

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

June 4, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

DEP, Aging Help Celebrate 10th Anniversary of PA Senior Environment Corps

The [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#), a volunteer organization for seniors that helps monitor and protect water quality, celebrated its tenth anniversary in May.

PaSEC was founded in May, 1997 by the departments of Environmental Protection and Aging in partnership with the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement, a non-profit group.

"The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps celebrates ten years of service, and offers invaluable generations of experience," Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty said. "All of us are grateful for the time, energy and remarkable contribution these members make on a regular schedule of monitoring, educating, creating and living as stewards of our environment now and for the future."

"I commend the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps on this the 10th anniversary of its service to Pennsylvania," said Nora Dowd Eisenhower, Secretary of the Department of Aging. "Men and women, who have already completed a lifetime of service, are to be applauded for their volunteer efforts to improve water quality across the state. Their environmental stewardship is an important example of civic engagement on the part of older Pennsylvanians."

"Ten years ago we started with 200 volunteers learning how to do water sampling in a few counties," said Beth Grove, Statewide Coordinator for PaSEC. "Today we have over 2,900 volunteers who are mentoring high students on environmental sciences, documenting the success of abandoned mine reclamation projects, educating the public on West Nile Virus, about the dangers of radon and how to protect drinking water."

"Our volunteers have a variety of backgrounds including science teachers, engineers, business people or avid anglers, but most do not have any background related to things like water sampling, other than a love of nature and a desire to protect the environment," said Grove. "Our oldest volunteer-- 99-year old Homer Foster in Cumberland County-- was a steel worker and owned a Christmas tree farm, but he got the training and he's out there every week on the sampling team." Grove also highlighted the



Capital Area volunteers Art Sconing,
Harvey Baney, Velda Kauffman
and Carl Crone

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strong social relationships that program volunteers have developed over the years, building healthy activities and lasting support systems in the lives of retirees.

“The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps was the first statewide volunteer program in the United States to involve seniors in protecting the environment and the first to link Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Aging programs,” said Peggy Knight from the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement. “Since then the program has served as a model for many other states and countries.”

“The Pennsylvania program and local chapters have received many local, state and national awards for their work,” said Grove. “We were extremely proud when the Pennsylvania program was recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme on its Global 500 Honour Roll for the program’s contribution to protecting the environment, joining the work of individuals like Jacques Cousteau and Jane Goodall.”

“The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps has been a pioneer in many ways, but the work volunteers did to implement the first-ever Internet-based system to allow volunteer-collected water monitoring information to be posted and analyzed is being used throughout the country,” said Knight. Knight also pointed to the approval of the program’s quality assurance efforts by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

“In Pennsylvania alone, our volunteers contribute over 37,400 hours annually to do water monitoring and other projects,” explained Grove. “We now regularly monitor water quality at 628 sites around the state and have generated over 469,000 pieces of water quality data, something that’s a big help to the Department of Environmental Protection and local watershed groups.”

The General Assembly officially recognized the 10th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps by passing resolutions designating May as “Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps Month.”

The resolutions were introduced in the House by Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) – [House Resolution 260](#) – and in the Senate by Sen. John Pippy (R-Allegheny) – [Senate Resolution 112](#).

“On behalf of our dedicated volunteers, we want to thank the departments of Environmental Protection and Aging for their support and for the General Assembly’s support and recognition,” said Grove. “We are looking forward to taking on new challenges and we’re always looking for new volunteers!”

Chapters of the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps are hosted in these counties: Adams, Allegheny-Butler, Blair, Cumberland-Dauphin-Perry, Centre, Clearfield, Crawford, Delaware, Indiana, Lancaster, Mifflin-Juniata, Montgomery-Bucks, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Venango, Washington-Fayette-Greene, and York.

To volunteer or for more information, visit the [PaSEC website](#), or contact Beth Grove at 717-244-6248 or send email to: PaGreatSEC@aol.com.

Tag along with the PaSEC water sampling team known as the X-Team, lead by Bill Apgar, and including Homer Foster, Jack McGinley, Leon Oberdick and Stacy Russell, show how they hunt macroinvertebrates on another part of the Yellow Breeches.

Video Blog: [X-Team Samples the Yellow Breeches](#)

Video Blog: [Jim Haney, Capital Area PaSEC, Presents a History of the Program](#)

Go along as volunteers Art Sconing, Harvey Baney, Velda Kauffman and Carl Crone take their samples and then analyze them back at their lab in the New Cumberland Senior Center.

Video Blog: [Water Quality Sampling on the Yellow Breeches](#)

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Video Blog: [Counting Macroinvertebrates on the Yellow Breeches](#)

Video Blog: [Touring the Lab at the New Cumberland Senior Center](#)

Video Blog: [Volunteers Share Their Experiences](#)

The [Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement](#) administers the PA Senior Environment Corps Program statewide with local partners like RSVP.

Links: [Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the PA Senior Environment Corps](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session June 4 and will be in session through June.

PA Environment Digest Video Blog

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- Landmark Settlement to Clean Up Raw Sewage Discharges in Allegheny County
- Ohio River Sweep Volunteers Sought for June 16 Cleanup Event
- Ninth Schuylkill River Sojourn to Kick Off on June 2
- Lehigh River Sojourn Starts Paddling June 22, Register Now!
- Clinton County Hosts Shad Fry Fish Stocking Event June 7
- June 6 Public Meeting on Jordan Creek Greenway/Trail Feasibility Study
- DEP Issues First Ozone Action Days of the Season
- Workshop on Tax Incentives for Preserving Land Set for Lehigh County
- Interactive Land Use and Air Quality Programs Teacher Workshops
- Governor Delays Climate Proposal, DCNR Continues Work on Carbon Strategy
- Professional Geologists to Host Underground Storage Tank Workshops
- DEP Citizens Advisory Council Newsletter Now Available Online
- Environmental Groups Urged to Update Listing in State Conservation Directory
- Gov. Rendell to Seek Ruling From Court on Ethics Commission Opinions
- Governor Submits Nominations for Public Utility Commission

Spotlight

- De Sale I Acid Mine Drainage System Maintenance a Priority

Feature

- Fish & Boat Commission's Doug Austin Heads Out on River Sojourns Around PA

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On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and Senate return to voting session June 4. Here's what's on the agenda this week--

House

Calendar: [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 193](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the future value of assets on Game Commission land; [House Bill 772](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) establishing the Keystone Energy and Environmental Excellence Awards program and an energy efficiency and pollution reduction initiative; [House Bill 894](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) authorizing additional reimbursements for school building construction which meets the LEED standards; [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development; [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) petitioning the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies.

Committees: the Consumer Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Resolution 297](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) expressing opposition to the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors; the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Mifflin) establishing the PA Geospatial Council; the Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 904](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) authorizing local building moratoriums, [House Bill 983](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) providing additional options for local preservation of open space, [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman) requiring municipalities to take steps to protect the Appalachian Trail, [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for the jurisdiction of courts on zoning appeals, [House Bill 1330](#) (Kessler) further providing for appeals of local land development ordinances; the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) that would allow farms preserved under the state Clean and Green law to allow the development of wind farms; the Game and Fisheries Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1116](#) (Kortz-D-Allegheny) authorizing vouchers for game licenses, [House Bill 1109](#) (Staback-D-Lackawanna) authorizing vouchers for fishing licences and [Senate Bill 580](#) (Madigan-R-Tioga) use of dogs while hunting wild turkey; the Health and Human Services Committee meets to consider [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland)

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creating a Task Force on Lyme Disease and related maladies with DCNR, Department of Health and Game Commission; the Education Committee meets to consider [House Bill 894](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) authorizing the Department of Education to provide extra reimbursement for school building construction meeting LEED green building standards, [House Bill 1297](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) establishing an electric meter lending program in local libraries (with a request the bill be referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee); the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 454](#) (Frankel-D-Allegheny) establishing an Office of Environmental Advocate within the Department of Environmental Protection; and [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law.

Senate

Committee: the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure joint committee hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania.

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

Sewer Lateral Funding: [Senate Bill 909](#) (C.Williams-D-Montgomery) establishing a program to fund sewer laterals for low-income households.

Special Funds: [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) authorizing the transfer of certain excess fine and penalty revenues to the General Fund.

House Environmental, Agriculture Committees to Consider Environmental Bills

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet June 6 to consider legislation establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education and creating an Office of Environmental Advocate within DEP. They include:

- [House Bill 454](#) (Frankel-D-Allegheny) establishing an Office of Environmental Advocate within the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law.

The Committee is chaired by Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets June 5 to consider [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) that would allow farms preserved under the state Clean and Green law to allow the development of wind farms.

The Agriculture Committee is chaired by Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Clinton) and Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester).

Senate Committees Hold First of Two Hearings on PA Energy Policy

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committees will hold a public hearing on an energy policy for Pennsylvania June 5.

Scheduled to testify are:

- Dan Desmond, DEP Deputy Secretary for Energy and Technology Development;
- Wendell F. Holland, Chairman of the Public Utility Commission, Vice Chairman James H. Cawley, Commissioner Kim Pizzigrilli and Commissioner Terrance J. Fitzpatrick; and
- Sonny Popowsky, Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate.

The Committees will hold a second hearing June 12 featuring testimony from the Industrial Energy Consumers of Pennsylvania, Electric Power Generation Association and the Energy Association of PA.

The Majority Chair of the [Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) is Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and the Minority Chair is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and the Majority Chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee is Sen. Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks) and the Minority Chair is Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh).

Environmental Synopsis Features Overview of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

The May issue of [Environmental Synopsis](#) published by the Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee features a summary of the presentation, an anti-litter and beautiful efforts by [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#).

Also featured in this month's issue are: using coal combustion waste to reclaim abandoned mines, recycling in the airline industry, benefits of air pollution control strategies in transportation, carbon dioxide emission in the U.S. and the cost of cleaning up leaking underground storage tanks.

The [Joint Committee](#) is chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as vice chairman.

Other News

Electric Grid Losing Generation Three Times Faster Than New Units Added

In the face of another 1.5 percent increase in peak demand growth, electric generating facilities are being retired at a rate three times faster than new units are added in the PJM regional electric grid, according to comments presented at the annual summer electric reliability briefing held by the Public Utility Commission this week.

Comments were presented by the [Energy Association of Pennsylvania](#), the [Electric Power Generation Association](#), [PJM Interconnection](#) and the [Midwest Independent System Operator](#).

PJM predicts that customers will drive the net peak demand this summer to 136,961 megawatts, compared to the all-time PJM peak of 144,644 megawatts set on

August 2, 2006. The previous 133,763 MW record was set on July 26, 2005. PJM expects to have a total reserve margin, the extra power on hand to meet unanticipated demand, of 21.9 percent.

Doug Biden, EPGA, noted over the last two years the PJM area has lost 3,547 MW of generating capacity to retirements, while adding just 914 MW of new capacity. PJM also estimated an additional 4,000 MW of generating capacity will be retired due to new mercury control regulations, like the one adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition to another 1.5 percent increase in peak electricity demand growth throughout the regional grid this summer, Biden said new environmental regulations and forthcoming climate change proposals will further increase electric generating costs and speed the retirement of generating capacity. Uncertainty over the future of competitive electric markets is also causing investors to be wary of investments in new generating capacity.

"Over the long-term, generating units must have a stable and adequate opportunity to recover sufficient revenues in the marketplace to cover their costs over their useful lives," Biden said. "Policymakers must reaffirm their commitment to competition in electric generation."

Biden noted that since electric restructuring began in 1996, generating capacity increased by more than 9,000 megawatts in Pennsylvania, but that recent investment in capacity has dropped off significantly due to regulatory uncertainty and wholesale prices that are currently too low to recover the high fixed costs of emerging clean coal technologies or new nuclear plants.

"Investors must expect that wholesale prices will be high enough over time to recover not only operating costs, but also the capital invested in building plants before new power plants will be built," Biden said. "Presently, investors are extremely wary of the multitude of state initiatives to re-regulate."

On the environmental side, Biden said that federal and state environmental policies have forced greater reliance on natural gas as a power plant fuel. At the same time, federal, state and local policies limit the expansion of gas supply.

"We have serious concerns about adequate gas supplies over the next several years," Biden said. "Domestic wells and imports from Canada are declining. LNG [liquefied natural gas] projects face stiff opposition, and the supply/demand imbalance that caused prices to rise dramatically in 2005 has persisted."

Biden said that policymakers and all citizens need to understand the critical relationship between adequate fuel supplies, balanced environmental policy, reasonable electricity prices and electric reliability, emphasizing that "All of these issues are inextricably linked".

Mike Love, EAPA, said his member electric distribution companies all have pilot projects underway to test methods of reducing peak demand for electricity, including time of day pricing, load control, generation buyback and load reduction techniques.

Love also said his companies have been working to meet new federal requirements for improving the reliability of the electric distribution system through more sophisticated load and capacity forecasting, vegetation management and inspection practices.

Link: [Generation Retirements, Environmental Rules Forcing Electric Costs Up](#)

WREN Awards 22 Grants to Community-Based Water Resources Education Projects

The [Water Resources Education Network Project](#), a program of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund, has announced the award of \$101,700 in funding to community partnerships across the state.

Projects will carry out water resources education projects in the coming year. Funding comes from DEP 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 2007-2008 WREN grant program are:

Source Water Protection Projects (funding provided by DEP via the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, section 1452 State Revolving Loan Fund for Drinking Water Source Water Protection) -- total awards: \$51,700

- **[Blair County Conservation District](#)**, Blair County, \$4,700, will hold the Blair County Water Festival in May 2008, hold "The Wonder of Water" poster contest in local schools, and make presentations to students about the importance of protecting the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River, the source water for the county's drinking water supply. Contact: James Eckenrode 814-696-0877x5, jeckenrode@blairconservationdistrict.org .
- **[Brodhead Creek Regional Authority](#), Monroe County**, \$5,000, will create a children's section in the "Dr. Waters" interactive and educational website (www.drwaters.org) which will promote actions citizens can take to protect the Brodhead Creek. Contact: Michael Reisenwitz 570-421-3232, swpedu@ptd.net .
- **[Dushore Borough](#), Sullivan County**, \$5,000, will use educational equipment, informational brochures, a school sponsored poster contest, water supply area identification signs, and storm drain stenciling to educate students and citizens about the importance of protecting the groundwater which serves as Dushore's drinking water source and the surface waters that supply drinking water to other communities. Contact: Scot Sample 570-928-8020, dushwate@epix.net .
- **[Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc.](#)**, Delaware County, \$3,000, will hold two workshops for residents of Marple Township and the Borough of Swarthmore to educate about stormwater management and pollution issues emphasizing how the use of rainbarrels can minimize polluted runoff from entering the area's drinking water source, Crum Creek. Contact: Sue Cochran 610-353-1555x232, cochrane@prc.org , swcnjcu@hotmail.com .
- **[Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education](#)**, Philadelphia, \$5,000, will provide watershed education to high schools in Philadelphia that includes in-class lessons on nonpoint source pollution and its intersection with drinking water supplies, a field trip to observe the breadth of watershed issues that impact the source water, creation of posters, and a service learning project aimed at increasing awareness about urban watershed issues. Contact: Gin Ranly 215-482-7300x129, vranly@schuylkillcenter.org .
- **[Shermans Creek Conservation Association, Inc.](#)**, Perry County, \$5,000, will use a portable display, an EnviroScape model, lesson plans, and Farm*A*Syst seminars to demonstrate to students and adults in Blain Borough and Jackson Township how their actions in the Bower's Run watershed can impact the source of their drinking water and what they can do to protect it. Contact: Linda Sieber 717-582-3376, lssieber@comcast.net .

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- **Shinglehouse Borough Water Department** (and Partner Water Systems: Coudersport Borough Authority and Roulette Water Company), **Potter County**, \$5,000, will work jointly to install Water Supply Area signs, demonstrate groundwater models, and distribute source water protection brochures in a continued effort to educate Coudersport, Oswayo Valley, and Port Allegany students and citizens about the importance of protecting the groundwater which serves as the source of drinking water for households in these three municipalities. Contact: Deborah Resig 814-697-6711, shinglehouseoffice@frontiernet.net .
- **Ulysses Municipal Authority** (and Partner Water Systems: Genesee Township Water Authority, Northern Tier Children's Home and Covington-Karthous-Girard Area Water Authority), **Clearfield & Potter Counties**, \$4,000, will work jointly to install Water Supply Area signs, demonstrate groundwater models, and distribute source water protection brochures in a continued effort to educate residents in the Northern Potter and Whitesville School Districts and the Clearfield school district and surrounding townships about the importance of protecting the groundwater that provides the drinking water to these communities. Contact: Betty Jo Hilfiger, Jack Reese 814-848-7551, ulyssesboro@verizon.net .
- **Volant Borough, Lawrence County**, \$5,000, will educate citizens and students about how they can help protect the high quality groundwater and wells that provide the Borough's drinking water with demonstrations of the EnviroScape and Groundwater Simulator models in schools and at events such as the Volant Water Festival and by distributing to local restaurants quantities of the winning placemat from a design contest in the schools. Contact: Jeff Staul 724-662-4706, volantborough@zoominternet.net .
- **Warren County Conservation District, Crawford, Erie & Warren Counties**, \$5,000, will conduct the "Green Tip of the Week" television commercial campaign to educate citizens in Warren, Crawford, and Erie counties about the steps they can take to protect and improve the watersheds they live in thereby protecting the sources of their drinking water. Contact: Jean Gomory 814-563-3117, jean.gomory@pa.nacdnet.net
- **York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust**, York County, \$5,000, will design an educational display and mural of the Codorus Creek watershed, including streams and other watershed features that will educate viewers how public drinking water can be protected both by citizens' individual actions by water supplier commitment to protecting the source. Contact: Tammy Klunk 717-840-7227, parks@york-county.org .

Nonpoint Source Pollution/Watershed Education Projects (funding provided by DEP's Nonpoint Source Management Program through Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act -- total awards: \$50,000)

- **Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, Cumberland County**, \$4,000, will produce and distribute advertisements in print, on air and through other media and events that encourage Carlisle homeowners and businesses to maintain lawns and automobiles and manage pet waste in ways that will minimize nonpoint source pollution in Letort Spring Run. Contact: Julie Vastine 717-245-1565, vastine@dickinson.edu .
- **Birchwood Lakes Community Association: Lake Mgmt Committee, Pike County**, \$5,000, will provide printed materials and conduct a series of information sharing

meetings to teach Birchwood Lakes Community residents and residents of other lake communities in the Dingmans Creek watershed how nonpoint source pollution can be decreased by installing native plants around the lakes, maintaining septic systems properly, and using healthy practices to care for lawns and automobiles. Contact: Charles Ritson 570-828-2111, chasrits50@netzero.com .

- **Borough of Media, Delaware County**, \$5,000, will design and mail to all Media households a calendar illustrating the municipality's accomplishments and commitment to stormwater management and the steps Media residents can take to reduce nonpoint source pollution in Ridley and Chester Creeks. Contact: Judy Fowler, 610-566-5210x239 judy@nightorbs.com .
- **Bucks County Planning Commission, Bucks County**, \$5,000, will coordinate a guided bus tour to showcase innovative best stormwater management practices that municipal officials, engineers, planning commission members and developers can implement to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Unami, East Branch, Tohickon, Delaware River (North and South), Neshaminy, Little Neshaminy, Pennypack, and Poquessing watersheds. Contact: Rea Monaghan 215-345-3267, remonaghan@co.bucks.pa.us .
- **Bushkill Stream Conservancy, Northampton County**, \$5,000, will hold workshops for homeowners in Palmer Township's Millrace neighborhood to raise awareness of the Township's existing protective measures and to teach residents the actions they can take to further reduce nonpoint source pollution in Bushkill Creek. Contact: Sandra Merwarth, 610-253-4467 shepherd21@rcn.com .
- **Lebanon County Conservation District, Lebanon County**, \$3,350, will hold workshops to educate homeowners and businesses in Lebanon County how the use of rainbarrels can reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering the waterways of the county. Rain barrels will be provided at an affordable rate to attendees completing the workshop. Contact: Stephanie Harmon 717-272-3908x4, stephanie.harmon@pa.nacdnet.net .
- **Monroe County Conservation District, Monroe County**, \$3,350, will hold workshops to educate homeowners and municipal officials in Monroe County how the use of rainbarrels can reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution in the Brodhead, Tobyhanna, Aquashicola, Pohopoco, Cherry, Bushkill Creeks, and Delaware River watersheds. Rain barrels will be provided at an affordable rate to attendees completing the workshop. Contact: Patricia Attardo 570-629-3060, pamccd@ptd.net .
- **Pennsylvania Environmental Council**, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and Bucks Counties, \$5,000, will develop a guide and hold workshops to educate public works department staff and commercial property owners in Delaware and Montgomery Counties on the inspection, operating, repair and retrofit procedures for stormwater management facilities that are necessary to minimize nonpoint source pollution in the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Contact: Gwyn Rowland 215-592-7020x109, growland@pecpa.org .
- **Pike County Conservation District, Pike County**, \$4,800, will design and distribute an 8 page full color newspaper insert encouraging residents of Pike County to take steps to protect surface and groundwater resources in the Upper Delaware River watershed from the effects of nonpoint source pollution and to be supportive of Pike County's continuing efforts to protect its natural resources in the face of rapid growth. Contact: Michele Ulmer 570-226-8220, mulmer@pikepa.org .

- **Strawberry Hill Nature Center and Preserve, Adams County**, \$4,800, will create and distribute a Watershed Guide designed to educate visitors to the Nature Center and residents of the Monocacy watershed about how proper pet waste management, gardening and lawn care practices and other daily activities can prevent nonpoint source pollution in Middle Creek. Contact: Yvonne Werzinsky 717-642-5840, yvonne@strawberryhill.org .
- **Wildlands Conservancy, Carbon County**, \$4,700, will hold a workshop to educate municipal decision makers in Carbon County and those who advise them on land use matters about managing stormwater in ways that will minimize the impact of nonpoint source pollution in the Lehigh River watershed. Contact: Camille Lore 610-965-4397, clore@wildlandspa.org .

For more information, visit the [Water Resources Education Network Project website](#) or contact Sherene Hess, WREN Project Director, 724 465 4978 or sherenehess@yourinter.net .

Workshop to Protect Public Drinking Water in Southeast Planned for June 13

Municipal officials, water system operators, community planners, open space preservationists, watershed groups and interested citizens are [invited to a workshop](#) June 13 in Doylestown to learn how they can better protect their communities' water supplies from contamination.

“Protecting Public Drinking Water: Source Water Protection Solutions” will be held from 1 p.m.-4:45 p.m. at the Peace Valley Nature Center, 170 North Chapman Rd. in Doylestown, Bucks County.

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters [Water Resources Education Network Project](#) is presenting the workshop along with the [Pennsylvania Rural Water Association](#). Local Workshop partners include the [Bucks County Planning Commission](#), and [North Penn Water Authority](#).

While technological advances have greatly improved the ability of public water systems to effectively treat most contaminants, there are limitations to technological fixes. The workshop will explore how communities can prevent contamination by reviewing and updating their source water assessments, making informed decisions about land use and open space preservation, and involving the public as a partner in protection.

Pre-registration is required, but because DEP is underwriting the workshop, there is no fee to attend.

Register online at or contact WREN Program Manager Julie Kollar at juliekwren@verizon.net or call 267-468- 0555.

Three Meetings Left on Use of Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds

There are just [three town hall meetings](#) left to discuss how to effectively use the up to 30 percent of new federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation funds available to the state. The meetings are sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the DEP Citizens Advisory Council and the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board.

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Five town meetings have already been held and DEP has [has posted summaries of each meetings](#) to capture comments being offered.

The new law reauthorization provides for a significant increase in funds available to the Commonwealth for abandoned mine reclamation. It also offers the Commonwealth the opportunity to set aside up to 30 percent of these funds for abatement and treatment of abandoned mine drainage.

The intent of the meetings is to enable the public to provide input to help in the decision-making process for expenditure of these funds. The decision to set aside funds for mine drainage abatement and treatment, and the appropriate level, must be weighed against the need to restore sites that impact the health and safety of the Commonwealth's citizens.

DEP is also accepting written comments at the following address: Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Attn.: AML Comments, P.O. Box 8476, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8476.

The remaining meetings will be held on the following dates in the following locations:

- June 5 - Jennings Environmental Center, Slippery Rock;
- June 6 - California University of PA, Morgan Hall, California; and
- June 7 - Penn State University, Dubois Campus, Hiller Auditorium, Dubois.

The agenda for the meetings will be:

- 4:00 - 5:30 PM - Educational videos and overview of recent legislative changes;
- 5:30 - 6:30 PM - Opportunity for the public to review PA's Abandoned Mine Land inventory and maps (poster session); and
- 6:30 - 8:30 PM - Town hall meeting

For more information contact: Sue Wilson, Citizens Advisory Council at 717-787-4527 or e-mail suswilson@state.pa.us ; Rich Joyce, DEP BAMR Harrisburg at 717-787-7669 or e-mail rjoyce@state.pa.us ; Pam Milavec, DEP BAMR Cambria District Office at 814-472-1800 or e-mail pmilavec@state.pa.us ; or Mike Ferko, DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre District Office at 570-826-2371 or e-mail mferko@state.pa.us .

For more information and directions, visit the [Town Hall meetings webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Mine Damage Main Focus of Town Hall Meeting](#)
[DEP Asks Public to Weigh in On Mine Funds](#)

Landmark Settlement to Clean Up Raw Sewage Discharges in Allegheny County

In a [landmark settlement](#) with federal, state, and county authorities, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority has agreed to a comprehensive plan to greatly reduce the annual discharge of billions of gallons of untreated sewage into local waterways.

Under the proposed consent decree, ALCOSAN has agreed to a multi-year strategy to upgrade the sewage systems serving Pittsburgh and 82 surrounding municipalities. The settlement also requires ALCOSAN to pay a \$1.2 million penalty for past Clean Water Act violations, and to undertake \$3 million in environmental projects.

"Sewage overflows can seriously harm public health by carrying dangerous bacteria into waterways used for recreation, such as boating and swimming," said Granta Nakayama, EPA's assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance assurance. "Today's agreement will reduce the amount of untreated sewage being discharged into local rivers by more than 22 billion gallons per year."

The proposed consent decree, which is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval, was filed in federal district court today by the U.S. Attorneys Office in Pittsburgh.

“Today’s agreement is the result of very successful cooperative efforts with our federal, state and private partners,” said Matthew J. McKeown, principal deputy assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. “We are confident that the remedial measures ALCOSAN will be making and the long-term control plan the company will adopt, will provide for significant and lasting improvements to water quality throughout the region.”

The settlement was negotiated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Environmental Protection and the Allegheny County Health Department.

“This agreement will lead to a dramatic improvement in the water quality of the three rivers and area streams, improving recreational and development opportunities along our waterways,” said Kenneth Bowman, southwest regional director for the Department of Environmental Protection.

“While illicit industrial discharges into our waterways were virtually eliminated many years ago, illegal sewage discharges have remained a very stubborn and chronic source of pollution,” said Dr. Bruce W. Dixon, director of the Allegheny County Health Department. “Once wet weather sewage discharges have been minimized, our rivers and streams will become even more accessible to those who enjoy them for recreation and pleasure.”

The federal Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of sewage and other pollutants into U.S. waters, unless such discharges comply with a permit that is protective of EPA-approved water quality standards.

Each year, an estimated 22 billion gallons of untreated sewage are discharged into Pittsburgh-area waters from hundreds of mostly unpermitted sewage system outfalls. These discharges often occur when the capacity of the sewer system is overwhelmed by wet weather conditions, including storm water runoff and snow melts. Sewage overflows carry dangerous bacteria into waterways where people boat, swim and wade, and affect some of the region’s drinking water sources.

The settlement requires ALCOSAN to submit a wet weather plan to EPA that would resolve a majority of the untreated discharges from the sewer systems by 2026. The \$3 million in environmental projects will include stream restoration work and other projects to better control harmful storm water runoff. The \$1.2 million penalty will be shared equally by the U.S., Pennsylvania and Allegheny County.

The judicial settlement with ALCOSAN complements a 2003 voluntary agreement by the 83 municipalities to monitor flow throughout the regional sewer system, and to work with ALCOSAN to identify and implement controls to avoid sewage overflows into local waters.

The settlement with ALCOSAN and the 2003 voluntary agreement with the municipalities together represent one of the nation’s largest settlements of a Clean Water Act case involving sewage overflows – in terms of the number of municipalities affected and the extensive nature of the sewer system upgrade.

More information on [controlling sewage overflows](#) is available online.

NewsClip: [Editorial: Alcosan’s Decree is a Turning Point for Pittsburgh Officials Praise Agreement to Halt Sewage Overflows](#)

Ohio River Sweep Volunteers Sought for June 16 Cleanup Event

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

“The key to making the River Sweep a success is community groups, churches, scout troops, sportsmen’s groups and concerned citizens, who volunteer their time to come out and join in the fight against pollution along the rivers and streams,” Pennsylvania River Sweep Coordinator Don Bialosky said. “While volunteers have cleaned up many sites along our rivers throughout the River Sweep’s history, still more work is needed.”

River Sweep, an annual six-state effort to clean up litter and debris in the Ohio River watershed, is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission and a number of Pennsylvania corporate sponsors including BASF, Duquesne Light, Dominion Foundation, Exxon, Koppers, AK Steel, PPG Industries, Ashland Inc, Neville Chemical Company and Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C.

The event winds through Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and Illinois, covering more than 2,400 miles of shoreline.

Last year, more than 1,100 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.

Residents can pre-register at the [Pennsylvania River Sweep webpage](#).

Information also is available by contacting DEP’s Don Bialosky at 412-442-4187 or send e-mail at epsriversweep@state.pa.us.

Ninth Schuylkill River Sojourn to Kick Off on June 2

From June 2-8, the [Schuylkill River Sojourn](#) will once again bring its colorful armada of kayaks and canoes down the river.

For the past nine years, the Schuylkill River Heritage Area’s canoe and kayak sojourn has introduced hundreds of people to the excitement of paddling the Schuylkill River from Schuylkill County to Philadelphia.

“Ultimately, we hope this leads people to re-discover the river as a wonderful natural resource with tremendous potential recreationally. Our programs are intended to remind people about the region’s cultural and historic importance, but we also want to draw people to the river, to show them what a great place it is to spend an afternoon or evening,” said Sue Fordyce, projects and communications manager for the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, the non-profit organization sponsoring the event.

This year, more than 100 paddlers will participate in the Sojourn. Some will make the entire 113-mile journey from Schuylkill Haven Island Park to Philadelphia’s Boathouse Row; others will spend only a day or two exploring and celebrating the river.

Participants ranging from novices to experts will paddle 14-18.5 miles daily. At evening campsites and afternoon lunch stops they’ll be entertained with programs that offer insight into the region’s unique natural, historic and cultural attributes.

Most evening programs are open to the public who are invited to come out to hear folk music, view a presentation about bats, or another about handmade kayaks, or to listen to songs and stories about the region's coal mining heritage.

The purpose of the sojourn is to enlighten people-both participants and the general public-about the river as a terrific recreational resource.

The Sojourn will follow an itinerary similar to that of past years, with different evening programs. Day 1 will take sojourners 15.5 miles from Schuylkill Haven to Port Clinton. On Day 2 they'll travel 18.5 miles to Muhlenberg Township; Day 3, another 16.3 miles to Gibraltar; Day 4, 16.2 miles from Gibraltar to Pottstown; Day 5, 15.3 miles to Mont Clare; Day 6 14 miles to West Conshohocken, and finally, on Friday, June 8 they'll finish their last 16 miles to Boathouse Row in Philadelphia.

For more information visit the [Schuylkill River Sojourn webpage](#).

Lehigh River Sojourn Starts Paddling June 22, Register Now!

The [Lehigh River Sojourn](#) is a fun-filled educational, multi-day canoeing (kayakers welcome too!) and whitewater rafting trip along the Lehigh River in eastern Pennsylvania.

Join Wildlands Conservancy June 22 - 27 for the 2007 Lehigh River Sojourn. Sojourn with us on Pennsylvania's "[River of the Year](#)" all 5 days, or paddle on one, or a few days.

Sojourn activities include camping, delicious catered meals, shuttle services, interesting programs, entertainment, and guaranteed fun!

The Conservancy will fit you in, and make sure you have the equipment you need. Prices include camping, meals, programs, and campfire entertainment.

Canoe, paddles and PFD's are available for rent through Wildlands Conservancy for \$12 per day.

For a registration brochure, call Wildlands Conservancy at 610-965-4397, ext. 22 or click here to download a form online. The deadline for registering for this year's Lehigh River Sojourn is June 4.

Clinton County Hosts Shad Fry Fish Stocking Event June 7

Clinton County will host a very special event on June 7 – the Fish and Boat Commission's fourth annual shad fry fish stocking to draw attention to this important fishery resource in Pennsylvania.

The event will be held along the banks of the Bald Eagle Creek in Castanea Township.

From the earliest colonial times to the advent of 20th century dams, American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) were the most important freshwater commercial and sport fish in the eastern U.S. and it is estimated that once the large game fish is fully restored and self-sustaining in the West Branch Susquehanna River, activities related to the their annual spring migration could generate an estimated \$50 million a year.

Since 2004 this annual event has released over 932,000 shad fry and the management plan envisions achieving a goal of 2 million American shad spawning above Susquehanna River main-stem hydrodams by 2025.

A highlight of the shad fry stocking event will be presentations by Fish and Boat Commission fisheries biologists who will present an informative short program on

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American shad history, life cycle, and current and future restoration efforts on the West Branch Susquehanna River.

At the closing of the presentation adventurous adults and youth will have an historical opportunity to step into the Bald Eagle Creek to lend a hand in releasing the shad fry.

This hour long American shad release event will begin at 2 p.m. at the Castanea boat access area in Bald Eagle Creek Park just off of Rt. 220 and the event is rain or shine.

For more information contact the Elisabeth L. Lynch at 570-893-4123 or send email to: ELynch@ClintonCountyPA.com .

June 6 Public Meeting on Jordan Creek Greenway/Trail Feasibility Study

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) will host a public meeting at the Conservancy's Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, on June 6 at 7:00 p.m. to introduce the Jordan Creek Greenway/Trail Feasibility Study project.

The Jordan Creek extends from Allentown to the Blue Mountain, and has great potential for land preservation and recreational opportunities.

"The study is to determine the feasibility of developing a greenway/trail along the Jordan Creek corridor connecting parks, game lands and greenways, including Jordan Creek Park, Covered Bridge Park and Trexler Nature Preserve, all while protecting significant green space in the heart of Lehigh County," says Christopher Kocher, Wildlands Conservancy's president. "This is an important project that will help meet the recreational needs of the community."

Wildlands Conservancy has assembled a broad-based coalition of local organizations, corporations, and local, county and state governments to aid in the completion of this project including Lehigh County, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, City of Allentown, South and North Whitehall Townships, Whitehall and Lowhill Townships, Lehigh Valley Zoo, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harry C. Trexler Trust, Northwestern Recreation Commission, and legislative support from Representatives T.J. Rooney and Julie Harhart.

Any citizen, group or organization that would like more information on the project or would like to participate in the efforts to protect the environment and improve recreational opportunities along the Jordan Creek is welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Debra Lermite, Director of Land Conservation and Planning, 610-965-4397 ext. 11 or send email to: dlermite@wildlandspa.org .

Workshop on Tax Incentives for Preserving Land Set for Lehigh County

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) will host another in its series of Tax Incentive Workshops June 14 on the limited-time tax incentives now available to landowners who preserve their property during 2007.

The workshop will be held at the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Building, 5500 Camp Meeting Road, Center Valley, Lehigh County from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The lead speaker at the workshop is Attorney Michael Henry of Gross, McGinley, and LaBarre & Eaton. Attorney Henry specializes in local, state and federal taxation, tax and estate planning, and real estate law. Diane Matthews-Gehringer, Land Preservation Manager for Wildlands Conservancy, will also speak to attendees about preservation options.

The workshop is funded in part by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

To register for the workshop or for more information about the workshops of Wildlands Conservancy, please contact Debra Lermite at 610-965-4397, ext. 11.

According to the 2003 report by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources entitled Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Wild Places – Our Outdoor Heritage in Peril, Pennsylvania is losing approximately 350 acres per day to development. Pennsylvania has the fifth highest amount of acreage lost to development but was ranked 48th lowest among all states in population growth during the 1990s.

The landscape of Penn's Woods is dramatically changing from undeveloped valleys and ridges to residential subdivisions, housing the area's moving population.

The report continues to say "as private forests and farmland are being converted for housing, the pressures on existing public lands will increase while undeveloped landscapes and open spaces will face increased peril. Wildlife, streams, natural areas, threatened species, recreational opportunities, community vitality, economic health, and our general connections with the outdoors are likely to be adversely affected by the consequences of these mounting pressures on Pennsylvania's natural land base."

Several tools exist for the preservation of open space. Among the most equitable are conservation easements, which allow a property owner to limit certain uses on all or a portion of a property for conservation purposes while the owner retains possession and control of the land.

In most cases, owners can either receive cash for the sale of the right to develop (with certain state and local programs) or receive credit for donation of development rights. The sale or donation of development rights permanently preserves a piece of property and is binding upon current and future owners. Added incentives for 2007 provide much larger benefits than ever before for those who donate development rights.

Congress added tax incentives for landowners choosing to permanently preserve their land in 2006. Among these changes are provisions raising the income tax deduction allowed a landowner for donating a conservation easement from 30 percent of their adjusted gross income in the year of the donation plus 5 more years, to 50 percent in the year of the donation plus 15 more years.

It also allows qualifying farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to deduct up to 100 percent of their taxable income, e.g., pay no federal income tax, for the year of the donation plus 15 more years.

These added incentives are available only until the end of 2007.

EPA Land Revitalization Update Newsletter Now Available

The Spring issue of [*Land Revitalization Update*](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now available online.

The quarterly newsletter relating news, upcoming events and issues of interest to the mid-Atlantic region concerning the cleanup and sustainable reuse of contaminated sites.

For previous editions and information on EPA Region 3's [Land Revitalization program webpage](#).

DEP Issues First Ozone Action Days of the Season

The Department of Environmental Protection this week issued its first [Ozone Action Days](#) of the season for Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and the Susquehanna Valley this week urging residents to limit actions that would contribute to unhealthy air quality.

From May to September DEP publishes daily ozone reports using weather forecasts to predict when concentrations of ground-level ozone may reach unhealthy levels or exceed federal health-based standards.

Ozone in the upper atmosphere protects the skin by shielding it from harmful ultraviolet rays, but ground-level ozone is a key component of smog. It forms during warm weather when pollution from vehicles, industry, households and power plants “bakes” in the hot sun, making it hard for some people to breathe.

Young children, the elderly, people with asthma or other lung ailments, and those who work or exercise regularly outdoors are most susceptible to the harmful effects of ground-level ozone.

DEP partners with the Susquehanna Valley, Southwest Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley/Berks County air quality partnerships to provide daily ozone forecasts. Residents can receive early warnings about bad air days by signing up to receive the daily forecasts via e-mail.

The forecast features the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s standardized Air Quality Index that uses color to represent ozone concentrations (green signifies good, yellow means moderate, orange represents unhealthy ozone levels for sensitive people, and red warns of unhealthy ozone levels for everyone). DEP also provides year-round forecasts for fine particulate matter, commonly called PM2.5.

DEP meteorologists issue daily ozone forecasts at 2 p.m. for the Susquehanna Valley, Southwest Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley/Berks County air quality partnership regions. The southeast region maintains its own forecasts through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Individuals who do not have Internet access can call the partnership’s toll-free ozone hotlines: Susquehanna Valley, 1-888-772-1306; Lehigh Valley/Berks County, 1-877-517-2969; Southwest Pennsylvania, 1-800-333-7688; and Southeast Pennsylvania, 1-800-872-7261.

Some tips to follow during high ozone days include the following:

- Refuel vehicles after dark. Avoid spilling gasoline and stop fueling when the pump shuts off automatically;
- Conserve energy. Don’t overcool homes. Turn off lights and appliances that are not in use. Wash clothes and dishes only in full loads;
- Limit daytime driving. Consider carpooling or taking public transportation. Properly maintain vehicles; and
- Limit outdoor activities such as lawn mowing or sports to the evening hours.

To help make people aware of ozone and particle pollution, DEP maintains relationships with various community groups, businesses and local governments, forming air quality partnerships in southwestern Pennsylvania (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties), the Delaware Valley (Bucks,

Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties), the Susquehanna Valley (Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties) and the Lehigh Valley/Berks County region (Lehigh, Berks and Northampton counties).

These partnerships inform people about the dangers of ground-level ozone and fine particle matter, and encourage them to take voluntary actions to reduce their contributions to air pollution.

For more information, visit the [Ozone Action webpage](#).

Interactive Land Use and Air Quality Programs Teacher Workshops

This summer the [Partnership Transportation Management Association of Montgomery County](#) will host two workshops entitled "Creating Interactive Land Use and Air Quality Programs" for educators looking for some new and exciting ideas for their environmental education or social studies programs.

The program is an outgrowth of the popular childrens' Creative Community Camp program. Two different programs are planned. The 9 - 12 grade curriculum will be held on July 17 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and the 4-8 grade curriculum will be held on August 8 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

All programs will be held at the Montgomery Township Building. The programs are free of charge to the participant through funding provided by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Education Grants Program.

Workbooks and refreshments are included. Participants will receive Act 48 credits for their participation.

For more information, visit the [Partnership Transportation Management Association of Montgomery County website](#) or call the PTMA at 215-699-2733.

Governor Delays Climate Proposal, DCNR Continues Work on Carbon Strategy

Gov. Rendell is not likely to announce a climate change strategy proposal for Pennsylvania until after state budget issues are resolved and perhaps not until September, according to an update given to DCNR's [Carbon Management Plan Work Group](#) this week.

Gov. Rendell has said in February he hoped to have a proposal completed by May, but budget issues are now apparently intruding on that timeframe.

The DCNR Group was meeting this week to continue work on a Carbon Management Plan for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that would take advantage of the state's forests and geologic resources to provide carbon sequestration opportunities for the Commonwealth.

The Group approved recommendations for geologic management options that call for:

- Model protocols for the siting and operation of geologic sequestration sites;
- Develop better information on potential sequestration sites outside of Western PA;
- Develop a GIS system that would aid decision-making on selection and operation of sites;
- Identify networks of pipelines in Pennsylvania for their potential use to transport carbon dioxide; and
- Pursue funding and approval for geologic sequestration pilot project, in particular coal bed methane in the anthracite coal region.

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Also discussed were recommendations on how to structure a greenhouse gas registry for forestry and geologic resources in Pennsylvania, recommendations for landscape conservation and forestry options.

The Group is also finalizing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Commonwealth as part of its work.

The announced delay in a climate change proposal from Gov. Rendell will also delay the work of DCNR's group, since it had built in public review time for the proposals they were developing.

The DCNR discussions are being facilitated by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) with staff support from the [Center for Climate Strategies](#).

All the draft recommendations and background reports being considered by the Group is available online at the [Carbon Management Plan Work Group webpage](#).

Links: [DCNR Carbon Sequestration Group Considers Policy Options](#)
[DCNR Carbon Management Group Reviews Policy Options](#)
[DCNR to Develop Carbon Management Plan, Update Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)

Professional Geologists to Host Underground Storage Tank Workshops

The [PA Council of Professional Geologists](#), in cooperation with the PA Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund and Department of Environmental Protection, will host [workshops at three locations](#) for environmental professionals engaged in storage tank cleanup work.

The workshops will be held July 25 in Exton, August 1 in Harrisburg and August 8 in Monroeville.

The objective of this program is to improve the operational efficiency of work being done through the USTIF program at every level.

For the first time since the inception of the Fund, this program will provide a forum for practitioners to hear details of how proficient or deficient work affects the process of site characterizations and remediations, DEP reviews and approvals, and USTIF payments and non-payments.

USTIF representatives will also provide insights into some of the institutional aspects of this statute-based, insurance fund. This program will provide direct information that can be applied to resolving some of the technical and administrative problems that have been thirteen years in the making.

For more information, visit the [Storage Tank Workshop webpage](#).

DEP Citizens Advisory Council Newsletter Now Available Online

DEP's Citizens Advisory Council just published its [quarterly newsletter](#) which features articles on upcoming meetings, Council activities and links to its 2006 Annual Report.

The Council is also encouraging environmental and conservation groups across the state to update their listings in the statewide [Conservation Directory](#) maintained by the Council.

For more information, visit the [Council's website](#).

Environmental Groups Urged to Update Listing in State Conservation Directory

The DEP Citizens Advisory Council is encouraging environmental groups across the state to review and update information in the statewide [Conservation Directory](#).

The directory is a valuable resource tool that lists statewide organizations that promote the protection and conservation of our Commonwealth's natural resources.

Groups must be registered in order to access and change their information.

[Instructions are available online](#).

To search for environmental groups in your area, visit the [Conservation Directory webpage](#).

Gov. Rendell to Seek Ruling From Court on Ethics Commission Opinions

Gov. Rendell said this week he and Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty and Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis will file a petition for review in Commonwealth Court of the May 1 opinions of the State Ethics Commission.

The Governor, McGinty and DiBerardinis have also asked the commission to stay the effects of the two opinions and, additionally, will ask Commonwealth Court for such a stay.

"I applaud the Senate for its vote to confirm both secretaries by overwhelming majorities following the Ethics Commission review," Gov. Rendell said.

"We have always acted to guard the public trust in all public decisions, including grant approval processes," the Governor said. "We took the Ethics Commission opinion very seriously and have put in place steps to provide additional review to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest, as broadly defined by the commission. In addition, we sent advice to more than 18,000 public officials and public employees covered by the Ethics Act and under the Governor's jurisdiction.

"I appreciate that the commission produced the May 1 opinions in a few days at my request," the Governor said. "But, in implementing the provisions of the opinions it became clear that, perhaps because of the expedited timeframe, the commission misinterpreted the Ethics Act. It is in everyone's best interest that we have clear guidance from the courts on important legal interpretations and applications of the Ethics Act to restore the ability of public officials and employees to conduct orderly and efficient business of the commonwealth for the public interest.

"The inappropriately broad opinions are severely compromising the ability of state agencies to fulfill their missions and do the business of the people. These opinions are affecting much more than DEP and DCNR. They are slowing down the operation of state government in general. Not only are the opinions burdensome, but they set an impossible standard that is new and without precedent."

The opinions are having unintended consequences beyond what the commission may have considered. It is important to note that many public officials, employees and their families share a passion for civic service and assume leadership responsibilities in volunteer organizations.

For example, DCNR employees often serve their local volunteer fire companies. Under the commission's opinions, if a spouse, child, parent or sibling of a DCNR employee were associated with a volunteer fire company that competes with other volunteer fire companies as an applicant for funding from DCNR, that employee could not participate in the process of providing funding to any of such volunteer fire company applicants.

The opinions go even further. If a DCNR employee's immediate family member or his employer provides supplies or services to a volunteer fire company, the public employee could not be involved in any grant or other program or process that might involve a benefit to that fire company.

"These examples illustrate the kind of disruption that the commission's opinions can cause to an agency and the public interest," Gov. Rendell said. "The opinions also create a great deal of uncertainty among public officials and public employees regarding the scope of conflicts respecting 'clients' or 'customers' of immediate family members and the businesses with which they are associated and how this information can be maintained so that it is always current and accurate."

NewsClip: [Rendell Appeals Ethics Ruling on Family Ties to State Grants](#)

Links: [Ethics Panel Rules Against Rendell Nominees](#)

Governor Submits Nominations for Public Utility Commission

Gov. Rendell this week took action to fill a vacant position on the Public Utility Commission and renominate a serving commissioner to a new term.

Ty Christy, from Butler County, was nominated to fill the open position on the Commission. Currently serving as vice president of Americas Power Partners/Armstrong Services, Christy also served on the board of the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority.

Kim Pizzingrilli was renominated by the Governor to serve a second term on the Commission. She joined the PUC in 2002 and is the former Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Both nominations require confirmation by the Senate.

NewsClip: [Rendell Announces Nominations for PUC](#)

Spotlight

De Sale I Acid Mine Drainage System Maintenance a Priority

In 1999 eight acres of abandoned mine land spoil was reclaimed using 35,058 tones of alkaline material and a passive mine water treatment system installed as part of the [De Sale Phase I project](#) in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek Watershed in Butler County.

The public-private partnership that did the project included Grove City College, BioMost, Inc., private landowners, Quality Aggregates, Inc., Aquascape, Amerikhol Mining, Inc., Stream

Restoration, Inc., Slippery Rock University, WOPEC, Scrubgrass Generating Plant, watershed volunteers and the Department of Environmental Protection.

But reclamation and construction were only the beginning, proper routine maintenance and water sampling continue to keep the treatment system in tiptop shape.

In April, volunteers in the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition completed routine inspection and maintenance of the De Sale Restoration Area – Phase 1 passive treatment system, including an inspection of the treatment system with field measurements of flow, pH and alkalinity.

To help insure the long-term viability of the site, minor maintenance activities were conducted including: gravity flushing of both vertical flow ponds, “rodding out” of the collection system and forebay pipes, and backflushing of the northern vertical flow pond. All work was completed in about one-half a day, including the freeing of a pickup truck stuck in the mud more than once.

De Sale Phase 1 was the first passive treatment system in the Slippery Rock Creek headwaters to be installed on private property and all the partners in the project continue to thanks the current landowner, Tyrone Snyder for his willingness to provide continued access to this amazing site.

This system has prevented over 180 tons of acidity and 60 tons of metals from entering the stream and dramatically improved water quality in two miles of stream.

For more information, visit the [De Sale Phase I webpage](#). For water quality information, visit the [Datashed entry for this project](#).



Tim Danehy, BioMost, Inc.
backflushes treatment cell, which is
needed every 2 years to maintain flow.

Feature

Fish & Boat Commission’s Doug Austin Heads Out on River Sojourns Around PA

The best place to observe National Fishing and Boating Week --June 2-10--is on the water. That’s where you’ll find Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Doug Austen; over the course of the week, he’ll explore interesting Pennsylvania waterways, meet with constituents, and call attention to the work the Commission and its partners are performing in support of great fishing and boating.

Starting with a float trip and ending with a celebration of a special fishing area, Austen will take in some of the sights-- and sites -- that make the Commonwealth a fishing and boating hot spot.

“I’m always telling the people I meet they need to make more time to enjoy our streams, lakes and rivers. It’s about time I start taking my own advice. Too often I’m in an office or meeting room talking about Pennsylvania’s resources and not out experiencing them. So for National Fishing and Boating Week, I’m going to switch things up a bit by taking my work on the road-- or more accurately-- to the water,” said Austen.

Austen’s trip will begin June 2 at the Schuylkill River Sojourn.

The [Schuylkill River Sojourn](#) is a 110-mile guided canoe or kayak trip on the Schuylkill River from Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia. The waterway serves as the spine for the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area-- a region sporting a remarkable diversity of historic, recreational and cultural attractions. Sojourns are a great way to experience Pennsylvania from a different perspective-- the water.

For more information on sojourns, visit the [POWR Sojourn webpage](#).

Austen’s explorations will next take him to Berks County on June 5.

There, he’ll be assisting PFBC staff performing fisheries survey work on the Little Lehigh Creek. The survey is part of ongoing fish population monitoring to gauge the impacts of habitat improvement projects on the stream.

Addressing habitat is an important part of fisheries management and a growing area of emphasis for the director since coming to Pennsylvania in 2004. He was instrumental in the creation of the [National Fish Habitat Initiative](#) and within the Commission created a new division of Habitat Management.

The morning of June 6 will find Austen at Spring Creek, Centre County.

There he will meet with the local organizing committee hosting the 6th Annual FIPS-Mouche World Youth Fly Fishing Championship. This event, featuring fly fishing teams from around the world, with competitors aged 13 to 18, will be coming to Central Pennsylvania August 3-10.

For more information on the event, contact Betsey Howell, Executive Director of the Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau at 814-231-1401.

Austen will then journey to the [Pennsylvania Wilds](#).

The Pennsylvania Wilds cover 12 counties in Northcentral Pennsylvania and offer more than 2 million acres of public lands. The Pennsylvania Wilds is home to some top-notch fishing and boating. Austen, a member of Gov. Rendell’s Pennsylvania Wilds Task Force, will meet with the Pennsylvania Wilds Tourism and Marketing Corporation comprised of eight Tourist Promotion Agencies responsible for marketing the region as a premier outdoor lovers’ destination.

The afternoon of June 6 and the morning of June 7, Austen will tour Fishing Creek, the Susquehanna River at Lock Haven, and Curwensville Lake.

The evening of June 7 will take Austen to the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards dinner in Pittsburgh. These awards recognize and honor outstanding accomplishments in various environmental initiatives throughout the 29-county western Pennsylvania region.

On June 8, Austen will meet with representatives of the Three Rivers Chapter of Muskies, Inc. and try his hand at fishing for the largest sportfish in Pennsylvania. The species name comes from the Chippewa name for the fish “mas,” meaning “ugly,” and “kinononge,” meaning “fish.”

But musky fishing diehards know there are few things more beautiful than matching wits with these giants. Information on where to find muskellunge in

Pennsylvania, fishing tips and photos can be found on a [special musky feature page](#) on the Commission's web site.

That afternoon, Austen will tour a section of the Youghiogheny River with representatives of Venture Outdoors, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to making the outdoor recreation community a vibrant centerpiece of the Pittsburgh region. Venture Outdoors was recently awarded a [Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grant](#) from the Commission to purchase equipment to assist in efforts to take fishing and boating programs to people at a range of urban sites.

Austen's tour will conclude Saturday, June 9, at Yellow Creek, Bedford County, where he'll speak at a public ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the special regulation trout fishing section of the stream.

A 0.9-mile section of the stream from mouth of Maple Run (Jacks Run) upstream to the cable near Red Bank Hill is currently managed for Catch and Release Fly Fishing Only. The event is coordinated by Yellow Creek Coalition, made up of the Blair County, Fort Bedford, and Mountain Laurel Chapters of Trout Unlimited. The Coalition conducts improvement and cleanup projects, maintains the streamside trail, and is presently working to keep the waterway open to the public in perpetuity.

A jaunt around the state isn't the only way to discover good fishing and boating in Pennsylvania. There are great opportunities right in your backyard. To find great fishing and boating near you, check out the [County Guides section](#) of the Commission website.

To make sampling fishing even easier during National Fishing and Boating Week, the Commission has designated June 3 as a [Fish for Free Day](#). On this date, anyone, not just license holders or youth under the age of 16, can legally fish in Pennsylvania. From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. no fishing license is needed to fish in Pennsylvania's waterways.

Fish For Free Day provides 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.

Need a hand getting started, or restarted, in fishing? Select "Fish" from the left-hand navigation bar on the Commission's web site and click on "[Fishing Fundamentals](#)" from the drop-down menu. There, you can find a list of [Family Fishing Programs](#) that provide fun, friendly hands-on instruction for anglers of all ages.

Or you can delve further into the web site to learn more about basic fishing equipment (including a list of sites where you can borrow [fishing tackle free of charge](#)), locate fishing destinations nearby and information on the types of fish you may catch.

Quick Clips

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

- [Remembering Environmental Guru Rachel Carson](#)
- [Celebrating the Life of Rachel Carson](#)
- [The Next Page: Rachel Carson, 100 Years Young](#)
- [Rachel Carson: Biography Marks Her Centennial](#)
- [Editorial: Rachel Carson](#)

[Audubon Urges Native Plant Use](#)

[Blair Conservation District Announces Winners of Envirothon](#)

[Manheim's New Green School](#)
[Geisinger Nurtures Energy Savings](#)
[State Must Look to Conserve, Policy Secretary Says](#)
[In the Land of Don Quixote, Rendell Seeks a Windfall](#)
[Editorial: It's Good to Be Green](#)
[Cleanup Voyage](#)
[Cleanup Scheduled Along Delaware River](#)
[Someone's Trash May Be Another's Treasure](#)
[Philadelphia Restarts Love Where You Live Anti-Litter Campaign](#)
[Reusable Shopping Bags Gain Popularity](#)
[Making Weddings Environmentally Friendly](#)
[Improved Water Quality Permitting Process Faster](#)
[Allegheny County Officials Plan 128-Mile River Greenspace](#)
[Monroe County Approves Funding for Open Space](#)
[Forums on Waterfront Project Scheduled](#)
[Study Shows Philadelphia Parks In the Toilet](#)
[Deer Attacks, Stomps Dog](#)
[State Seeks to Soften Blow When Caps Go Off Electric Rates](#)
[Power Costs May Short Out PA's Future](#)
[PPL Electric Rates May Soar](#)
[Editorial: Electric, Higher Rates Coming](#)
[Plans for Big Power Line Worries Those In Its Path](#)
[Power Line Project Has Wider Relevance](#)
[Wind Farms Pushed for State Parks](#)
[Turkey Coops' Waste to Power U.S. Litter Plant](#)
[Three PA Universities Receive Solar Energy Grants](#)
[State Lawmaker Powers Up](#)
[Ethanol Fuels Corn Prices, But Not All Farmers Benefit](#)
[PA Leaders Back Energy Independence](#)
[Editorial: The Gas Gospel – Climate Change](#)
[Forum: State Must Do More to Revitalize Cities](#)
[Falcon Nests a Sign Species is Recovering](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Hurricane Season Starts Friday, Remembering Agnes](#)
[Region Featured in Canadian Documentary](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Region's Senators Unite to Fight for Bay in Farm Bill](#)
[Mahanoy Creek Project Dedicated](#)
[Lehigh Valley Groups Get Grants to Preserve Stream Habitat](#)
[Lancaster County Looks for Green Roof Solutions](#)
[Maiden Creek Watershed Solutions](#)
[Rowing Club Looks to Promote River](#)
[DEP, Norfolk Southern Reach Restoration Agreement At Spill Site](#)
[Trying to Reduce Flooding Along the Little Neshaminy](#)

[Keeping the Little Neshaminy Healthy](#)
[Lake Lackawanna Fish Biologists Report](#)
[Piney Dam, Clarion County Fish Biologists Report](#)
[Somerset Rafting Program Sues PA for Ban From Youghiogheny River](#)
[Editorial: 2007 Farm Bill](#)

Regulations

No new regulations published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 2, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new policies published this week.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **June 4** – House Consumer Affairs Committee meeting to consider [House Resolution 297](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) expressing opposition to the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors. Room 39. Call of Chair.
- **June 5** – House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Mifflin) establishing the PA Geospatial Council. Room 302 Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **June 5** – House Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 904](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) authorizing local building moratoriums, [House Bill 983](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) providing additional options for local preservation of open space, [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman) requiring municipalities to take steps to protect the Appalachian Trail, [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for the jurisdiction of courts on zoning appeals, [House Bill 1330](#) (Kessler) further providing for appeals of local land development ordinances. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.

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- **June 5** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure joint committee hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania. Majority Caucus Room. 10:00.
- **June 5** – House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) that would allow farms preserved under the state Clean and Green law to allow the development of wind farms. Room 39 East Wing. 9:00.
- **June 5** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Jennings Environmental Center, Slippery Rock. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **June 6** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 454](#) (Frankel-D-Allegheny) establishing an Office of Environmental Advocate within the Department of Environmental Protection; and [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law. G-50 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **June 6** – House Health and Human Services Committee meets to consider [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) creating a Task Force on Lyme Disease and related maladies with DCNR, Department of Health and Game Commission, Room 205 Ryan Building. 11:30.
- **June 6** – House Education Committee meets to consider [House Bill 894](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) authorizing the Department of Education to provide extra reimbursement for school building construction meeting LEED green building standards, [House Bill 1297](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) establishing an electric meter lending program in local libraries (with a request the bill be referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee). Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.
- **June 6** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. California University of PA, California. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **June 6** – House Game and Fisheries Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1116](#) (Kortz-D-Allegheny) authorizing vouchers for game licenses, [House Bill 1109](#) (Staback-D-Lackawanna) authorizing vouchers for fishing licences and [Senate Bill 580](#) (Madigan-R-Tioga) use of dogs while hunting wild turkey. Room 60 East Wing. 9:00.
- **June 7** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Penn State University, Dubois. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **June 12** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure joint committee hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **June 12** – House Game and Fisheries Committee public hearing on [House Bill 251](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) Amending Title 34 related to game feeders. 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **June 12** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 11.
- **June 12** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 11.
- **June 21** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Task Force Meeting. Penn Stater Hotel, State College. 10:00.

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- **July 12 – CHANGE.** DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting will be held in a new location – 16th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#) (courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

[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@CrisciAssociates.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com.

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716.

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