

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

August 22, 2005

Focus on Anti-Litter Efforts, Nutrient Credit Trading and More

Some weeks stories in the *Digest* just seem to come together in groups.

This week several stories revolve around anti-littering efforts.

Checkout the stories on Pittsburgh's proposed anti-litter commission, the Lens on Litter Photo Contest, new publications from the Pennsylvania Resources Council to help develop local litter control efforts and streamside cleanup workshops being put on by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

Also highlighted this week are two groundbreaking initiatives, first to create a nutrient credit trading program and the second a workshop in September on new science about the source of sediment and nutrient loadings in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

And if you hear a buzz from State College this fall, it's not about who will be the starting quarterback, it's the annual Great Insect Fair put on by the Entomology Department at Penn State University.

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“Toad You Not to Litter”

2004 Lens on Litter Contest Winner by [Karen Hohman](#). See the story below.

Session Schedule

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On the Hill

Joint Committee's Environmental Synopsis Available Online

The [July issue of Environmental Synopsis](#) published by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) is now available online.

In this issue, Chairman Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) talks about a recent hearing held by the Committee on a shortage of anthracite coal due to increased foreign demand and articles on federal oil spill cleanup funds, coastal water quality and voluntary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In Other News

Water Credit Trading Moves Forward with Reverse Auction on Conestoga

Farmers in the Conestoga River Watershed, Lancaster County, are using the new [NutrientNet tool](#) to bid for nutrient reduction cost-share dollars based on how much the projects will reduce nutrient loadings to the river.

This is another step toward developing a practical [water credit trading system](#) that can effectively reduce nutrient and other pollutants at the lowest possible cost in the Chesapeake Bay and other watersheds using market-based tools.

The "reverse auction" project was begun in September 2004 by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and the World Resources Institute with the help of a \$939,734

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grant from the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant Program, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Lancaster County Conservation District.

This summer, technicians from the Lancaster County Conservation District solicited and received bids from qualified farmers in the Conestoga River Watershed for the first of two auctions.

They worked with farmers to outline projects, calculate the baseline loadings and estimated annual phosphorus reductions using the NutrientNet online tool. Phosphorous is a source of impairment to surface water in Pennsylvania and contributes to impairment downstream in the Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes and many watersheds.

To calculate baseline loadings, NutrientNet provides online calculation tools including GIS mapping, cropping and livestock information. After an appropriate best management practice is selected, estimated costs and phosphorus reductions are calculated. Reductions are based on efficiencies from the Chesapeake Bay model, and costs are estimated using standard pricing for Lancaster County conservation projects.

Using an online water quality trading tool, NutrientNet, the Reverse Auction ranks bids according to which agricultural best management practices will yield the greatest reduction in phosphorous runoff to local surface water at the lowest cost.

The June Auction will result in the award of approximately \$40,000 in cost-share funds for the installation of seven best management practices on six farms within the Conestoga Watershed that will result in annual loading reductions of approximately 310 pounds of phosphorous. Winning BMPs could include animal waste storage systems, roof runoff controls and terraces and waterways for croplands.

The Reverse Auction project provides an example of how Pennsylvania can implement a statewide water quality trading program that includes the purchase of nutrient loading reductions from nonpoint sources like farms and municipal stormwater outfalls.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council, DEP and other partners are working to develop both a point to point source and point to nonpoint source water quality credit program for use in implementing pollution reduction strategies like the [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy](#).

Under the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement, Pennsylvania is obligated to reduce its respective contribution to the Bay of nitrogen and phosphorous by approximately one-third and sediment by approximately 10 percent versus 2002 estimated loads.

Major wastewater dischargers in the Bay watershed have said their cost for removing a pound of nutrients could be as much as \$90, while to get a pound of reduction in nutrients by installing an agricultural best management practice could be as little as \$10 to \$21.

A water quality credit trading system would allow a wastewater discharger or anyone required to reduce nutrients to “buy” a pound of reduction from a farmer or someone else at much less cost.

The net affect is a much reduced cost for eliminating pollution. *(See how credit trading reduced air pollution in a story elsewhere in this Digest.)*

In December, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, DEP and Pfizer completed the [first water quality credit trade](#) in Pennsylvania at a project in Lititz Borough, Lancaster County.

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For more information, contact Andrew McElwaine, President, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, at 717-230-8044 or by email to: amcelwaine@pecpa.org or visit the [NutrientNet website](#), the [PEC/EESI Conestoga River Nutrient Trading Project webpage](#), and the [Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Trading webpage](#).

New Nutrient Limits Placed on Lancaster City Treatment Plant

Lancaster became one of the first sewage treatment plants in the Susquehanna River Watershed to have new limits for nitrogen and phosphorus placed on its discharge to help Pennsylvania meet its commitments under the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement and to implement the [Bay Tributary Strategy](#).

The Department of Environmental Protection recently issued a letter to all 190 significant wastewater treatment plants in the watershed specifying monitoring requirements for nitrogen and phosphorus in their discharges as another part of the strategy.

“Lancaster City showed great foresight in pursuing and obtaining over \$1 million in federal and state grants and loans to install nutrient reduction technology before DEP and the federal Environmental Protection Agency said it must do so,” said Matt Ehrhart, [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) Pennsylvania Executive Director, “The city and its taxpayers will not only be able to perform the upgrades in a more cost effective fashion, they may even be able to benefit by selling credits for nutrient reduction to other municipalities that have not yet installed the technology, but are facing new restrictions on nutrient discharges.”

Point sources, like wastewater plants, contribute about 11 percent of the nitrogen and about 18 percent of the phosphorous going to the Bay from Pennsylvania.

89 percent of the nitrogen and 82 percent of the phosphorus comes from nonpoint sources of pollution—septic tanks, agriculture and forest runoff, urban stormwater and development activities. Also newly identified as a major nonpoint source contributor of sediments and nutrients is [stream channel erosion](#).

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has also endorsed initiatives to [fund agricultural conservation practices on farms](#) to deal with the nonpoint source problems.

“We will continue to work with DEP and the regulated community to secure additional funding and the timely implementation of these limits and wastewater treatment plant upgrades,” Ehrhart said. “CBF will also continue working with the agricultural community to secure funding for the installation of best management practices, resulting in additional, substantial pollution reduction to clean up our local waters and the Chesapeake Bay.”

NewsClip: [\\$5 Million Upgrade Proposed for Towanda Plant](#)

Environmental Student/Teacher Education Grant Applications Being Accepted

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is now accepting applications for its Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training Program (B-Wet) through October 24.

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The program provides grants of from \$10,000 to \$200,000 to support environmental education opportunities for K-12 students and environmental training/professional development for K-12 teachers.

For more information, visit the [B-Wet Grant Program webpage](#).

Applications Due for Agricultural, Rural Youth Grant Program

The Department of Agriculture announced this week it is accepting applications for its [Agricultural and Rural Youth Grant Program](#) through October 31.

The objective of the program is to encourage projects that will increase the knowledge and awareness of youth about agricultural and rural issues. Grants of up to \$2,500 are available and matching grants of up to \$10,000.

For more information, contact Eric Cowden, Department of Agriculture, 717-787-5342 or send email to: ecowden@state.pa.us.

Chesapeake Bay Program Aims to Enhance Urban Tree Canopy

Urban trees and their canopy intercept rainfall, absorb and store water, reduce runoff, protect soil, filter pollutants, improve and cool air, and enhance quality of life for residents.

The [Chesapeake Bay Urban Canopy Program](#) aims to take advantage of these benefits by working with communities in the Bay watershed to assess their urban forests and adopt local goals for increasing the tree canopy.

The Borough of Columbia in Lancaster County is participating in this effort.

For more information, read the [Urban Canopy Benefits Fact Sheet](#) and the [Proceedings of Urban Canopy Workshop in 2004](#).

F&M Policy Workshop Set for September on Legacy Sediments



Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster is hosting a Bonchek Policy Workshop on September 12 and 13 to discuss the policy implications of [legacy sediments](#) as a source of pollution and high sediment yields in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Over two days the workshop will focus on presentations and field visits that will give researchers and policy-makers the opportunity to review new information about the role stream channel erosion plays in sediment and nutrient loadings in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Speakers will include M.Gordon Wolman, Professor of Geography and Environmental Engineering at John Hopkins University, Dr. Milan Pavich, River Observatories for Management Applications of the U.S. Geological Survey, Dr. Art Parola of the University of Louisville, Dr. John Wallace of Millersville University, Harry

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Campbell of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Dr. Robert Walter and Dr. Dorothy Merritts from Franklin & Marshall and Ward Oberholtzer with LandStudies, Inc.

One product of the workshop will be to prepare a white paper briefing that can be used by policy-makers to discuss the policy impacts of the new science.

The workshop is supported by grants from the Bonchek Institute for Science and Public Policy and the Center for Liberal Arts and Society at Franklin & Marshall College.

For more information contact Dr. Robert Walter at Franklin & Marshall's Department of Earth and Environment by sending email to Robert.Walter@FandM.edu.

PA Senior Environment Corp Documentary Nominated for Emmy Award



The 30-minute film “Knee Deep” documentary featuring members of the [Center in the Park Senior Environment Corps](#) of Germantown has been nominated for an Emmy Award by the Mid-Atlantic chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Produced and directed by Ann Tegnell and Sharon Mullally, it stars citizen volunteer monitors from the Center.

The volunteers, trained by DEP's Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program staff and the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#), have taken on the task of sampling and testing water of creeks in the Philadelphia. The documentary tells what happens when the corps finds evidence of untreated sewage in the Monoshone Creek.

The persistence of the volunteers results in the Philadelphia Water Department investing significant resources in the watershed. The film also depicts how the generation of long-term data that supports changes in the management of water and waste, combined with a commitment to educating children and communities about their urban environment, is a legacy of the Center in the Park Senior Environment Corps.

Emmy Awards will be announced on September 17.

The Center in the Park Senior Environment Corps was one of the first groups formed through a partnership between the departments of Environmental Protection and Aging and the [Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement](#).

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps webpage](#) or contact Beth Grove, 717-244-6248 or send email to: PaGreatSEC@aol.com. For information on the [Citizens Volunteer Monitoring Program](#) contact Diane Wilson, DEP, at 717-787-3730 or send email to: diawilson@state.pa.us.

Also learn more by going to the [Keystone Watershed Monitoring Network webpage](#).

White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation Set for August 29-31



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will join its federal partners in co-hosting the [White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation](#) on August 29-31 in St. Louis, Missouri.

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Featured at the Conference will be the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's [Philadelphia Green Program](#).

The Conference is a public-private forum to exchange information about successful partnerships in cooperative conservation and only the second environmental conference ever sponsored by a President.

The conservation effort builds on a history begun in 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt held the first conservation conference to formulate a national policy based on the efficient use of resources.

Seeking better and broader conservation in the 21st Century, President Bush signed the [Executive Order Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation](#) a year ago. This order directs the federal agencies that oversee environmental and natural resource policies and programs to promote cooperative conservation in full partnership with states, local governments, tribes, and individuals.

During the conference, EPA will highlight the agency's efforts to cooperate on all levels of government and with non-governmental organizations.

For more information, visit the [White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation webpage](#).

Pittsburgh Considers Legislation to Establish a Clean Pittsburgh Commission

Pittsburgh City Council members proposed legislation calling for the establishment of a Clean Pittsburgh Commission this week. The Commission will serve as an overarching resource for conducting grassroots activities like clean-ups, community gardens, litter prevention and other beautification and education efforts.

By coordinating work Citywide and offering its expertise, the Commission will contribute to an overall increase in the quality of life in Pittsburgh.

“Throughout the City, various neighborhood groups and individuals want to stage cleanups, plant gardens, or report abandoned vehicles or overgrown lots,” said Mayor Tom Murphy. “The Commission can help coordinate assistance from City Departments and provide guidance in terms of best practices and model sharing.”

Councilman Doug Shields, who is introducing the bill, stated, “We have recommended such organizations as the [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) and [PA CleanWays of Allegheny County](#) to be on this Commission for their qualifications and expertise in grassroots litter prevention and beautification efforts. Encouraging residents to utilize the services of these groups and other non-profits helps to alleviate the burden on City government.”

PRC recently started conducting collections for “hard to recycle” items to provide individuals in and around the City with a safe and responsible outlet for recycling and disposing of various items. To date PRC has collected over 15 tons of electronic equipment, 19 tons of latex paint, hundreds of appliances, and over 2,000 tires.

“The groups recommended to be on the Commission currently meet as the Pittsburgh Clean Neighborhood Collaborative,” said David Mazza, Regional Director for



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PRC. “Since the Collaborative began meeting regularly three years ago, we’ve been able to conceptualize a workable plan for the Commission. We recognize that there are a number of groups in the City currently working on beautification and quality of life projects. With the establishment of this Commission, there will be more of a coordinated effort to effect long-lasting, positive change. ”

PA CleanWays of Allegheny County, Inc. is an affiliate of [PA CleanWays, Inc.](#), a state organization whose mission is to empower people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Pennsylvania.

Since inception of the county PA CleanWays Chapter in 2000, the group has conducted over 50 clean-ups of illegal dumpsites in Allegheny County, properly disposing of more than 2,000 tires and 168.5 tons of garbage.

“Our intention for the Commission would be to not recreate the wheel,” stated Danielle Crumrine, Executive Director for PA CleanWays in Allegheny County. “In fact, the Commission will focus on connecting people to organizations that provide the services individuals need to address neighborhood blight problems.”

NewsClip: [Commission Sets Sights on Curbing City Litter](#)

Time to Find Litterbugs! Lens on Litter Contest Entries Due October 31

You can win \$1,000 for a photo of the worst example of litter in your community through the [Lens on Litter contest](#) sponsored by the Pennsylvania Resources Council.

Entries are due October 31.

Photos will be judged in two categories – adult and student (under 18) using these criteria—anti-litter message, originality, photographic technique, quality of photo, originality of title and severity of the Litterbug’s crime.

To get an idea of the creativity of past winners, go to the [past winners webpage](#).

First prize in each category will be \$1,000, second prize \$500, third prize \$250 and the People’s Choice Award a camera.

For more information, visit the [Lens on Litter webpage](#) or contact PRC at 610-353-1555 ext 228.

The Pennsylvania Resources Council is a member of [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#).

Attachment: [Lens on Litter Photo Contest - PDF](#)

Anti-Litter Resource Directory, Blueprint for Action Now Available

Two updated publications from the [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) will help communities develop litter control strategies—the *Litter Resource Directory* and *Blueprint for Action, Litter Control in Your Community*.

The [Litter Resource Directory](#) is a compendium of organizations, businesses and programs available to communities



“Toad You Not to Litter” 2004 First Place Winner by [Karen Hohman](#)



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to help control litter. Every county in Pennsylvania has resources available to help in litter control.

Blueprint for Action is a guide to developing and implementing a community litter control program. This “how-to” guide has suggestions for community and school projects, local ordinances, instructions on making a litter survey and more.

For copies, contact Rosemary Kesling at PRC, 610-353-1555 ext 228 or send email to: kesling@prc.org .

The Pennsylvania Resources Council is a member of [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#).

Streamside Cleanup Training Academy Details Available



The Susquehanna River Basin Commission announced the details of its upcoming [Streamside Cleanup Training Academy workshops](#) in September and October.

The registration deadline is September 15.

Workshop participants will receive a free sample kit of materials to use during their cleanup

and the workshops will focus on several key topics including:

- How to raise funds and obtain donated services for a cleanup;
- How to recruit volunteers and plan for their safety;
- How to dispose of and recycle items collected during a cleanup;
- How to highlight the education and community outreach benefits of the cleanup, to potential participants; and
- How to monitor the cleanup sites and dissuade future dumping there.

The workshops will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on:

- September 29 - Best Western, 101 East Walnut St., Lock Haven;
- October 5 - Hometown Hotel, 108 Hellam St., Wrightsville; and
- October 6 - Williamston Inn, Leisure Dr., Towanda.

The workshops are part of SRBC’s on-going efforts to help non-profit organizations, municipalities and county conservation districts conduct streamside cleanup projects in the Susquehanna basin.

Funding for these workshops is provided by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and by PPL Corporation.

Visit the [Streamside Cleanup Training Academy workshops webpage](#) for registration materials and additional information.

NewsClip: [Streamside Cleanup Efforts Benefit All](#) (*Watershed Weekly*)

PA Rural Water Association Hosts Professional Management Training Conference

“[The Professional Office](#)” is the theme of this year’s Pennsylvania Rural Water Association Conference on September 14 & 15 in Lancaster.

Three separate tracks of workshops on financial, human resources and public relations topics will be presented.

To see a detailed agenda and to register, visit [“The Professional Office” webpage](#).

Green Building Tour, Workshop Coming Up in Central Pennsylvania

Join members of the Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania in a tour of the Pennsylvania House Finance Agency's new green building and attend the latest "Getting to Green" workshop.

On September 22 the Association will host a tour of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's headquarters building in Harrisburg that uses a variety of green practices to yield high energy efficiency and a healthful indoor environment. [Click here for tour details.](#)

On October 13 the second in a series of "Getting to Green" workshops will be held, this one "Succeeding with LEED Through Effective Project Delivery" will be held in York. [Click here for workshop details.](#)

Visit the [Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania website](#) for more information on all their activities.

Environmental Compliance Conference Coming in October, November

The PA Chamber of Business and Industry is sponsoring three regional Environmental Compliance Conferences to provide businesses with the latest information on waste, water and air quality issues.

They will be held on October 20 in Pittsburgh, October 25 in Hershey and November 3 in Valley Forge.

Each conference will feature a variety of speakers from the Department of Environmental Protection, environmental attorneys and key consultants on the latest developments in environmental regulation.

New this year is a session on how to communicate with your Regional DEP Office.

For more information and a [conference agenda](#), visit the [PA Chamber Conference webpage](#).

New Report Shows Credit Trading Program Reducing Air Pollution in Eastern U.S.

Total ozone season nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from power plants and other large combustion sources declined 30 percent between 2003 and 2004 and are 50 percent lower than in 2000 in the Northeastern United States, according to a new report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The NOx reductions, when combined with other control programs have reduced ozone season NOx emissions from sources in 19 eastern states and the District of Columbia, by 70 percent below 1990 levels.

EPA said this progress was the result of the NOx credit trading program that reduces pollution at the least cost using a market-based approach.

The NOx Budget Trading Program was modeled after the Northeast Ozone Transport Commission's NOx Budget Program and EPA's Acid Rain Program to deliver important emissions reductions.

Continued NOx emission reductions are anticipated under the NOx SIP call and the Clean Air Interstate Rule, or CAIR. CAIR, issued March 10, 2005, will permanently

cap power plant emissions of SO₂ and NO_x in 28 eastern states and the District of Columbia.

In 2015, CAIR, the NO_x SIP Call and other programs in the East will reduce ozone season NO_x emissions by about 50 percent and annual NO_x emissions by about 60 percent from 2003 levels.

The report, "[Evaluating Ozone Control Programs in the Eastern United States: Focus on the NO_x Budget Trading Program, 2004](#)" is available online.

For more information, visit the [EPA NO_x Budget Trading Program webpage](#).

“Why I Love My Pennsylvania State Park” Contest for Kids by Jane Kirkland

Jane Kirkland, naturalist and author of the award-winning Take A Walk Book series, is sponsoring the first annual, "[Why I Love My Pennsylvania State Park](#)" contest, open to children ages 8 to 12 who live in the state.

The Deadline for entries is December 15.

Children are invited to write an original essay, 50 words or less, about their state park and why they love it, focusing on the natural aspects in their park (plants and animals).

Five 1st Prizes will be awarded—one in each age category—8, 9, 10, 11, 12—one set of four Take A Walk Books signed by the author.

One Grand Prize Winner will be awarded one set of four Take A Walk Books and one pair of binoculars (retail value \$200.00) courtesy of Kevin Loughlin, naturalist, photographer and President of Wildside Tours based in Exton, Pennsylvania.

The Grand Prize Winner will also help Ms. Kirkland and Mr. Loughlin lead a public nature walk or a nature program at the Pennsylvania State Park featured in the winning essay. Winners of the "Why I Love My Pennsylvania State Park" contest will be announced in March 2006.

Kirkland has been a DCNR volunteer for six years at Marsh Creek State Park where she and her husband monitor and maintain a bluebird trail. Many of the photographs featured in her series of books were taken at Marsh Creek State Park.

Loughlin has been a DCNR volunteer for many years leading bird walks in Promised Land State Park. His photographs or articles have been published in Philadelphia, Audubon and WildBird magazines.

Take A Walk Books have won the National Arbor Day Foundation's Education Award for 2005, and a finalist position in ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Award 2004. They are recommended by the National Science Teachers Association, Animal Planet's Emmy-winning producer, host and biologist Jeff Corwin, The National Parenting Center, and the National Gardening Association.

Kirkland writes a monthly column for MetroKids PA, MetroKids South Jersey and MetroKids Delaware. She is also a regular guest on Philadelphia's WXPB "Kids' Corner" radio program.

Pennsylvania's has 117 state parks offer a variety of opportunities to get in touch with nature.

Essays should be mailed to: PA State Park Essay, P O Box 500, Lionville, PA 19353. Contest entry forms can be obtained at individual [Pennsylvania State Park offices](#) or online at "[Why I Love My Pennsylvania State Park](#)" contest.

What's the Buzz Around Penn State? The Great Insect Fair



This Spiny Katydid by 3rd Grader Tim Grenz won first prize in the Build a Bug Contest.

around the world. Jacobs says that while some of these insects are considered invasive species, the majority of insects are not pests.

“We’re hoping to show the beneficial aspects of insects, as well as how they can be used as a tool to teach biological and ecological principles to children and adults,” he explains. “In addition to enjoying a fun day with family, our goal is people come away with less fear of insects and greater appreciation for their diversity and beauty.”

Organizers say fun and interactive events are being planned to appeal to people of all ages:

- Wacky Wing Display – Learn about wings of insects from around the world and create your own to wear!
- Wings Around the World – Learn about exotic insects – where do they come from and where have they landed?
- Insect Olympics - A series of Olympic "events" will allow visitors to compare their physical prowess to that of bugs.
- Insect Petting Zoo - See and touch many fascinating, live insects from around the world.
- Honey Bee Display - See the honey bees dance and sample different types of honey!
- Insect Deli - Featuring critter cuisine such as mealworm stir fry and our infamous "Chocolate Chirpies" (chocolate-covered crickets).
- [Build-A-Bug Contest](#) - Bring your homemade insect for judging and a chance to win prizes.
- Musical entertainment - The Caterpillars of Society will "rock the hive."
- Children's games and activities - Kids can enjoy face painting and games, such as Bug-O-Bingo, and build their own insects at the "Insect Construction Company."
- Insect vendors - Shop for insect arts, crafts, books and t-shirts.
- [The BugMobile!](#) - Learn about insects and integrated pest management while chatting with the one and only talking car.
- Ladybug Theatre – Students with the America Reads program will present “The Hungry Caterpillar”, “The Grouchy Ladybug” and other stories for children.

Where else can you handle incredibly large and colorful insects, race them or sample them on a tasty tortilla? Only at “Wings Around the World”, the theme of this year’s [Great Insect Fair](#) at Penn State.

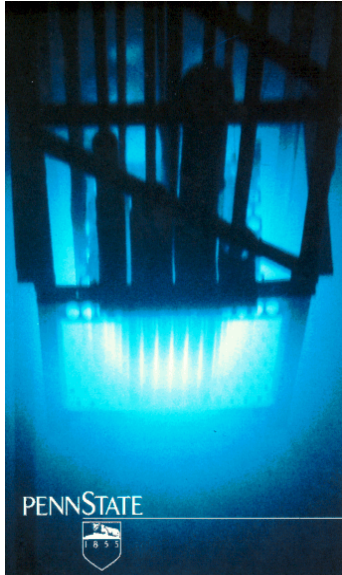
Sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences' Entomology Department, the fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 24 in the Ag Arena, at the corner of Park Avenue and Fox Hollow Road (across from Beaver Stadium) on the University Park campus.

According to Steve Jacobs, a senior extension associate with the entomology department and event organizer, the fair will feature exotic insects from

Admission to the Great Insect Fair is free, although donations will be accepted to help defray costs.

For more information, visit the [Great Insect Fair webpage](#) or the [Entomology Department](#).

Penn State's Nuclear Research Reactor Celebrates 50 Years



Fifty years ago, [Penn State's Breazeale Reactor](#) was issued the first U.S. Atomic Energy Commission license for a reactor - license R-2. On August 15, exactly 50 years after achieving initial criticality, Penn State celebrated the golden anniversary of a reactor that has provided education, research and service for faculty, students, industry and the public with a full day of celebration.

Penn State's Breazeale Reactor has hosted more than 100,000 visitors. Educational opportunities on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology are provided not only for Penn State students, but also for grade school and high school students and other college students throughout Pennsylvania and the surrounding states. The Breazeale Reactor has been a center for many Boy Scout and Girl Scout merit badge efforts, and supports research from high schools and other colleges.

Penn State's Breazeale Reactor provides a source of neutrons for basic and applied research including neutron activation analysis, neutron radiography, basic material research and radiation effects studies. Archaeologists look at the composition of pottery or bones, geoscientists look at trace elements to understand the Earth's history, and environmental scientists look for minute quantities of pollutants.

Penn State participates in the Department of Energy's reactor sharing program along with other U.S. universities with operating reactors so that researchers at other institutions can have access to research reactor facilities.

Named for its designer, Dr. William Breazeale, the reactor was initially licensed on July 8, 1955, as a 100-kilowatt reactor and later upgraded to 200 kilowatts. The reactor began operations on Aug. 15. The first reactor operator license issued by the AEC was awarded to Dr. Breazeale. The reactor itself received the first actual reactor license from the AEC, but received Reactor License R-2 because license R-1 was reserved for North Carolina's NCSCR-1 which was never restarted and the license was never actually issued.

In 1965, the Breazeale Reactor became the first to convert to a TRIGA - Training, Research and Isotope Production reactor by General Atomics - reactor core with 1000 kilowatts steady state capacity and 2000 megawatt pulsing capability. In the 1950s and early 1960s, the major emphasis was on understanding nuclear reactors.

The basis for the textbooks and handbooks widely used came out of these studies. At the same time, spurred by President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace Program," emphasis was placed educating personnel for future research and power reactors and developing scientific applications of nuclear technology.

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In 1991 the Breazeale Reactor was upgraded with a microprocessor-based digital reactor control and safety system. Also in 1991, the reactor was designated a Nuclear Historic Landmark by the American Nuclear Society. Enhancements and improvements continue to be incorporated into the reactors control systems and peripheral apparatus.

The Breazeale Reactor is not a commercial reactor and does not produce electricity. The neutrons generated by the core are used for a variety of analytical methods and to create radioactive isotopes. The reactor, its controls and safety system are used to train reactor operators, undergraduate and graduate students in nuclear engineering.

The TRIGA reactor is an inherently safe reactor. The core is cooled by natural convection in a water pool. Without this cooling water, the reactor would self-moderate. If the reaction in the core increases, more heat is produced. As more heat is produced, the neutrons produced by the reaction miss their mark, slowing down the reaction and cooling the core.

Dr. C. Frederick Sears is director of Penn State's Breazeale Reactor. He oversees the entire range of research and teaching surrounding the center, as well as making certain that the center satisfies all operating and safety regulations set up by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dr. Jack Brenizer, professor and chair of the nuclear engineering, oversees the undergraduate and graduate programs in nuclear engineering.

In 2002, Penn State along with Purdue University, University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin formed the Consortium of Big-10 University Research and Training Reactors. The Ohio State University and the University of Michigan have since joined the Consortium, which now includes all of the Big-10 institutions with nuclear engineering programs.

All of the consortium members have robust nuclear engineering programs. About 30 percent of all nuclear engineering degrees granted each year in the U.S. come from Big-10 Consortium institutions. Many of the Consortium's research and educational activities are funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's Innovations in Nuclear Infrastructure and Education program.

The goal of the Consortium was to establish itself as the leading organization for reactor-based research, outreach and next generation University Research and Training Reactors design in the U.S. This goal is being accomplished through strategic investments in the consortium URTR infrastructure combined with innovative programs and initiatives that advance research and education through focused collaboration and natural synergisms between the Consortium's reactors, departments and institutions.

For more information contact Dr. Sears at 814-865-6351 or send email to: cfs7@psu.edu or Dr. Brenizer at 814-863-6384 or email: jsb18@psu.edu .

Ross J. Huhn - Longest Serving Fish & Boat Commissioner Passes



The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission this week announced the passing of Commissioner Ross J. Huhn of Saltsburg, Westmoreland County. He was 79.

Commissioner Huhn was the Commissioner for the Second District of Pennsylvania, comprised of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties. He

was first appointed a member of the Commission by Governor Dick Thornburgh in 1980. Huhn was reappointed in 1986, and Governor Tom Ridge reappointed him in 1995. Re-nominated by Governor Edward G. Rendell, Huhn was confirmed to a new term on July 28, 2003. He served as President of the Commission from July 1984 to July 1985.

“The agency has benefited from the experience and sense of continuity Commissioner Huhn brought to the board of Commissioners. He has the distinction of serving more years on the Commission than any other individual in the history of the agency,” noted Dr. Douglas Austen, PFBC Executive Director. “His dedication in serving as an unpaid Commissioner for more than a quarter century exemplifies the type of commitment that Ross brought to bear on the many management issues before the Commission during his tenure.”

As a Commissioner, Huhn was instrumental in developing a special account to accept contributions from the public and corporate sectors to be used in fishing access by purchasing land or easements. This fund later became known as the Commission’s Conservation Acquisition Program. He was active on the Operation Future Task Force, which developed the classification of Pennsylvania trout streams and established the management policies for these streams.

Huhn was active in many sportsmen’s groups and has devoted many years to the conservation of Pennsylvania’s natural resources. He was active in the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs and served on the state board of directors for four years. Other organizations of which he was a member include: Trout Unlimited, Izaak Walton League of America and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. He helped organize the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in 1969.

He was a graduate of Bethany College where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in chemistry. He served in the United States Navy as a seaman for two years. He retired in 1984, following thirty-two years of service, from Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

A visitation and viewing is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, from 7-9 p.m. at the Brownfield Funeral Home, 78 Main Street in Smithfield. The funeral service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 18.

NewsClips: [Fish Commissioner Nurtured Future Programs](#)

Opinion

Regulating Mercury in Pennsylvania

By Senator Ray Musto

In mid-May, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acknowledged that it was recommending to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) the development and adoption of regulations to control the emissions of mercury from coal-fired power plants. The department’s regulations would include not only electric generating units but also other sources of mercury; a method for assessing mercury “hotspots”; the development of clean coal technologies and an approach that considers the capacity and reliability of our electric grid infrastructure.



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Many environmental groups and other organizations have urged the state's EQB to back DEP's effort to adopt Pennsylvania specific mercury controls. However, as a long-time member of the EQB, I have serious concerns regarding the department's proposed action on mercury. Other legislative members of the EQB have also joined me in expressing anxiety regarding this activity.

Unfortunately, the concerns that my colleagues and I share over efforts to craft a Pennsylvania-specific mercury reduction rule have been misrepresented. Some groups have erroneously argued that my colleagues and I have urged that no action be taken to protect the health of Pennsylvanians from the dangers of mercury. My motives for offering a different perspective on this issue have also been questioned by those more interested in a sound bite rather than sound policy.

Let me be crystal clear, I have never requested that Pennsylvania be idle on the issue of controlling mercury. And, it goes without saying that I am concerned about children's health.

What I am in support of is the adoption of a strong mercury reduction rule at the national level. Earlier this year for example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted a federal rule that would slash mercury emissions by as much as 70 percent--perhaps as high as 86 percent in Pennsylvania. It is worth noting that the federal rule requires a 64 percent reduction in mercury emissions in Pennsylvania by 2010.

By law, the federal mercury rule is already incorporated into Pennsylvania's Air Pollution Control Act. As the prime sponsor of Pennsylvania's Air Pollution Control Act amendments in 1992, I strongly supported language stipulating that Pennsylvania should not adopt air quality standards more stringent than applicable federal standards, except in limited circumstances.

There are valid reasons for federal air quality standards. Some air pollutants are national in scope and effect. Federal air quality standards provide uniformity and prevent economic dislocation. Research shows that mercury can circulate in the atmosphere for long periods of time and be transported thousands of miles before it gets deposited. For these reasons, it is difficult to link mercury accumulation in the food chain with individual emission sources.

As a state policymaker, I have to be not only concerned about the state's environment but also its economy and resource usage. Pennsylvania's electric generators compete in one of the most competitive power markets in the world. In my view, a Pennsylvania specific mercury emission standard could place Pennsylvania's electric generating units, industries, and consumers at an economic disadvantage with little environmental benefit. Energy policy is environmental policy that should be delicately balanced.

Mercury is a toxic element that poses health threats and must be controlled. After many years of study and analysis, coal-fired power plants, for the first time, will have their mercury emissions controlled under a federal regulation.

My question has always been whether it is necessary and advantageous for Pennsylvania to do something more stringent than required under federal law. This is a complex, costly, and important issue. It is only prudent and reasonable to ask questions now.

Sen. Ray Musto is Democratic Chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and represents parts of Carbon, Luzerne and Monroe counties. For more information, visit [Senator Musto's website](#).

Quick Clips

[Editorial: Philadelphia Recycling Plan – Go Beyond Trash Talk](#)

[Summer's End Brings Birds to Hawk Mountain](#)

[Forum: Tilting at WindMills](#)

[Hazleton Authority Considers Wind Power](#)

[Monroe County Growth Raising Concerns Anew](#)

[Editorial: County Needs to Use More of Recreation Plan](#)

[Commission Sets Sights on Curbing Pittsburgh Litter](#)

[Biodiesel Gaining Steam as Alternative Fuel](#)

[Solar Power Generates Power for CMU Building](#)

[5 Kilowatt Solar Facility Online in Allegheny County](#)

[Spuds to Energy](#)

[Plug-In Hybrids Revving Gasoline Savings](#)

[Firm Offers Technology to Fix Old Water Pipes](#)

[Hunters Sue State Over Deer Numbers](#)

[Erie Brownfield Now New Business Park](#)

[Former Hazardous Site Now Storage Facility](#)

[TV Station Donates Van to Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Team of Volunteers Finding New Home for Mussels](#)

[Little Mill Creek Cleanup Nears Completion](#)

[Clinton Conservation District Tours Schrack Dairy Farm](#)

[OSM Sets Meetings to Discuss Spoil Generation, Stream Buffer Zones](#)

[Beaver County Abandoned Mine to be Reclaimed](#)

[Frances E. Walter Release Finished Early](#)

[Flood Protection Grants Announced](#)

[1955 Flood of the Century](#)

Regulations

Regulations: EQB OKs Development of PA-Only Mercury Limits

The Environmental Quality Board this week approved a motion to allow the Department of Environmental Protection to move ahead with developing a Pennsylvania-only rule limiting mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The motion was amended to direct DEP to include a variety of stakeholders in the “enhanced” stakeholder process DEP said it would use to develop the rule. The groups

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include the United Mine Workers, IBEW, electric generators, the PA Coal Association, Chemical Industry Council and others.

DEP did not set a specific timetable for developing the rule, but under normal EQB procedures a proposal is due to the Board by November.

The mercury rule was the result of a [rulemaking petition](#) submitted to the Board by PennFuture and other groups in August of last year calling for a 90 percent reduction in mercury emissions.

Since that time the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued its first-ever rule to reduce mercury emissions from power plant nationwide. The rule is estimated to reduce mercury emissions in Pennsylvania by 86 percent.

Mercury emissions would drop from 4.9 tons to 1.7 tons in 2010, and to 0.7 tons (about 1400 pounds) in 2018.

Several unions, the PA Coal Association and electric generators and three of the four Chairs of the Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees [have taken issue with](#) the Pennsylvania-only approach saying mercury is a global problem needing a global and national solution and that imposing costs on the generation industry for what they see as marginal gains in mercury emission reductions threatened jobs in the now competitive electricity market.

The groups also pointed out that Pennsylvania coal would be significantly disadvantaged by a Pennsylvania-only rule, much more than under the federal rule.

Since 1990 mercury emissions have dropped 45 percent in the United States due to tougher controls on waste incinerators. Globally, mercury emissions from power plants make up about 1 percent of mercury emissions.

Several efforts are underway in the state to reduce direct mercury exposures to people.

Over the last five years local mercury collection events have resulted in thousands of pounds of mercury being turned in for recycling from basements, garages, high school labs and other sources.

New legislation—[Senate Bill 524](#)-- sponsored by Senators Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and Mary Jo White (R-Venango) hopes to collect an estimated 800 pounds of mercury a year from switches in junked cars.

For more information, visit [DEP's mercury webpage](#) and the [EQB August meeting](#) webpage for information on the rulemaking petition.

NewsClips: [State to Seek Tougher Mercury Standard Than Feds](#)
[Rendell Administration Gets Support for Tougher Mercury Rule](#)
[Op-Ed: Don't Impose Mercury Limits that Will Cost PA Jobs](#)
[Editorial: Take A Hard Stance on Mercury Rule](#)
[DEP to Develop Site Specific Mercury Rule](#)
[EQB Action on Mercury Rule Praised](#)

The Environmental Quality Board, Fish and Boat Commission, Independent Regulatory Review Commission and State Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists published notices a several other regulatory actions this week.

Proposed Rulemaking: The Environmental Quality Board published the Newtown Creek [package of proposed stream designation changes](#) in Bucks, Carbon, Centre,

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Chester, Clearfield, Fayette, Lancaster, Schuylkill and Warren counties. DEP is also making a number of corrections to earlier stream redesignations. A copy of the package is available on the [June 2005 EQB meeting webpage](#).

Class A Wild Trout Changes: The Fish and Boat Commission published notice of changes to the list of [Class A Wild Trout Waters in Lehigh County](#)

Engineers, Geologists, Surveyors Fees: The State Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists published [notice of final registration fee increases](#).

IRRC Meeting: On August 25 the [Independent Regulatory Review Commission will consider](#) Environmental Quality Board regulations: Final Lake Redesignations (7-388), Final Bond Adjustment and Bituminous Mine Subsidence Control Standards (7-385) and Final Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (7-391). For copies of these regulations, check the Environmental Quality Board meeting webpage—[April and June 2005 meetings](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – August 20, 2005](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published [notice of draft changes](#) to technical guidance in the radon and water resources programs.

Minor Revision: DEP ID: 294-2309-001. Radon Certification Policy. This document details the methods by which Radon Division staff administers applicable statutes and regulations. DEP considers these minor revisions and they will be effective August 20. Contact Randolph Easton, Bureau of Radiation Protection, 717-783-3594 or send email to: reaston@state.pa.us for more information.

Draft: DEP ID: 392-2130-014. Guidelines for Identification of Critical Water Planning Areas. These procedures are required by the Water Resources Planning Act (Act 220 of 2002) for the identification of Critical Water Planning Areas. Comments due: September 19.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [OSM Sets Meetings to Discuss Spoil Generation, Stream Buffer Zones](#)
- **August 23** – [Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Stakeholders Workgroup meeting](#).
- **August 23** – CANCELLED – [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting](#). Next meeting scheduled is November 1.
- **August 25** – [Independent Regulatory Review Commission meeting](#) on several Environmental Quality Board regulations.
- **August 25** – CANCELLED – [Small Water System Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#).
- **September 11-14** – [PA Municipal Authorities Association Annual Conference](#). Hershey.
- **September 14-15** – PA Rural Water Association “[The Professional Office](#)” Conference. Lancaster.
- **September 16** – [Westmoreland County Smart Growth Summit](#)
- **September 20** – CANCELLED – Environmental Quality Board meeting.

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](#)

Stories Invited

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

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