and economic benefits of Pennsylvania's new [Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards](#).

The standards, adopted last year, require 18 percent of the electricity sold in Pennsylvania to come from renewable or environmentally beneficial sources by 2020.

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“This conference is unabashedly about some of you getting rich,” said John Hanger, President and CEO of PennFuture, organizer of the conference. “This is about turning opportunities into profits. This statute creates the demand for renewables, now the supply will follow.”

Saying Pennsylvania has done “real work, made real progress and put real things on the ground” to back up its commitment to make Pennsylvania a leader in renewable energy generation, DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty said, “The deal is not done. We have to keep our eye on the ball and cannot be distracted by (energy) prices going up and down.”

McGinty pointed to Brazil as an example of a country that focused on a goal she said the United States should have—to be independent of foreign oil.

In the 1970’s the United States imported 25 percent of its oil needs and Brazil imported 85 percent. Now, McGinty said, the U.S. imports 60 percent of the oil we use and Brazil imports none. It is now totally independent.

PPL Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer William F. Hecht provided the other keynote address for the conference.

“Pennsylvania is clearly at the forefront of efforts to ensure an electricity supply that not only encourages economic development and jobs, but also leads to a cleaner environment,” said Hecht.

Hecht said Pennsylvania’s deregulated electricity market was a key development in promoting a restructuring of the state’s electric industry.

“The Public Utility Commission estimates Pennsylvanians have saved more than \$5 billion as the result of electricity deregulation,” said Hecht. “Pennsylvania’s next generation of power plants will be built with investors, rather than ratepayers, taking the risks.”

Key to the success of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, Hecht said, was allowing electric companies to acquire renewable generation supply from a variety of sources through a renewable energy credit system, just like the “cap and trade” system has worked to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions at the lowest possible cost.

The [Public Utility Commission](#) is now going through the process of developing regulations to implement the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act and dealing with issues like setting up the credit system, providing for interconnections and net-metering.

The credit system, easy interconnections and net-metering requirements are critical to the success of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act because they allow companies or almost anyone who meets the requirements to become a renewable electricity generator that can be used by a utility to meet the Portfolio Standards, according to Todd Foley, [BP Solar](#).

The Department of Environmental Protection is charged with developing guidelines for what constitutes [qualifying renewable energy generation](#) or generation with net environmental benefits. DEP said it will have a revised version of these guidelines out within a few weeks for public comment. (*Watch the [Energy and Technology Development webpage](#) for more information.*)

It is estimated that from 3,600 to 4,000 megawatts of renewable electric generating capacity will need to be constructed in Pennsylvania to meet the requirements of the Energy Portfolio Standard by 2020. ([PaED 11/21/04](#))

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Two types of energy sources are specified in the law.

Eight percent must be Tier I energy sources: solar photovoltaic energy, wind power, low-impact hydropower, geothermal energy, biologically derived methane gas, fuel cells, biomass energy and coal mine methane. There is a specific requirement that photovoltaic make up 0.5 percent of the portfolio.

Ten percent of electric portfolios must be from Tier II energy sources: waste coal, distributed generation systems, demand-side management, large-scale hydropower, municipal solid waste, generation of electricity by utilizing by-products of the pulping process and wood manufacturing process, including bark, wood chips, sawdust and lignin in spent pulping liquors, and integrated combined coal gasification technology.

Based on projects already built and announced, the Tier II standard has already been largely met, so most of the attention in the future will be focused on the development of Tier I energy sources.

Speakers at the conference estimated about \$10 billion in new investment will have to be made to meet the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards requirements.

A number of speakers from DEP and other groups noted the Commonwealth was working hard to maximize the benefits of that \$10 billion investment by attracting renewable energy equipment manufacturers and engineering services to Pennsylvania, like the Spanish windmill maker Gamesa. ([PaED 9/24/04](#))

“America desperately needs an energy policy that addresses the need for new power plants, boosts the reliability of the nation’s transmission system, and provides a market-based framework for the development of environmentally-friendly power supplies,” said Hecht concluding his remarks.

Hecht said he hopes Pennsylvania’s actions will lead the way.

NewsClip: [McGinty Talks About Opportunities and Challenges in Energy](#)

Rising Gasoline Prices Triggering Behavior Change According to Poll

A poll released this week by IssuesPA found [71 percent of those asked](#) said higher gas prices are causing a hardship. The surprise was they reported [changing their behavior](#) in response--

- 72 percent were shopping around for the best price
- 59 percent were cutting back on driving
- 57 percent thought seriously about getting a car with better gas mileage
- 54 percent were cutting back other spending
- 24 percent started car pooling or sharing a ride
- 11 percent said they started using mass transit more often

For more information visit the [IssuesPA poll](#).

Exelon Joins the Pew Center on Global Climate Change

[Exelon Corporation](#) announced this week it has joined the [Pew Center on Global Climate Change](#) as a member of the organization's Business Environmental Leadership Council.

The BELC was established by the Pew Center in 1998 and is comprised of mainly Fortune 500 companies representing a diverse group of industries. The members share

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the belief that enough is known about the science of climate change to begin taking reasonable steps now to protect the climate.

The Pew Center on Global Climate Change recently assisted Exelon in developing its goal, strategy and program for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by eight percent from 2001 levels by the end of 2008 as part of the company's participation in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Climate Leaders Program](#).

Exelon's actions on climate change are consistent with its overall environmental strategy. Exelon's environmental priorities include increasing renewable energy supplies, promoting efficient use of electricity and natural gas, contributing to the development of a sound national policy addressing climate change, and preserving the option for low carbon intensity technologies, including nuclear, for the future.

BELC members represent a variety of industries including energy, automobiles, manufacturing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, metals, mining, paper and forest products, consumer goods and appliances, telecommunications, and high technology. Individually and collectively, these companies are demonstrating that it is possible to take action to address climate change while maintaining competitive excellence, growth and profitability. The companies together generate annual revenues in excess of \$600 billion and employ more than 1.7 million people.

The other members of the BELC are: ABB; **Air Products and Chemicals**; Alcoa; American Electric Power; Baxter International; **Boeing**; **BP**; California Portland Cement Co.; **CH2M HILL**; Cinergy Corp.; Cummins Inc.; Deutsche Telekom; DTE Energy; DuPont; Entergy; Georgia-Pacific; Hewlett-Packard Company; Holcim; IBM; Intel; Interface Inc.; John Hancock Financial Services; Lockheed Martin; Maytag; Novartis; Ontario Power Generation; PG&E Corporation; Rio Tinto; **Rohm and Haas**; Royal Dutch/Shell; SC Johnson; **Sunoco**; Toyota; TransAlta; United Technologies; Weyerhaeuser; Whirlpool; and Wisconsin Energy Corporation.

Exelon Corporation is one of the nation's largest electric utilities with approximately 5.2 million customers and more than \$14 billion in annual revenues. The company has one of the industry's largest portfolios of electricity generation capacity, with a nationwide reach and strong positions in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic.

Financing Will Revitalize Four Business Sites Around the State

The Commonwealth Financing Agency this week gave its approval to 10 construction grants and loans totaling over \$56 million to develop sites under the Business in Our Sites Program. Four of those projects involve the cleanup and redevelopment of environmentally challenged sites.

Chester County: The Coatesville Redevelopment Authority will receive up to \$4.5 million in grants and loans to develop a 46-acre site at the intersection of Routes 82 and 30 in Coatesville. The Oliver Tyrone Pulver Corporation plans to develop a 125-room full-service hotel with a restaurant and office space. BOS funds will be used for site preparation, environmental cleanup and infrastructure improvements. The \$35 million project is expected to create 330 jobs.

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Clarion County: The Clarion County Economic Development Corporation will receive \$800,000 in grants and loans to assist in the development of the Beaver Township Industrial Park. The site, a former strip mine, will contain five lots ranging from eight to 24 acres that will be marketed for light industrial and manufacturing companies. The project will create 250 jobs. The site is located in a designated Keystone Opportunity Zone.

Luzerne County: The Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce will receive \$10 million in grants and loans for development of Phase 1 of the CenterPoint Commerce and Trade Park East in Jenkins Township. BOS funds will be used for site preparation, construction of a new access road, curbing, sidewalks, storm sewers and demolition. Mericle Development of Wilkes-Barre has committed to constructing two buildings within the first year of the project. Located near the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre International Airport, the site consists of 377 acres of abandoned mine space adjacent to Armstrong Road and Route 315. Phase 1 consists of the development of 244 acres of industrial and commercial space. The project is expected to create 2,422 jobs.

Luzerne County: The [Earth Conservancy](#) will receive \$2.47 million in grant and loan funds to assist in the redevelopment of Huber III, an 82-acre site in Hanover Township, located off Exit 1 on Route 29. The project will create a 50-acre pad-ready site that will be marketed for industrial and commercial use. BOS funds will be used for excavation, erosion and sedimentation control and installation of storm water drainage facilities. The project is expected to create 250 jobs. The site is in a designated Keystone Opportunity Zone.

For more information, visit the [Site Revitalization webpage](#) of the Department of Community and Economic Development.

EPA Region 3 Launches Land Revitalization Newsletter

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 launched a new quarterly newsletter, the "[Land Revitalization Update](#)."

The purpose of the newsletter is to distribute news, success stories, tools, policies, financial and technical assistance and information concerning upcoming events throughout the mid-Atlantic region to promote the cleanup and sustainable reuse of contaminated sites.

The Land Revitalization Update is a service of [Region 3's Land Revitalization Program](#).

Aluminum Beverage Can Recycling Rate Rising for First Time Since 1997

For the first time since 1997, aluminum can recycling increased in 2004, according to The Aluminum Association, Can Manufacturers Institute and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

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Over 51.5 billion aluminum cans weighing over 1.51 billion pounds were recycled in 2004, for a beverage can recycling rate of 51.2 percent. This reflects a 1.2 percent increase over the 2003 rate.

The aluminum beverage can is the most recycled consumer beverage container in the United States. It amounts to more than twice the recycling rate for beverage packages of other materials.

For complete statistics on the latest recycling rates visit the [full Aluminum Beverage Can Recycling Rate report](#).

EPA Solicits Review of Compliance Assistance/Pollution Prevention Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is soliciting input on how well its [Compliance Assistance Centers](#) are serving the needs of the people and organizations EPA regulates.

Compliance Assistance Centers are partnerships with industry, academic institutions, environmental groups, and other agencies that help businesses, local governments and federal agencies understand federal environmental requirements and save money through pollution prevention techniques.

Through websites, telephone assistance lines, fax-back systems, and e-mail discussion groups, the centers help address real-world issues.

Once a year, the centers survey their users and first-time visitors on how well they are meeting their goals. The results of the surveys help the centers provide resources for environmental compliance.

[Visit the survey webpage](#) to take the three minute survey and visit [EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers webpage](#) for more information on their services.

Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Designated in Chester and Delaware Counties

The Department of Transportation this week designated parts of Creek Road and Routes 52 and 162 in Chester and Delaware counties as the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway.

Pennsylvania's scenic byway designation covers 25 miles of roads that pass a number of attractions, including the Brandywine Battlefield State Park, Brandywine River Museum and Longwood Gardens. Pennsylvania's designation joins with a similar designation by the State of Delaware on its sections of Routes 52 and 100.

The [Pennsylvania Byways Program](#), managed by the Department of Transportation, allows designated routes to qualify for federal funds to pay for such improvements as paved shoulders, interpretative signs and scenic plantings.

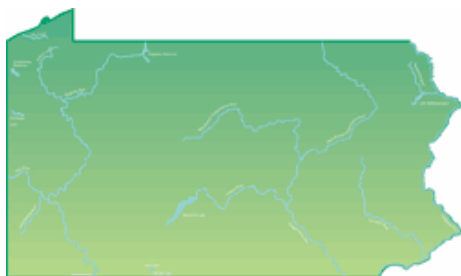
Pennsylvania now has 11 scenic byways--

- Route 3011, which connects Route 6 with Kinzua Bridge in McKean County (2001);
- Interstate 476, the Blue Route, in Delaware County (1993);
- Route 30, Exton Bypass, Chester County (1993);
- Routes 711 and 381, the Laurel Highlands Scenic Byway, Westmoreland and Fayette counties (1996);
- Route 40, the National Road, Washington, Fayette and Somerset counties (1996);
- Route 144, Sproul State Forest, Clinton and Centre counties (2002);

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- Route 5 and Alternate Route 5, the Bayfront Parkway and Peninsula Drive (the Seaway Trail) in Erie County (2003);
- Grandview Avenue, McArdle Roadway and Sycamore Streets in Pittsburgh (2003);
- The Governor Robert P. Casey Highway, Lackawanna County (2004); and
- Route 120 in Clinton and Elk counties (2004).

WREN Awards 26 Community-Based Water Resources Education Grants



The [Water Resources Education Network](#) (WREN) Project, a program of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund, has announced the award of more than \$106,000 in funding to community partnerships across the state.

Projects will carry out water resources education projects in the coming year. Funding comes from the Department of Environmental

Protection for activities that will either address nonpoint source pollution issues on a watershed basis or help protect sources of drinking water.

The successful grantees of the 2005-2006 WREN grant program are:

Drinking Water Source Water Protection Projects

- **Ashland Area Municipal Authority, Schuylkill County:** \$1,600 to erect spill response signs along two major highways Route 61 and Interstate 81-that pass through the watershed and distribute a brochure and newsletter about actions system users can take to protect the community's source water. Steve Ulceski, 570-875-2411, ashland@sunlink.net
- **Claysville Donegal Joint Municipal Authority, Washington County:** \$2,950 to introduce source water protection education to area elementary students using a Talking About PA TAP-Water Kit and coloring books and to produce and distribute brochures to residents served by the Authority Peggy Hickman, 724-663-7770, cdjma@cobweb.net
- **Dillsburg Area Authority, York County:** \$2,500 to design brochures about the importance of protecting the high quality groundwater which is used by the Authority for the community water system Sheldon K. Williams, 717-502-0431, skwdaa@adelphia.net
- **East Greenville Borough Water Authority, Montgomery, Lehigh, Berks Counties:** \$4,000 to introduce source water protection education to area elementary students using a Talking About PA TAP-Water Kit, curriculum guides and a poster contest. The partnership will also produce a display board and brochure highlighting the authority's existing SWP efforts and ways the community can get involved with future efforts. Jim Fry, 215-679-5194, egb@netcarrier.com
- **[Land Conservancy of Adams County, Inc.](#), Adams, Franklin, Cumberland Counties:** \$4,250 to design and produce bill inserts, bookmarks, restaurant placemats, and a display to raise awareness of the importance of preventing contamination of the 7 groundwater wells and one surface water intake which comprise the Gettysburg

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Municipal Authority's public drinking water supply. The partnership will also install signs identifying the locations of the source water areas. Sidney E. Kuhn, 717-334-2828, skuhn@adamscounty.us

- **Meadville Area Water Authority, Crawford County:** \$4,215 to develop a coloring book about good source water protection practices in the home, develop an on-site tour of the water treatment plant, including the use of educational models, produce a brochure identifying the source water protection area and provide educational materials to the public library and schools about SWP. Yvonne Shaffer, 814-724-6057, yshaffer@amwater.com
- **Octoraro Watershed Association, Lancaster, Chester and Cecil, MD County:** \$5,000 to design, print and distribute a calendar which will provide information about agricultural best management practices which will prevent contamination of the source waters which provide the Chester Water Authority's drinking water supply Patrick Fasano, 717-529-2132, owa1@epix.net
- **Pennsylvania Rural Water Education Foundation**, Statewide: \$5,000 to develop a Source Water Protection Activity workbook aimed at elementary to middle school age children covering both surface and groundwater. Once created, the Activity Workbook will be placed on CD_ROM and made available to surrounding communities embarking on SWP plan development. Don Muir, 814-353-9302, dmuir@prwa.com
- **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Montgomery, Bucks, Berks, Lehigh Counties:** \$5,000 to hold Source Water Protection workshops emphasizing the source of local water supplies, challenges of maintaining a high quality supply, and the ways contaminants can be prevented from entering the water supply. Workshops will demonstrate ways citizens can protect their drinking water sources. Crystal Gilchrist, 610-287-9383, cgilchrist@perkiomenwatershed.org
- **Roamingwood Sewer & Water Association, Wayne County:** \$5,000 to hold teacher and volunteer workshops, purchase groundwater simulators and EnviroScape models for the Association's speaker program, and produce large posters explaining the interaction between the water cycle and land use activities. The partnership will also distribute handouts and reference material to students and hold Triple E Award ceremony for teachers and students recognizing their efforts to educate about SWP. Kevin Dunn, 570-698-4034, ownkvn@aol.com
- **Stream Restoration Inc., Multiple Western PA & Northern WV-Counties:** \$5,000 to arrange for presentations, watershed related posters and displays, guided narration, and networking during the Ohio River Watershed Celebration River Cruise to educate the community about the importance of protecting Pittsburgh's and the 10 county surrounding region's source water Margaret Dunn, 724-776-0161, sri@streamrestorationinc.org
- **Union City Municipal Authority, Erie County:** \$2,525 to design brochures, purchase models and establish an on-going water quality monitoring program in the area school to persuade students and parents to adopt behaviors that will prevent contamination of the community's water supply Marsha Manager, 814-438-3611, drbrumagin@aol.com
- **Upper Dublin Environmental Protection Agency Board, Montgomery County:** \$2,960 to purchase a groundwater simulator for classroom instruction and hold a

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pamphlet design contest for senior high school students. The partnership will select and distribute throughout the community the three pamphlets which best describe the actions homeowners and businesses can take to protect the community's sources of drinking water. Stanley Ropski, 215-643-8212, sjropski@aol.com

- **Washington Twp. Supervisors, Westmoreland County:** \$5,000 to continue to produce newsletters, posters, brochures, and presentations for citizens of the Beaver Run Reservoir emphasizing the need to eliminate discharge points that lead to pollution of sources of the community's drinking water supply John Turack, 724-727-3515, jturack@washingtontownship.com

Watershed Protection Projects

- **Bedford County Conservation District:** \$4,705 to use newsletters, resources from the Master Well Owner Network, watershed and groundwater models, and table top displays to illustrate to citizens of the Six Mile Run and Bloody Run watersheds the negative impacts of nonpoint source pollution such as abandoned mine drainage and failing septic systems. Through a watershed festival and storm drain stenciling, the partnership will educate property owners about actions they can take to protect their water resources. Guy Stottlemeyer, 814-623-8099, gmstottlemeyer@earthlink.net
- **Borough of Media, Delaware County:** \$4,000 to create and distribute customized educational packets aimed at homeowners, local officials, developers, realtors, and nurseries and how each can reduce nonpoint source pollution in Ridley Creek using tree and plant management techniques to control the amount and quality of stormwater runoff Jeffrey Smith, 610-566-5210, jasmith@dca.net
- **Bradford County Conservation District:** \$3,500 to hold workshops and provide incentives to encourage homeowners to adopt proper on-lot septic system management practices which will result in decreased nonpoint source pollution in the Susquehanna River of the Chesapeake Bay watershed Mike Lovegreen, 570-265-5539, mike.lovegreen@pa.nacdnet.net
- **Bucktail Watershed Association, Cameron County:** \$4,160 to design and distribute newspaper inserts, brochures, placemats and public service announcements focused on reducing nonpoint source pollution in the Sinnemahoning Creek with proper management of the forested areas and control of sedimentation from roads located in the First Fork and the Driftwood Branch of the creek Ken Straub, 814-486-0387, ken.straub@ntcac.org
- **Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, Union, Centre Counties:** \$4,500 to upgrade their website, produce and distribute newsletters, hold public events for residents of the watershed, and encourage creek property owners to plant riparian buffers so that nonpoint source pollution in the Buffalo Creek from erosion, agriculture and stormwater runoff can be reduced Allan Grundstrom, 570-524-0966, algrund@bucknell.edu
- **Dublin Township Supervisors, Fulton County, Fulton County:** \$4,000 to assemble and distribute informational materials and provide a workshop and economic incentive to encourage homeowners to adopt proper on-lot septic system management practices which will result in decreased nonpoint source pollution in the Aughwick Creek Scott Alexander, 717-485-3547, scott_fccd@pa.net

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- **French Creek Project PA Environmental Council, Erie, Crawford, Mercer & Venango Counties:** \$4,871 to hold a “Better Stormwater Management Through Site Design” Workshop based on PA Dept of Environmental Protection’s Stormwater Manual. The workshop, aimed especially at municipal officials, will use a Stormwater BMP demonstration site developed by the partnership. Armed with resources to adequately review and critique proposed land development projects within the watershed, nonpoint source pollution from stormwater within the French Creek watershed can be reduced. Mark Gorman, 814-332-2946, mgorman@pecpa.org
- **Huntingdon County Conservation District, Huntingdon & Centre Counties:** \$1,395 to produce bookcovers for area school students in and surrounding the Spruce Creek watershed and hold a workshop designed to equip municipal officials with tools, including ordinance changes, to deal with nonpoint source pollution resulting from land development, agricultural enterprises and in-stream flow reductions from groundwater withdrawal from the high quality trout stream Andy Patterson, 814-627-1627, hccd@papower.net
- **Lehigh County Conservation District, Lehigh County:** \$5,000 to organize the many recommendations from completed watershed assessments, community audits, comprehensive plans, and ordinance reviews into a format for use by decision makers in efforts to create public policies that will reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Leibert Creek Watershed Rebecca Hayden, 610-391-9583, rhayden@lehighconservation.org
- **Pocono Environmental Education Center, Pike County:** \$4,500 to erect signage at the Center illustrating how the use of best management practices to control stormwater will reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Delaware River. The partnership will also hold a workshop aimed at best management practices for stormwater management. Erich Schramm, 570-828-2319, eschramm@peec.org
- **Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation & Development Council, 10 Counties in Northeast PA:** \$5,000 to publish and distribute a stormwater management handbook, develop a website, and host workshops focusing on best management practices aimed at local officials whose efforts include reducing nonpoint source pollution in streams and rivers located in the 10 county region Irvil Kear, 570-282-8732, icpmik@infionline.net
- **Venango Conservation District:** \$4,500 to hold stormdrain stenciling events and distribute doorhangers to show homeowners and the business community how adopting new behaviors can reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering the Oil Creek and the Allegheny River Lance A. Bowes, 814-676-2832, lbowes@sonline.net

For more information, contact Sherene Hess, [WREN](#) Project Director, 724-465 4978 or send email to: sherenehess@yourinter.net

Proposals Sought for \$4 Million in Wetlands Conservation Funds

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is making available \$4 million in financial assistance for the [Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program](#) for proposals that restore and protect habitat for migratory birds and other wetland dependent wildlife.

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Proposals are due June 30.

WREP is available to individuals, nongovernmental organizations and state, tribal and local governmental agencies. Funds will be awarded through a nationwide competition.

The NRCS has issued a [request for proposals](#) for fiscal year 2005. NRCS will focus on WREP proposals that address wetland creation and enhancement efforts on prior-year enrolled contracts, those where partners will contribute significantly to Wetlands Reserve Program delivery and technical assistance costs, and easement management projects.

NRCS estimates these funds, along with contributions from partners, may result in wetland restoration, creation, enhancement and easement management on approximately 5,000 acres.

For more information visit the [Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program webpage](#).

(courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

Cong. Peterson Introduces AML Fund Reauthorization Legislation

This week [Congressman John Peterson](#) (R-PA) introduced [House Resolution 2721](#) in Congress that would reauthorize the fee funding the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

In April, through the efforts of Peterson and Pennsylvania's two U.S. Senators Specter and Santorum, Congress extended the fee funding the AMR Fund through September 30 of this year, after an earlier temporary extension. (*PaED 4/8/05*)

HR 2721 is cosponsored by several members of Pennsylvania's House Delegation in Congress including— Representatives English, Gerlach, Hart, Kanjorski, Schwartz, Shuster, Holden, Platts and Sherwood—who have been working together to push reauthorization.

A quick [summary of HR 2721](#) is available online. For more background on the issue, visit [The AML Campaign website](#).

(courtesy [Bruce Golden, WPCAMR](#))

Workshops on Integrated Watershed Planning, TMDLs Set for June

Three upcoming workshops will focus on integrated watershed planning and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality planning process.

Watershed Planning: On June 25 the [Water Environment Federation](#) will host a "Strategies for Implementation Using Integrated Watershed Planning" workshop in Philadelphia for groups that received U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 319 water quality grants.

The WEF and EPA are developing a new training program for those involved in the design, review, and implementation of watershed-based plans in support of activities funded under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

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For more information contact WEF's Greg McNelly at gmcnelly@wef.org. Limited travel assistance is available to state and local officials, watershed groups, and grant recipients.

TMDL Conference: The Water Environment Federation is also sponsoring a [TMDL conference in Philadelphia](#) on June 26-29 along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements of the Clean Water Act play a pivotal role in how and if the United States meets its clean water goals. Recognizing its importance and the continually evolving nature of the TMDL program, WEF, in cooperation with the [Pennsylvania Water Environment Association](#), is sponsoring TMDL 2005.

Chesapeake Bay TMDL Workshops: The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) is sponsoring a workshop on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements in Adams and Lancaster counties with two tracks-- one for agricultural interests and one for municipalities.

The workshops will be held June 27 in Adams County and June 29 in Lancaster County, both at the conservation district offices.

Learn about TMDLs, their impact and their ties to funding for conservation and restoration

The intended audience is conservation professionals, municipal officials, engineers, agricultural landowners and other interests concerned with water quality and streams.

Call Trudy Uffelman at 717-234-5550 by June 21 to register.

Checkout other workshop and conference opportunities in [EPA's Watershed News](#) and [go to the PA Environment Digest Calendar page](#)

Southwest River Sweep Volunteers Needed for June 18

Volunteers are needed for the [16th Annual River Sweep](#), the largest organized volunteer river cleanup effort in the country, set to take place from 8 a.m. to noon June 18 in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

River Sweep, an annual six-state effort to clean up litter and debris in the Ohio River watershed, is sponsored by DEP, the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission and a number of Pennsylvania corporate sponsors. The event winds through Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and Illinois, covering more than 2,400 miles of shoreline.

Last year, more than 1,000 volunteers collected trash and debris along the Ohio, Allegheny, Beaver, Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers and their tributaries. Volunteers who participate receive trash bags and a souvenir T-shirt. Refreshments are provided at River Sweep sites.

For more information visit the [River Sweep webpage](#) or contact Betsy Mallison at 412-442-4182 or send e-mail to epsriversweep@state.pa.us.

Ohio River Watershed Cruise Set for July 27, Register Now!

Explore Pittsburgh's Three Rivers aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet's beautiful vessel The Majestic! on the 4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Cruise July 27.

This fun and education riverboat cruise will celebrate many aspects of Pittsburgh's rivers. Come enjoy expert guided narration of river sites and landmarks, educational poster displays, networking with environmental professionals, and more. Featured topics will include river history, aquatic life, energy leadership, river recovery, and river resources.

[Last year's cruise](#) attracted over 600 people for a four hour boat tour of the Ohio River below the Point in Pittsburgh.

Pre-cruise activities for this free event will begin at 11:00 a.m. and participants will sail the Three Rivers from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit the [Ohio River Watershed Cruise registration webpage](#) for more information.

National Geographic Highlights Chesapeake Bay

The [June 2005 National Geographic](#) features two Chesapeake Bay-related articles -- one discussing Bay health and restoration and the other highlighting the 1608 voyage of Captain John Smith.

Chesapeake Bay Program Office staff provided significant scientific, GIS mapping and communications support for the article. National Geographic has also launched a companion [Chesapeake Bay web page](#).

DRBC Establishes New Rule to Reduce PCB Levels in the Delaware River

The Delaware River Basin Commission this week unanimously adopted a rule to establish [pollutant minimization plan requirements](#) for point and non-point discharges of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Delaware Estuary. It also set a goal of reducing PCB loadings by 50 percent in five years.

In December 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established Stage 1 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for PCBs in the tidal Delaware River between Trenton, N.J. and the Delaware Bay under a court-mandated deadline based on several years of technical work conducted by the DRBC. A TMDL sets the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive without violating applicable water quality standards and allocates that amount among sources in the watershed -- both point (end-of-pipe) and non-point (runoff). Dischargers must reduce loads to the allocated levels in order to achieve and maintain the standards.

Under the rule adopted this week, dischargers will identify known and potential sources of PCBs, identify procedures for tracking down unknown sources of the pollutant, and identify and implement strategies for minimizing or preventing releases from all identified sources. Dischargers will measure and periodically report progress made in reducing loadings. Initially, 60 point source dischargers will be required to develop and implement PMPs and to monitor their PCB discharges.

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In light of the importance of contributions of PCB pollution from non-point sources, the rule allows the commission to require PMPs for contaminated sites where releases from the sites are not being addressed entirely through other state or federal regulatory programs.

The commissioners provided that a peer review advisory committee will be established to evaluate the PMPs and advise regulators on their anticipated effectiveness. The committee also will provide advice on additional measures that may be practicable.

PCBs, which have been classified by EPA as a probable human carcinogen, are present in the waters of the Delaware Estuary at concentrations 1,000 times higher than the water quality criteria. The U.S. banned the manufacture and general use of PCBs in the late 1970s, but not before 1.5 billion pounds of the substance was produced. PCBs were used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators.

For more information, visit the DRBC's [pollutant minimization plan resolution](#).

Free Time? Try Free Fishing from the Fish & Boat Commission

Have a little free time on your hands? Grab a friend or family member and try some free fishing. Thanks to the Fish and Boat Commission the only thing you'll have to spend is some quality time together.

The PFBC has designated May 28, and June 5, as Fish For Free Days in the Commonwealth. Fish For Free Days allow anyone - not just license holders or youth under the age of 16 - to legally fish in Pennsylvania. From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on both days, no fishing license is needed to fish in Pennsylvania's waterways.

Fish For Free Days provide an opportunity for active anglers to introduce a friend or relative to the lifelong sport of fishing. Best of all, it's a good time and a fun way to spend a day with the entire family.

The May 28 Fish For Free Day was specifically designated to coincide with the Memorial Day weekend, a traditional time for families to gather, and the unofficial start of many outdoor recreational activities in the state. The June 5 date is part of the observation of National Fishing and Boating Week, June 4-12.

To make it even easier to get started – or restarted – in fishing, the PFBC has scheduled a number of fishing skills throughout the spring and summer. To find an event near you, visit the [PFBC's "Start SMART" webpage](#).

Lancaster Farmland Trust Holds Annual Pedal to Preserve Bike Ride in June



**Ride Because
She Can't**

On June 18 the Lancaster Farmland Trust will hold its annual Pedal to Preserve bike ride to support farmland preservation efforts in Lancaster County.

Join hundreds of riders of all ages for the opportunity to tour the beautiful Lancaster County countryside on bike rides on rides from six to 51 miles and support farmland preservation at the same time.

For more information visit the [Pedal to Preserve webpage](#) of the Lancaster Farmland Trust.

PANA and DCNR Team Up to Create Keystone Active Zones

[Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity](#) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources teamed up this week to launch [Keystone Active Zones](#), a new program designed to help counties promote physical activity for their residents at parks and trails close to home.

The campaign is designed to provide an opportunity to develop community partnerships between recreation, education, health advocates and other non-profit partners and build support for local parks and trails. KAZs feature a web-based inventory to help residents find information about activities at nearby parks and trails, county maps and a passport incentive program to encourage their use.

KAZ partners in addition to DCNR and PANA are the state Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society.

The program will allow users to go to a special [Keystone Active Zones website](#), select their county and search for local parks and trails by activities and amenities. Information will include directions, hours of operation and events.

All counties throughout Pennsylvania are being encouraged to implement the program. DCNR is providing a \$50,000 grant to PANA to help support expansion of the program statewide.

To provide start-up guidance, PANA and PRPS will provide a free “How To” training session on implementing and participating in the KAZ campaign.

A local implementation guide will also be available with recommendations on working with the media, developing partnerships, programming ideas and implementing the passport program.

For more information, go to the [PANA website](#) or the [Keystone Active Zones website](#).

Restore Habitat through Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s [Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program](#) provides financial assistance on a competitive basis to landowners interested in restoring wildlife habitat. There is no specific deadline to apply.

Financial assistance is provided in the form of cooperative agreements. Any privately-owned land is potentially eligible for restoration. Most of the applicants are individual landowners. Tribes, schools, local governments, businesses and organizations are examples of eligible applicants.

It is a goal of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to secure at least 50 percent of project costs, including cash and in-kind services, from non-Service sources. This goal applies to the program as a whole, and does not have to be achieved on a project-by-project basis.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program supports on-the-ground restoration. It does not fund planning and research.

For more information contact David Putnam, USFWS, 814-234-4090 x236 or send email to David.Putnam@fws.gov.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Wal-Mart: Acres for America

[Acres for America](#) is now accepting applications to provide funding for projects that conserve important habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants through acquisition of interests in real property.

Pre-proposals are due September 17.

Acres for American is a partnership between Wal-Mart Stores and the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) designed to offset the footprint of Wal-Mart's domestic facilities on at least an acre by acre basis through these acquisitions.

Acquisitions that contribute to "landscape level" conservation efforts that help reduce fragmentation are preferred over isolated acquisitions. All grant awards require a minimum 1:1 match of cash or contributed goods and services.

Application guidelines are available on the [Acres for America webpage](#).
(courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

Game Commission to Provide Wildlife Workshops for Teachers

With summer recess for schools just around the corner, the Pennsylvania Game Commission is announced three Project WILD workshops for educators and Scout and youth group leaders this summer in the Harrisburg area.

The series, titled "Wild About Endangered Species," is being sponsored by the Game Commission and the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation, and will be held at the Wildwood Lake Sanctuary off Industrial Road, Harrisburg, just north of Harrisburg Area Community College.

Theresa Alberici, Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Education specialist, and Jane Webster, Dauphin County Recreation and Parks, facilitate the workshops and introduce educators to a variety of hands-on educational activities designed for youth. All workshops are approved for Act 48 hours for educators.

June 8-Wild About the Great Egret: "WILD About the Great Egret" will be held from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. The great egret is a large white wading bird that nests in colonies called rookeries. A short distance from the [Wildwood Lake Sanctuary](#), Wade Island is near the Interstate-81 bridge over the Susquehanna River, and is one of two known nesting sites of this majestic white bird in our state. It also is the largest nesting site with almost 100 nesting pairs inhabiting this small island.

During the workshop, participants will canoe down the Susquehanna River to get a closer view of the birds and their nests. Participants also will receive background information and activities for use with their students. In case of rain or high water, this event will be moved to Wednesday, June 15.

Registration June 3, and the cost is \$10 per person. The fee includes educational materials and the use of canoes, paddles and life jackets.

July 6-WILD About Endangered and Threatened Species: "WILD About Endangered and Threatened Species" will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. This hands-on session will address the Environmental and Ecology Standard for threatened, endangered and extinct species through indoor and outdoor activities.

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The workshop will explore the concepts and issues surrounding such species, investigate "how" and "why" species become endangered or threatened, examine laws affecting these species and explore methods biologists are using to bring these species to recovery from reintroduction programs conducted by the Game Commission and other conservation partners. Participants will use a variety of materials and resources and receive threatened and endangered species background information and activity booklets and other resource materials to use with their students.

Registration ends July 1, and costs \$20 per person. The fee includes educational materials and lunch.

July 7-WILD About the American Lotus: "WILD About the American Lotus" will be held from 9 a.m. until noon. Wildwood Lake is home to the American Lotus, and endangered flower that blankets the lake with its beautiful blooms. Participants will embark on a canoeing adventure to explore the lake and these plants.

Registration ends July 1, and costs \$10 per person. The fee includes educational materials and the use of canoes, paddles and life jackets.

Registration for these workshops is limited, so interested educators and teachers are encouraged to register as soon as possible. To register, contact Jane Webster at 717-221-0292. Checks should be made payable to: Dauphin County Parks and Recreation.

Applications Now Available for Elk Hunting License Drawing

The Game Commission is now accepting applications from those interested in entering the public drawing for one of 40 elk hunting licenses (10 antlered and 30 antlerless) to be made available for this fall's season and 10 elk licenses (two either-sex and eight antlerless) for the September 2006 hunt.

The public drawing is scheduled for September 24. The exact time and location will be announced later this year. The elk seasons are set for November 7-12 and September 18-23, 2006.

To better serve its customers, the Game Commission has enabled hunters to complete and submit applications on-line through the agency's [2005 Elk Hunt webpage](#).

Online Video: Watch [Preserving our Natural Environment](#) to learn more about Pennsylvania's Elk herd.

Awards Feature

Ann Meyers Recognized with R. Emmet Doherty Clean Air Award



Ann L. Meyers

This week the family of the late Ann L. Meyers received the 35th annual R. Emmet Doherty Clean Air Award in recognition for the outstanding work she did to educate the public about ozone pollution at a [Lehigh Valley/Berks Clean Air Partnership](#) meeting at Hercules Cement in Northampton County.

The Department of Environmental Protection, American Lung Association of Pennsylvania and Women's Club of Allentown

joined in the presentation.

“Ann was committed to cleaning up the air here in the Lehigh Valley and everywhere across Pennsylvania,” DEP Northeast Regional Air Quality Manager Thomas DiLazaro said. “Her tireless efforts in promoting the clean air partnerships throughout Pennsylvania and her good humor and enthusiasm make her an especially worthy recipient of this year’s R. Emmet Doherty Clean Air Award.”

“To Ann, educating the public and businesses about how they can cleanup the air wasn’t a job, it was a vocation,” said former DEP Secretary David E. Hess. “Her talents, creativity and enthusiasm will be missed.”

Ann Meyers, who died unexpectedly in November 2004, was principal of Ann L. Meyers Public Relations and a consultant to the Lehigh Valley/Berks, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Susquehanna Valley air quality partnerships.

She helped to develop many of the promotional and educational materials used by the partnerships, and assisted the Lehigh Valley/Berks Clean Air Partnership initiate the Ride Free on Ozone Action Days Program in Lehigh and Northampton counties. This program provides free bus rides on ozone action days to help reduce traffic during the summer months.

The Clean Air Award recognizes the efforts of a local business, organization or individual for improving air quality in the greater Lehigh Valley region. First presented in 1970, the award is named in honor of R. Emmet Doherty, a former director of the Lehigh Valley Pollution Control District who monitored air quality and championed air pollution reduction during his 19 years of service.

The R. Emmet Doherty Clean Air Award is presented in conjunction with ALA’s national Clean Air Month in May and is part of DEP’s Ozone Action Kickoff, which marks the beginning of the ground-level ozone-monitoring season in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley/Berks Air Quality Partnership.

Ann Meyers was a graduate of Thiel College in Greenville. She and her husband Howard Kelin and their four children often helped out personally during the many promotional events that she planned and initiated for the partnerships. She worked on clean air issues in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and was a frequent expert speaker on air-quality public relations at state and national conferences.

The Lehigh Valley/Berks partnership is a coalition of individuals, businesses, governments and community groups that educates the public about the dangers of ground-level ozone and encourages people to take voluntary actions to reduce their contributions to air pollution.

Western PA Environmental Awards Program Winners Announced

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) announced the winners of the [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#) this week at a special awards dinner in Pittsburgh where Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, provided the keynote address.

The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and [Dominion](#), celebrate the achievements of nonprofit organizations, businesses, schools, individuals, governments, and community

groups that have made significant environmental contributions in the western Pennsylvania region. And the winners are:

Community Award- Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program



The [Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#) (WPWP) of the Community Foundation for The Alleghenies has been a champion of Pennsylvania’s high quality water resources as well as its most devastated and depressed watersheds. The WPWP demonstrates its commitment to these resources by providing financial support, matching funds for state and

federal programs, and guidance to local grassroots watershed and volunteer-based organizations.

WPWP has taken on a leadership role to restore the “worst of the worst” and preserve the “best of the best” of Pennsylvania’s unique watersheds and ecosystems. Part of the “worst” are the Commonwealth’s almost 200,000 acres of abandoned mine lands, inventoried on a county by county basis through a grant from WPWP.

The Abandoned Mine Land Fund in Washington D.C., collected at 35 cents per ton on mined coal, has accumulated \$1.4 billion, to be returned to the states for restoration of these lands. The fund needed to be extended through federal legislation, and now needs to be fully re-authorized. WPWP has played a key leadership role in education and outreach to the 149 partners of the Program so that this fund can be utilized for its intended purpose.

Higher Education Award- Arts & Environment Initiative, Allegheny College

The [Arts & Environment Initiative](#) (AEI) uses art to create innovative solutions regional environmental problems, including the need for reclamation and community- building at a local Superfund site, unsightly sprawl, and lack of recycling reuse among area businesses. AEI projects not only provide students and community partners with hands-on experience in creating a sustainable society, they also provide practical help to the Meadville area, which has suffered a decline in industry, population, and relative income.



By raising environmental consciousness, AEI increases appreciation of the region’s assets, which in turn leads to more environmentally-responsible behavior. Several key projects, including the GreenRoom, Signs & Flowers, Read Between the Signs, Market Alley, have each created a strong sense of place that leads to a deeper appreciation of the Meadville area and represents the creative and innovative thinking that can help develop sustainable communities and environmental practices.

Government Award- Herron Avenue Project, Dept. of Environmental Protection



Pittsburgh’s Hill District was once home to some of the oldest mining operations in the City, leaving behind a legacy of abandoned mine drainage, the extent of which had adversely affected homes, public areas, and especially the historic John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church on Herron Avenue.

With the DEP’s Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation leading the [Herron Avenue Project](#) and with cooperation from the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, ALCOSAN, and others, this particular AMD problem has been resolved.

Much of the problem stemmed from an unmapped mine on Herron Avenue that had AMD finding surface discharge points that were creating hazards. Avoiding a potential disaster, 40 million gallons of water were drained from the mine.

Today, the mine water is now diverted through an underground drain into the storm drain system, thus avoiding further AMD and detriment to the Hill District properties.

This project has opened the door for economic opportunity in the Hill District, has fostered community partnerships, and has allowed the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church to begin restoring its historic structure.

Green Design Award- AMD & ART

[AMD&ART](#), located in Vintondale, Cambria County, is a community enhancement initiative that brings broad public participation to the design and construction of acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment systems and the creation of enjoyable, educational, park-like community landscapes. Specifically, AMD&ART is a project that blends innovative science, responsive landscape design, community history, and active citizen participation to create public spaces in which to explore, learn, reflect, and recreate. AMD&ART works with communities to reclaim a heritage that orange streams have long stained and to work together toward a stronger future.



The south branch of Blacklick Creek is being treated through a passive system that includes a series of wetlands and settling ponds. In order to emphasize the change in water quality through the system, the artistic influence accentuates the transformation through the use of various plants and trees that reflect the hues of the water as it becomes cleaner. Further artistic and educational aspects of the project are portrayed through signage, mosaic mapping, a life-size granite laser etching depicting miners, and the creation of a community park on the project site.

Education Award- SCUBA Do Project, Erie



Presque Isle Bay has been designated an Area of Concern in the Great Lakes Basin due to Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) (which cause fish tumors) and heavy metal contamination in the sediment. While it is now in a Stage of Recovery, extended studies are needed to determine the Bay's current health.

In order to test new sediment deposits, James Rutkowski, a teacher at Strong Vincent High School, acquired a Coastal Zone Management Grant to develop an innovative sediment collection device. Because these devices required extended underwater time to install, James recruited students from his school, as well as the Villa Maria Academy to become certified SCUBA divers.

In the summer of 2004, students placed, and later retrieved, the sediment collection devices in the Bay. Initial lab results indicate an improvement in the sediment quality.

Just as importantly, [the SCUBA Do Project](#) has allowed young high school students to gain self-confidence, learn responsibility and team work, and engage in a hands-on effort to study the environment. The students have presented their work to many groups and have had media coverage, thus creating awareness of their work and the environmental status of Presque Isle Bay.

NewsClips: [Western PA Environmental Award Winners](#)
[Mine Work Wins Environmental Award](#)

Western PA Audubon Announces Education and Conservation Award Winners

The [Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania](#) this week presented six environmental education and conservation awards to local individuals and organizations who exemplify the environmental education and conservation mission of Audubon--

Trustee Award winner: [St. Vincent's Environmental Education Center](#), presented to an organization in recognition of outstanding effort to further the cause of conservation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

W. E. Clyde Todd Award winner: Charles Bier, Director, [Natural Heritage Program](#), Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding effort to further the cause of conservation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Betty Abbott Excellence in Teaching winner: [William T. "Bill" Diehl](#) from Shady Side Academy, presented to a classroom teacher whose commitment to environmental education inspires students to become responsible stewards of the environment.

Honorary Life Membership to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania: Dr. Kenneth Parkes

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Beulah Frey \$1,000 Academic Scholarship award winners: Melinda Angeles, Shaler High School and Lauren Heidingsfelder, Woodland Hills High School, awarded each spring to graduating high school seniors enabling them to further their studies in an environmentally related field.

For more information about the award winners, or the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, please contact Rachel Mohr Handel by email to: rhandel@aswp.org or call 412-963-6100.

Call for Nominations for Northeastern Environmental Partnership Awards

The Northeast Environmental Partners are seeking nominations for the 15th annual [Environmental Partnership Awards](#) and the 11th annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award.

Nominations must be postmarked by July 15.

The Environmental Partnership Awards are presented annually to recognize the achievements of individuals or organizations that, through partnerships, have achieved excellence in environmental protection or conservation in Northeast Pennsylvania. The evening showcases the recipient of the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award.

This award, in its eleventh year, was established by the NEPA Environmental Partners to recognize an individual who stands out for his or her long-term commitment to environmental quality through inspirational leadership, dedication and commitment to partnering.

The awards are open to any group, individual, company, program or organization whose work has had a positive impact on the environment in Northeastern Pennsylvania's following counties; Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming.

Over the years, the program has honored individuals and groups involved in agriculture, forestry, business, industry, education, science, environmental awareness, community service, and government, among others.

Nominations may be made by a person or persons involved in the activity, or by a third party.

To receive nomination materials for the Year 2005 Environmental Partnership Awards, contact the Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Council office at 570-718-6507 or download the forms from the [Environmental Partnership Awards webpage](#).

Groundwater Foundation Accepting Nominations For National Awards

[The Groundwater Foundation](#), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about the nature and value of groundwater, is [accepting nominations for its four national awards](#).

All nominations must be received by July 14.

These awards honor individuals who create a legacy of groundwater protection through local action, education, government service, and youth leadership. The awards include:

The Vern Haverstick Groundwater Hero Award was established in 1995 to showcase groundwater protection activities by the unsung, yet heroic, efforts of community residents. The goals of this award are to thank the individual for groundwater service, spread the word about groundwater, and inspire groundwater leadership in others. Any member of the public is eligible for this award.

The Edith Stevens Groundwater Educator Award was created in 1997 to recognize educators who understand the importance of groundwater, motivate others to protect groundwater, and lead by personal example. The goals of this award are to spread the word about groundwater, inspire others to become involved in groundwater education, provide educators with successful role models, and promote education as an effective groundwater protection method. Anyone actively involved with the implementation and delivery of groundwater education programs is eligible for this award.

This award is named for Edith Stevens who helped create the [Water Resources Education Network in Pennsylvania](#) and has been active participant in a variety of environmental programs for her local watershed and the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters.

The E. Benjamin Nelson Government Service Award was established in 1998 to recognize and honor an elected or appointed public official who has significantly advanced environmental and groundwater stewardship. The goals of the award are to inspire similar service in other government officials and spread the word nationally about the value of groundwater as a natural resource. Any government official on the local, state or federal level; elected, appointed, or career civil service is eligible to receive this award.

The W.C. Foxley-E.P. Taiganides Youth Award for Excellence and Leadership in Groundwater was established in 1996 to honor a student for his/her dedication to promoting local groundwater protection. In addition, the student's actions must have the ability to be replicated by other students and the potential to empower his/her community to protect groundwater. The goals of this award are to recognize a student or group of students for their groundwater stewardship, inspire others to become involved in groundwater protection, and demonstrate the effectiveness of youth involvement in environmental issues. Any student in the U.S. age 12-17 is eligible for this award.

Award recipients will receive complimentary travel, lodging, and registration for The Groundwater Foundation's Annual Conference November 2-4, at the Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The award recipients will be honored at an Awards Luncheon held November 4 in conjunction with the Conference.

The 2005 National Awards are sponsored in part by CH2M Hill, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, W.C. Foxley, and E.P. Taiganides.

For more information visit [The Groundwater Foundation's Awards webpage](#), or contact the Foundation at info@groundwater.org or 402-434-2740.

(Courtesy POWR's Watershed Weekly)

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

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[Cleanup to Prepare City for Bassmasters Event](#)
[Lehigh County seeks state help to fix Leaser Lake](#)
[Forum on Ohio River Pollution Set](#)
[Annual River Sojourn Lures Outdoor Enthusiasts to Valley](#)
[Schuylkill River Sojourn to Kick Off on June 3](#)
[River Alerts Begin Today in Allegheny, Ohio](#)
[Region Readies for Riverfest](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 28, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Regulations](#) [Technical Guidance](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#) [Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published final guidance on enforcement of blasting requirements. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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published notice of a reorganization of the agency. The Public Utility Commission published notice of an extension of the comment period on electricity default service requirements.

DEP ID: 562-4100-311. [Explosives Program Compliance and Enforcement Procedures](#). This document describes the methods the Department will use for identifying, tracing and resolving violations related to blasting operations and explosive storage sites.

The Public Utility Commission gave [notice it was extending the comment period](#) to June 27 for the electricity default service requirements.

[Notice of Department of Conservation and Natural Resources reorganization.](#)

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **May 31** – DEP [Energy Advisory Board](#) meeting.
- **June 3** – [Moshannon District Office of DEP Open House](#) to show off green building features.
- **June 6** – Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) providing penalties for ecoterrorism.
- **June 7** – Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee meeting on conservation districts report.
- **June 13** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum on Philadelphia’s new [RecycleBank](#) incentive based recycling program.
- **June 21** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on global climate change.
- **June 21** – [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting.
- **June 21** – Chesapeake Bay Found Sponsors [Advanced Public Outreach Workshop](#). Harrisburg.

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](#)

PA Environment Digest Anniversary

Thank You! And Keep Up the Great Work Out There! This week we begin our second year of publishing the *Digest*. We want to thank the dozens of contributors who helped us put together the latest news on legislative and regulatory issues, provided their success stories, highlighted resources readers could use to help their organizations succeed and the companies who support the *Digest* through their listings in the [Professional Services Directory](#). Keep it coming!

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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