

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 19, 2005

Senate and House Set Busy Schedule As They Return to Session

The Senate returns to session on September 19 and the House not until the following week, but committees in both Chambers have scheduled meetings and hearings on a variety of environmental topics.

The Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy and Agriculture Committees have a hearing and informational meeting set on DEP's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will also hear a presentation from DCNR Secretary DiBerardinis on the state forest management plan.

The following week, the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee will hold an informational meeting on uniform brownfield covenants.

See the [Events Calendar](#) for more information.

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Where in PA is this beautiful scene?
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Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session on September 19, the House on September 26.

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On the Hill

Energy, Health Benefits of Green Buildings Topic of House Meeting

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee chaired by Rep. Adolph (R-Delaware) held an informational meeting this week on high performance green buildings, hearing comments from the Department of Environmental Protection, the American Institute of Architects, Green Building Alliance and the American Forest & Paper Association.

In [comments before the Committee](#), DEP said rising energy costs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina are a timely reminder of the need to find ways of reducing energy use using green building and other techniques. Natural gas prices are expected to double by the end of the year and heating oil will increase by over a third, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

Green building techniques result in energy savings of 50 percent or more over conventional buildings and the [Commonwealth's own green buildings](#) have demonstrate these savings. [DEP's Cambria District Mining Office](#), which meets the Gold LEED standard, was recently certified as using 52 percent less energy than conventional buildings.

Pennsylvania now has 23 building certified under the [U.S. Green Building Council's](#) LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system.

DEP noted there are also health and productivity gains from using green building standards.

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A recent [study by William Fisk](#) said the potential annual savings and productivity gains from green building technology are \$6 to \$14 billion from reduced respiratory disease, \$1 to \$4 billion from reduced allergies and asthma and \$10 to \$30 billion from reduced sick building syndrome.

[Carnegie Mellon University's](#) “Building Investment Decision Support Tool” projects productivity savings of as much as 11 percent with improved air quality, 23 percent with better lighting and 18 percent with using day lighting techniques.

DEP said it was working with a variety of partners, including the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and the [Sustainable Energy Funds](#) to provide new tools and educational opportunities to promote green building.

DEP said it supports the idea of requiring buildings constructed with public funds to meet green building standards.

The [American Institute of Architects](#) summarized the benefits of green buildings with this striking fact— a modest investment of time and design upfront using green building techniques in a building project, usually less than 2 percent of construction costs, can yield life cycle savings from over 10 to 20 times the initial investment.

“The economic and financial benefits of high performance green buildings include lower energy, waste and water costs, lower environmental impact and emissions costs, lower operations and maintenance costs, and savings from increased productivity and health. Green buildings not only minimized environmental impacts, but they also can dramatically reduce expenses for businesses and state government, consequently contributing significantly to Pennsylvania’s economic growth and quality of life.”

AIA pointed to a recent [California Sustainability Building Task Force report](#) which documents the potential savings from using green building techniques as a good tool for understanding the short and long term cost impacts.

The [Green Building Alliance](#) from Pittsburgh reviewed green building progress in the western part of the state, including the fact that Pittsburgh has the only green convention center in the United States and eight green buildings fully certified under LEED and 18 more registered with LEED.

The GBA’s mission as a non-profit is to help integrate high performance, green building design techniques into the design, construction and operating practices in the Greater Pittsburgh market through education, research and technical assistance.

A special GBA project called INSPIRE (Investment in Sustainable Practice and Industry Though Research and Education) with several universities and other partners in the region is doing research and development education programs for students and professionals in the field that helps promote green building technology use.

The American Forest & Paper Association was the only group to express concerns at the meeting, but at the same time said they supported green building techniques.

The concern was that the LEED rating system, they said, discriminates against the use of renewable resources like wood in construction whereas a competing standard Green Globes does not.

NewsClip: [Op-Ed – Greener Buildings, Green Rewards](#)

In Other News

National Pollution Prevention Week September 19-25 Tips on What You Can Do



[National Pollution Prevention Week](#) is a time when businesses, environmental groups and citizens can join forces to share information about pollution prevention and how it can help businesses become more competitive and reduce their environmental footprint.

The [National Pollution Prevention Roundtable](#) offers dozens of resources you can use to reduce your energy, waste disposal and water use costs and make your workplace healthier for your employees..

Visit the P2 Pays Library, consult industry experts, see how others just like you have reduced their environmental impact and saved money at the same time by visiting the [Resources Section of the Roundtable](#).

You can also download a copy of the [5-page Green Makes \\$ense publication](#) produced by *PA Environment Digest* which guides businesses and other organizations to resources in Pennsylvania that can help you prevent pollution and reduce energy costs. It covers topics like -- how to identify opportunities for saving energy, reducing waste, building green and financial assistance are all included.

Learn how you can reduce pollution at home, on the farm and at school with another *Digest* publication [Earth Day 2005](#).

Already doing good stuff to prevent pollution and want to teach others? You can learn how the power of communication can be harnessed to promote a sustainable lifestyle from a new publication by the United Nations Environment Program called "[Communicating Sustainability – How to Produce Effective Public Campaigns](#)"

DEP Offering Free Energy Assessments, Energy Efficiency Options

Department of Environmental Protection Energy Teams are offering free energy assessments and advice on ways of increasing energy efficiency through each of DEP's six regional offices.

During the last 12 months, DEP employees from across the state spent hundreds of hours training in the use and application of energy efficiency assessment tools and techniques. With the help of Northampton Community College, a new distance-learning curriculum was developed to help with the training.

If you would like to request an energy assessment or simply discuss potential energy efficiency assistance available in your region, contact:

Northwest Office

Covering Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties

Geoff Bristow, phone 814-332-6125 or e-mail gbristow@state.pa.us .

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Northcentral Office

Covering Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union Counties
James Young, phone 570-327-0537, or e-mail jamyoun@state.pa.us .

Northeast Office

Covering Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties
Janet Warnick, phone 570-826-2475, or e-mail janwarnick@state.pa.us .

Southwest Office

Covering Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties
Maggie Hall, phone 412-442-4137 or e-mail mahall@state.pa.us .

Southcentral Office

Covering Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York Counties
Bob Zaccano, phone 717-705-4797 or e-mail rzaccano@state.pa.us .

Southeast Office

Covering Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties
Heather Cowley, phone 484-250-5816 or e-mail hcowley@state.pa.us .

For more information about DEP's Energy Teams, contact Scott Gebhardt at 717-772-8948 or email at sgebhardt@state.pa.us

Workshop to Help Municipalities Reduce Energy Usage, Costs

Municipal officials in northwest Pennsylvania are invited to attend two free municipal energy management workshops to learn about how to reduce energy consumption and costs on September 27 and 28 in Edinboro and Clarion.

The deadline to register for the workshop is September 19.

The workshop is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection and is designed to reach municipal managers, mayors, township supervisors, municipal office or business managers, or any municipal staff interested in reducing energy costs.

The workshops will be offered on two days and in two locations:

- September 27 from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Edinboro Inn Resort and Conference Center, 401 W. Plum St., Edinboro, Erie County; and
- September 28 from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Clarion Holiday Inn, 45 Holiday Inn Road, Clarion, Clarion County.

Primary speakers for the day include Bill Clark of the [Electrotechnology Applications Center](#) at Northampton Community College and Rob Campbell of [Cinergy Solutions](#).

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ETAC helps regional manufacturers evaluate and integrate electrotechnologies that will increase productivity, minimize environmental impact, and improve energy efficiencies. Cinergy Solutions is an energy services contractor that provides expertise on energy supply and demand, and optimizing facility performance to improve the bottom line.

To register for one of the workshops, contact DEP's Jennifer Hall at 814-332-6928 or send email to: jehall@state.pa.us.

Million Solar Roofs Partnership Celebrates October 1 Solar Tour Day



Join a tour of 22 environment-friendly buildings and homes in the Philadelphia area on October 1 to help celebrate the [National Solar Tour](#).

The Philadelphia Million Solar Roofs Partnership, The [Northeast Sustainable Energy Association](#), and the [American Solar Energy Society](#) are sponsoring the tour.

The sites feature green technology, energy efficiency, and solar energy systems. Guided tours are also available on natural gas powered buses. Bus tickets are \$15 and include a catered lunch. Bus tickets are available on a first come, first served basis, and must be purchased in advance. The tour will begin at 10:00 at 1924 Arch Street in Philadelphia

For more information, visit the [Philly Solar webpage](#) or contact Dennis R. Winters at 215-320-4612 or send email to: phillymsr@email.com.

To locate other tours in western, central and northeast Pennsylvania, visit the [Pennsylvania National Solar Tours webpage](#).

Cleaner Energy Winner in PECO Energy Merger Settlement

A settlement filed with the Public Utility Commission in a merger case involving Exelon (PECO Energy in Pennsylvania) and New Jersey's Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. resulted in energy savings for PECO customers and a boost in funding for renewable sources of energy and energy conservation programs.

The Rendell Administration, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future and other groups intervened in the proposed merger between Exelon and PSEG.

Renewable energy and energy conservation will get a \$19.2 million boost from the settlement, with PECO Energy paying \$12 million to the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority and \$7.2 million to the Sustainable Development Fund. An additional \$8 million will be provided to promote energy-related economic development projects benefiting Philadelphia-area residents.

The settlement will provide approximately \$220 million in rate relief to PECO's customers through direct rate cuts and a rate cap extension. Customers in the PECO service territory will receive \$120 million in total rate cuts over four years, beginning one month after the merger is finalized. PECO also will cap transmission and distribution rates through the end of 2010.

"We have been focused on protecting ratepayers, securing rate relief and maintaining PECO jobs," Gov. Rendell said. "Our vigorous effort in this process helped

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to ensure a stable energy market that manufacturers need to succeed and expand in a competitive marketplace, and protection for consumers, especially our most vulnerable residents, from soaring electricity prices.”

“This agreement is an out-of-the-park, bases-loaded home run for Pennsylvania’s environment and economy,” said John Hanger, President and CEO of PennFuture, and former member of the PUC. “We gained funding for clean, renewable energy, and energy conservation. The agreement puts consumer protections in place for the Pennsylvania customers affected by this merger. It will save lives by increasing assistance to low income customers by \$20 million. And most of all, it will cut electricity rates by a whopping \$120 million to homes and small and large businesses.”

The settlement must be approved by the Public Utility Commission.

NewsClip: [PECP Offers \\$120 Million in Rate Relief](#)

SRBC Presents the Northern Lancaster County Groundwater Study

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission will host a public meeting to present the results of the [Northern Lancaster County Groundwater Study](#) on September 20 at the Warwick Township Municipal Building, Lancaster County.

The meeting will give the public an opportunity to ask questions, including about the series of water management recommendations offered in the study. The recommendations are intended to help guide future water resource planning in Northern Lancaster County.

The primary speakers will include: Daniel L. Zimmerman, Township Manager, Warwick Township, Thomas W. Beauduy, Deputy Director, SRBC, Robert E. Edwards, Special Projects Manager, SRBC, and Robert D. Pody, Hydrogeologist, SRBC.

The demand for water in Northern Lancaster County has been increasing in direct response to population growth – and that growth is expected to continue. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lancaster County’s population grew by 11.3 percent between 1990 and 2000 alone.

From 2002 to 2005, SRBC, in partnership with the Lancaster County Conservation District, Millersville University, municipalities and local residents, conducted a study to identify the extent of available groundwater resources and areas where the demand for water may exceed available supplies. Throughout the study period, several public meetings were held to receive local input on this project.

This study is funded largely by a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener Program.

For more information, visit the [Northern Lancaster County Groundwater Study webpage](#).

Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited Wins 2005 Silver Trout Award

The [Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) is receiving the 2005 Silver Trout Award, the second-highest conservation award presented by the national Trout Unlimited organization, for the chapter’s work to preserve and protect high quality streams in central Pennsylvania.

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In 2001, Cumberland Valley won the Volunteer Conservation Award from TU for its [Rivers Conservation and Flyfishing Youth Camp Project](#).

The Cumberland Valley Chapter undertook a number of projects funded by the Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Program including \$100,000 in 2003-2004 for the Shady Lane Project and \$35,000 in 2004-2005 for the Capuano Reach Project, both on the Letort Spring Run in Cumberland County, and \$17,000 in 2004-2005 for mapping and permitting work on Big Spring, also in Cumberland County.

In Letort Spring Run, CVTU used the funding to map, stabilize, and return sections of the Run to their pre-agricultural state, with indigenous plantings and in-stream fish cover. Big Spring in the Newville area has been mapped and surveyed, with design work to reverse the negative effects of a now closed hatchery to begin this fall.

For more information on its award-winning activities, visit the [Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited website](#).

CBF Offers Free Trees & Shrubs for Stream Buffer Projects

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is once again providing top quality native trees and shrubs at no cost to qualifying watershed groups and other non-profit conservation groups restoring stream buffers.

CBF is now also offering financial assistance on the purchase of tree shelters to protect trees from deer, voles and other damage.

CBF field staff is available to discuss technical aspects of buffer projects from cattle exclusion and how to pay for it, to species selection, tree shelter selection, installation and maintenance.

The deadline for applying is October 15 (for Fall) and February 15 (for Spring), but groups responding sooner will have a better chance of getting the species mix they prefer.

For example, groups interested in plants for spring 2006 can reserve plants via an application this fall, improving the selection available to them.

For more information please contact Cathy Hiebert by sending email to chiebert@cbf.org or call 717-234-5550.

Apply for Watershed Education Mini-Grants Through May 15

Apply now for the next round of [Watershed Educational Mini-Grant Program](#) available through the [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts](#).

Applications will be accepted through May 15, 2006.

PACD will award grants of up to \$2,500 to projects throughout the state that promote water quality and pollution prevention.

Funding for the grants is provided through the Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program and the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Program.

A description of current and previously funded projects is available on the [PACD website](#). (courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

OSM/VISTA Volunteers Needed in Blackleggs Creek Watershed



AmeriCorps VISTA and the federal Office of Surface Mining and the Watershed Team seeks to place a full-time VISTA volunteer in the [Blackleggs Creek Watershed and Trout Nursery](#) in Clarksburg, Indiana County.

In 2001, the [OSM/VISTA Watershed Team](#) was created to address these concerns from the grassroots level. The result of a unique partnership has been the placement of almost 30 OSM/VISTAs with watershed association spread across seven

states.

The work of each OSM/VISTA is built around a set of Core Goals: build capacity in the watershed organization, organize the water quality monitoring critical to future funding, reach out to youth and adults in their community to create awareness about watershed issues, engage in economic revitalization efforts and find the funds to keep all this critical work moving forward.

These dedicated, passionate volunteers are powerful advocates for environmental issues in their watersheds. In an area where past environmental degradation can create a sense of hopelessness about the future, [OSM/Vistas](#) focus on getting people in the community involved in changing the quality of their lives, and bring renewed hope and strength to Coal Country.

The current opportunity is with the Blackleggs Creek Watershed and Trout Nursery in Clarksburg from February 2006 through February 2007.

A car is required and full time service without outside commitments. A Bachelors Degree in the Sciences is preferred. Childcare support is available, if eligible, along with health insurance, a living allowance and training

For more information contact Anne Daymut or Linda Fickinger at 724-639-3002 or send email to: Blackleggscwa@hotmail.com . (courtesy [Watershed Weekly](#))

16th Annual Pennsylvania Lake Management Society's Conference Oct 18-19

The [Pennsylvania Lake Management Society](#) will hold its annual conference on October 18-19 in State College.

There will be presentations on a variety of topics, including: watershed management, lake and pond management, watershed monitoring, fisheries management and dealing with problem geese.

This year the featured speaker is Dr. Robert Carlson from Kent State University. Dr. Carlson is perhaps most famous for the "Carlson Trophic State Index" which is universally used for the classification of "lake health."

Other activities include development of the Great American Secchi Dip-In, development of an international water quality monitoring network, development of predictive regional models for lake water quality, assessments of impacts by invasive aquatic plants, and use of paleolimnology in lake management.

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

Watershed Alliance of York to Host Watershed Weekend

The Watershed Alliance of York, a coalition of public and private stakeholders committed to encouraging watershed planning, restoration and protection in York County, will host its third annual [Watershed Weekend Tour](#) September 23-25.

Watershed Weekend is a self-guided tour offering a variety of events connecting people to watersheds through a weekend of educational, recreational and hands-on stewardship activities.

Local watershed events include a Sustainability Conference, native plant and benthic macroinvertebrate identification workshops, stream and wetlands cleanups, pontoon boat ride, dam removal project, riparian buffer plantings, sustainable landscaping demonstration gardens, native plant sale, and more.

Event descriptions, locations, dates, times and directions may be found in the [Watershed Weekend Guide available online](#).

Juvenile Bass Population Up 25% Despite Mortalities from Infection

Despite mortalities from a bacterial infection, the relative abundance of juvenile bass on the Susquehanna and Juniata rivers is estimated to be 25 percent above the long-term average for the system according to data compiled by the Fish and Boat Commission.

As part of an ongoing review of the potential causes and effects of an unusual outbreak of columnaris disease among juvenile smallmouth bass that occurred over the summer, the PFBC compared nearly two decades worth of population survey data from across the Susquehanna River basin.

This year biologists recorded an average of 8.6 young of the year (YOY) smallmouth per 50 meters surveyed. That figure is higher than the 19-year average of 6.9.

Smallmouth bass typically require 3-4 years to reach a legal size. While it will therefore take some time for the 2005 YOY to reach the size range that recreational anglers target, the presence of a strong year class is encouraging news for the future.

Heavy springtime flows have contributed to poor year classes four of the last five years. It is believed this low reproductive success is now translating into an overall decline in adult bass abundance for the Susquehanna and Juniata rivers. PFBC biologists will conduct a special inventory of adult smallmouth bass later this fall to document the current population structure.

The Commission continues to work with partners such as the Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Geological Survey and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission to compile and analyze data that might help better explain why pockets of young smallmouth contracted columnaris disease in early summer.

The Commission intends to hold a public forum on smallmouth bass in the Susquehanna basin sometime over the winter.

Applications Now Accepted For \$50 Million in Nutrient Reduction, CSO Projects

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority this week voted to make \$50 million in grants available to fund nutrient reduction facilities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and combined sewer overflow projects anywhere in the state.

Applications will be accepted now through February 1, 2006 and grants will be awarded at the Authority's March 2006 meeting.

Combined sewer overflows are the primary stream contamination problem facing many of Pennsylvania's older cities and boroughs where sanitary and storm sewer systems were combined many years ago and now cannot handle the excessive flows of water that occur during heavy rains

Reducing nitrogen and phosphorus discharges from wastewater treatment plants is another financial burden that will be borne by existing wastewater treatment systems in the Chesapeake Bay watershed communities. Reducing these discharges is an important commitment that Pennsylvania has made under the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement with its neighboring states to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its upstream water sources, in the Susquehanna and Potomac River Watersheds.

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

PA Receives \$5.9 Million EPA Grant for Nonpoint Source Projects

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Pennsylvania a \$5,900,100 grant to help control stormwater runoff throughout the state.

The EPA grant was matched with \$3,933,400 from the state, supports the state's nonpoint source water pollution control program, which includes numerous storm water projects designed to protect Pennsylvania waterways.

Projects supported by the program will help improve farm management practices to reduce nutrients and sediment from entering nearby water bodies, aid in the treatment of streams affected by acid mine drainage from active or abandoned coal mines, and reduce storm water runoff from urban and suburban development.

"EPA is pleased to support Pennsylvania's effort to cleaning up waterways that have been impaired by stormwater related runoff. This funding will be used to support projects that are vital to protecting and improving water quality for drinking water, recreational activities and to preserve the natural habitat," said Donald S. Welsh, administrator for EPA's mid-Atlantic Region.

PA Center for Environmental Ed September Newsletter Now Available

Pennsylvania Center for
Environmental Education



EE Connections, the newsletter of the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available. This month's topics include:

PCEE News: PCEE Transitioning, Module III: Teaching about Environmental Issues is now available;

General EE News: Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corp Documentary Nominated for Emmy: Audubon Society

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Education Program Guide; EPA Encourages Public Involvement; NAAEE Moves to 2-Year Presidency; Global Warming International Conference;

Higher Education: NAAEE and NCATE Standards of Environmental Education, Higher Education Meeting;

K-12 News: "Why I Love My Pennsylvania State Park" Contest for Kids, President's Environmental Youth Awards Deadline Extended;

Professional Development: Streamside Cleanup Training Academy, Learning about Land use in Pennsylvania, TreeVitalize Workshop, Wetlands and Orange Water Workshop, National Energy Foundation, Earth Day Network; and

Grants: Environmental Student/Teacher Grant Applications Being Accepted, U.S. Composting Council Awards

For more information, and to sign up for your own copy of EE Connections, visit the [PCEE website](#).

PA Center for Environmental Education in Search of New Director, Staff

Slippery Rock University is seeking applications for a full-time director for the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education.

A master's degree in environmental education or a related field, experience working with diverse populations and a successful performance in an on-campus interview are required.

Responsibilities include administration of statewide program, supervision of staff, as well as public relations, networking and project coordination.

Dr. James Kushner, dean of Lifelong Learning at SRU, has been appointed interim executive director, until the new director is appointed. He may be reached at 724-738-1601 or james.kushner@sru.edu.

Other PCEE staff will also be transitioning from temporary to permanent staff. Two other positions-- education project manager and knowledge project manager-- will be posted shortly. The positions are accompanied by full benefits which include medical, dental, and potential tuition waivers for the employees and family members.

Send letter of interest outlining qualifications for position, resume and names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to: PCEE Director Search Committee, PCEE, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.

Nominations Due for Environmental Education Awards November 4

The [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators](#) is now accepting nominations for its 2006 Environmental Educator Awards through November 4.

The awards recognize individuals and organizations for their contributions to the field of environmental education in one of four categories—

- **Outstanding Environmental Educator:** To be considered, the nominee must be an individual who made a significant teaching contribution to the environmental education field in a formal or non-formal setting, through either curriculum development or teaching.

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- **Daisy S. Klinedinst Memorial Award:** The award recipient should be an educator, new (less than five years) to the field, who is involved in environmental education and who seeks to continue to expand his/her involvement in environmental education.
- **Outstanding Environmental Education Program:** This award recognizes an exemplary environmental education program which could be used as a model program.
- **Business Partner Award:** This award recognizes a member of the business community that has made significant contributions to promote environmental education within the Commonwealth of PA.

For more information and a [copy of the application form](#), visit the [PAEE website](#).

Game Commission to Host "WILD About Elk" Program for Teachers

Representatives from the Game Commission and the [Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation High Schools for Habitat Program](#) will hold a two-day "WILD about Elk" program designed to give middle and high school teachers and other educators an opportunity to have an in-depth, hands-on experience with Pennsylvania's largest mammal on October 14-15.

The deadline for teachers to apply is October 3.

The event will be held from noon until 7 p.m., October 14, at Parker Dam State Park in Clearfield County, and from 7:30 a.m. until 11 a.m., October 15, at the Game Commission's elk viewing area in Benezette, Elk County.

Game Commission and RMEF biologists, land managers, wildlife conservation officers and educators will offer an in-depth program featuring elk biology; history and the Game Commission's elk reintroduction program; current conservation programs; land management issues related to elk; and other management issues.

Additionally, the course will include a field experience to view elk and participate in other hands-on activities, including a demonstration of how Game Commission biologists use radio-telemetry to track elk.

RMEF is offering reimbursements of up to \$100 for lodging or for use to pay substitute teachers.

At the completion of the training program, RMEF is offering participants who generate an approved lesson plan for use in the classroom a \$60 stipend.

Participants also will receive a WILD About Elk book, background information, hands-on activities and state and local resource information.

To make reservations, contact Theresa Alberici, Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Education specialist, at 717-783-4872 or send e-mail to: talberici@state.pa.us.

[Project WILD](#) is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among educators of students from kindergarten through 12th grades. The Game Commission administers Project WILD in Pennsylvania.

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

New Wildlife Guide for Elk Scenic Drive Now Available



A new colorfully detailed adventure guide to 23 points of interest along the [Elk Scenic Drive](#) in the heart of the Pennsylvania Wilds is now available, just in time for the fall wildlife viewing season

The guide outlines a 127-mile corridor passing through Clinton, Clearfield, Centre and Elk counties. Two state scenic byways - Route 144 and Route 120 - are part of the drive, which takes travelers through three state forests and

three state game lands. The drive runs along a spectacular loop between I-80's Penfield Exit 111 and Shoe Exit 147.

In addition to maps and directions, the guide provides write-ups for 23 locations that note the history of the area; natural features; elk viewing areas and wildlife to be on the lookout for; recreational opportunities such as hiking and fishing; and other tidbits of information.

Complementing the guide and enhancing the visitor's experience are 24 new interpretative panels at six newly developed locations and 150 guideposts erected along the drive to keep people on track and point out areas of interest.

Also outlined in the guide are some facts about the area that visitors might not know, such as:

- Elk aren't the only thing to see - be on the lookout for ospreys, eagles, beaver, black bear, many types of birds and butterflies.
- Parker Dam State Park is a great place to start your exploration along the Elk Scenic drive because it has an array of habitats.
- The best time of day to see elk is the first hour of daylight and the last hour before dark.
- The Marion Brooks Natural Area was named after a local resident instrumental in establishing some of the first strip mine reclamation laws in the state.
- Wykoff Run Natural Area is a great place for bird watching because of a wide diversity of bird populations.
- A 26-mile equestrian trail is available at Thunder Mountain.
- The Bucktail Path Trail, named for a Civil War regiment, lets you see rugged landscape that looks very similar to what the first settlers saw when they came to the region.
- You can fish from your campsite in Kettle Creek State Park.

Visitors also have the opportunity to interact with the Bugle Corps, a cadre of local volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and DCNR. They will be on hand at the following viewing areas in four prime areas in the heart of Pennsylvania's elk range -- Hick's Run, Sinnemahoning State Park, Hoover Farm and Beaver Dam.

These dedicated volunteers will be at the sites on weekends from September to mid October. They will have spotting scopes, binoculars and materials pertaining to elk and wildlife found at these specific sites, along with additional maps and information about the local area.

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The Elk Scenic Drive guides are available at tourist promotion agencies, PennDOT welcome centers, state parks and forests or by calling toll-free 800-577-2029. For more information on the [Pennsylvania Wilds webpage](#).

Council Looking to Fill Vacancy on Fish & Boat Commission

The Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation this week announced it is looking for a qualified candidate to serve on the Fish and Boat Commission's board of directors representing District Two.

District Two covers Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Applications will be accepted until October 21.

District Two became vacant with the passing of Commissioner Ross J. Huhn of Saltsburg, Westmoreland County.

Candidates will first interview with the special subcommittee of the advisory council and will be rated not only on responses, but also on both professional and volunteer experiences with fishing, boating, stream restoration and other conservation activities. Governor Rendell will select the final candidate. His nominee must be confirmed by the Senate.

All commissioners serve without compensation, but do receive travel reimbursement.

Individuals interested in applying should send a resume and cover letter to Robb Miller, Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., 7th Floor, P.O. Box 8767, Harrisburg, Pa., 17106-8767.

Feature

Audenreid Treatment Project Will Clean Up 36 Miles of Catawissa Creek



Mine Tunnel Discharge is redirected.

After nearly five years of work, the \$2 million [Audenreid Project](#) that will treat up to 12 million gallons of mine water a day at the headwaters of Catawissa Creek in Schuylkill County, is under construction and should be finished by the end of the year.

The treatment system will restore about 36 miles of the Catawissa Creek which could result in the removal of the Creek from the Department of Environmental Protection's 303(d) List of Impaired Waterways.

It will be the first time in 75 years clean water will be restored to this portion of the

Catawissa Creek.

The project was conceived by the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association, but accomplished by a host of partners that include: Schuylkill County Conservation District,

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Columbia County Conservation District, Butler Enterprises, Paragon Adventure Park, Blue Nob Rod & Gun Club, East Union Township, DEP-Pottsville District Mining Office, DEP-Bureau of Watershed Management, DEP-Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior-Office of Surface Mining, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Fish & Boat Commission, Hedin Environmental, Rettew Associates, Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners, Columbia County Board of Commissioners, and James T. O’Hara, Inc.

The Audenreid Mine Tunnel Discharge is located approximately 2 miles east of the town of Sheppton in Schuylkill County.

Water quality monitoring has shown the average quality of the Audenreid Discharge to be: pH 4.03, alkalinity 2.31 mg/l; acidity 68.08 mg/l, iron 0.70 mg/l, aluminum 7.93 mg/l, and sulfates 136.25 mg/l, with an average flow of 8,478 gallons per minute.

An innovative passive treatment system will utilize new technologies and design features to treat the high flows of the discharge.

The discharge water will be diverted into a series of three, 12 feet high and 120 feet wide, circular concrete treatment cells filled with limestone. Once inside these cells, the discharged water will react with high calcium limestone, which will raise the pH of the water and cause the metals to precipitate out of solution.

Each treatment cell will contain about 4,600 tons of limestone and will provide about two hours of retention time.

The system must be flushed extensively and frequently in order to manage the accumulation of aluminum hydroxide solids and keep them out of the stream. About every two hours, the treatment tanks will be flushed by a series of automatic siphons into a large settling pond to receive the aluminum precipitate. The water will then flow into a second settling pond to provide final polishing before it is returned to the creek.

Funded primarily through an EPA Section 319 Grant, the project will be completed by December 31.

This project fulfills the promise in the motto of the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association very well—“Catawissa Creek – Soon to Be a World Class Trout Stream.”

For more information visit the [Audenreid Project blog online](#).

NewsClip: [Mine Drainage Project Proceeds](#)

Attachments: [Audenreid Project Fact Sheet – PDF](#)
[Project Photo Feature - PDF](#)

Opinion



Prepare Now for High Winter Heating Costs

By Nora Dowd Eisenhower
Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging

Again this winter, skyrocketing energy prices will result in higher heating bills. The U.S. Department of Energy predicts home heating oil

prices may rise as much as 30 percent and natural gas prices will soar more than 50 percent over last year's record levels.

Supply problems caused by Hurricane Katrina may make matters even worse.

That is why it is essential for all homeowners and especially older adults living on fixed incomes to prepare their homes now for colder weather. By winterizing your home, your energy bills can be reduced from 10 to 50 percent.

The first step is to prevent cold air from entering your home. Inspect your home and seal any cracks or openings around windows, doors, fireplaces, pipes, electrical outlets and bathroom, kitchen or clothes dryer vents. Weather stripping, caulk, or fiberglass insulation can be used for this purpose. If you own an older home, adding storm windows can reduce heat loss by up to 50 percent.

Have your furnace or heating unit serviced to ensure it is working safely and efficiently. Set your thermostat at 68 degrees and dress warmly. Many fire safety experts advise against using electric space heaters or kerosene heaters. Of course, your home should be equipped with working carbon monoxide detectors, smoke alarms and fire extinguishers.

If you need help preparing your home for colder weather, family members, friends or even neighbors may be able to lend a hand. If these options are not available to you, ask your local Area Agency on Aging or Better Business Bureau to recommend a trustworthy contractor.

There are many other steps you can take to make your home comfortable and energy efficient during the winter months. For more information, you can request a free copy of the brochure, "Energy Savers," by calling the U.S. Department of Energy at 1-877-337-3463.

Income-eligible individuals and families may qualify for help paying heating bills through the federally funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which will open in early November. Contact your county assistance office for details.

Also, check with your utility suppliers to see if they sponsor assistance or weatherization programs.

Whether or not you qualify for assistance, please consider taking steps to make your home more energy efficient. It will help to ease the inevitable "sticker shock" of winter heating bills.

Quick Clips

[Fueling State Energy Debate](#)

[Cost of Home Heat Will Boil Over](#)

[Op-Ed – Greener Buildings, Green Rewards](#)

[Couple Builds All Natural Home of Clay, Straw](#)

[Gas Conservation Pleas Go Mainly Unheard](#)

[Car Pool Requests Rise With Gasoline Prices](#)

[Two PA Farms Receive Grants for Renewable Energy Projects](#)

[Hydrogen Highway](#)

[Alternative Fuel Stocks Skyrocketing](#)

[PA Clean Energy Initiatives Showcased at International Conference](#)

[It's Time to Cleanup Schuylkill County](#)

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[Finishing Pittsburgh's Hiking and Biking Trails is a Goal for Mayor](#)
[DEP Secretary Testifies Before U.S. House Panel on Brownfields - Testimony](#)
[2 Million Pounds of Household Hazardous Waste Collected in Lehigh Program](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Group Presses for Funding to Cleanup Abandoned Mines](#)
[Phase I of Nine Mine Run Project Finished](#)
[New Lower Penns Creek Watershed Group Formed](#)
[Fulton County Plan Will Include Watershed Protection](#)
[Final Meeting on Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Plans](#)
[A Fishy Plan for the Pennypack Creek](#)
[Sea Lamprey Control Planned for Raccoon Creek](#)
[Volunteer Monitors Needed in York](#)
[Demonstration Wetland Growing in Germantown](#)
[Sunbury Riverfront Plan Offers Opportunity](#)
[Stenciled Fish Help Keep Oil City Storm Drains Clean](#)
[Kiski River Cleanup May Boost Economy](#)
[Groups Helped Bring Kiski River Back to Life](#)
[Fears of Nuke Waste Could Cloud Kiski River's Future](#)
[Schuylkill River Named Recommended Water Trail](#)
[Eagle Rock Treatment System Damage by Hurricane](#)
[Using Chicken Manure to Clean Up Abandoned Mines](#)
[Partners Test Erie's Presque Isle Bay Sediment](#)
[Dam Removal Continues at Ryerson Station State Park](#)
[Residents Asked to Voluntarily Conserve Water](#)
[Dry Spell Worries Residents](#)
[Drought Fears Grow](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 17, 2005](#)

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

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published five final guidance documents this week on inspections, issuing notices of violations and other compliance activities related to the municipal, residual and hazardous waste programs. A quick rundown follows-

Final: DEP ID: 250-4000-001. Citing Inspection Violations. This guidance establishes uniform standards for all Department regions for citing violations within municipal, residual and hazardous waste programs.

Final: DEP ID: 250-4000-002. Enforcement Actions. This document provides guidelines for enforcement actions within municipal, residual and hazardous waste programs for Department staff to implement across all Department regions.

Final: DEP ID: 250-4000-003. Violations Requiring and Extended Time Period to Correct. This document provides consistent guidelines across all Department regions to ensure that violations within municipal, residual and hazardous waste programs are corrected with 180 days from the date that the Department determined that a violation occurred.

Final: DEP ID: 250-4000-004. Program Implementation Guidance. This document provides a formal methodology by which the Bureau of Waste Management will implement a compliance and enforcement program throughout this Commonwealth.

Final: DEP ID: 250-4110-001. Notices of Violation (NOVs). This document provides a formal methodology the Bureau of Waste Management will follow to process Notices of Violations.

Final: DEP ID: 251-3120-001. Performing Hazardous Waste Facility Inspections. This document establishes a formal methodology for conducting hazardous waste facility inspections in a similar fashion across all six regions of the Department.

Final: DEP ID: 254-3120-001. Performing Municipal and Residual Waste Facility Inspections. This document provides a formal methodology for conducting municipal and residual waste facility inspections in a similar fashion across all six regions of the Department.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

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- [DEP Offers No Cost Internet-Based Training Courses](#)
- **September 20** – CANCELLED – Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- **September 20** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting](#).
- **September 20** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting to discuss Pennsylvania’s Forest Management Plan.
- **September 20** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy and Agriculture Committees hearing on the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.
- **September 21** – House Environmental Resources & Energy and Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committees informational meeting on the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.
- **September 22** – CANCELLED – [State Water Plan Statewide Water Resources Committee meeting](#).
- **September 23** – [“Pigs, Parks & Superstores – A Conference on the Sustainability of York County.”](#)
- **September 26** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#) – update on basin water plan implementation, sedimentology of the Delaware River, response to Martins Creek ash spill.
- **September 26** – [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board Attainment Subcommittee conference call](#). Observers can go to one of DEP’s six regional offices to be part of the call.
- **September 27** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on [House Bill 1249](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) Uniform Environmental Covenants.
- **September 28** – House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 46](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) establishing a first responder building mapping system for publicly owned buildings.
- **September 28** – DCNR Citizens Advisory Council meeting.
- **October 4** – [Clean Energy Executive Summit](#) by PECO, Community Energy, Inc. and PennFuture. Philadelphia.
- **October 4** – [PA Energy Development Authority Board meeting](#). Harrisburg.
- **October 8** – Dauphin County Community Recycling Collection. 9 to 1:00 at HACC Parking Lot.
- **November 2** – [DEP/PennVEST public hearing](#) on drinking water project priority list. Harrisburg.
- **November 4-5** – [Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference](#). West Virginia.
- **November 17** – House Health & Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 1369](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) relating to powers and responsibilities during a public health emergency.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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Photo Answer: [Kinsua Lake in the Allegheny National Forest](#).

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