

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

June 5, 2006

Unfinished Business As General Assembly Returns-- Budget, Other Issues

The General Assembly is returning to session on June 5 with a plate full of issues waiting for them. Not the least of which is to finish the state budget before June 30. Here's a quick rundown on pending environmental issues.

State Budget: With a new revenue reports now showing a \$700 million surplus as a result of May tax collections this week, [Gov. Rendell wasted no time in suggesting](#) how the General Assembly might spend it-- some for additional business tax relief, make up the differences in cuts to federal programs, an increase in Alternative Energy Incentive Grants and declaring a sales tax holiday on energy efficient appliances—a total of \$260 million in all.

Unfortunately, none of the Rendell Administration's plans for the surplus involve restoring the more than \$100 million in budget cuts and shifts the Administration proposed in basic state environmental funding.

Groups as diverse as the [PA League of Conservation Voters](#), [Farm Bureau](#), [PennFuture](#), the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) and [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) have registered their concerns about state environmental funding since the budget proposal was announced in February, as well as cuts in federal environmental funding.

In budget hearings in the Senate and House this past March, DEP Secretary McGinty outlined what she called the [budget "challenges"](#) faced by her agency in the coming year.

The Game Commission in particular [faces a funding shortfall](#) that could make it difficult for the agency to pay all of its bills after July 1 if no new revenue is found for the coming year. A House hearing on this topic is set for June 8. (*See Calendar*)



A Scarlet Tanager visits the Loral Run 2 Project by the Blacklick Creek Watershed Assn.

Photo by Robert Eppley

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Mercury Issue: Competing proposals to reduce mercury emissions from power plants are now in process. [Senate Bill 1201](#) and [House Bill 2610](#), bipartisan legislation that would reduce mercury emissions by 86 percent from Pennsylvania power plants, has been the subject of three hearings in the Senate and House, with another Senate Committee hearing set for June 6. The legislation is supported by a [coalition of labor, business and the coal industry](#). ([House hearing](#), [Senate hearing 1](#), [hearing 2](#))

The Environmental Quality Board approved a [proposed mercury rule for public comment in May](#), but not with expressions of concern about the potential consequences to Pennsylvania's electric generation capacity and its potential costs by the Chairman of the Public Utility Commission and a recommendation by the Chair of the DEP Citizens Advisory Council that DEP must put together a "decision document" before a final action is taken on the rule so everyone can understand its costs and real environmental benefits.

California Car Standards: [House Bill 2141](#) (Geist-R-Blair), which would prohibit the Department of Environmental Protection from adopting the current California vehicle emission standards, is in the Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and a companion bill— [Senate Bill 1025](#) (Madigan-R-Tioga) is in the House Transportation Committee.

Environmental Education: [Senate Bill 410](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) to establish the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law and was tabled in the House.

Deep Mine Safety: [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset), making improvements to the Bituminous Coal Mine Act deep mine safety law to help deal with concerns raised by the Quecreek Mine Accident in 2002 and other issues, was the subject of two [hearings in January and February](#) in the Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee. The companion bill-- [House Bill 2229](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset)—and [House Bill 2619](#) (Bastian) establishing a Mine Families First Program to provide assistance to families involved in mine rescue operations are pending in the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.

Discussions between the United Mine Workers of American, the PA Coal Association and the Senate have been ongoing to try to resolve differences in the basic bills since the hearings.

Sewer/Water Connection Funding: [House Bill 1108](#) (Rubleby-R-Chester) that would establish the Water and Wasterwater Connection Funding Program within PennVEST is in the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Farmers First Agenda: The Senate Agriculture Committee held a [hearing in October](#) on proposals to deal with excess manure produced by livestock operations as part of a "Farmers First Agenda" promoted by Senators Waugh (R-York) and Wenger (R-Lancaster) where the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other groups testified. Part of that package, [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) that would create a Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools Program, will be considered by the Senate Agriculture Committee on June 7.

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Uniform Environmental Covenants: [House Bill 1249](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) would establish uniform language in covenants relating to the cleanup of brownfield sites to protect the integrity of cleanup methods and ensure ongoing monitoring responsibilities. The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held a [hearing on the legislation in September](#) and it is still in Committee.

Energy Policy: The House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee held a series of informational meetings on energy issues and is expected to consider several pieces of legislation on energy issues as a result of the comments received.

Recycling Fee: [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) eliminating the sunset date on the \$2/ton Recycling Fee and requiring Recycling Performance Grants to be used for local recycling and waste reduction efforts is the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Adopt-A-River Program: [House Bill 1051](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) establishing the Adopt-a-River Program in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was tabled in the House.

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session on June 5

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- Bills Introduced

Other News

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- Pittsburgh to Host National “Greening of Historic Properties” Summit
- June Issue of EE Connections Newsletter Available From Environmental Ed Center
- Game Commission Posts Final Urban Deer Management Plan
- Barn Owl Conservation Efforts Expand to Northwest and Northeast PA

See & Hear

- Take an Online Tour of Cook Forest, PA’s Old Growth Forest

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On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda

Here's what will be on the Senate and House agenda when they return to session on June 5.

Calendars

The House will start with these bills of interest on its June 5 Calendar-- [House Bill 1588](#) providing for the fluoridation of public water; [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment, and [Senate Bill 868](#) increasing the forest land in-lieu of tax payment.

Committees

In the House, the Game & Fisheries Committee will hold a public hearing on legislation to increase Game Commission license fees -- [House Bill 2600](#) -- the basic adult resident hunting license would be raised from \$19 to \$29; [House Bill 2601](#) would increase the fee to \$34 and both bills would also establish a \$10 pheasant stamp and a \$5 turkey stamp with the proceeds to be used solely for the maintenance and operating of programs for preserving and encouraging the hunting of these species in Pennsylvania; and [House Bill 2602](#) would create a \$20 conservation stamp for individuals who use state game lands for any purpose that would be deposited into state Game Fund.

In the Senate, the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1209](#) establishing the Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools; and the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a third hearing on reducing mercury emissions from power plants.

Senate Committee to Hold Third Hearing on Reducing Mercury Emissions

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold its third hearing on the issue of reducing mercury emissions from power plants on June 6.

The purpose of the hearing will be to recall DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty for further questioning and hear from health experts Dr. Gail Charnley from HealthRisk Strategies and Dr. Cynthia Goodman, Public Health Physician with the state Department of Health.

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In Other News

Water Resources Education Network Awards 27 Grants for Education Projects

The [Water Resources Education Network Project](#), a program of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund announced this week the award of \$100,412 in funding to community partnerships across the state.

The projects will carry out water resources education programs in the coming year. Funding comes from 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 2006-2007 WREN grant program are:

Drinking Water Source Water Protection Projects

Altoona City Authority, Blair County, will partner with Blair County Conservation District to present a Blair County Water Festival in May 2007, visit elementary schools, and participate in Altoona Curve Baseball School Kids' Days with an educational display promoting source water protection awareness and water conservation in the Juniata River watershed. Tobias Nagle, acalab1@atlanticbbn.net . \$5,000.

Ashland Area Municipal Authority, Schuylkill County, will install two Spill Response Signs on I-81 in a Mahanoy Creek watershed area that contains source waters for five water systems and hold a meeting with local emergency response departments on accident clean-up in the source water area. Steve Ulceski, ulceski@verizon.net . \$5,000.

Bedford Borough Water Authority, Bedford & Somerset Counties, will implement parts of their Source Water Protection Plan through installation of 6 Water Supply Area signs and distribution of Source Water Protection brochures to residents of the Raystown Branch Juniata River Watershed. John Montgomery, jlm1975@earthlink.net . \$1,200.

Berks County Conservation District, Berks County, will develop a calendar that each month will highlight a different Best Management Practice installed at a Berks County farm, business or water supplier in the Maiden Creek and other watersheds in the County. With illustrations and pictures about protecting drinking water supplies, the calendar, along with the District's website, will be a tool for agricultural organizations and government agencies to educate citizens about source water protection. Lyn O'Hare, cohare@countyofberks.com . \$4,800.

Canton Borough Authority, Bradford County, will install Water Supply signs for their wellhead protection area and purchase educational materials (TAPWater kit) for use by area schools in the Towanda Creek watershed. Lester Hilfiger, cantonba@frontiernet.net . \$1,450.

Clymer Borough Municipal Authority, Indiana County, will educate students in the Two Lick Creek watershed using a TAPWater kit, sponsor a place mat design contest, and develop a public outreach program that includes a community event display and

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distribution of the winning placemats to area restaurants. Jan Gallo, cbmal@verizon.net . \$1,550.

Johnsonburg Municipal Authority, Elk, McKean County, will begin implementing the education component of their Source Water Protection Plan with installation of five Water Supply Area signs and printing and distributing Source Water Protection brochures in the Upper Clarion River watershed. James DeAngelo, jmawater@ncentral.com . \$2,000.

Mountain Watershed Association, Inc., Westmoreland, Fayette County, will expand their use of the national “Trips for Kids” program to introduce children to mountain biking while they learn about things they can do to protect the Indian Creek watershed and the sources that provide their drinking water. Beverly Braverman, mtwatershed@lhrc.net . \$5,000.

Riegelsville Borough, Bucks County, will conduct an education and outreach program to implement their Source Water Protection Plan for groundwater in the Riegelsville area including placements, brochures, a display and information on the borough website. Tammy Macaluso, riegelsville@verizon.net . \$2,800.

Roamingwood Sewer & Water Association, Wayne County will design and administer two 32-hour workshops along with Lacawac Sanctuary for teachers in the Wallenpaupack Creek watershed based on the TAPWater kit and program. Workshop objectives include equipping teachers with tools and resources for shaping groundwater protection lessons in their schools. Kevin Dunn, Janice Poppich, ownkvn@aol.com . \$4,226.

Southeast Project Grass, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill Counties will develop a 12-month Grazing and Pasture Management Planner illustrating Best Management Practices of pasture management that have been shown to be effective at lowering risks of pollution to drinking water supplies. With dates for implementing BMPs included along with pictures, this project will provide source water protection education in Delaware and Susquehanna watersheds. Dan Ludwig, dan.ludwig@pa.usda.gov . \$4,950.

Stewartstown Borough, York County will implement portions of their Source Water Protection Plan with a storm drain-marking program that includes door hangers to provide additional information on drinking water protection in the Borough and Hopewell Township in York County. Robert Hunt, swdept@stewartstown.org . \$1,450.

Terre Hill Borough, Lancaster County will implement a wellhead protection program along with Blue Ball Water Authority for groundwater in Terre Hill and East Earl Township area through a school education program and a public outreach program using a TAPWater kit and groundwater flow model to train teachers. The project will also sponsor a placemat/poster contest, install six Water Supply Area signs, design an educational brochure, and distribute the winning placemats to area restaurants. Robert Rissler, pwsbob@terrehillboro.com , office@terrehillboro.com . \$5,000.

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Union City Municipal Authority, Erie County will use educational tools such as TAPWater Kit and EnviroScape Model to educate attendees at The Gathering at French Creek about protecting the drinking water supplies in the French Creek and Laurel Run watersheds. The project will also host a children’s poster contest and design and distribute an educational brochure to residents. Marsha Tomcho, water@surferie.net . \$4,036.

Volant Borough, Lawrence County will implement part of their Wellhead Protection Program through a professionally designed display describing the local groundwater supply and the Neshannock Creek Watershed and how people can help protect water supplies in the area. The display will be placed near public restrooms in a community park where tourist traffic is high. Jeff Staul, jhstaul@hotmail.com . \$1,950.

Watershed Protection Projects

Alliance for a Sustainable Future, Montgomery County will work with three municipalities to install stream crossing signs, distribute education and free tree assessments to stream-side property owners, and arrange for community wide education about what homeowners and businesses can do to keep nonpoint source pollution out of creeks and open waters in the Wissahickon Valley watershed. Susan Curry, susc Curry@comcast.net . \$5,000.

Clearfield County Conservation District, Clearfield County will orchestrate a “Conservation Celebration” which will include a run-bike-canoe triathlon and a festival promoting outdoor activities to educate Clearfield County citizens about the role they can play in protecting and restoring local streams and rivers, including the west branch of the Susquehanna. Rachel Kester, rkesterccd@atlanticbbn.net . \$1,680.

Dauphin County Conservation District, Dauphin County will equip municipal officials in the county with the tools and knowledge to make decisions related to development and stormwater management which will prevent nonpoint source pollution from reaching the county’s rivers and streams. Andrew McAllister, amcallisterdccd@pa.net . \$5,000.

Erie County Conservation District, Erie County will build an outdoor “micro-watershed” demonstrating all the major causes of nonpoint source pollution such as agricultural operations and failing septic systems and how citizens and officials can work together to prevent pollution from entering Mill Creek. Brian Zeppenfeld, bzeppenfeld@adelphia.net . \$5,000.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, Cambria & Somerset Counties will implement portions of the Paint Creek Restoration Plan by using the monitoring data collected by the Water Monitoring Committee in initiatives to educate citizens in the community about abandoned mine drainage and how data can be used to prioritize and evaluate Paint Creek watershed cleanup projects. Melissa Reckner, mreckner@kcstreamteam.org . \$5,000.

Lower Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association, Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties will show how development and changing land uses in the Tunkhannock Creek

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watershed can cause nonpoint source pollution in local waters. Using photographs, data, and presentations, the project will educate how citizens and officials can work together on practices and policies that can be implemented to reduce pollution in the watershed. Robert Daniels, bobio@epix.net . \$2,170.

Luzerne Conservation District, Luzerne County hold workshops to demonstrate how homeowners can reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay Watershed by maintaining "backyard conservation" measures such as rainbarrels and alternate methods of landscaping, including water gardens and stormwater wetlands. Shawn Rybka, s.rybka@luzernecd.org . \$5,000.

Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association Inc., Sullivan, Wyoming, Bradford & Luzerne Counties will provide information to the community about stream restoration efforts intended to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Mehoopany Creek and educate landowners and local officials about using natural stream design principles to manage their properties in a way that reduces sedimentation and water flow speed in the Mehoopany Creek. Lars Lundin, lundin2015@epix.net . \$1,550.

Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition, Center & Clearfield Counties will design a newspaper insert about acid mine drainage and the devastating effects this nonpoint source pollution has had on the Moshannon Creek. By placing the insert in several area newspapers, citizens will learn how they can support officials looking to initiate and finance restoration efforts. Art Beveridge, ascotchman@iqnetsys.net . \$5,000.

Northampton County Conservation District, Northampton & Lehigh Counties will coordinate and conduct the 2006 Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference, a forum for individuals, watershed protection organizations and municipal officials that will equip participants with resources and tools to address nonpoint source pollution in the watersheds of the Lehigh Valley. Kate Brandes, kate-brandes@pa.nacdnet.org . \$5,000.

Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc., Delaware County will hold workshops for homeowners and businesses of Radnor and Upper Providence Townships illustrating how rain gardens and rain barrels can lower the amount of stormwater runoff during rain events and significantly curtail the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering the Darby Creek, Ridley Creek, and Crum Creek. Sue Cochrane, cochrane@prc.org . \$5,000.

Peters Creek Watershed Association, Inc., Allegheny & Washington Counties will use written materials, interpretive signage, and web based educational programs to instill in the citizens of Peters Creek watershed an incentive to adopt behaviors and encourage local policies that will reduce nonpoint source pollution in Peters Creek. Tim Schumann, peterscreekwsa@verizon.net . \$4,600.

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

Save This Date – August 24-26 Mine Reclamation/Mine Drainage Conference

The [8th Annual Statewide AMD and AMR Conference](#) will be held August 24 to 26 at the Atherton Hotel in State College. This year's theme is "Back to Basics."

The Conference is being coordinated by the [Western](#) and [Eastern](#) Pennsylvania Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

The program will feature presentations on passive mine drainage treatment systems, evaluating water monitoring results, identification of funding sources for projects and much more.

Watershed groups, public agencies, consultants, local and state officials will all be in attendance to network and share their craft.

Check the [Statewide AMD and AMR Conference website](#) in the coming weeks for more information.

Streambank Fencing Program Available for Grazing Operations in 15 Counties

The [Capital Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc.](#) this week announced a new funding program that will assist farmers in Southcentral Pennsylvania to install fencing along streams.

The program, called the Regional Riparian Initiative, provides cost share funding for riparian fencing on livestock farms, with priority being placed on those using rotational grazing practices.

The project area includes: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York counties.

Riparian buffer projects that are eligible to receive financial assistance under the Regional Riparian Initiative (RRI) consist of rotational grazing projects, non-rotational grazing projects in combination with state, federal, or private programs, or non-rotational grazing projects as a stand-alone.

All projects applying for funds under this initiative will follow the same procedure, regardless of whether they are associated with a rotational grazing management system or not. The applicant will complete a submittal form, a project cost estimate form with appropriate documentation for each project then submit to the Capital RC&D Office for review and approval.

"The Capital RC&D Council is proud to be a part of the Regional Riparian Initiative and Southcentral Project Grass as a way to provide service to our farmers and to encourage local waterway protection" stated Susan Richards, Capital RC&D Program Manager.

For more information or to apply for the RRI program, please contact your local Project Grass Coordinator or Susan Richards, Capital RC&D Program Manager at 717-948-6633 or send email to: susan.richards@rcdnet.net or visit the [Capital RC&D website](#).

Nutrient Trading Program Available to Dauphin County Farmers

The [Dauphin County Conservation District](#) this week announced the establishment of a nutrient trading program available to Dauphin County farm owners.

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Farmers who are accepted into the program will receive 100 percent cost-share funding to install selected Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as cover crops and no-till practices, which generate nutrient trading credits due to their effectiveness at reducing the amount of nutrients delivered to the water supply via runoff.

Nutrient trading allows point source dischargers (waste water treatment plants or developers) to obtain nutrient reduction credits and thus meet their permit requirements, from non-point source dischargers (farmers) who have reduced their nutrient discharge below a basic water quality protection threshold requirement through the use of BMPs.

The additional reductions generated by the farmer are nutrient trading credits. These credits have a monetary value that may be paid to the farmer.

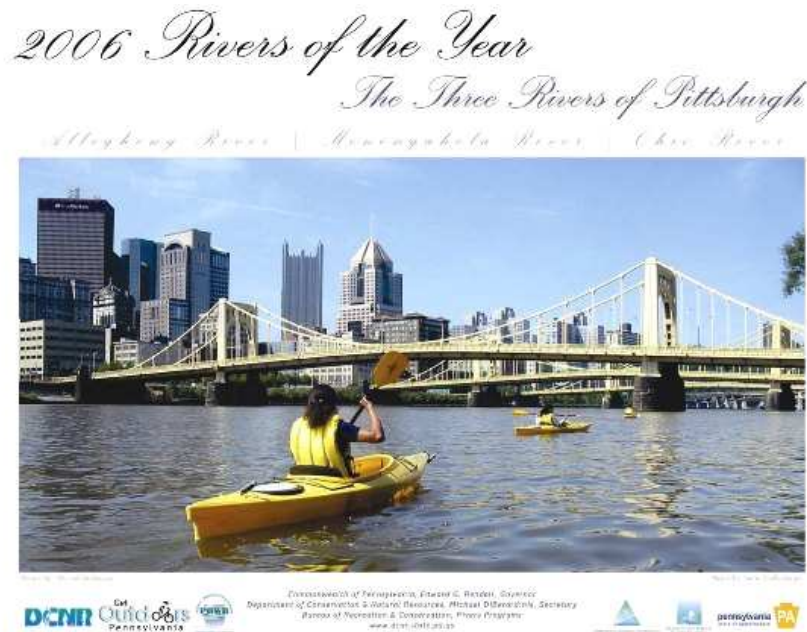
This program was created in response to a Department of Environmental Protection initiative focused on enhancing the water quality of the Susquehanna River in order to meet federal mandates enacted to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The two-year trial program is open to Dauphin County farmers who meet minimum program requirements. To speak with an Agricultural Specialist regarding eligibility, or to obtain a copy of the District's agricultural newsletter, which features general information about the nutrient trading program, please call 717-921-8100.

Get Free Three Rivers 2006 River of the Year Poster

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources named Pittsburgh's three rivers—the Allegheny, Monongahela and the Ohio-- the 2006 River of the Year and now you can help celebrate by getting your own copy of this year's full color poster.

To order your copy, visit the [PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers poster order page](#) and put in your request.



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Learn More About the Susquehanna Expedition Starting June 18



Starting June 18, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will lead 12 members of Future Farmers of America on a once-in-a-lifetime Susquehanna Expedition.

The high school students will be on the river for 30 days traveling the 444 miles from Cooperstown, New York to Annapolis, Maryland.

The trip is designed to connect local communities with their creeks while providing a variety of learning and leadership opportunities to the participating students.

On the special [Susquehanna Expedition website](#) find out more about the “crew,” the schedule, planned events along the way you can participate in and sign up for free email updates on the progress of the Expedition. You can also view online journals kept by the students.

Special riverside community events are planned for stops July 1 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Shikellamy State Park Marina and on July 7 on Harrisburg’s City Island.

Future Farmers of America – PA, L.L.Bean, the National Geographic Society, Verizon, JDTECK Ltd. and NOAA are major [sponsors and partners of the Expedition](#).

Come along and join the fun! It might even be educational!

Local Environmental Projects Funded By PECO's Green Region Grant Program

Six local environmental projects from across the Philadelphia region are the latest recipients of \$50,000 grants from the [PECO/Natural Lands Trust Green Region Grants Program](#).

Through the Green Region Program, PECO helps municipalities in southeastern Pennsylvania with ongoing efforts to protect and improve open land. To date, more than 13 municipalities have already received funding.

The recipients for the Spring awards are:

- **New Hope Borough, Bucks County:** Open Space Plan - a \$10,000 grant to develop a plan for a park at the site of a former historic building that burned down in 2005.
- **Borough of South Coatesville, Chester County:** Community Revitalization Plan - a \$5,000 grant will be awarded to develop a community-wide revitalization plan for use in securing additional grants.
- **Caln Township, Chester County:** Kings Highway Property Plan - a \$5,000 grant to help develop a plan for the use of a 91-acre parcel of land along Kings Highway.
- **Chadds Ford, Delaware County:** Open Space Plan - a \$5,000 grant will be awarded to help township leaders develop an open space plan to identify, evaluate and prioritize the current assets and resources for the community.
- **Concord Township, Delaware County:** Collman Tract Open Space Plan - a \$5,000 to develop the Collman tract, a 10-acre former farmland, for municipal and passive recreational use. The tract is along Smithbridge Road, which is adjacent to the

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Concord Township municipal complex, which will eventually access the township's walking trail.

- **Jenkintown Borough, Montgomery County:** Open Space Plan – a \$10,000 to update Jenkintown's open space plan to help it secure funding from the Montgomery County Open Space Board.
- **Overbrook, Philadelphia County:** Lancaster Avenue Redevelopment Corporation – a \$10,000 to help the Lancaster Avenue Redevelopment Corporation transform several lots into low-pollen-producing butterfly sanctuaries.

Municipalities may apply for a Green Region grant of up to \$10,000 per project in their region. This year, PECO will fund nearly \$100,000 in projects - the same amount the company distributed last year for this program. A Green Region review committee, which includes representatives from PECO, Exelon, county agencies and conservation organizations, reviewed applications and issued the grants.

"We hope these grants help nurture ongoing efforts to promote open space initiatives," said Denis O'Brien, PECO president. "We realize that open spaces add immensely to the quality of life for the region's citizens and we're pleased to be able to contribute to these efforts."

Natural Lands Trust, a non-profit, regional land conservation group, administers Green Region. Grants are available twice a year with application deadlines in the spring and fall.

The grants can be used, along with other sources of funding, to cover a variety of planning and direct expenses associated with developing and implementing open space protection programs, including: consulting fees, surveys, environmental assessments, habitat improvements, and capital improvements for passive recreation.

For information, guidelines and applications, visit the [Green Region Program webpage](#) or contact Oliver Bass, Natural Lands Trust, 610-353-5587 x. 244

PA Foundry Association Partners with Groups to Reduce Energy Costs

The Pennsylvania Foundry Association this week announced a partnership with [EnergyConnect, Inc.](#), [Powerweb, Inc.](#) and the [Pennsylvania Automated Load Management Initiative](#) to help their members reduce energy costs.

"PFA is pleased to form a partnership with EnergyConnect Inc. and Powerweb Inc. to promote the PALM initiative and PJM Economic Demand Response programs," said Chris Moyer, PFA Executive Vice President. "This is a partnership that can provide both energy revenue and reduced energy expenditures to PFA members. PFA is a statewide trade association representing approximately 95 percent of the 150 foundries operating in Pennsylvania. It was formed in 1974 to serve the business interests of the industry, representing its members in the areas of insurance, training, taxation, environmental, energy, safety and occupational health."

ECI was selected to be the [PJM Demand Response Program Curtailment Service Provider](#) enabling PFA members' access both to PJM Economic Real-Time and Day-Ahead Programs, and to the PALM initiative.

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The PALM initiative, funded by a grant from the PA Energy Development Authority, is designed to educate, promote, and provide incentives to commercial consumers of Pennsylvania to reduce energy consumption.

The PALM initiative provides commercial consumers a means to harness and trade renewable energy credits while also providing rebate dollars of up to 50 percent for the costs of installing “real-time” equipment that monitors and controls electricity usage via the Internet.

The PALM initiative, managed and administered by Powerweb Inc., seeks to create an energy consumption reduction of 10 percent in Pennsylvania and, according to the PALM website, is “saving the environment one kilowatt at a time!” Pennsylvania is one of only two states in the U.S. that enables consumers to trade energy efficiency credits for measures performed at their facilities.

Southwest Energy Efficiency & Pollution Prevention Roundtable Meets June 9

The next meeting of the Southwest PA Industry E2P2 Roundtable will be held at Penn State McKeesport on June 9 from 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Participation is free, but will be limited to the first 30 participants who register.

This will be a unique opportunity to learn techniques and strategies for reducing energy costs from expert consultants who specialize in compressed air system analysis. Case studies, including results of a recent assessment for PreCoat Metals in McKeesport, will be used to highlight opportunities for savings common among industrial facilities.

The discussion will be very technical and geared toward those who manage compressor systems in your facility. It is suggested that participants should include plant engineers, maintenance staff or plant managers.

Topics will include: cost-effective use of compressed air systems; top 10 opportunities for reducing energy cost; the supply and demand sector; compressed air systems controls; and the PreCoat Metals case study.

The Roundtable will be held at the [Penn State McKeesport campus](#).

For more information and to register, contact Roger Price at 412-675-9482 or rogerprice@psu.edu, or Maggie Hall at 412-442-4137 or mahall@state.pa.us.

Johnson & Johnson Environmental Excellence Award Earns Visit From Secretary

DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty this week honored Johnson & Johnson’s Pharmaceutical Research and Development Spring House campus in Montgomery County for its implementation of a “zero” discharge cooling tower water treatment system that reduces water consumption by 4.8 million gallons per year and saves more than \$29,000 annually.

“This member of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies is at the forefront of water conservation in Pennsylvania,” Secretary McGinty said during a visit to the facility. “The Spring House plant demonstrates the success of a corporate credo that goes beyond compliance. This company’s efforts protect natural resources.”

Johnson & Johnson’s cooling tower project was one of 12 winners of the [Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#), announced last month.

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As the key project in a five-year water conservation program, Johnson & Johnson implemented a “zero” discharge cooling tower water treatment system that reduces water consumption, wastewater generation and discharges; improves efficiencies; reduces use of water treatment chemicals; and eases the burden on the local water authority and wastewater treatment plant.

Cooling towers remove excess heat from processes and building conditioning systems. They often use a lot of water not only for cooling but to prevent pipes and other components from becoming over mineralized.

In the fourth quarter of 2004, Johnson & Johnson’s Pharmaceutical Research and Development implemented a system that softens the water -- much like a home water softening system -- and makes it possible to reuse water for several additional cycles. By consuming less clean water and reducing the volume of wastewater being discharged to sewers, the new system annually conserves 4.8 million gallons.

“This project demonstrates not only technical innovation, but also the company’s ability to involve stakeholders,” Secretary McGinty said. “Johnson & Johnson worked closely with the North Wales Water Authority and Ambler Borough to transition successfully to the implementation of this system.”

The Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence honors Pennsylvania businesses and organizations that put projects in place that take on environmental problems in ways that build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in their communities.

For information on other winners, visit the [Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#).

Pittsburgh to Host National “Greening of Historic Properties” Summit

The [Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation](#) and [Green Building Alliance](#) will host a National Summit on the “[Greening of Historic Properties](#)” on October 30 at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center in Pittsburgh.

The National Summit will bring experts together from the disciplines of green building and historic preservation to discuss and identify the issues associated with greening historic properties and draft practical solutions that can be used in the long run as guidelines for greening historic properties.

Organizers of the Summit need your help shaping the Summit program by filling out a [short online survey](#).

For more information and to register, visit the “[Greening of Historic Properties](#)” webpage.

June Issue of EE Connections Newsletter Available From Environmental Ed Center

The June issue of [EE Connections newsletter](#) from the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online.

The highlights from this month’s issue include—

General News: CBF Names Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award Winners;

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Pennsylvania to Protect Thousands of Acres of Forestland in Cambria County; PA American Water to Undertake Ecological Restoration Project; PA Recognizes Pennsylvania Schools for Protecting Schuylkill River; Resource Reviews Provide a Winning Marketing Strategy; EETAP Announces Two New Articles Highlighting Environmental Education; On-Line Nature Discussion Forum; New DVD on Organic Farming Practices; Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center Open for 2006.

K-12 News: 2006 Nature Art Contest; EstuaryLive ~ Online; A Reason for the Season; 2006 PLT PreK-8 Guide; Coming Soon: The Great Warming; Teacher's Environmental Quiz; New Movie: HOOT; Education on Energy.

Higher Education: Lafayette College Students Win EPA's People, Prosperity and Planet Award.

Professional Development: Game Commission Provides Wildlife Workshops for Teachers; Penn State Summer Teacher Workshop; NAAEE 35th Annual Conference; Two Summer Semesters of Online Courses from American Museum of Natural History; Free Professional Development Web Seminars.

Grants/Awards: Wild Resource Conservation Program Grant Applications; DCNR Conservation Partnership Grants; Energy Harvest, Pa. Energy Development Authority Grant Applications; Scholarships for On-line Courses Available through EETAP; Edith Stevens Groundwater Educator Award; Green Communities Charrette Grants; Outdoor Classroom Grants.

To get your own copy, send an email to: info@pcee.org or visit the [EE Connections sign-up webpage](#).

Game Commission Posts Final Urban Deer Management Plan

The Game Commission this week finalized its [urban/suburban deer management plan](#) to more effectively manage deer in developed areas of the state and posted it on its website.

"Human-deer conflicts are a real, not just a perceived, problem," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "Pennsylvania primarily manages deer through hunting, but hunter success, especially in developed areas, is influenced by hunter access to land open to hunting and safety zone issues.

"The use of traditional hunting methods are always the most economical way to manage deer, and this plan employs traditional deer management techniques. However, it also offers non-traditional deer management approaches, as well as an educational program that incorporates current practices and possible solutions into an integrated, comprehensive approach to resolve urban/suburban deer problems."

Roe noted that, due to the agency's limited financial resources, it would take time to implement all the strategies in the plan.

The plan outlines four main goals: reduce deer impacts in developed areas using hunting options; reduce deer-human conflicts using non-hunting options where hunting options are shown to not be feasible or sufficient; inform urban leadership, residents, and

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hunters about deer management options and opportunities in developed areas; and encourage positive relationships between hunters and communities in developed areas.

To accomplish these goals, the urban/suburban deer plan includes recommendations to:

- Expand hunting opportunities and create an "Urban Deer Control Program" that allows for the taking of deer outside of the regular hunting seasons in developed areas, similar to the Agricultural Depredation Program ("Red Tag" program);
- Discourage deer feeding and support local ordinances that prohibit deer feeding in developed areas with unacceptable levels of deer conflicts;
- Develop a written agency policy on the use of deer fertility control agents, then review and update the policy as needed. While, no effective deer contraceptive program has been developed to effectively manage free-ranging deer populations, such as those in urban/suburban areas of the state, a comprehensive review of current literature and reports about ongoing studies needs to be conducted so the agency and the Bureau of Wildlife Management can be in a position to address the issue when it arises;
- Increase availability of written, electronic, and web-based informational and educational publications and presentations concerning hunting and non-hunting deer management options in developed areas;
- Create and develop a landowner/hunter database template to be used by communities and municipalities to identify available hunters; and
- Provide an advanced hunter education course for hunters in developed areas.

The lack of hunter access to lands open to hunting historically has hindered efforts to reduce deer numbers in suburbia. Other challenges include sporting arms limitations; safety zone restrictions; public perceptions about hunters; and the inconveniences and lack of appeal associated with hunting in areas with large numbers of people, homes and automobiles.

The Game Commission's five-year Deer Management Plan - adopted in 2003 - identifies the reduction of deer-human conflicts as one of its three goals. Those conflicts are most common in urban/suburban settings, places many Pennsylvanians rarely consider whitetail country. But the deer are there, often in excessive numbers, causing property damage and genuine safety concerns.

"The Game Commission is challenged to minimize the negative impacts of urban/suburban deer, yet retain the positive benefits they provide many metropolitan residents," Roe said. "Our goal is not to eliminate whitetails in urban/suburban areas. Rather, we are striving to provide options that any community with deer damage can use for relief. But communities must recognize that there are no quick fixes, or one-time solutions to reducing deer-human conflicts in urban/suburban settings.

"Communities also must recognize that they will need to take an active role in managing the deer within their community. Deer must be managed aggressively in these situations. If they aren't, years of progress can disappear over a relatively short period of time. Every community needs a deer management plan that is supported by residents and actively pursued."

Roe pointed out that a combination of tools and strategies must be used to be successful, and the Game Commission's urban/suburban deer management plan identifies those tools currently being offered, as well as those tools that the agency's Board of Game Commissioners needs to approve before being implemented.

"This plan is not intended to solve individual community deer issues. Rather it is a guide on how to help communities help themselves," Roe stressed. "Overabundant urban deer populations can be damaging and unsafe. Communities must take action before the problem becomes unbearable."

Last year, from April until mid-September, the agency sought public input prior to developing the urban/suburban deer management plan. A draft plan was unveiled in April for additional public comment prior to finalizing the plan. More than 600 residents offered comments that were reviewed and used by members of the agency's Deer Management Section in drafting and revising the plan.

For more information, visit the Game Commission's [Deer Management webpage](#).
NewsClip: [State Considers Deer Hunting Revision](#)

Barn Owl Conservation Efforts Expand to Northwest and Northeast PA

The Game Commission is expanding the agency's [Barn Owl Conservation Initiative](#) into its Northwest and Northeast regions by seeking information about active and historic barn owl nest sites.



The primary objective of this program is to locate and monitor barn owl nest sites and distribute nest boxes to interested landowners with suitable habitat to help reverse the population decline of this species.

"Barn owls have been in decline for several decades, and are a species that the Game Commission has targeted in its Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy," said Dan Brauning, Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Section supervisor. "Game Commission biologists, working with landowners, believe that barn owls have great management and recovery potential throughout the state, especially in the southern portions of Pennsylvania."

The barn owl conservation initiative was announced by the Game Commission last September for the Southcentral and Southeast Regions, and expanded to the Southwest Region in February. The agency now is seeking to expand into the state's three northern regions.

The Commission has also opened a new "[Barn Owl Conservation](#)" webpage to provide information about the initiative, directions on how to build a barn owl nesting structure, a barn owl fact sheet, and a registration form for landowners to notify the Game Commission that they have erected a barn owl nesting box and will assist the agency by providing data about the use of the nesting box by any barn owls.

Barn owls stand about 10-15 inches tall and have a wingspan of 41-47 inches. Their distinctive long heart-shaped facial disk has led to this owl being referred to as the "monkey-faced owl" by some people. They have a nearly pure-white to dusky breast with small spots, small dark eyes, and have a hissing or scream-like vocalization.

They are found in agricultural fields, grasslands, and other open areas. They nest in cavities of large dead trees, rock crevices and even burrows in riverbanks. More often, as their name implies, they nest in barns, silos, abandoned buildings and artificial nest boxes.

"Because barn owls feed primarily on rodents, they are beneficial to farmers," Brauning said. "An average family of barn owls can consume up to 3,000 rodents over the course of the breeding season."

To determine if you have a barn owl on your property, look in barns, silos, abandoned buildings and below possible roost sites for regurgitated owl pellets, which are dense pellets of undigested fur and bone one to two inches long. Also, after sunset, listen for long hissing shrieks, which are very different from the typical "hoots" of most owls.

See & Hear

Take an Online Tour of Cook Forest, PA's Old Growth Forest



Cook Forest State Park houses one of Pennsylvania's last old growth stands of woodlands and the GreenTreks Network captured just some of its beauty in web feature that lets you take an online tour.

Seventy-three years ago Anthony Wayne Cook gave Cook Forest to the Commonwealth for safekeeping as a State Park for everyone to enjoy. His grandson Anthony E. Cook recently produced a book called, "[The Cook Forest: An Island in Time](#)," filled with photographs showing the natural treasure that is the forest.

Visit [The Cook Forest webpage](#) to take your own tour, or better yet, visit this summer!

Quick Clips

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

[Region Takes Lead Role in Wind Farms](#)

[Living Off the Grid Might Be Free, But It's Not Easy](#)

[Environment-Friendly Structures Popping Up Throughout Region](#)

[Keeping Diesel Clean](#)

[Editorial: Biodiesel](#)

[Editorial: Wind Energy](#)

[Manure Digestion Gets Second Look At Penn State](#)

[PennDOT Tries Blacktop Made with Waste Tires](#)

[Gas Infusion Technology Helps Cleanup Hazardous Waste Site](#)

[Smart Growth Subject of Lancaster Summit](#)

[PNC Opens Green Branch in Wilkes-Barre Twp.](#)

[Clarion Considering Heritage Inventory Project](#)

[Tunnel Opening Completes Bike Trail in Somerset County](#)

[Students Get Bird's-Eye View of Nature](#)

[Students Taking Wing](#)

[Boyd and Kathy Beer Make Homes for Bluebirds](#)

[Wildlife Rehab Center's Open House Will Benefit Local Orphan Animals](#)

[State Considers Deer Hunting Revision](#)
[Editorial: Organic Foods Gaining](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Clean Water Now More Than a Pipe Dream](#)
[Students Up the Creek](#)
[Weekend Sojourn Showcases Restored Waterways in Region](#)
[Fish Hatcheries Getting Upgrades Amid Pollution Concerns](#)
[Five Penn State Farms Receive Environmental Excellence Certification](#)
[Blacklick Creek Watershed Assn. Receives Technology Grant](#)
[Dam Removal Programs May Get Big Boost From Initiative](#)
[Counting on Trees](#)
[Schuylkill Sojourn Comes at Time of Progress for River](#)
[County Supports Mine Reclamation Fund Reauthorization](#)
[New Susquehanna Dam Would Harm Fish](#)

Regulations

The Ozone Regional Transport Commission, DEP, the Department of Transportation and the State Conservation Commission all published notice of regulation changes this week. Here's the rundown...

The Ozone Regional Transport Commission is due to vote on additional control measure June 6-7, [here's the background](#).

DEP [published a notice](#) saying the Corps of Engineers renewed its State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP-3) for five years.

The Department of Transportation [submitted final form regulations](#) to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for review dealing with signs showing costs of emissions inspections.

The State Conservation Commission published [final regulations adding phosphorus](#), setting manure export and other requirements relating to application of manure to the Nutrient Management Program.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 3, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published two final guidance documents](#) relating to enforcement of the Storm Water Management Act and [published revised mine reclamation bond rate guidelines](#).

Final: DEP ID: 363-4000-003. Standards and Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking, and Resolving Violations of the Storm Water Management Act. This document provides guidance concerning the implementation and execution of compliance and enforcement activities employed by the Department for the Act 167 Stormwater Management Program.

Final: DEP ID: 363-4000-004. Standards and Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking, and Resolving Violations for Operators of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). This document provides guidance concerning the implementation and execution of compliance and enforcement activities employed by the Department for the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program.

[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 6** –Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing on reducing mercury emissions from power plants. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:15.
- **June 6** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meeting. The next scheduled meeting is September 19.
- **June 7** – **Rescheduled to this Date**. Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) establishing the Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools Program. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:30.
- **June 8** – House Game & Fisheries Committee public hearing on legislation to increase Game Commission license fees -- [House Bill 2600](#) -- the basic adult resident hunting license would be raised from \$19 to \$29; [House Bill 2601](#) would increase the fee to \$34 and both bills would also establish a \$10 pheasant stamp and a \$5 turkey stamp with the proceeds to be used solely for the maintenance and operating of programs for preserving and encouraging the hunting of these species in Pennsylvania; and [House](#)

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[Bill 2602](#) would create a \$20 conservation stamp for individuals who use state game lands for any purpose. The proceeds from the stamp would be deposited into state Game Fund. Room 140. 9:30.

- **June 12** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum – Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) “Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania.” Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **June 12** – House Labor Relations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1905](#) (DiGiroland-R-Bucks) defining members of a community emergency response team as an employee under the Workers’ Compensation Act. Room 205 Ryan Building. Off the Floor.
- **June 13** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Sewage Advisory Committee Regulations Subcommittee](#) meeting.
- **June 14** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Sewage Advisory Committee](#) meeting.
- **June 19** – USDA – U.S. Senator Rick Santorum [Renewable Energy Conference](#). Farm Show Complex, 2nd Floor VIP Room 9:00-3:00. Contact Vince Murphy, 717-237-2181 or send email to: Vincent.Murphy@pa.usda.gov .
- **June 20** – **CANCELLED** – Environmental Quality Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting is July 18.
- **June 26** – Governor’s Renewable Agriculture Energy Council meeting. Room 309 Agriculture Building. 10:00.
- **July 19** – Governor’s Invasive Species Council meeting. Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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