

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

October 10, 2005

Try Composting Leaves and Yard Waste This Fall

Raking leaves and trimming back trees and plants for the winter is a familiar Fall ritual. Instead of burning yard waste or putting it out for the trash, why not compost?

As much as 34 percent of household waste in Pennsylvania is made up of organics, most of which can be composted.

Many communities have organized yard waste composting facilities residents can use to take branches and other yard waste items. Check with your municipality or [county recycling coordinator](#) for the closest one to you.

Of course you don't have to go further than your own backyard to set up an efficient composting operation.

Don't know how? Checkout these online resources –

- [Composting In My Backyard](#)
- [Guide to Home Composting](#)
- [Find a Community Composting Site](#)

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This Fall scene is from [Cook Forest State Park](#). Photo by Karen Hohman

Session Schedule

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In Other News

Mercer County Brownfield Site Turned Into Community Asset

Thomas Construction Inc. has turned a former brownfield site in the Grove City, Mercer County, area, into a location for new jobs and new investment with the help of the state's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

Before the company assumed ownership of the 52-acre tract, the Department of Environmental Protection spent \$450,000 to begin removing contaminated soil and hazardous waste from the land.

Under the previous owner, this property had served as a storage yard for waste material, heavy equipment and military surplus.

Thomas Construction finished the cleanup of the property this summer and began preparing it for new development. The company, now located in Liberty Township, Mercer County, will move to the new property.

Under the agreement with DEP, the company paid all back property taxes, properly disposed of the remaining surface wastes and agreed to sample groundwater for two years from 10 existing monitoring wells.

DEP estimates the additional restoration efforts by Thomas Construction will save taxpayers at least \$156,000.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to relocate and expand our business at this site,” Thomas Construction President Doug Thomas said. “This location gives us the space we need to grow and it, potentially, could be home to other businesses as well.”

DEP did reach a settlement with property’s previous owner, David Murphy, ordering the landlord to pay \$37,500 and relinquish the property for public benefit.

For more information developing industrial sites, visit the [DEP Brownfields Program webpage](#).

Grants OK’d for Business Site Redevelopment Projects

The Commonwealth Financing Authority approved grants to two projects that will promote the redevelopment of business sites in Centre and Mercer counties.

The Centre County Industrial Development Corporation will receive a \$175,000 planning grant for predevelopment plans for the Rockview Business Park (formerly the Rockview State Correctional Institution), located in Benner Township.

The funds will be used for environmental and feasibility studies, as well as engineering and wetland investigation. The 250-acre site, located in close proximity to this redevelopment project could result in \$385 million in private investment and create approximately 11,050 new jobs.

The Valley Shenango Economic Development Corporation will receive a \$175,000 planning grant to assist with the redevelopment of the former Westinghouse facility, located in the city of Sharon.

The funds will be used for architectural evaluation, HVAC, and floor plans for manufacturing and office space. Winner Global Defense, Inc. has committed to leasing incubator space in the 1-million square foot facility for research and continues to negotiate with companies that have expressed an interest in conducting research and development activities at the Winner Industrial Research and Technology Center. The completion of the research park will generate a total of 150 new jobs.

For more information, visit the [Business in Our Sites webpage](#).

New EPA Region 3 Land Revitalization Update Newsletter Now Available

The Fall edition of [EPA Region 3's Land Revitalization Update quarterly newsletter](#) is now available.

Highlights in this edition include information on how to prepare an EPA brownfield grant proposal; Philadelphia's vacant land initiative; and more redevelopment success stories. The Land Revitalization Update is emailed to more than 1,500 stakeholders interested in the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties in the Mid-Atlantic region.

To see the entire Fall 2005 newsletter and previous editions, visit [EPA Region 3's Land Revitalization website](#).

Booklet Outlines Forest -Friendly Development Techniques

“Forest friendly” development techniques can provide a way to manage growth while protecting an important natural resource.

Now a 32-page booklet, “[Forest Friendly Development-Chesapeake Bay Watershed Case Studies](#),” describes techniques used at 10 developments in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia to preserve natural forest corridors, conserve large tracts of trees or create new forests while developing the land.

The booklet was produced by The Alliance for the Chesapeake.

It includes techniques, site designs, investment highlights and maintenance issues, plus color photographs. It also summarizes 10 other developments that have won awards from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

“[Forest Friendly Development](#)” is available free online.

State Forest Again Certified as “Well Managed” Using Sustainable Techniques

For the eighth consecutive year, a team of independent scientists have reviewed the management of Pennsylvania’s State Forests and found them “well managed” using sustainable forestry techniques.

The review was conducted in mid-July by [Scientific Certification Systems](#), an Oakland, Calif., firm accredited to offer forest landowners independent, third-party certification of sustainable forest-management practices.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resource policies and programs were cited by SCS as "in excellent overall compliance," or "far exceeding performance on most publicly and privately managed forests in the U.S."

The certification renewal will help Pennsylvania compete in the growing niche consumer market for "green" label wood products. Just as recycled products have become common in the marketplace, many environmentally conscious timber consumers look for "green" label wood grown in certified forests.

Pennsylvania produces \$5 billion forest products industry employing almost 100,000 people.

SCS is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council, an organization formed in 1993 by environmental, social and forest-products industry representatives to establish guidelines for sustainable forest-management practices.

An SCS project team including foresters and forest ecologists toured state forest districts, meeting with DCNR officials and stakeholders. They scored woodlands on timber-resource sustainability, forest-ecosystem maintenance, financial and socioeconomic considerations and other categories.

A full report on the [state forest evaluation by SCS](#) can be found online.

Game Commission Approves Acquisition of More Than 1,360 Acres

The Board of the Pennsylvania Game Commission [this week approved three proposals](#) that will increase the State Game Lands system by more than 1,360 acres.

With this week’s actions, the Board has approved the acquisition of more than 48,900 acres of State Game Lands since July 1, 1999, when the last license fee increase went into effect.

"State Game Lands represent a tangible asset that hunters and trappers of this state can literally point to as a product of their license fees," said Vernon Ross, Executive

Director. "In addition to the bountiful wildlife in our state, this is one more reason to view the price of a Pennsylvania hunting or furtaker licenses as a bargain."

The approved purchases included--

Clarion County: 453.44 acres in Piney Township from the Alliance for Wetlands and Wildlife for \$161,860, with a 50 percent Federal-State Wildlife Grant reimbursement.

The "Piney Tract" is an area of grasslands and scattered woods that has long been recognized as an important habitat for wildlife. The property was mined for coal several times beginning during World War I, resulting in a diversity of topographic features. The most recent activity was reclamation and revegetation work in 1979. Much of the area was reclaimed into gently rolling hills planted with various grasses.

"The Piney Tract is significant because of the large populations of grassland-associated birds and the diversity of species that have occupied this area for many years," Ross said. "In addition to the various game species - such as ring-necked pheasants, rabbits, ruffed grouse and wild turkey - that use this property, there are a number of species of special concern that can be found on this same tract."

As an example, Dan Brauning, Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Section supervisor, noted that the Henslow's sparrow - a nationally rare bird that is classified as endangered or threatened in most states in which it occurs - can be found in the hundreds on the Piney Tract.

"This probably represents the largest concentration of this species in the state," Brauning said. "Other state endangered and threatened species, such as the short-eared owl and upland sandpiper, also can be found on Piney Tract."

Brauning pointed out that grassland habitats have been under siege, but reclaimed minelands in Pennsylvania and across the country have become refuges for viable populations of game and nongame species.

The Piney Tract stands out among reclaimed mine lands because of its size, which helps reduce the impact of forest-edge predators enabling birds to sustain substantial local populations. Few reclaimed areas have such extensive fields, or support the diversity or densities of grassland species as does the Piney Tract.

Erie County: 53.75-acre parcel of land in Waterford Township, which is an indenture into SGL 109, from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for \$9,400. The tract is predominately comprised of wetlands, which the Game Commission considers critical and unique wildlife habitat. Of the remaining land, about 13 acres are woodland and the remaining seven acres are reverting farmland. The western edge of the property borders State Route 97. SGL 109 currently contains 1,899 acres in Erie County.

Schuylkill County: 600-acre parcel of land in Union Township, adjoining SGL 329, from the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Shenandoah for \$205,000. The majority of the tract is mixed hardwoods with a small five-acre wetland created where Little Creek flows into a reservoir on the adjacent private property.

Armstrong County: 256 acres in Perry Township from E.S. Dewey, Trustee, Dewey Family Trust. The Allegheny River forms the northern boundary of the property and will protect about 4,000-feet of riparian habitat. The first bald eagle nest to be identified in the 10-county area within the Game Commission Southwest Region was on an adjacent property to this parcel. The tract will become an unattached part of SGL 105, which

currently contains 2,812.7 acres. The Trust reserves the right to cut and remove timber within one year of the conveyance of the property.

The Trust also retains all gas and oil rights with certain rights to enter the property to explore for and conduct gas and oil operations.

Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference Set for November 3-4

A [Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference](#) is scheduled November 3-4 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Md. to bring together university and college leaders in the areas of campus planning and development, finance and business, facilities management, environmental health and safety, procurement as well as decision-making.

The conference aims to instill in attendees the ability to develop or implement comprehensive master plans and undertake significant sustainability practices at their campuses.

For more information, visit the [Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference webpage](#).

Build It Green, Keep It Green Program on Building Management

The [International Facility Management Association](#) and [Green Building Alliance](#) are sponsoring a breakfast program October 19 green management techniques for green buildings in Pittsburgh.

The event features a panel discussion on green facilities management through green housekeeping, integrated pest management and waste disposal reduction. Panelists include: M. Jo Donatelli, Carnegie Mellon University, Karin Watson, Fagan Sanitary Supply, Michael Stepaniak, Pennsylvania Resources Council and Bill Todaro, Allegheny County Health Department.

To register online, visit the [Greening Facilities Management webpage](#).

Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World Campaign Kick-Off

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy Secretary this week kicked off the annual "[Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World Campaign](#)" and urged Americans to change a light in their home to a more energy-efficient one as an important step to save energy and protect our environment.

If every U.S. household replaces just one incandescent light bulb at home with one that earned the Energy Star label, the country will save \$600 million in energy bills, save enough energy to light 7 million homes, and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 1 million cars.

Lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of electricity costs, with the average home containing more than 30 light fixtures. Energy Star qualified bulbs and fixtures help reduce household energy costs because they use one-third the energy of traditional lighting, and last up to 10 times longer.

Consumers can save up to \$25 in utility costs over the lifetime of one bulb. Replacing the most frequently used lights at home will yield the most savings.

Visit the [Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World Campaign webpage](#) for more information and take the [Change a Light Pledge](#).

Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Grant Applications Due

Applications are now being accepted for projects under the [Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through November 18.

To be eligible, a project must be located within the Lake Erie Watershed and support the development or implementation of local watershed management plans that address the water quality and living resource needs in the Great Lakes.

In addition, projects must also directly address at least one of the priority areas identified by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Habitat/Species Strategy Team:

- Restore, enhance, and protect near shore and off shore native fish communities and other living resources, their habitats, and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem;
- Preserve, protect, and restore the wetlands that are vital to the survival and diversity of the living resources of the Great Lakes;
- Preserve, protect, and restore the tributaries and their watersheds that support the living resources of the Great Lakes ecosystem;
- Restore, enhance, and protect the Great Lakes shoreline and upland habitats; and
- Promote individual stewardship and assist individuals, community-based organizations, businesses, local governments, and schools to undertake initiatives to achieve the above goals.

For more information, visit the [Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Program webpage](#) or contact Moira McDonald at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation at Moira.Mcdonald@nfwf.org. (courtesy [POWR Watershed Weekly](#))

Water Resources Association Conference to Focus on Planning, Management

The [Pennsylvania Section of the American Water Resources Association](#) will hold its annual conference on October 21 at Iacocca Hall in the Mountain Top Campus of Lehigh University, located in Bethlehem.

The focus of the conference is Water Resources Planning and Management in Pennsylvania, and attendees will discuss updating the State Water Plan, as mandated by Act 220, the Water Resources Planning Act. Presenters will discuss plans and activities of the Department of Environmental Protection, partner agencies, and other stakeholders.

Other topics will include the adopted planning process and major projects underway to gather water use data, forecast water demand, and assess available water resources at various scales and level of detail.

The conference is open to engineers, consultants, basin and watershed planners, regulators, water supply and wastewater system managers, faculty, researchers, aquatic biologists, users, stakeholders, and water resource professionals.

To register or for more information, [download the Conference brochure](#) or contact Dale Glatfelter at 717-763-7211, ext. 2352, or send e-mail to: dglatfelter@gfnet.com.

The registration fee for the conference is \$60, with student registrations at a discounted rate of \$25.

First Meeting of Mercury Rule Workgroup Set for October 14

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) of the first meeting of a new Mercury Rule Workgroup that is charged with helping to develop a Pennsylvania-specific regulation to set limits on mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The Workgroup will meet October 14 (*see Calendar of Events for time, place*).

DEP said it would be holding a series of meetings with the Mercury Rule Workgroup, including representatives of the agency's existing Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Council to discuss information and issues relevant to the mercury rulemaking process.

For more information, visit [DEP's Mercury Rule webpage](#).

Motorists Expected to Save \$57 Million Over 5 Years on Emissions Inspections

Pennsylvania taxpayers should save \$57 million under the terms of a new emissions-testing contract announced this week by Gov. Rendell.

The five-year agreement, between the Department of Transportation and MCI Communications Services Inc., calls for a 42-percent cut in the program's management fee to \$2.40. That \$1.75 savings should be subtracted from the cost of each emissions test, Transportation Secretary Allen D. Biehler, P.E., said. Most emissions inspection stations pass the management fee to customers as part of the overall cost of emissions testing.

MCI has provided oversight for Pennsylvania's vehicle emissions inspection program since 1997. The new, five-year contract will begin October 10th.

The program management fee covers the costs of administering the auto emissions program in Pennsylvania and includes the cost of station oversight through audits, collection of data and analysis, as well as the storage of that data.

PennDOT regulations require stations to post both the test fees and the program management fees. All stations should post the new \$2.40 fee on the October 10th effective date.

There are approximately 6,600 stations participating in emissions testing in the 25-county emissions area and nearly 6.6 million vehicles are tested annually. Competition permits customers to choose inspection sites based on price, service and convenience.

PennDOT continues to encourage customers to shop around for the best price and to visit www.drivecleanpa.state.pa.us for a list of the most current, certified emissions inspection stations and their test fees.

2006 Environmental Education Grant Applications Due December 17

The Department of Environmental Protection [announced this week](#) they are accepting applications for the [2006 Environmental Education Grants Program](#) through December 17.

The Program helps schools, universities, nonprofit organizations and county conservation districts develop projects to increase environmental literacy among Pennsylvania's students.

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Environmental education grants range from \$1,500 to \$20,000 and address specific topics identified as gaps by the environmental education community.

Conservation and educational organizations, colleges and universities may apply to do professional development workshops in the field of environmental education. County conservation districts may apply to assist with environmental education efforts that relate to their missions. The districts also may apply on the mini-grant track to provide educational resources that can be made available to educators by conservation districts.

The Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology and Science and Technology will be the focus for kindergarten through 12th grade education grants.

The state-mandated standards provide a roadmap for what students must know about the environment by the end of 4th, 7th, 10th and 12th grades. Schools may apply for money to integrate the academic standards into formal curriculum or to provide lessons and field experiences that include standards based instruction.

For a copy of the application manual, visit the [2006 Environmental Education Grants Program](#) or write to the DEP Environmental Education Grants Program, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063; or call 717-772-1828.

PA Center for Environmental Education October Newsletter Now Online

The [October EE Connections](#) newsletter from the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education is now available online. Here's a quick rundown of the contents—

General EE News: America's Top 10 Green Schools, PA Receives EPA Grant, Wild for A Million, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

K-12 News: Viewfinder, Too, Ology The Study Of Site for Students

Higher Education: PCEE Higher Education and the Environment Workshop

Professional Development: Pennsylvania Lake Management Society Conference, Aldo Leopold Education Project, PA Professional Geologists' Symposium

Grants and Awards: 2006 PAEE Award Nomination, Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, Geoscience Education Grant, 2006 EPA Fellowships, Graduate Research Fellowship, Action for Nature Young Eco-Hero Awards, Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School Grants, CBF Offers Free Trees and Shrubs for Stream Buffer Projects, Watershed Education Mini-Grants, Project Earth Environmental Education Grants

To get your own *EE Connections* by email, go to the [online sign-up form](#).

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

Nominations Due October 31 for President's Environmental Youth Award



Each year the President's Environmental Youth Award recognizes young people across America for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. This year applications are due October 31.

Projects submitted in the past have covered a wide range of subject areas including recycling programs in schools and communities; construction of nature preserves; major tree planting programs; videos, skits, and newsletters created by students that focused on environmental issues; and environmental science projects.

To be eligible to compete, a student or students, sponsored by an adult, must submit to their local EPA regional office evidence of a completed project as defined in the President's Environmental Youth Award application, as well as a completed application.

Past winners from Pennsylvania included the Huntingdon Area Middle School and [Bellwood-Antis Wetlands Education Center - An Eagle Scout Project, Padraig Sean Flynn, Tyrone](#).

For more information, visit the [President's Environmental Youth Award webpage](#) or contact Larry Brown, brown.larry@epa.gov, at EPA Region 3 in Philadelphia.

Rachel Carson Forums to Feature Energy, Water Quality Credit Trading Issues

The next two Rachel Carson Forum programs will feature a discussion of renewable energy options and water quality credit trading programs.

On November 17 Energy consultant Ron Celantano will explore renewable energy options (solar, wind) are practical for homeowners and small businesses.

On December 15 Dr. James Shortle of The Pennsylvania State University and Andrew McElwaine, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, will discuss water quality trading.

Both forums will begin at noon in the Second Floor Auditorium of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg.

EnviroFest at the Black Bear Film Festival October 14-16 in Milford

The EnviroFest at the [Black Bear Film Festival](#) in Milford, Pike County will be held October 14 - 16 this year and features a variety of independent films dealing with environmental restoration and protection.

There will also be a series of panel discussions lead by special presenters- John Donahue, Superintendent of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, David Suzuki, a world leader in sustainable ecology, Sue Currier, Executive Director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, and Peter Pinchot, Director of the Milford Experimental Forest.

For a complete schedule, visit the [Black Bear Film Festival webpage](#).

HELP WANTED – Earth Force Program Specialist Pittsburgh

The [Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force](#) is seeking a Program Specialist to be responsible for all educational programs through the group's Pittsburgh office.

The Program Specialist is responsible for educator recruitment, support and evaluation; assistance with educator training; and planning and implementing the Youth Summit, as well as other program events, presentations, and displays. It entails building relationships with resource partners and ensuring that program commitments to funders are met.

This is a temporary, one-year position that may be renewed or become permanent at the end of one year.

To apply, send an email with cover letter and resume to Wendy Ruano, earthforce.wr@verizon.net

Feature – Honoring Environmental Leadership

Gov. Rendell Honors Six Pennsylvania Environmental Leaders

Gov. Rendell honored six Pennsylvania environmental leaders during an environmental state dinner at the Governor's residence this week. Each honoree received a "Lighting the Way" gift to symbolize the inspirational guiding lights they have been to others.

The honorees were Ernesta Drinker Ballard, former executive director of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (awarded posthumously); Rep. Camille George, currently Democratic Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee; Caren Glotfelty, Director of Environmental Programs at The Heinz Endowment; Sister Pat Lupo who directs the Earth Force and Glinodo Environmental Center in Erie; Maryruth Wagner, District Manager Columbia County Conservation District; and Dr. Mel Zimmerman, Professor of Biology at Lycoming College.

"These honorees have recognized the importance of preserving our greatest natural treasure," said Gov. Rendell. "Promoting the highest standards of environmental protection is vital to sustaining our quality of life in communities across Pennsylvania. These six individuals have each made contributions through education and outreach, research and, most of all, by not being afraid to stand up for what they believe in. They are to be commended for a job well done."

Ernesta Drinker Ballard (Posthumously) 1920-2005 - Philadelphia

A 1954 graduate of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture, Ernesta began her career as the proprietor of a commercial greenhouse known as Valley Gardens. At her home, she and her husband, Fred, maintained hundreds of plants making their property the highlight of many garden club tours. Ernesta wrote two timeless books, "Garden In Your House" and "The Art of Training Plants."

In 1964, she became the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) and under her tutelage, the Society's annual Flower Show became a world-renowned event. She helped Philadelphia Green to turn vacant lots into flower and vegetable gardens throughout the city.

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For eighteen years, Ernesta served as a commissioner of Fairmont Park and helped found the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust. On behalf of the park she worked to restore the Swann Fountain in Logan Square, the Water Works, dozens of historic mansions and many of the park's eroding streambeds and natural areas. Additionally, she has served as co-chair of the Governor's transition team for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Ernesta is being honored for her contributions to Pennsylvania's environment. However, her lifelong efforts on behalf of civic and feminist causes serve as a reminder that very often it is those who care about the environment who most genuinely care for the welfare of others. Ernesta's intent was to make life not just greener but better for everyone.

The Honorable Camille George – Houtzdale, Clearfield County

State Representative Camille "Bud" George was appointed Chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in 1983, and has sponsored and authored many environmental initiatives. These include laws that have prohibited backhauling, have given the state the authority to confiscate trucks that illegally transport toxic substances and have changed the pre-existing Pennsylvania Surface Coal Mining law to assist with the replacement of public/private water supplies damaged by mining.

Rep. George shepherded Act 101, an important recycling and solid waste management program, which became law in July 1988. Further amending this Act, he established the Recycling Fund, which provides monetary assistance to local governments to begin curbside recycling programs. He has improved sewage treatment laws to protect water supplies by allowing citizens to build proper sewage disposal systems.

He has worked to create the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and serves as a member. During his tenure as a state representative, he has enriched the lives of the citizens of the commonwealth and undeniably serves as an example to what one man can accomplish with focused dedication and perseverance.

Caren Glotfelty – Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

As the Program Director of the Environment Program at the Heinz Endowments, Caren Glotfelty works diligently for environmental innovation, ecosystem managements, watershed protection and sustainable urban design.

She facilitated funding and led the outreach effort of the Brookings Institute Report. Additionally, she is active in the "Renew Pennsylvania" campaign to help citizens address the report's findings.

Glotfelty's guidance propelled Pennsylvania into the Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction effort under Governor Robert P. Casey. This catapulted her to serve as the Deputy Secretary for Water Management in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

From 1995 to 2000, she served as the Maurice K. Goddard Chair in the School of Forestry at the Pennsylvania State University. While there, she encouraged young women to strive for excellence within the environmental field.

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She served as co-chair to Governor Tom Ridge's Twenty-first Century Environment Commission and has served on the boards of a multitude of organizations including the 10,000 friends of Pennsylvania, the Nature Conservancy and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Through her active involvement and interest in the environment, Glotfelty has truly made a significant contribution to a sustainable ecosystem within the commonwealth.

Pat Lupo, OSB - Erie

Pat Lupo, OSB has been a leading influence in education, environment and conservation for over forty years. Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Award Program, the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education, the Council for Elementary Science Instruction, the Presque Isle Audubon Society and the Sierra Club have all recognized her significant environmental education efforts. She taught for over twenty years at the elementary and high school levels and helped found the Erie County Environmental Coalition.

Sister Pat is the Director of Programs for the Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force. In 2000, the organization was recognized by the World Wildlife Fund and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation as a "Sacred Gift for a Living Planet."

This award encourages, secures and celebrates significant new conservation actions to combat forest and marine destruction, climate change and a wide range of other environmental issues.

Serving on a number of environmental boards, Sister Pat has assisted the Pennsylvania Department of Education in developing standards and assessments in Environment and Ecology as well as Science and Technology. Currently, she is on the staff of the Governor's Institute for Environment and Ecology.

Thanks to her indefatigable efforts, the communities across Pennsylvania will continue to prosper for future generations.

Maryruth Wagner – Bloomsburg, Columbia County

Maryruth Wagner is the District Manager of the Columbia County Conservation District. Under her guidance, the district hosts an annual education program for students in third through sixth grades to foster the development of a greater appreciation and understanding of our environment.

She also leads the district in sponsoring the Susquehanna Valley Environthon for Columbia County middle and high school students.

Wagner is actively involved with the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and the Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation and Development Council. She has participated in the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in protecting our commonwealth's waterways.

In 1997, she was instrumental in establishing the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association and subsequently in 1998, she helped to create the Fishing Creek Watershed Association. One of her proudest accomplishments was helping to create the Frank Kocher Memorial Park, which serves as a relaxing area where the community can enjoy

fishing, kayaking, canoeing, swimming and picnicking. Due to her steadfast commitment to our environment, citizens are surrounded by the natural beauty that is Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mel Zimmerman – Montoursville, Lycoming County

Dr. Mel Zimmerman is a professor of biology at Lycoming College whose students have historically monitored trends in both biology and chemistry for local watersheds.

He developed Lycoming College's "Clean Water Institute" which has helped a number of watershed groups compile data and evaluate trends, needs and solutions. He was instrumental in helping DEP's North Central Regional Office Team 5 by providing a forum for exchange with various partners.

He was extensively involved in the formation of the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies. His expertise has been monumentally instrumental not only in beginning this group but also coordinating the participation of higher education facilities. He serves on the board of the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers and is also the chair of the Keystone Stream Team.

Dr. Zimmerman helped the North Central PA Conservancy accomplish a Rivers Conservation Plan for a portion of the western branch of the Susquehanna River. This tremendous effort involved numerous partnerships, including counties and municipalities.

Dr. Zimmerman has generously shared his time, expertise and environmental ethic to help those interested in watershed work throughout Pennsylvania. He serves as an inspiration for every individual who wants to personally work toward creating a better environment for our commonwealth.

Feature – Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines

Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment Facility Dedicated in Findlay Township

The first of several abandoned mine drainage remediation facilities to be established under the sponsorship of the [Montour Run Watershed Association](#) in western Allegheny County was dedicated on September 30.

The new facility is located on the property of Keith and Mary Kropf at 121 Boggs Road, Findlay Township.

Speakers featured at the dedication include Sen. John Pippy (R-Allegheny), Chairman of Findlay Supervisors Tom Gallant, and officials of state and federal agencies involved in the project.

Construction of the Boggs Road Mine Drainage Treatment Facility is an outgrowth of the Montour Run Watershed Assessment and a Cleanup Plan Project performed under MRWA sponsorship and funded by the Department of



↑ Before

↓ After



Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Program.

Conducted in the 2001-2004, the assessment project sought to identify environmentally harmful discharges of contaminated groundwater from abandoned coal mines in the 37-square-mile Montour Run Watershed. It included a year-long program of monthly sampling of these discharges, leading to recommendations for treatment approaches for the most damaging.

The Boggs Road discharge ranked high in the list and was cited as the predominant pollution source of the South Fork of Montour Run due to significant dissolved iron.

The scope of the Boggs Road project included the siting, design, permitting and construction of a three-quarter acre aerobic wetland passive treatment system. The facility includes two detention/settling ponds plus a storage pond for precipitated iron sludge.

A volunteer work session is scheduled for October 8 to do wetland plantings to help in stabilizing the soil. (Call 412-835-4033 for more information.)

The remediation system will positively impact about 2.5 miles of tributary stream and 12 miles of the main trunk of Montour Run. An estimated 3.5 tons per year of iron compounds entering Montour Run from this site alone will be eliminated.

The resulting improvement in water quality will go far toward improved survival of fish and the aquatic life forms that support them in the main trunk of Montour Run. In addition, the wetlands habitat has been expanded and enhanced, increasing the potential for wildlife utilization.

"The Montour Run Watershed Association has done an outstanding job of developing this project and soliciting a lot of local support, both public and private," said DEP Project Advisor Ron Horansky. "It takes time, money and a group of dedicated volunteers like the MRWA in order to have a successful mine drainage remediation project."

The \$117,736 funding for the Boggs Road project included \$47,766 from the DEP's Growing Greener Program and \$54,000 from the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative of the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining.

Matching cash, goods, and services valued at \$15,970 were provided by the prime contractor, Stream Restoration Incorporated, and its partners Aquascape, BioMost, Inc., G&C Coal Analysis Lab, Imperial Land Corporation, Quality Aggregates Inc., McClymonds Supply and Transit Co., Inc.

"What is tremendously exciting is the positive environmental impact this partnership effort has made," said Tim Danehy, system designer. "The untreated water has very high levels of iron, up to 89 mg/l. At the first sampling event, the system was removing over 99 percent of the iron. This is a testament to the positive impacts a dedicated group can have."

"The project looks real nice and is obviously doing a good job of cleaning up the water," stated property owner Keith Kropf. "From our perspective, Stream Restoration and its partner organizations have been outstanding performers," said Stan Sattinger, Boggs Road project manager for the MRWA. "Despite a lot of unfavorable weather, they have completed the entire scope of work on time and within budget."

The MRWA is a 501(c)(3) incorporated non-profit, chartered in 2000, which seeks to protect and improve water resources in the Montour Run Watershed. The Boggs

Road Mine Drainage Treatment Facility is the first of three abandoned mine drainage treatment facilities for the Montour Run Watershed whose design and construction are fully funded to date.

Other projects in the planning or construction stages include the Clinton Road Mine Drainage Treatment Project and the North Fork Montour Run Restoration Project. One additional project, the Wilson School Mine Drainage Treatment Project, was also proposed for funding earlier in 2005.

These projects will partially implement the River Conservation and Land-Use Plan for the Montour Run Watershed established in 1998 by the Montour Valley Alliance, forerunner coalition to the MRWA.

For more information, visit the [Montour Run Watershed Association website](#).

Feature – Connecting Kids and the Environment

Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

As today's youth grow increasingly out of touch with the outdoors, programs strive to introduce the Chesapeake Bay to its future stewards

By Lara Lutz

Wayne McCollough teaches biology in **Lock Haven, PA**, near the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, a rural area with abundant forests and farmland. Each year, he spends about two weeks studying watershed science with his students. The study peaks with every ninth-grader—about 350 students—enjoying daylong field studies at their nearby “wonderful, underused nature center.”

There, students explore the living dimensions of classroom concepts such as water quality testing and wetlands ecology. But there are other first-time experiences as well.

“Some of these kids have never turned over a rock to catch crayfish or find stoneflies and mayflies,” McCollough said. “You’d think rural kids would be familiar with these things, but they aren’t. They spend a lot of time indoors with their computers and PlayStations.”

Many educators, like McCollough, increasingly find that today’s students are more removed from their local watersheds—and nature in general—than ever before. Not only have they stopped playing in streams, they are less likely to bait a hook, pitch a tent or undertake any other outdoor activity than previous generations.

“We’re seeing a population of people who weren’t necessarily exposed to the outdoors like those generations ago,” said Don Baugh, vice president for education at the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#). “Across the decades, we have seen a growing need to connect students to nature—not re-connect, because they haven’t been connected in the first place.”

The [Chesapeake Bay Program](#), with hopes of rearing a new generation of stewards and leaders for the Chesapeake and its watershed, has called for all students within the watershed to have a “meaningful” Bay or watershed experience by the time they graduate.

That goal may be more important, yet more elusive, than ever.

U.S. childhood has literally moved indoors, according to Richard Louv, author of a new book, *“Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit*

Disorder.” The tongue-in-cheek title points to the unintended consequences of raising indoor children more familiar with plugged-in pastimes than a free-form romp in the creek.

Children are missing the many benefits of unhurried play in natural settings, writes Louv, author of seven books on family, nature and community, and a visiting scholar at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, as well as an adviser to both the Ford Foundation’s Leadership for a Changing World program and the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child.

Children who find joy in “natural” play quite often develop a deeper, lasting connection to the environment, along with a stewardship ethic that carries through to adulthood. Current trends are eroding these connections, Louv argues. As a result, the Bay watershed could find itself without the stewards, leaders and voters whose values are grounded in such experiences.

Ann Swanson, executive director of the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#), said the Bay Program’s meaningful watershed experience initiative was driven by that concern.

“There was a clear recognition that the Bay restoration is a very long-term effort, and we need generations of people who understand the challenges and the solutions,” she said. “Getting out and seeing the Bay is a motivational force. Based on statistics we were looking at, it just wasn’t happening for most kids in the watershed.”

Less time outdoors, especially unstructured time, also robs children of more direct, developmental benefits.

Louv cites research demonstrating how outdoor experiences, both through free play and organized educational settings, build self-esteem, creativity and problem-solving skills.

In schools, environment-based education motivates learning in all subjects, and test scores go up.

Often, intimate experiences with nature help children to become calmer and more grounded. Spiritual awareness developed in these settings can serve children for a lifetime.

And, outdoor play is usually active play, which leads to healthier bodies.

Today’s children are increasingly without these opportunities. Louv writes that children are “so disconnected from nature that they either idealize it or associate it with fear.”

“We work with fabulous teachers who get the kids outside as much as they can, but it can be hard without third-party assistance,” Baugh said. “So we’re often on the front line, seeing kids make these kinds of connections for the first time.”

Luckily, the youth who encounter CBF education programs, or other field experiences in their own communities, have teachers or parents who encourage close encounters of the natural kind. Many are not so lucky.

Both the interest and opportunity for time outdoors are waning. Free time outdoors is even rarer.

Technology is one culprit in the shrinking outdoor universe, but not the only one. Louv believes that the United States has undergone a collective, generational break in its connection to the natural world. Parents are no longer leading the way for children.

“Baby boomers...may constitute the last generation of Americans to share an intimate, familial attachment to the land and water,” Louv writes. “Many of us now in our

40s or older knew farmland or forests at the suburban rim and had farm-family relatives...For today's young people, that familiar and cultural linkage to farming is disappearing."

Overcrowded schedules also reduce the amount of time both parents and children spend outside. According to the University of Michigan, the average school week has increased to 32.5 hours, 7 hours longer than 20 years ago. Children and teens are spending almost two hours less a week on sports and outdoor activities, and those activities often take place in organized sports leagues.

The National Sporting Goods Association found that more self-directed activities have declined. Bike riding has dropped more than 19 percent for U.S. youth since 1994. Fishing has fallen by more than 10 percent for elementary-age children and more than 26 percent for teens. Camping and park visits have taken a notable hit, with parks often experienced as "windshield tours"—scenery viewed from the car, rather than explored on foot.

New technologies also add to sedentary, indoor time. The Kaiser Family Foundation found that most school-age children play video games for 20-32 minutes a day. Teens typically use the Internet for 45 minutes a day, tending toward one to five hours a day for older teens. This is in addition to the 14 hours a week that the average child spends watching television.

While rural children, like those in McCollough's classes, spend less time in the landscape, others simply lack places to go, especially on a regular basis. Urban neighborhoods are in desperate need of natural areas, including those that can be used for play. In more suburban areas, liability concerns often steer communities away from outdoor play areas. Where they exist, carefully designed play equipment provides clean, safe boundaries. This puts many minds at ease, but Louv still finds things out of balance. Fewer opportunities exist for kids to explore meadows, streams, and trees—and less chance to discover the joy that comes with it.

Louv also points to another factor at work: fear. Many parents don't believe their children are safe in the outdoors. They fear crime, disease from ticks and mosquitoes, sun exposure, air pollution and any number of potential accidents. Louv notes that some California Girl Scout camps don't even allow scouts to climb trees.

Back in the Bay watershed, "Many parents want to know who is watching their kids—the gate, the security alarm, and so forth," said Steve Heacock of the Hashawha Environmental Center in Carroll County, MD. He meets regularly with parents of students who will spend a week at Hashawha for environmental studies. "They ask about cleanliness and food allergies, poison ivy and Lyme disease. It's important to have answers for those questions."

More than ever, building meaningful connections to the Chesapeake Bay means first helping children find meaningful connections to their own backyards. That, according to many leading educators in the Bay watershed, is where the work starts.

High school teacher Alan Hammond knows this first-hand. Hammond received the 2005 Teacher of the Year award from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and teaches in Cumberland, an industrial riverfront town nestled in western Maryland mountains, far from the Bay. The area is known for dense forests, rolling farmland and trout streams. Hammond sees a disconnect with nature here, too, even though students have an expanse of resources at their feet.

“Kids don’t get off the concrete much, and their parents don’t either,” he said.

In 1992, Hammond launched an environmental science program that has become the most popular course in the school. It begins, he said, by “starting where we are.”

“The whole program is based on the watershed concept, but we have to start where we are, with local stream and flow patterns,” Hammond said.

His students map local watersheds and explore them on foot. Their map grows, following feeder streams to the Potomac River and then to the Chesapeake Bay.

Hammond also engages students in hands-on projects that promote the health of the Bay watershed. They collect acorns that the state nursery grows into seedlings for streamside forest buffers. They spend three days canoeing a nearby lake, testing water quality and planting trees along the shores. They also join in other local restoration projects as needs and opportunities arise.

In the spring, Hammond takes about 25 students to an island in the Bay. Spring 2005 marked his 15th trip.

“All of these projects are to develop stewards,” Hammond said. “The content is there, but it’s the hands-on stuff that achieves it—the trips and the projects. Kids come back to me after graduation, and it’s the first thing they talk about. They want to know if we’re still doing the trips, and if we need any chaperones.”

Some of Hammond’s students have become involved with community environmental issues outside of school. Alumni include science teachers, forestry professionals, a Washington lobbyist and a doctoral student in environmental science.

Fred Wilson, who teaches at the **Huntingdon Area Middle School** in central Pennsylvania, also finds that environment-based education inspires local citizenship, especially when it is integrated with other subjects.

Wilson has developed a team-teaching curriculum that integrates environmental studies with math, language arts and social studies. His students have applied their learning through many ambitious restoration projects, including one that secured a quarter-million-dollar grant to repair a local sewage problem, and a stream assessment that won a [Presidential Environmental Youth Award in 2001](#).

“Where the environment is connected to other disciplines and communities, the kids are really responding,” Wilson said. “They see a connection to the Bay, but they don’t do it so much because of the Bay. They do it because they want to give back to their community.”

Increasingly, experiences that build meaningful connections to the outdoors come by way of programs like these, through schools and nature centers. Despite the worrisome cultural backdrop, Louv said these are far from false antidotes.

“These kinds of programs are extraordinarily important,” Louv said. “We have a generation of young parents coming up who didn’t have much experience in nature at all. It will take institutions to help rebuild the connections.”

Within those institutions, leaders are needed to create, deliver and promote excellence in environment-based education.

“Environmental educators are on the front lines,” Louv said. “Supporting these programs will be a stretch unless we can communicate how important they are, both for behavioral changes and academic improvements.”

Louv also challenges teachers and parents to take measure of the joy in children’s outdoor experiences and to avoid heavy messages of environmental doom.

“How much fun are they having?” he asked. “Are they really getting their hands dirty and their feet wet? Can we give them the kind of joy that comes from immersion in nature?”

Fortunately, some educators in the Bay watershed find that joy and learning come hand in hand.

“They say to me, ‘This is so much better than being in school!’” said **teacher Bill Bechtel** of the students from **Selinsgrove, PA**, whom he takes onto the Susquehanna River. He says that living in a riverside town helps to open students’ eyes—but only after he gets them in boats.

“The river really helps, but you’d be surprised how many people here have never been in it,” Bechtel said.

His students map the path of rainwater from their houses to the Bay. A Bay-themed holiday party, featuring crabs and steamed oysters, “stinks up the whole science wing.” In the spring, every student completes a personal Chesapeake Bay Action Project of their choice. This task has generated such projects as stream cleanups, bluebird houses and stream assessments. Two boys floated a local creek into the Susquehanna and mapped the places where farm animals have direct access to the stream.

“What really helps is getting outside,” Bechtel said. “We’re fooling ourselves if we think kids are going to remember the worksheets we do on watersheds, but if we take them out on a canoe, they’re going to remember that the rest of their life.”

At one time, awakening “upstream” communities to their downstream connections appeared to be one of the most vital and challenging jobs in restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

Today, Bay advocates face a related but more insidious challenge: restoring joyful connections between all children and nature. The next generation of Bay stewards may depend on it.

“Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder,” by Richard Louv, is published by Algonquin Books and is available through most booksellers or through on-line sellers via www.algonquin.com.

Lara Lutz is a writer and editor who lives on the South River in Mayo, MD.

Reprinted With Permission from [Chesapeake Bay Journal, October 2005 Issue](#).

Opinion

Energy Conservation Vital to our Environment, Economy and National Security

by

DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty

Note: This is the first in a new "Topic of the Month" series from DEP’s weekly Update. Each month, DEP will post a new topic and Update readers are invited to submit their views and opinions. Entries between 500-1000 words can be e-mailed to:

epupdate@state.pa.us .

Quick Clips

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[Winter of Discontent Looms for Natural Gas Customers](#)
[Energy Prices to Strain PA Economy](#)
[PUC Releases Investigative Report on Natural Gas Competition](#)
[Amish Farmers Experimenting with Biodiesel](#)
[Tax Deal Reached for Windmills, Could Be Statewide Precedent](#)
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[Op-Ed: We Need to Heed Nature's Warnings – Franklin Kury](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[PA Nutrient Trading Plan Deserves Looking Into](#)
[Potomac Biology Symposium Set for October 28-29](#)
[Mountain Watershed Has Crystal-Clear Vision](#)
[Mill Run Project One of Many Undertaken by Watershed Group](#)
[Experts Say Local Waterways Stressed – College Township](#)
[Groups Pushing for Exceptional Value Watershed Rating](#)
[Watershed Association Forming to Bring Back Big Sewickley Creek](#)
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[Fish Will Be Schooled at Oil City, Titusville Tech Center](#)
[Laurel Hill Creek River Conservation Plan Proposed](#)
[Editorial: Watershed Issues On Tap at Public Forum](#)
[Walking for the Wissahickon](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection [published a notice](#) outlining how it plans to proceed with developing a regulation to limit mercury emissions from coal burning power plants.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 8, 2005](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published final guidance](#) on protection of surface waters from underground bituminous coal mining and [drinking water](#) and [wastewater project](#) priority lists for funding through PennVEST.

Final: DEP ID: 563-2000-655. Surface Water Protection--Underground Bituminous Coal Mining Operations. This guidance describes procedures for protecting perennial and intermittent streams and wetlands from potential adverse effects caused by underground bituminous coal mining operations.

[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](#)

- **October 8** – [Hidden In Plain Sight – The Forest in the City](#) community events related to Hays Woods in Pittsburgh.
- **October 8** – Dauphin County Community Recycling Collection. 9 to 1:00 at HACC Parking Lot.
- **October 14** – [DEP Mercury Rule Workgroup Meeting](#). 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00 a.m. Harrisburg.
- **October 17** – Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee hearing on alternative uses for manure and Farms to Schools Program, part of the Farmers First Agenda.
- **October 18** - House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on future long-term energy strategy for Pennsylvania focusing on energy

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supply and needs issues, and the types of energy policy activities being undertaken by other states.

- **October 22** – [Global Warming 2005 – An Activist's Primer](#). Paoli.
- **October 24** – Environmental Issues Forum – Joint Senate-House Conservation Committee presentation by PA Recreation & Parks Society and DCNR on implementing the State Recreation Plan.
- **October 26** – [Workshop on Lead Safe Work Practices in Philadelphia](#).
- **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 16** – PA Environmental Council Awards Dinner. Harrisburg
- **November 17** – PA Resources Council Awards Dinner. West Conchohocken.
- **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](#)

(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 .

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