

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

September 1, 2008

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Attracts Record Attendance



The mining heritage and mine reclamation themes of the [2008 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference](#) attracted a record 180 participants in State College in August.

A highlight of the event was awarding the 2008 Mayfly awards to Russ Wagner of the Department of Environmental Protection and Margaret Dunn of [Stream Restoration, Inc.](#)

So far this year, nearly 1,200 people have attended watershed improvement conferences. (*See Links below*)

The three day event was preceded by a pre-conference bus tour of sites illustrating AMR problems and solutions.

Led by Dr. Art Rose (Penn State University, retired) and Mike Smith and his crew from the DEP Moshannon Office, 31 tour goers were treated to in-depth explanations of treatment sites and AMD-impacted areas in the Philipsburg area.

The also tour stopped to examine the Interstate 99 site at Skytop where PennDOT has been working to address Acid Rock Drainage problems.

The "Timely Topics" and "New Approaches" tracks were well-attended. Of particular interest was "AMD Treatability" presented by Brent Means of the Office of Surface Mining and "Operation and Maintenance of AMD Treatment Systems" presented by the Department of Environmental Protection's Pam Milavec.

During dinner in the outdoor pavilion, WPCAMR's Andy McAllister, on behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, bestowed the first of two 2008 Mayfly Awards to DEP's Russ Wagner for his dedication to Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Pennsylvania.

The next day began with technical presentations related to Abandoned Mine Reclamation, but as the day continued, our Coal Mining Heritage began to take center stage.

Bridging the two segments, [Scott Roberts](#), DEP's Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resource Management, offered food for thought in "the Seinfeldian Side of Pennsylvania's Mining Heritage," while Steve Smith of the Welsh Assembly Government offered an interesting historical perspective from across the pond with his presentation entitled, "Industrial Legacy of Wales--From Blight to Asset".

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WPCAMR's Andy McAllister surprised the lunch crowd with an announcement of the second 2008 Mayfly Award, this time honoring Margaret Dunn of Stream Restoration Inc. for all of her hard work in remediating Abandoned Mine Drainage.

Video Blog: [Margaret Dunn On The Ohio Watershed Celebration](#)

Those who attended the evening mixer were treated to the soulful sounds of renowned acoustic guitarist Ken Bonfield. Ken, impressed by our efforts to reclaim our land and waters from the devastating effects of unregulated mining activities of the past, drove to Pennsylvania from Massachusetts with his daughter, Ella to play for free at the Conference mixer.

Additionally, a special roughcut screening of Andy McAllister's video documentary entitled, "Out of the Ground" was enthusiastically received by the audience on Wednesday evening. Featuring music by guitarist Ken Bonfield, "Out of the Ground" documents the struggles and joys of Western Pennsylvania's mining families and communities.

Look for more information about "Out of the Ground" in a future edition of [Abandoned Mine Posts](#) later in the fall.

Attendees on the final day again had the opportunity to attend one of two tracks. The "Preserving Coal Mining Heritage" track showcased the heritage preservation efforts of local groups throughout Pennsylvania's coal regions. In the "Historic Topics" track, attendees learned more about specific events in our mining past that would shape our future.

If you missed the conference, don't despair. Powerpoint presentations and some papers will be available on the [2008 conference website](#). See the [Conference brochure](#) for a more detailed listing of presentations.

Pennsylvania Cable Network

As an added bonus, the [Pennsylvania Cable Network](#) taped selected presentations from the history component of this year's conference and will air them on the following dates/times as part of their tribute to coal miners during Labor Day Weekend: August 31 from 4 - 7:30 p.m. and September 1 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Links: [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium Attracts 110+ 275 Attend Lehigh Valley Watershed, Shad Conference](#)
[500 Attend Keystone Coldwater Conference, Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#)

Online Video Feature

Eco Express Website Helps Teachers, Students Implement PA EE Standards



Educators can use the real world video stories of the [Eco Express website](#), produced by the [GreenTreks Network, Inc.](#), to help engage students on a variety of environmental topics in an inspiring way.

Each video story is accompanied by a learning pod which includes everything from curriculum alignment, inquiry-based problem solving activities, service learning projects, resources materials, community connections and more.

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The initial topic areas include: watersheds and wetlands, agriculture and society, threatened, endangered and extinct species, renewable and nonrenewable resources, integrated pest management, humans and the environment, environmental health, ecosystems and their interactions and environmental laws and regulations.

Eco Express is designed to help educators implement Pennsylvania's [Environmental and Ecology Standards](#) administered by the Department of Education.

You can help shape this beta version of the website by offering your comments and making suggestions for material to add.

Visit the [Eco Express website](#) and send comments to Brie Knight, GreenTreks, by sending email to: BKnight@GreenTreks.org.

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars are listed here--

Session Schedule

The Senate Leadership said this week they may return on November 20-21 to deal with Gov. Rendell's nominations and to wrap up the 2007-08 legislative session. Here is the fall voting schedule—

House

September 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24

October 6, 7, and 8

November 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 24, and 25

Senate

September 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24

October 6, 7, 8

The Senate will not be in session after the November election, except to possibly consider some nominations and wrap up the session on November 20-21.

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars as they left them for summer recess--

Calendars

House (September 15): [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) banning the sale, installation and unsafe

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disposal of mercury thermostats; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices;; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax; [Special Session House Resolution 6](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) designating November 15 as “Pennsylvania GIS Day” and the week of November 11-17 as “National Geography Awareness Week.”

Senate: All bills on the Calendar were tabled before the summer break.

Bills Introduced

The following bill of interest was introduced this week—

Regal Butterfly: [House Bill 2748](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) designating the Regal Fritillary butterfly as the official state butterfly.

Land Conservation Credit: [House Bill 2752](#) (Milne-R-Chester) Establish a Land Conservation Tax Credit for voluntary conservation donation equal to 50 percent of the donation.

Allegheny River: [House Resolution 865](#) (Petroni-D-Allegheny) urging the U.S. Board of Geographic Names to designate the Allegheny River as the true headwaters of the Mississippi River. (*not yet online*)

Sen. Mary Jo White Takes Exception to Rendell’s Choice to Head DEP

The Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week took exception to a [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#) editorial saying recently appointed acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection was an excellent choice to head the agency.

In a letter to the *Patriot* released to the press, Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) said--

“With respect to the Patriot News' endorsement of John Hanger for DEP Secretary, you claim that it is Mr. Hanger's strong advocacy for the environment that has led to run-ins with legislators. That's just not accurate.

“There are a lot of environmental advocates – Republicans and Democrats – who have worked collaboratively to advance sound environmental policies for Pennsylvania. The water resources planning, mercury reduction, vehicle emissions and Growing Greener expansion bills all passed the Senate with strong, bipartisan support. Yet in each case, the Governor's nominee issued personal attacks against those who dared to disagree with his all-or-nothing approach. That's not a responsible way to craft public policy.

“It is reasonable for the Senate to ask if this nominee is the best choice for this important position.”

NewsClips: [Editorial: Environmental Advocate At DEP Good Choice](#)
[Editorial: Hanger Is Ideal For Rendell’s Environmental Agenda](#)
[Editorial: Hanger Is Ideal For Rendell’s Agenda](#)
[Nominee To Head State DEP Faces Many Challenges](#)

Other News

World Water Monitoring Day Is September 18

[World Water Monitoring Day](#) is an international environmental education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

An easy-to-use test kit enables everyone from children to adults to sample local water bodies for a core set of water quality parameters including temperature, acidity, clarity (turbidity) and dissolved oxygen.

Results are shared with participating communities around the globe through the World Water Monitoring Day website.

The coordinators of WWMD, the Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association, plan to expand participation to one million people in 100 countries by 2012.

To learn more, visit the [World Water Monitoring Day website](#).

Grants Available To Restore Tulpehocken and Quittapahilla Watersheds

The Fish and Boat Commission is now accepting applications for \$113,900 to support stream restoration, habitat enhancement and recreational enhancement activities on streams located in the Tulpehocken Creek and Quittapahilla Creek watersheds.

Applications are due October 15. Grants will be awarded at the end of the year.

The Tulpehocken Creek watershed encompasses 219 square miles in Lebanon and Berks counties and includes Blue Marsh Reservoir. The Quittapahilla Creek watershed covers 77 square miles in Lebanon County.

The grants can be used for stand-alone projects or to supplement other funding for larger projects that are designed to improve aquatic habitat, water quality, or recreational use.

Examples of acceptable activities include fishery habitat restoration or enhancement; fish stocking; fishing access; maintenance or creation of facilities to encourage, improve or expand recreational use of the fishery; or studies related to these issues.

This funding is available through a 1998 settlement agreement between the PFBC and AES Ironwood, L.L.C. related to the operation of an electric generation facility located in South Lebanon Township, Lebanon County.

AES Ironwood agreed to provide a contribution to the watersheds from which they are withdrawing water to assist with power production. The program will continue on a regular basis throughout the life of the AES Ironwood Power Plant.

[Applications are available online.](#)

For more information, contact the PFBC at 814-359-5147.

DEP Invites Comments On Watershed TMDL Plans

The Department of Environmental Protection has invited comments on Total Maximum Daily Load plans for watersheds in Carbon, Dauphin, Schuylkill and Somerset counties. They include:

Nesquehoning Creek Watershed, Carbon-Schuylkill Counties: DEP will hold a public meeting on the proposal September 10 at the Pottsville District Office in Pottsville starting at 1:00. Contact: James Andrews, 570-621-3118 or send email to: jameandrew@state.pa.us .

Pine Creek Watershed, Dauphin-Schuylkill Counties: DEP will hold a public meeting on the proposal September 10 at the Pottsville District Office in Pottsville starting at 10:00. Contact: James Andrews, 570-621-3118 or send email to: jameandrew@state.pa.us .

Shade Creek Watershed, Somerset County: DEP will hold a public meeting on the proposal on September 3 at the Cambrian District Office in Ebensburg starting at 1:00. Contact: Jeff Miller, 814-472-1803 or send email to: jeffreymil@state.pa.us .

For more information and to review copies of the plans, visit [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

Friends of the Wissahickon Announces its 2008 Photo Contest

The [Friends of the Wissahickon](#) announced it is now accepting entries for its 2008 [Wissahickon Photography Contest](#).

The deadline for entries is September 29 at 5 p.m.

Photographers may submit work in five categories: people; wildlife; landscape; structures; and FOW activities. All winners will receive a Friends of the Wissahickon T-shirt.

In the Adult Competition, prizes will be awarded as follows: Grand Prize (Best in Show), \$100; First Prize in each category, \$50; second prize in each category, a gift certificate.

Aspiring young photographers are welcome to enter our Junior Competition. Submissions will be judged in two age categories: 12 years and under and 13 to 17 years. Best in each category will receive a prize of \$25.

Competitors may submit up to six photos in any category. There is no entrance fee. The Friends of the Wissahickon reserves the right to use photo submissions in FOW publications.

An entry form is available online at the [Wissahickon Photography Contest webpage](#) at the FOW office, 8708 Germantown Avenue. Questions? Contact Heather Davis Jones by sending email to: davisjones@fow.org or call 215-247-0417.

Register Now For Annual Dirt and Gravel Road Workshop October 1-3

The [Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies](#) will hold its annual [Dirt and Gravel Road Workshop](#) on October 1-3 at Antiochian Village near Ligonier in Westmoreland County.

The annual maintenance workshop typically draws a crowd of 200-250 attendees from Conservation Districts, Forestry, DEP, private industry, and local municipalities.

The workshop includes active demonstration project on road sites in the field and concurrent classroom topics on environmental and unpaved road maintenance issues. Day one includes "township day" where local municipalities are encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit the [Dirt and Gravel Road Workshop webpage](#).

Free Rain Barrels Available To Watershed Groups Thru Coca-Cola Partnership

The [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) is offering free 55-gallon barrels to local watershed organizations and environmental education groups through a partnership with Baltimore Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

Rain barrels save money on water bills by collecting rain water that can be used for plants and gardens. By intercepting rain before it flows off a property, rain barrels also reduce polluted runoff to local streams, storm drains and the Bay.

"The Alliance believes in the benefits of developing a partnership and program such as this one because we focus on creating collaborative solutions with area businesses," according to Lou Etgen, Interim Director for the Alliance. "We will continue to work to protect the Chesapeake Bay, our nation's largest and most productive estuary."

"The protection and conservation of our region's watersheds is a leading concern for everyone in our community, including businesses, nonprofits, local and state governments and residents," said Curtis L. Etherly, Jr., Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications for Baltimore Coca-Cola Bottling. "In conjunction with our other corporate responsibility and sustainability efforts, the conversion of our concentrate barrels into rainwater harvesting containers adds an entirely new dimension to our ongoing efforts around finding ways to reuse, renew and recycle resources across every facet of our business."

Reuse of these barrels not only helps the Alliance's efforts to protect the Bay, but also saves energy by cutting down on the amount of barrels Coca-Cola has to recycle.

So far, Coca-Cola Bottling Company has donated more than 250 Coca-Cola syrup barrels to the Alliance. The reuse of these 55-gallon barrels will not only help in the effort to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but also eliminate the energy Baltimore Coca-Cola would expend recycling the plastic barrels.

Those interested in obtaining free rain barrels can call the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at 410-377-6270.

ClearWater Conservancy Holds Spring Creek Day Family Festival September 28

The [ClearWater Conservancy](#) will hold its annual Family Festival at the [Millbrook Marsh Nature Center](#) in State College, Pa.

Fun for the whole family abounds when ClearWater and Centre Region Parks and Recreation partner up to host this 26th annual festival!

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Locals and friends are invited to enjoy live music, food concessions, artists-in-action, and children's crafts while learning about the environment through nature walks, boardwalk tours, hands-on science activities, geo-caching demonstrations, water rockets, a Shaver's Creek turtle show, archeological digs, scavenger hunts, barn talks, and exhibits and presentations by local conservation organizations.

There is no admission fee -- we simply want you to enjoy yourself while learning more about how you can make a difference!

For more information on events or to be an exhibitor, contact Kim Faulds by sending email to: kim@ClearWaterConservancy.org .

DEP Extends Expiration Date for NPDES Phase II MS4 General Permit

The Department of Environmental Protection has extended the expiration of the current [NPDES Phase II MS4](#) general permit (PAG-13) by one year from midnight, March 9, 2009 to midnight, March 9, 2010.

DEP also is extending all existing MS4 PAG-13 general permit approvals, waivers from permit application requirements and exemptions from the MS4 operator designation scheduled to expire.

Existing MS4s are authorized to continue to discharge stormwater in accordance with the terms and conditions of the authorized permit and to comply with MS4 permit requirements. Included in this extension is the requirement to continue implementation of the existing program and to provide annual reports on the progress of program implementation.

If you are using an NPDES Phase II MS4 individual permit, you must either submit an application for a renewal permit or request an extension of your current permit 180 days or more before the expiration of your current permit.

The form for an extension of the individual permit [is available online](#).

The existing PAG-13 permit documents will continue to be available from DEP Regional Offices. In addition, the permit documents are on file at the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Watershed Management, 10th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

DEP [published a formal notice](#) to the effect in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on August 23.

Abigail Pattishall Joins Wildlands Conservancy To Head Rivers Program

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) this week announced Abigail Pattishall is joining the team as the Director of the Rivers Programs.

“Abigail has been instrumental in the publication of numerous technical reports focused on water quality monitoring and assessment plans,” says Scott J. Cope, chief program officer, “Her extensive experience and broad knowledge of issues facing our unique natural resource, the Lehigh River, makes her the best candidate for the position.”

As director, Pattishall will oversee the planning, implementation, and oversight of a comprehensive rivers conservation program, specifically focusing on Wildlands Conservancy's Strategic Plan.

Pattishall will proactively work to reach yearly goals addressing water quality and quantity issues of the Lehigh River and its tributaries through working collaboratively with

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other conservation organizations, landowners, corporations, outside contractors and government agencies. She will also lead the rivers conservation staff, currently made up of a biologist and outdoor recreation manager.

Pattishall has just recently completed her doctorate degree in integrative biology at Lehigh University where, during her studies, she was a teaching assistant. Most recently, she was a biology professor at Lehigh Carbon Community College.

Pattishall has had extensive work contributed to numerous scientific and technical publications, most notably the Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Management Plan.

Pattishall has also helped to write Lehigh River Mine Drainage Assessment and Abatement Plan to Mitigate the Mine Drainage Impacts to the Lehigh River Watershed and a variety of watershed management and assessment plans.

312 Schools Participate In Seedlings For Schools Program

The Seedlings for Schools Program created by the [Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation](#) and the Game Commission attracted 312 participating schools in its first year.

Two programs were offered to schools.

The Game Commission's Howard Nursery provided third grade teachers with seedlings for students to take home and plant. The second program, "Seedlings for Habitat," offered seedlings to higher grades for planting on school or community grounds to improve habitat for wildlife.

There was no charge for schools participating in this program. The expenses were covered by Waste Management, Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation, Pheasants Forever Chapter #603, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Mealey's Furniture.

Schools had two types of trees to choose from – silky dogwood, which is a small flowering tree and Eastern white pine that can grow up to 100 feet tall. This educational program was very well received.

The program was supported by the Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation, Waste Management, Inc. and the Game Commission which hope to expand the program to more schools next year.

Wildlife For Everyone Foundation Provides Updates On Major Projects

The [Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation](#) August newsletter provided an update on just some of the major projects the Foundation is involved in—

Wildlife Restoration Projects: The Foundation signed additional contracts with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service totaling \$145,000. The money will be used for the following projects: \$10,000 to create wetlands in Union County; \$135,000 for work in Clearfield County to create wetlands; and stream-bank restoration projects in Bald Eagle Creek in York County and Tipton Run in Blair County. Both streams have problems with bank erosion which needs to be corrected.

The Foundation is also working in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to improve 19 sites in Centre County by installing stream-bank fencing and implementing stream restoration. This project will create both terrestrial and aquatic habitat wildlife.

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The Foundation will be working with the Game Commission to restore and create new wetlands adjacent to Black Lick Creek in the Vintondale area of Cambria County. The Foundation approved \$20,000 for this project.

State College Spikes: The State College Spikes, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Foundation hosted Going Green Series – Hemp Jersey Off The Back Silent Auction on July 18. This was a silent auction that allowed fans to bid for the actual game jersey worn by the players. All proceeds from the auction went towards habitat for Pennsylvania wildlife.

On August 12 the Foundation joined the State College Spikes for the second night of Going Green Series. During the August 12 game the Foundation personnel had the opportunity to meet many sports fans and explain to them the mission and goals of the Foundation. The August 12 game did not included auctioning off jerseys.

Five Mile Run: The “Five Mile Run” in Allenwood was a huge success! This fundraising event was held July 12 on State Game Land #252. The event was hosted by MidPenn Trailblazers.

Eighty-five runners participated in the event and over 60 spectators attended the race. Prizes for the runners were donated by the Foundation and the Game Commission. All proceeds from the race went toward habitat for Pennsylvania wildlife.

The Foundation thanked Jessica Schmit, Kelly Buck, Jeffrey Schmit, Sandra Schmit, Joel Heasley, Shelly Heasley, Ruth Ann Helfrick, Kevin Warren, Lori and Al Fox, Mike Schmit, and Theresa Sheets for organizing and volunteering to help with the race.

The Foundation also thanked the following sponsors for donating items for the race: Game Commission, Mid Penn Trailblazers, Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation, Weis Markets (Lewisburg and Milton Stores), Jem Pro Services Custom Built Homes, Lock Laces, Apple Hill 4x4, Gander Mountain, Bass Pro Shops, Fuel Belt, Engo Blister Management Systems, Lingles Neighborhood Market, Green Ridge Graphics, Road ID, Accelerade, Hylands Labs, Elite Feet, Penn's Cave, Carb BOOM!, and Trail Runner Magazine.

Education and Research Center: The Foundation's Board of Directors signed a contract with The NCS Group, Ltd of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. The NCS Group will conduct a study to determine if it is feasible to create a Wildlife Education and Research Center in State College. The study will be completed by the end of October. If the results of the study determine that the Center can be built, NCS Group will start Capital Campaign to raise funds for the building.

The Center will provide a unique opportunity for all residents to support Pennsylvania wildlife. The Foundation's Wildlife Education and Research Center design will ensure Pennsylvania is the vanguard of wildlife conservation. The state of the art education complex will feature a library, theatre, classrooms, and interactive exhibits. The Center will stimulate continuous learning about Pennsylvania's birds, mammals, and their universal benefits.

For more information, visit the [Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation](#).

Wildlife Habitat Council Honors PPG Industries, Bayer Corporation

The [Wildlife Habitat Council](#) this week announced it will honor PPG Industries Inc. and Bayer Corporation, both headquartered in Pittsburgh, as [Signature of Sustainability sites](#).

PPG and Bayer are two of only 21 companies across the nation to receive this prestigious honor, and Pittsburgh is the only city in which more than one company is being recognized.

The Signature of Sustainability initiative is a one-time recognition program that aligns with WHC's 20th anniversary celebration, marking two decades of successfully promoting conservation and environmental awareness throughout corporate America and the world.

The 21 honorees were selected by a Blue Ribbon Committee of judges and were evaluated based on a ranking system with points given per-level of involvement in focus areas, such as environmental education, habitat enhancement and community involvement.

PPG's 185-acre plot of woodlands and meadows, and Bayer's 200-acre wildlife and wetland reserve, have been certified by the WHC as natural habitats for more than eight years.

Both companies utilize their land to provide public educational programs that go above and beyond the standards set forth by WHC's Corporate Lands for Learning and Wildlife at Work curricula.

For instance, PPG's 1,000 square-foot pollination meadow highlights the Monroeville Chemical Center property, which features a milkweed plot for monarch butterfly breeding. Each fall, PPG employees assist students from Gateway and Franklin Regional school districts as they capture, tag and release monarchs through the University of Kansas' Monarch Watch and WHC's Wings of Wonder programs.

Similarly, Bayer Corporation's headquarters in Robinson Township uses Wings of Wonder to give employees and outside organizations, such as Boy Scouts of America, a unique opportunity to study Western Pennsylvania's bluebird population.

The site also holds a pond study module in the spring and fall that challenges elementary-school students to apply classroom learning to a real-world environment as they explore food webs, micro-organisms and the importance of wetland stewardship.

"These Signatures of Sustainability make the communities around them a better place for both biodiversity and learners of all ages, and they represent the very highest standards for a WHC program," said Johnson. "We hope the Signatures of Sustainability will inspire even greater engagement by companies in voluntary actions for the conservation of biodiversity."

In celebration of this recognition, PPG and Bayer hosted a collaborative, two-day interactive workshop on August 28-29 for employees, which will include an award ceremony and dinner at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium.

The event is designed to honor the extensive conservation education and outreach efforts of employee-based WHC teams at both sites. An active agenda is set to feature a tour of each habitat, an open forum for discussion and hands-on experience for attendees who wish to learn more about Bayer and PPG's environmental education programs.

Representatives of other certified WHC sites from the Pittsburgh region will also be in attendance at the workshops to promote dialogue and the sharing of best practices.

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For more information on the [Signature of Sustainability initiative](#), please contact Thelma Redick, WHC Director of Conservation and Education, by phone: 301-357-4864 or send email to: thelma.redick@verizon.net.

2008 Wild Resource Festival Set For September 13 At Tom Ridge Center

The [Tom Ridge Environmental Center](#) at Presque Isle in Erie will host the [2008 Wild Resource Festival](#) sponsored by the [Wild Resource Conservation Program](#) on September 13.

The festival is designed to provide children, families and wildlife enthusiasts, young and old, with a chance to talk to the state's leading scientists and get a front-row seat to view Pennsylvanian's non-game animals and plants.

Numerous fun activities are planned including a chance to have the "buggers" from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History identify your mystery insect, watch bird banders at work, or take a behind-the-scenes tour of the research labs at the Tom Ridge Center.

A special performance by Sam Hyman is scheduled from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Educational programs will also be available throughout the day from groups like the American Chestnut Foundation, The S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and many more. There will even be a visit from the Erie Zoo to show off some of their critters!

The Festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. This is the first time the Wild Resource Conservation Program will be holding its annual festival in northwest Pennsylvania.

Registration is not required. For more information, contact Deb Miller by sending email to: debmillier@state.pa.us. For a full list of activities and exhibitors, visit the [Wild Resource Festival website](#).

Creating Sustainable Community Parks Conference October 29

Municipal officials, park staff, planners, and anyone else interested in finding a balance between recreational needs and natural resource protection should attend the [Creating Sustainable Community Parks Conference](#) at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pa on October 29.

This one-day conference takes information from the [DCNR publication](#) of the same name and expands upon it.

Conference attendees will learn about the benefits of protecting natural resources and how they can save time and money by implementing sustainable practices into their parks.

After a keynote address on Sustainable Landscapes by Larry Weaner, a landscape architect, there will be a panel discussion that includes five Pennsylvania case studies from parks and schoolyards that have taken a more natural approach to their management needs.

Three concurrent tracks of afternoon sessions cover topics such as natural stormwater management, sustainable trail design and maintenance, and funding sources. Final comments by Chris Kocher of the Wildlands Conservancy will round-out the event.

While anyone may attend the conference, the target audience includes the following counties: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, and

Schuylkill. Additional conferences will take place in different parts of the state in the coming years.

The registration fee is \$31, which covers the cost of a continental breakfast, breaks, lunch, carbon offset credits, and handouts.

The [agenda and registration form](#) are available online. The registration deadline is October 10.

Women and Their Woods, Exploring the Value of Woods October Events

The [Delaware Highlands Conservancy](#) and the Federal Forest Service will sponsor two exciting and informative educational events in October:

Women and Their Woods – October 5: is an introductory program for women landowners who want to learn more about the forests they own and gain a fuller understanding of their place and potential in the community of forest landowners.

The program consists of presentations on the all aspects of forest ownership including an overview of real estate issues, useful information on flora and fauna that inhabit local woodland areas, values of forest lands not readily apparent, methods for conserving lands for the next generation, resources available to all members of the landowner community, and more.

Guest speakers include Dr. Ann Rhoads, Botanist, Sue Currier, Executive Director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Barbara Yeaman, Winner of the 2008 Ralph W. Abele Conservation and Heritage Award, Lori McKean, Executive Director of the Eagle Institute and Assistant Director for Programs and Communication for the U.S. Forest Service/Grey Towers National Historic Site and Nancy Baker, Chairperson of the Forest Landowner Committee of the PA Forestry Association and President of the Bradford Sullivan Forest Landowners Association.

A hands on exploration of forest resources and a walk in the woods will be part of the day's activities, so please wear comfortable clothing and bring walking shoes.

Exploring the Many Values in Your Woods – October 26: is a program to educate landowners about the variety of economic values of forestlands beyond traditional timber harvesting products.

Participants will learn about the potential of conservation, recreation, and wood energy and gain a fuller understanding of the various facets of gas exploration and leasing.

Speakers include Peter Pinchot, Director of Milford Experimental Forest, Mike Roche, Service Forester for Pike County for the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Nancy Baker, Chairperson of the Forest Landowner Committee of the PA Forestry Association and President of the Bradford Sullivan Forest Landowners Association, Robin Wildermuth, Professional Forester, Wes Gillingham, Program Director for Catskill Mountainkeeper currently focused on programs regarding comprehensive facts on gas exploration and drilling, and Colin Miller of Catskill Woodnet, a regional network of woodworkers, artisans and sawmills committed to supporting healthy watersheds and forestland conservation in the Catskill Mountains.

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Both events will be held at Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, PA, and are free and open to the public, with lunch provided. Registration is limited and first come, first serve.

Download the program brochures to learn more: [Exploring the Many Values in Your Woods](#) and [Women and Their Woods](#).

Please call the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at 570-226-3164 to reserve your place. For more information or to register call the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or send email to: info@delawarehighlands.org.

Governor's Hunting, Fishing Council Seeks Dialog on Hunting's Future

The [Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation](#) wants to hear from residents, especially sportsmen's clubs and recreation organizations, about how to improve the hunting experience in Pennsylvania.

"More than any other reason, people hunt because it gives them the opportunity to get together for outdoor recreation with family and friends," said Council Member Linda Steiner. "Hunting is a social phenomena passed on from generation to generation. And while the desire to put food on the table may have been more of a motivating factor in the past, it has been surpassed by the desire to spend quality time with a daughter or son, aunt or uncle."

Concerned about the steady decline in hunting participation, Steiner said the council views the problem as an opportunity for policymakers to look for fresh ideas about how to reverse the downward trend.

Hunting license sales have fallen 28 percent from 1981 to 2007 and projections indicate that another 24 percent decline may occur by 2025.

According to a recent study, "Fishing and Hunting Recruitment in the U.S. from 1990 to 2005," by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, time constraints appear to be the biggest barrier to increasing hunting participation.

"Giving people more time to hunt may very well be the best way to solve the long-term decline in hunting," Steiner said. "The biggest obstacle we've discovered comes in the form of an archaic 'blue law' that prohibits hunting when people are most likely to have available time, during the weekend.

"Interestingly, most surrounding states, including Maryland, Ohio, New York and West Virginia, now allow people to hunt on both days of the weekend. These states have experienced few of the problems some people assume would plague Pennsylvania, such as increased posting of private land. Not one of these states has plans to repeal the added day," Steiner said. "Given the positive experience in other states, the advisory council believes that doing away with the 'blue law' is worth considering."

Pennsylvania dropped its ban on Sunday fishing in 1937, and other blue laws, such as those limiting the sale of liquor and beer, have been greatly relaxed. With the exception of car sales, hunting remains the only activity that's restricted on Sunday in Pennsylvania. "Understandably, this topic can stir a range of emotions even among hunters, not to mention other users such as hikers and bicyclists," Steiner said.

"Undoubtedly, there will be long-term consequences if we don't address the decline in hunting and fishing. Nationally, hunters and anglers have been the largest contributors to government wildlife programs for game and nongame species, contributing over \$10

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billion for conservation and more than 80 percent of the funding our state fish and wildlife agencies rely on. All of us who care about wildlife and wild places should be concerned. It's time we started to think about how we can encourage more hunters, and what hunters are telling us is that they need more time to hunt."

Legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives ([House Bill 779](#) (Staback-D-Schuylkill)) that would remove the prohibition on Sunday hunting, allowing the Pennsylvania Game Commission to fully regulate hunting on Sunday.

Most people assume that deer hunting would be considered part of any expansion, but the inclusion of other species, such as waterfowl, turkey and grouse, would interest hunters.

Individuals and organizations interested in learning more about expanding hunting opportunities should contact the [Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation](#) by calling 717-772-3292.

Hard to Recycle Collection Scheduled For September 20 In Allegheny County

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) and the [Allegheny County Health Department](#) will hold a "Hard-to-Recycle" collection event for area residents from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., September 20 at North Park Pool Parking Lot in Allison Park.

The collection event will include major appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners; cell phones; tires; computers; ink and toner cartridges; and compact florescent bulbs. All materials will be recycled and refurbished.

For more information and fees, visit the [Hard To Recycle event webpage](#) or contact Sarah at 412-488-7490 ext. 236 or send email to: saraha@ccicenter.org.

PROP Organics Committee Meets In Meadville on October 2

[The Organics Committee](#) of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania will meet at Allegheny College in Meadville October 2 to hear presentations on organics and climate change and college sustainability efforts.

The agenda includes presentations with the theme of "pressure on carbon resource" covering woodchips and other biomass, switch grass and putting carbon back into the soil.

Representatives of Allegheny College will talk about their sustainability efforts, including composting food waste and other initiatives.

The meeting will start at 9:30 in the Tillotson Room in Tippie Alumni Center, North Main St., Meadville.

For more on campus sustainability efforts, visit the [Allegheny College website](#), and visit the [Organics Committee webpage](#) for background on the Committee. Or contact Jan Arnold, PROP, by sending email to: jarnold@proprecycles.org.

Little Tincum Island Cleanup in Delaware County Needs Volunteers September 21

As part of the [International Coastal Cleanup](#), [PA CleanWays](#) is organizing a cleanup of Little Tincum Island in William Penn State Forest, Delaware County and they need volunteers.

The Ridley Township Marina, Ridley Park will serve as a rally point for volunteers starting at 8:30. From there, volunteers will be transported by boat to the island.

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Anyone interested in volunteering should register by September 18 and all volunteers must be age 15 or older.

For more information, contact Michelle Dunn at 877-772-3673 ext.37 or send email to: mdunn@pacleanways.org.

For information on other cleanup events around the state this fall, visit the [PA CleanWays website](#).

Lake Erie Cleanup Seeks Volunteers to Inventory, Collect Trash September 20

The Department of Environmental Protection, along with community leaders and organizations, is seeking volunteers to help build upon five years of work that has removed approximately 32 tons of garbage from Lake Erie's shorelines and watershed.

The group urged residents of northwest Pennsylvania to help clean up trash around Erie County waterways from 9 a.m. until noon on September 20, as part of the [Pennsylvania-Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup](#).

DEP Northwest Regional Director Kelly Burch said this is an opportunity for the public to help improve the local quality of life and prevent littering in the future.

"We hope to see people from throughout the Lake Erie watershed gather to document and remove trash that is ending up in local waterways," said Burch. "The more people who come out to help, the greater the impact we'll have in cleaning the lake's shores and tributaries. And by gaining a better understanding of what types of litter are most prevalent, we implement measures that will help prevent littering in the future."

This year's [International Coastal Cleanup](#) will include more than a dozen sites along the Lake Erie shoreline, from Raccoon Creek in western Erie County to the northeast marina and Freeport Beach on the eastern end of the county.

Last year, 547 volunteers picked up and documented 7,200 pounds of debris. The 2007 results were typical of what was found in previous years with the most prevalent forms of litter being cigarette butts and items related to food and beverages, including: 5,537 cigarette butts and cigar tips, 1,703 beverage containers, 2,794 food wrappers/containers, 2,323 beverage caps/lids/straws and 970 plastic bags.

In the past five years, more than 2,600 local volunteers have collected and documented more than 64,000 pounds of trash that had accumulated along Erie County shorelines.

Presque Isle State Park Environmental Educator Anne DeSarro said the cleanup is looking for volunteers of all ages—individuals, families, clubs, school and church groups. "Clearing trash makes our environment healthier, enhances our quality of life, and protects birds and aquatic life," said DeSarro. "Besides, it's fun and a chance to meet other people who care about the outdoors."

DEP, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, along with numerous area businesses, nonprofit groups and local government agencies are sponsoring or supporting the Sept. 20 cleanup.

To register as a cleanup volunteer, visit the [Pennsylvania-Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup website](#) or call Don Benczkowski at 814-573-3565.

Free Festival to End Philadelphia Summer With a Splash To Celebrate Coast Day

Philadelphians will have an opportunity to explore the city's coastline by land and by sea on September 20, in what will be a full day of festivities during [Southeastern Pennsylvania Coast Day](#), from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Walnut Plaza at Penn's Landing.

Visitors on this last unofficial Saturday of summer will be welcomed at 20 or more tents offering free water-themed activities along with face painting, make-and-take crafts, music and more. They will also have an opportunity to get a "duck's-eye" view of the Delaware River aboard a Ride the Ducks amphibious vehicle.

It is all part of a free festival sponsored by the [Philadelphia Water Department](#), Pennsylvania [Coastal Zone Management Program](#), [DuPont Clear into the Future](#), and the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#).

"The Partnership is especially proud of the way this festival has taken off in recent years," said Lisa Wool, program director at the PDE. "Not only do families have a great time, they also gain a new appreciation for Pennsylvania's coastal waterways, including the tidal Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers."

In the spirit of Coast Day, three neighboring institutions will be offering free or discounted programs to the public. The closest of these is the [Independence Seaport Museum](#), which is offering reduced admission of just \$5 per person on Saturday. A free shuttle bus will also be available to carry festival goers roundtrip from Walnut Plaza to two other riverside attractions.

The shuttle's first stop is at the [Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center](#), an interactive museum that tells the story of the Schuylkill River and America's first water utility. Incidentally, anglers are welcome to board the shuttle bus once they have finished competing in the PWD's Philly Fun Fishing Fest from 7 a.m. to noon along the banks of the Schuylkill River.

The shuttle will also make stops at the American Philosophical Society Museum, where visitors can pick up a map before departing on a self-guided walking tour of Dock Creek. At one time, this tidal stream flowed right through the heart of Independence Mall, but it has since been forced underground by two centuries of development.

For a limited time, however, Philadelphians can walk its original course thanks to sculptures and knowledgeable interpreters stationed at six locations, each of which features a different hands-on activity.

To learn more, visit the [Southeastern Pennsylvania Coast Day webpage](#) or call 800-445-4935, ext. 106.

P2E2 Roundtable Learning Lessons, Realizing Savings With Green Roofs

Members of DEP's [Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency Roundtable](#) recently toured a "green roof" installation in Lancaster to learn about its energy savings and stormwater benefits.

The roundtable is a group of businesses, organizations and institutions focused on partnering and sharing of information on innovative energy and pollution prevention technologies and ideas.

The group is affiliated with DEP's Northeast and Southcentral regions and the [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals](#).

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The focus of this quarterly roundtable meeting was on partnering efforts among the Lancaster County Planning Commission, Millersville University and several businesses in the Lancaster area that have installed green roofs for improved energy savings and stormwater management.

The group toured the vegetative roof at [National Novelty Brush Co.](#) Company president Rick Seavey said the roof is projected to last 75 years and that they have no need to put air conditioning in the company's warehouse due to 20 percent energy savings.

Stormwater runoff is also reduced up to 90 percent. Maintenance is minimal but the roof does have to be weeded!

Representatives from Millersville University and the Lancaster County Planning Commission discussed the partnership effort that helped make the project possible. A roundtable member from the Tobyhanna Army Depot also participated and presented their analytical data on energy savings realized as the result of the green roof system they are planning on expanding. DEP staff presented information on DEP's Energy Harvest Grant Program for innovative energy projects.

Other organizations represented on the tour included Wal Mart, Sanofi-Pasteur, PPL, Army and National Guard personnel from Fort Indiantown Gap, the Lancaster Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the Lancaster County Conservation District, Susquehanna Sustainable Business Network, Live Green, and the Sierra Club.

Wilkes University is hoping to move forward with additional green roof installations on its Wilkes-Barre campus using the Lancaster partnering project as an example.

For more information, visit the [Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency Roundtable webpage](#).

Links: [Penn State Puts Its Own Green Roof Technology To Work Center for Green Roof Research](#)

PA Sustainable Agriculture Assn. Harvest Dinner Benefit September 21

The [PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture](#) will hold its annual [Harvest Dinner](#) on September 21 in Harrisburg.

Each year this event highlights the many foods produced in Pennsylvania by farmers practicing sustainable agriculture. At the same time it serves as a fund raiser for PASA so it can continue its effort to support and expend sustainable agriculture in the state.

A reception will start the event in the atrium of Strawberry Square featuring Pennsylvania wines, cheeses, vegetables and other treats.

The dinner at the Harrisburg Hilton is organized around several food stations starting with soups, bread and salad and stations for chicken, pork beef, lamb, vegetables and finally dessert.

For more information and tickets, download the [dinner brochure](#) or visit the [PASA website](#).

400,000 Acres Of Farmland Now Preserved in Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Board set a new record by preserving the state's 400,000th acre, Gov. Rendell announced this week. Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of acres preserved.

The approved farmland included three Northampton County farms, which gives the county 10,302 acres preserved on 94 farms since 1991.

"Production agriculture is Pennsylvania's key source of food and fiber and it is an integral part of the state's economy," said Gov. Rendell. "We must take every measure possible to preserve farmland for future generations, keeping Pennsylvania growing and helping to ensure that agriculture remains viable."

The achievement was celebrated at the Graver farmstead, a 123-acre beef operation and Bicentennial Farm that was approved for preservation in 2007. The 55 farms preserved today are in 25 counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Butler, Chester, Dauphin, Erie, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Schuylkill, Union, Warren and York. Two counties preserved farmland for the first time. Greene County preserved the 108-acre farm owned by William and Lura Ann Cree, and Warren County preserved the 152-acre farm of H. Peter Block.

"We are extremely proud to announce the preservation of more than 400,000 acres in Pennsylvania," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "The commonwealth has earned an outstanding reputation for our agricultural products, and that reputation has been extended to our farmland preservation program, ensuring that agricultural land will be available for the next generation of farmers."

In its 20-year history, Pennsylvania has become the national leader in farmland preservation, covering 3,634 farms and 401,185 acres. Since 1988, state and federal funds, along with counties and local municipalities, have contributed more than \$1 billion to preserve farmland.

The state's farmland preservation program works through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements, also called development rights, from owners of quality farmland.

For more information, click on the [Farmland Preservation Program link](#).

Pittsburgh Homeowner Receives Energy-Efficient Modifications

Volunteers from [Rebuilding Together Pennsylvania](#) and the Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania again this year joined forces to help make energy efficiency improvements to a home in Pittsburgh.

The rebuild is part of the Energy Efficient Homes Initiative, a national partnership between Rebuilding Together and America's oil and natural gas industry, which incorporates energy efficiency into home renovations for low-income homeowners nationwide, many of whom are elderly, disabled or have young children.

The energy-efficient modifications, which include a new energy-efficient furnace, water heater and EnergyStar refrigerator, will help reduce the homeowner's heating and cooling bills, and ultimately help preserve his homeownership.

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"Our combined efforts have an ongoing, positive impact on homeowners in our neighborhood and across the country," said Cindy Gilch, executive director of Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh. "The Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania's support enables us to help improve the quality of life for many deserving homeowners who can now live more comfortably, safely and use less energy."

"America's oil and natural gas industry practices energy efficiency every day within our operations, so we know the significant value of such a commitment," said Rolf Hanson, executive director of the Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania. "We are delighted to partner with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh in this outstanding initiative. Our efforts will help provide the homeowner with the dual benefit of saving energy and money."

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh is renovating James Johnson's home with energy-saving renovations. Mr. Johnson is disabled and has lived in his home for 37 years and recently underwent open heart surgery. He also lives on a limited income and supports his adult daughter, who is physically and mentally disabled.

"Now I can live, instead of just existing," said Johnson. "This will make my life a lot easier and a lot more enjoyable," he added, "I had heard about this program and am glad to be a recipient of these renovations."

Since 2005, the Initiative has expanded its reach, doubling the number of rebuilds conducted nationwide and affording homeowners the ability to save as much as 30 percent on monthly energy bills, thanks to a variety of energy-efficient techniques incorporated into their homes.

The Initiative is an additional component of Rebuilding Together, which is celebrating 20 years of having revitalized more than 100,000 homes and nonprofit facilities with the help of millions of volunteers in communities across America.

In addition to making homes more energy efficient, the Initiative also provides homeowners, volunteers and others with materials and information with recommendations on how to preserve energy now and in the future.

Coalition Looks To PUC For Approval Of Needed Transmission Project

[Pennsylvanians for Reliable Power](#) this week urged the Public Utility Commission to approve the construction of the proposed Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Recently, Administrative Law Judges Michael A. Nemecek and Mark A. Hoyer recommended the PUC not authorize the project.

Members of the diverse coalition – comprised of business, labor and community groups – are hopeful that the PUC will ultimately see the many merits of TrAIL and will vote to officially approve the line in September.

"There's no doubt that the TrAIL project is vital to Pennsylvania's electric infrastructure and will also create many new family-sustaining jobs in our state," said Bill George, president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

Earlier this summer, the West Virginia Public Service Commission approved construction of the 120-mile portion of TrAIL that will run through their state, and a Virginia hearing examiner delivered a recommendation for approval.

Both determined that multi-state TrAIL was an essential project to provide electric reliability in their states and the Mid-Atlantic region. Despite these decisions however,

Judges Nemec and Hoyer ruled last week that Allegheny's TrAILCo had "failed to carry the burden of proof" for the project.

"While the judges stated that an approval of the TrAIL line would reward a lack of foresight, our coalition sees it in a completely opposite light," said Gene Barr, vice president of government and public affairs for the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. "Approving such a line would be the incredible foresight our state needs to prevent serious blackouts and other problems in the future. We need to start construction of these lines now and not later – before problems start occurring and our state loses money and possibly jobs."

Barr continued that experts such as the U.S. Department of Energy have predicted that blackouts could occur in our state as early as the next two to three years if new lines are not constructed. In fact, PJM Interconnection – the independent organization that manages the power grid in 13 states including Pennsylvania – determined the TrAIL line was absolutely necessary for the reliable supply of electricity to homes and businesses in our region, and mandated its construction.

Although the coalition advocates for others ways to promote reliable electricity – such as investing in alternative energy sources, reducing demand, and building new power plants – they continue to stress that without reliable power lines all other efforts will not be enough to stop the looming reliability crisis.

"Environmentally friendly, alternative energy sources are a part of the long term solution," said Kelly Lewis, president and CEO of the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania. "However, people tend to forget that even alternative energy sources – such as wind – still need new and reliable power lines to distribute that power from where it's generated to the homes and businesses that need it."

Pennsylvanians for Reliable Power is a diverse coalition of concerned industry, labor and community groups formed to educate the community on the future of energy reliability in the state.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvanians for Reliable Power website](#).

PUC Releases Agenda, Issues For September 11 Hearing On Winter Energy Prices

The Public Utility Commission this week released [the agenda](#) and [the issues](#) to be discussed at the September 11 public hearing on winter energy prices.

The hearing kicks off the Commission's annual "[Prepare Now](#)" campaign, and will address issues to increase consumer awareness on rising energy prices; explore ways to reduce energy usage; educate consumers about the availability of low-income programs; increase awareness for safe home heating; and discuss potential policies and strategies.

The hearing will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North St., Harrisburg. It is open to the public.

The five PUC Commissioners will conduct the en banc hearing to solicit comments from interested parties, including the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, the PUC Consumer Advisory Council, consumer advocates and groups, and other government agencies.

Parties will be asked to provide comments on the potential consumer impact of expected electric and natural gas prices; the PUC's "Prepare Now" campaign; conservation and energy efficiency education; availability of low-income programs; and home heating

safety. As part of the informal, en banc hearing process, Commissioners will pose questions to the speakers after their comments.

This marks the sixth winter in which the Commission is urging consumers to "Prepare Now." The message is simple: "Prepare Now" for higher energy costs this winter. Learn about changes in the law related to utility shut-offs and know your rights. Save money by learning how to conserve energy. Heat your home safely. Explore budget billing options.

Visit the [PUC website](#) for more information.

Making Homes Energy Efficient Before High Heating Bills Hit

With the cost of heating homes expected to hit record levels this winter, the Department of Environmental Protection is urging residents to make their homes as energy efficient as possible before the heating season begins.

Cooling and heating a home uses more energy than any other system in a house. The typical American family spends close to \$1,862 a year on their home's utility bills and the U.S. Energy Information Agency predicts residential heating costs will rise more than 30 percent in 2009.

Unfortunately, a large portion of that energy is wasted. By using a few inexpensive energy-efficiency and conservation measures, residents can reduce their energy bills by 10 percent to 50 percent--

- Keep your thermostat at a low but comfortable temperature throughout the winter and opt to wear a sweater or use an extra blanket if you are chilly. You can also set the temperature lower on your thermostat when you are away from home for extended periods.
- Close any vents or openings that you may have used in the summer. You can also close all windows and storm windows at the start of the heating season, but keep shades, blinds and curtains open to let winter sun in during the day, especially on the east and south sides of your home to create extra heat. Close coverings at night to slow heat escaping back out of the home.
- Check furnace air filters each month, and clean or replace them as needed. Dirty filters block air flow through your heating and cooling systems, increasing your energy bill and shortening the equipment's life. You should also avoid blocking warm-air supply and return registers with furniture, carpets or drapes.
- Seal up your fireplace if not in use: Keep existing glass fireplace doors closed or seal-up the fireplace tightly with insulated foam board to help stop heat from being lost up the chimney. Remember to remove any insulation and open dampers next time you operate the fireplace.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120°F and wrap it with an insulation blanket.

More tips for energy conservation are available at [DEP's website](#).

Information is also available at www.StayWarmPA.com, including conservation tips and resources for getting financial assistance with utility bills and home weatherization.

More Appointments Announced to DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee

House Majority Leader Bill DeWeese (D-Greene) and Minority Leader Sam Smith (R-Jefferson) this week announced appointments to the new DEP [Climate Change Advisory Committee](#) created by the [Pennsylvania Climate Change Act](#) signed into law in July 9.

The committee comprises six members appointed by the Governor, six by the Senate and six by the House of Representatives. The secretaries of the departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Community and Economic Development and the chair of the Public Utility Commission are ex officio voting members of the committee.

The advisory committee is charged with advising the Department of Environmental Protection on implementing the act and creating a report on potential climate change impacts and economic opportunities for the Commonwealth.

Rep. DeWeese appointed the following individuals: Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield), Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware), Nathan Wilcox, PennEnvironment and Ed Yankovich, United Mine Workers.

Rep. Smith appointed George Ellis, PA Coal Association and James T. Volanski, Environmental Affairs Manager with U.S. Steel Corporation.

Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) and Gov. Rendell [announced their appointments](#) in mid-August.

Senate Minority Leader Robert Mellow (D-Lackawanna) has not yet made his appointments.

The Climate Change Advisory Committee will meet for the first time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., September 5, in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg.

For more information, visit the webpage for DEP [Climate Change Advisory Committee](#).

Mid-Atlantic Conference on Children's Health and Environment September 18-19

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 [Conference on Children's Health and Environment](#) is set for September 18-19 at the Perelman Quadrangle, University of Pennsylvania.

The Children's Health Program, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment are partnering with Drexel University, Pennsylvania Department of Health, University of Pennsylvania, US Fish and Wildlife Service and George Washington University to host this year's conference.

Discussions will center on Climate Change, Healthy Homes, Children in Nature, Exposure to Toxicants and Outcomes in Children, and Emerging Issues in Children's Environmental Health.

There will be a panel discussion on children's environmental health policy issues. Healthcare providers, public health and environmental professionals and the interested public are invited to attend.

For more information, visit the [Conference website](#).

Healthy Homes Guidebook Helps Families Tackle Environmental Problems At Home

The Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment with funding from the Region 3 offices of the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry and the EPA has developed a [guidebook for families](#) living in the mid-Atlantic region to address environmental health concerns in the home.

The guidebook answers questions about some of the most common environmental problems affecting families in the home, including drinking water, household chemicals, indoor air pollution, and lead, and provides families from this region with specific state and federal contacts and internet links.

The Guidebook [is available online](#).

West Shore Schools Join EPA’s Tools For Schools Program

The West Shore School District in Cumberland County recently joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Tools for Schools Program](#).

The West Shore District is the second largest suburban school district in the greater Harrisburg metropolitan area, and home to approximately 8,300 students in Cumberland and York counties.

The district is comprised of 16 school buildings some with mold and chemical issues in their labs. The EPA Region 3 Air Protection Division provided an overview and some basic indoor air quality training to the district's 50 administrators and custodial staff. They will next provide in-service training to the remainder of the staff and information on other voluntary programs and other environmental issues.

Fish and Boat Commission Seeking Waterways Conservation Officers

The Fish and Boat Commission is now accepting applications from individuals interested in becoming [Waterways Conservation Officers](#).

Applications will be accepted through October 1. All written testing must be completed with the Civil Service Commission by November 22.

WCOs perform specialized work in fish conservation and watercraft safety under the jurisdiction of the Commission, blending law enforcement and public relations duties.

Typical duties include patrolling by foot, car and boat to detect violations of fishing and boating laws; apprehending violators; issuing warnings and or citations; serving warrants; presenting evidence at hearings and court proceedings; investigating water pollution incidents; investigating boating accidents; and stocking fish.

Appearing in public to conduct classes or provide information to groups are also highlights of the WCOs duties. WCOs work demanding schedules including holidays and weekends, to perform their vital public safety and conservation duties. Additional information about a career as a WCO is available on the [Commission’s Careers page](#).

All WCOs begin their career as a WCO Trainee. Before candidates are assigned the highly independent duties of Waterways Conservation Officer, they must complete an extensive 52-week specialized training program beginning with approximately 20 weeks of instruction in law enforcement principles and practices that meet the standards of the Municipal Police Training Act.

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An additional 32-week period follows with 20 weeks of classroom training by the Commission at the H. R. Stackhouse School of Fisheries Conservation and Watercraft Safety in Centre County, Pennsylvania and 12 weeks of supervised field training. The program is conducted under close supervision, according to stringent rules. Those who successfully complete the training program will be promoted to a Waterways Conservation Officer position.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age at date of hire and possess a current valid Pennsylvania driver's license. Applicants must be residents of Pennsylvania, of good moral fiber and be able to perform the essential functions of the job. Successful candidates must pass written, oral, and physical evaluations.

During the application period, application forms and further information on the application process can be obtained from the [State Civil Service Commission website](#).

Information may also be obtained from State Civil Service Commission offices in Harrisburg at 717-783-3058 (Text Telephone: 717-772-2685), Philadelphia at 215-560-2253 (Text Telephone: 215-560-4367), or Pittsburgh at 412-565-7666 (Text Telephone: 412-565-2484.) Information may also be obtained by contacting the PFBC's Human Resource Office at 717-705-7820.

Feature

New Partnerships Encouraging City Youth To Explore PA's State Parks



She listened, she learned and now she was ready to give it a try. And what Nyiah Nevarez found in Monocacy Creek left her beaming brighter than the early August sun's rays bouncing off the Northampton County waterway.

"How'd you do that?" "What were you using for bait?" "What kind of fish is that?"

New questions came with each new arrival as word that "Nyiah caught the first fish!" spread up and down the stream to her 20 fellow members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of

Bethlehem. She and her hastily released catch—a hefty, white sucker—quickly drew a crowd as Day 5 of DCNR's Youth Adventure Camp unfolded amid the bucolic setting of a Bethlehem park.

For the 11-year-old sixth-grader and her fellow club members it had been a week of firsts—new destinations, new activities, new friends—and that was the intent as DCNR broadened its urban recreation initiative to introduce more young people to the adventure, natural beauty and learning opportunities found in their state parks. Buoyed by success last summer in Harrisburg and Philadelphia, the DCNR expanded its Youth Adventure Camps to six other urban areas.

Nyiah is very glad they did: "We went to different places and learned fun things every day," she said, re-baiting her hook for another try. "I think I was a little lucky here, but my favorite day was canoeing. I had never done that before, but the instructors made it so easy to learn."

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Team-building. Photography. Fishing and boating. Topic and teachers varied, but the classroom usually was the same—one of the 117 state parks stretching from Presque Isle in the far northwest to Tyler in the far southeast. For most campers it was their first visit to a state park from their homes in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Williamsport, Erie, Scranton, York and the Allentown area.

“We know our pilot effort last summer achieved a major goal—to introduce inner-city young people to parks and activities that are often far removed from their neighborhoods,” said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. “Most state parks are not in urban areas. These partnerships with cities are opening new opportunities to connect our state parks with urban youth.

“We hope an exciting outdoor adventure will not only make them repeat visitors, but will teach them about diversity in the natural world so, as citizens, they are lifelong stewards and make wise decisions about what our world looks like.”

Sharing that sentiment Aug. 15 on the shores of Monocacy Creek was the Fish and Boat Commission’s Dave Grube, who introduced Nyiah and her fellow campers to the intricacies of bait selection and fish identifications, water safety and environmental awareness.

“There’s nothing like seeing the smile on their face—it’s the biggest-brightest smile you’ve ever seen—when they catch their first fish,” said the commission’s environmental interpretation technician. “We’re hoping to plant the seeds of interest, that’s why we do this. Hopefully these youngsters will go home and stay interested in fishing, get their parents interested, too, so they take them out. With that interest comes a new respect for the waterways.”

The Denver resident’s students had been selected through a unique cooperative effort that saw DCNR working closely with new partners.

Beginning July 21 and ending August 15, Youth Adventure Camps and partners included: Harrisburg, Harrisburg Parks and Recreation Department; Williamsport, Big Brothers/BigSisters of Lycoming County; Pittsburgh, City of Pittsburgh Parks and Recreation Department; Philadelphia, City of Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department; York, City of York Parks and Recreation Department; Erie, Boys and Girls Clubs of Erie; and Scranton, United Neighborhood Centers.

In the Lehigh Valley area, the call for campers went out from the Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem. Pitching in to help DCNR co-sponsor the five-day camp was the Emmaus-based Wildlands Conservancy and the City of Bethlehem’s Southside recreation unit.

“We do a lot of similar program like this throughout the year where the intent is to get these youngsters interested in activities and topics that they normally would not do or encounter,” said Kevin Fister, outdoors recreation manager for the conservancy. “Will we do it again next year? Absolutely. I’ve been with them all week and I think it’s been a fantastic program.”

“It was a completely different experience for them, as a lot of the kids never did any of those type activities before -- the canoeing, hiking and biking,” said Mark Atkinson, Bethlehem’s Southside Recreation Coordinator. “The week opened their eyes to how they can help the environment. When they saw litter canoeing on the river, they got a sense of, ‘I don’t like it around my neighborhood; I don’t like it in the river.’”

But, did his young charges have fun while learning?

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“I’ve seen a few of them since camp and they’re all saying they can’t wait to go back next year.”

The Bureau of State Parks’ Rob Neitz has been with them two years now, coaching them, occasionally scolding them, cooking for them and supplying shuttle service to distant parks from their sometime mean streets of home. It’s all worth it, he says:

“For me, the most rewarding part of the Adventure Camps is when you get to witness a light go on in the camper as they connect to, and experience an activity for the first time in their life,” said Neitz, who serves as a regional environmental education coordinator. “They may catch their first fish—even if it’s 2-inch bluegill—or scale a climbing wall, or learn to enjoy the sound of nothing but their own footsteps on a hike. My reward is witnessing their sense of accomplishment in participating in an outdoor pursuit you and I might take for granted. That moment might be fleeting, but it’s there, and we don’t know what impact that might have on their future. Maybe big, probably small, but it will definitely stick with them.”

As the bureau’s newly appointed chief of outdoor recreation programming, Miranda Crotsley personally visiting each of the eight camps, noting what she termed the “the start of firm partnerships with municipal parks and community centers that now will now continue into the future.”

“Traveling around to camps statewide, I realized that while there were small differences amongst them, they all had two things in common—an incredible impact on the youth, and important partnerships forged,” said Crotsley. “When I see and hear stories about a group of kids who had never stepped foot in the woods before the camp deciding by the end of the week that they want to sleep under the stars, it shows to me what a difference these camps can make.”

(Reprinted from DCNR’s online [Resource Newsletter](#))

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **September 5**—[WPC Canoe Access Development Grant](#)
- **September 5**—[Williamsport/Lycoming Greenovation Contest](#)
- **September 9**—[EPA Water Quality Trading Funding Proposals](#)
- **September 12**—[Wildlands Conservancy 2008 Ark Award Nominations](#)
- **September 12**—[Green Building Alliance Product Innovation Grants](#)
- **September 15**—[Vote for Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest Winner](#)
- **September 19**—[EPA Clean Air Excellence Awards](#)
- **September 20**—[Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 21**—[EPA Clean Diesel Emerging Technology Grant](#)
- **September 24**—[Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **September 29**—**NEW**. [Friends of the Wissahickon Photo Contest](#)
- **September 30**—[DEP Recycling Performance Grants](#)
- **October 1**—[Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Grants](#)

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- **October 3**—[NOAA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Grants](#)
- **October 3**—[Lehigh Charles H. Nehf, Sr. Conservation Leadership Award](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 15**—**NEW**. [Tulpehocken and Quittapahilla Watersheds Grants](#)
- **October 20**—[Westinghouse Brighter Future School Grant Program](#)
- **October 20**—[DEP Coastal Zone Grant Applications](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)
- **October 31**—[Chesapeake Bay Fund Nutrient, Sediment Reduction Grants](#)
- **November 30**—[PPL Green Building Certification Grants](#)
- **November 30**—[Sinnemahoning Watershed Grant Program](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Editorial: Environmental Advocate At DEP Good Choice](#)
[Editorial: Hanger Is Ideal For Rendell's Environmental Agenda](#)
[Editorial: Hanger Is Ideal For Rendell's Agenda](#)
[Nominee To Head State DEP Faces Many Challenges](#)
[DCNR Seeks Public Input on Strategic Plan](#)
[Montgomery County Takes Steps To Reduce Carbon Footprint](#)
[Borough Joins Effort To Reduce Greenhouse Gases](#)
[Campuses Give Green That Old College Try](#)
[Builder Goes Green](#)
[Clarks Summit Red Lights Going Green](#)
[PNC's Saulson Finds It's Easy Being Green](#)
[DEP Helps Another Berks County Dentist Reduce Energy Costs](#)
[Lawmakers Looking For Ways To Soften Electric Rate Hike Blow](#)
[Electric Transmission Lines Funded in PA](#)
[Handyman Hopes To Heat Homes With Vegetable Oil](#)
[Eastern PA Farmer Harnesses The Sun \(Flower\)](#)
[Goodwill Starts Grease to Fuel Recycling Program](#)
[DuBois Hears Plan To Create Biodiesel](#)
[Gas Prices Pinch Students and School Districts](#)
[Biodiesel Touted As Heating Fuel](#)
[Editorial: Driving Less Didn't Kill Us](#)
[Ambler Gets \\$4 Million For Site's Reclamation and Cleanup](#)
[Bucks High Tech Trash Pile to Expand](#)
[Color Change In Leaves Signals Dry Season](#)
[DEP Takes Fight Against West Nile To The Skies](#)
[Conservancy Offers Grants to Help Canoeists](#)
[Trail Proposal Would Like Heritage and Armstrong](#)
[Proposed Western PA Bike Trail Winds Through 17 Towns](#)
[Schuylkill River Trail Nearer To Completion](#)

[Deer Group To Contact Governor Over Deer](#)
[Schools Choosing Organic, Nutritious Foods For Menu](#)
[Oley Officials Looking For Environmental Advisory Council Members](#)
[15 Selected To Allegheny County Air Quality Task Force](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[A Day In The Life Of A Conservation Technician](#)
[Volunteers Deserve Thanks For Helping Clean Schuylkill River](#)
[Little Aughwick Creek Watershed Planning Session](#)
[Workshop Offered To Train Private Well Owners](#)
[Restored Creek Bank Bursting With New Life](#)
[Editorial: Tract Adds Key Open Space In Watershed](#)
[Southeastern PA Coast Day](#)
[Project Separating Storm, Sewer Systems Underway](#)
[Editorial: Water At Issue In Marcellus Shale Drilling](#)
[Gas Drillers Face Ocean-Sized Problem](#)
[PA To Examine Gas Drilling Tax](#)
[Editorial: Get Aggressive On Drilling Waste](#)
[DEP Streamlines Drilling Permits](#)
[Legislators Look To Protect Water Quality During Natural Gas Drilling](#)
[DEP Announces \\$2.2 Million In Sewage Facilities Enforcement Grants](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board published final revised [coal mine reclamation fees](#), a notice it has accepted a petition to [redesignate several watersheds](#) in Greene County and a notice [correcting bluff recession](#) and setback regulations for Lake Erie.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – August 30, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The [Pennsylvania Data Center](#) published revised [populations projections](#) for each county.

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

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

Calendar of Events

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

- **September 3**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 4**—[DEP Solar Work Group](#) meeting. Second Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **September 4**— [DEP Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board](#) meeting. 8th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 5**—[DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact Steve Wilson, 717-783-8411 or send email to: stewilson@state.pa.us .
- **September 9**—**NEW**. House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing on the removal of electric rate caps. City Hall, Council Chambers, Philadelphia. 1:00.
- **September 9-10**—[DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Best Western Grand Victorian Inn, Sayre.
- **September 10**— Joint House Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Game and Fisheries Committee hearing on deer farming. Mountain Ridge Whitetails, 1115 Dartmouth Rd., Hummelstown, Pa. 12:30.
- **September 11**— House Local Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 1753](#) (Argall-R-Schuylkill) providing for grants to encourage inter-municipal cooperation. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **September 11**—**NEW**. [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) hearing [on several water resources projects](#). Bucknell University, Elaine Langone Center, Lewisburg. 1:00.
- **September 11**- **Location Change**. [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#) will now meet on the 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 13**—**NEW**. 2008 Wild Resources Festival. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle, Erie. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **September 17**— Joint Senate [Agriculture and Rural Affairs](#) and [Environmental Resources and Energy](#) Committee hearing on nutrient credit trading ([Senate Bill 1493](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland)). Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:15.
- **September 18**—**CANCELLED**. Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 19**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).
- **September 22**— Environmental Issues Forum presentation by U.S.G.S on emerging contaminants in PA Streams sponsored by the [Joint Conservation Committee](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **September 23**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

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- **September 23**— Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee meeting on [Senate Resolution 195](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) related to a review of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program. Hearing Room 3, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **September 24**— **Location Change**. [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) informational meeting on carbon sequestration. Room 8E-A, East Wing. 9:15.
- **October 2**— [DEP Solar Work Group](#) meeting. Room 105, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **October 2**—**NEW**. PROP Organics Committee meeting. Tillotson Room, Tippie Alumni Center, Allegheny College. Meadville. 9:30.
- **October 18**—[Joint Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **October 23**—[Joint Conservation Committee](#) Legislative Forestry Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Stories Invited

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

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

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