PA Environment Digest

An Update On Environmental Issues In PA

Edited By: David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

Winner 2009 PAEE Business Partner Of The Year Award

Harrisburg, Pa June 17, 2013

Bradford Conservation District's Mike Lovegreen To Be Honored By CBF



Mike Lovegreen, long-serving Bradford County Conservation District Manager, will be honored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award on June 25 at Noon in the Capitol East Wing Rotunda in Harrisburg.

Lifetime Achievement awards are presented by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation infrequently and only to those most deserving individuals whose long-standing dedication to and achievement in saving the Bay merit special recognition.

Here is the official CBF award description--

"Mike Lovegreen has been the district manager of the Bradford County Conservation District since 1980.

"During that time Mike has been one of CBF's most valued partners in Pennsylvania, along with the district staff he leads. Mike and his staff have taken improving water quality in their county seriously.

"For 30 years they have delivered conservation programs for agriculture and other sectors comprehensively and creatively, demonstrating how multiple programs can be integrated and leveraged to deliver more benefits on the ground and in the water.

"Notably, BCCD has worked closely with CBF field staff to integrate riparian forested buffer implementation into their programs more successfully than any other county. They have done so while also accomplishing very high levels of traditional conservation work.

"Under Mike's leadership, BCCD has successfully led a comprehensive watershed-wide effort to restore the impaired Stephen Foster Lake from phosphorus over enrichment. Today, the TMDL for the lake is on the verge of being met.

"In many ways, this effort demonstrates what can be done when governments, businesses, and citizens collaboratively strive to a water quality goal.

"As recently as 2012, Mike and his staff led efforts in Bradford County to facilitate more acres of new nutrient management plans to be developed here than in any other county in Pennsylvania. BCCD is typically at or near the top of the list in terms of agricultural BMP implementation, year after year.

"We have long partnered with Mike on innovative projects, such as CBF's Buffer Bonus Program and he is always ready to share and test new ideas. Beyond work in his home county, Mike has volunteered countless hours on local and statewide committees and organizations, bringing his enthusiasm and vision to stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth.

"It is our great pleasure to honor him with our 2013 Pennsylvania Lifetime Achievement Award."

NewsClip: Mike Lovegreen Retiring As Bradford Conservation District Manager

Senate Ag Committee OKs SB 994 To Mandate Expensive Nutrient Reduction Tech

By a vote of 8 to 3, the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Tuesday amended and reported out Senate Bill 994 (Vogel-R-Beaver) establishing a system to put in place expensive, capital-intensive nutrient reduction technologies.

Senators Judith Schwank (D-Berks), Minority Chair of the Committee, Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester) and Shirley Kitchen (D-Philadelphia) voted against the bill and urged hearings on the measure.

Senators Elder Vogel (R-Beaver), Majority Chair of the Committee, Michael Waugh (R-York), David Argall (R-Schuylkill), Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster), Robert Robbins (R-Mercer), Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson) and Timothy Solobay (D-Washington) voted for the legislation. (Sen. Waugh also urged hearings on the bill.)

The bill was amended to take out two troubling, but minor provisions, but the fundamental flaws still remain that would force state taxpayers to buy unmarketable nutrient reduction credits for $11 when everyone else can buy them for $3.

The amendments made three changes: prohibited the use of any existing funding source to implement the program, restored the ability of the public, General Assembly and Commonwealth Attorneys to review regulations adopted to implement the program and set aside 25 percent of the reductions solicited through a request for proposal process for smaller farms.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has taken a position opposed to this legislation saying the bill "will not advance cost-effective and affordable nutrient reductions in Pennsylvania streams or the Chesapeake Bay and will likely have limited benefit to but a select few."

"CBF supports innovative approaches to achieving local water quality goals and the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint. This includes, where applicable and cost-effective, manure treatment technologies," said Harry Campbell, Executive Director of CBF's Pennsylvania Office. "But such technologies, to receive public support, must create real and verifiable nutrient credits that can be sold to regulated entities if they chose to purchase them.

"And if the technology creates credits or reductions that are too expensive to compete with other pollution reduction practices, then the taxpayer should not be asked to pay for them anyway."

Click Here for a copy of CBF's letter opposing the bill.

Express Your Opposition

Click Here to express your opposition to the bill.

Bill Analysis

Only state government would force taxpayers to buy something for $11 that everyone else gets for $3. And that's exactly what Senate Bill 994 does.

The bill would create a new "TMDL parameter credit" which must be bought by the state to help fund expensive technology to meet the nutrient reduction requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and other major watersheds in Pennsylvania.

The legislation does not require the "credits" created in the bill to meet the requirements of the existing Nutrient Credit Trading Program established in 25 Pa Code Chapter 96 by the Department of Environmental Protection and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As a result, this "credit" has no economic value and cannot be resold by the state, like real credits, to help farmers, municipalities and builders meet their nutrient and sediment reduction requirements in the Chesapeake Bay watershed or offset the cost of this new program. This "credit" has no value or purpose other than to provide funding for this technology.

Worse, the bill requires taxpayers fund the credits up front before the work is done and without any matching requirements. Every other state program providing funding for nutrient reduction measures on farms and by municipalities reimburses farms and municipalities for their work after they complete it and provides at least some matching requirement.

The technology promoted by the legislation is also up to three times more expensive per pound of reduction than real credits bought under the competitive auctions now being held by the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority and DEP.

During the most recent auction in March, credits sold for from $2.98 to $3.05 per credit. A total of 322,227 credits have been sold through the PennVEST/DEP auction system since it began in 2010.

The technology promoted by this legislation is not economically feasible, its promoters said, unless real credits are worth $8 or $10 per credit.

The Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee report released in January assumed an $11 per pound cost of a credit created under the process in Senate Bill 994, although the report assumed real credits approved by DEP which could be traded and sold would be generated by the process. *(Click Here for more information on the Joint Committee report.)*

The request for proposal process outlined in the bill would set up a system where only expensive, capital-intensive technology would be likely to win the bidding process forcing public money to be used to buy a pound of nutrient reduction for $11 (or more) when the existing competitive auction process is costing about $3 per pound, three times less.

Which is the cheaper alternative? Buying $3 real credits through the state's auction system or forcing state taxpayers to buy credits at $11 through the system created in Senate Bill 994?

The bill does not allocate funding for this program, but it does set up a special fund where monies could be appropriated.

Just one of the facilities installed by the private company promoting this legislation cost $7.5 million which was funded primarily with public money through a loan from the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority. This facility does produce real credits certified by DEP.

This bill has not been the subject of any public hearings or comment and was only introduced on June 5 and considered by the Committee on June 11.

The language in the bill and the lack of public hearings lends credibility to the charge the bill is nothing but a sweetheart deal to fund specific capital-intensive nutrient reduction technologies.

Sen. Elder Vogel (R-Beaver) serves as Majority Chair and Sen. Judith Schwank (D-Berks) serves as Minority Chair.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Pay More, Get Less, Senate Bill 994, Act Now!

Tuesday the Pennsylvania Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approved legislation that will make it more difficult and expensive for Pennsylvanians to protect our rivers and streams.

This bill threatens to derail current clean water restoration efforts, and divert critical funding from proven, science-based clean water practices endorsed by Chesapeake Bay Foundation—in favor of proprietary, corporate-backed technologies that cost three times as much.

Put another way: These senators want us to pay more for less clean water.

This would be a major setback for our rivers and streams, especially for those that feed into the Bay. We have to stop Senate Bill 994 (Vogel-R-Beaver).

With scarce funding for clean water initiatives, we can't let a dime that could go toward healing the rivers and streams in our backyards be wasted. Join us in telling the Senate: Stop this bill!

Click Here to help CBF block your taxpayer dollars from subsidizing expensive corporate-backed technologies that aren't best for the Bay.

Senate Bill 994 isn't about clean water. It's about siphoning millions of tax-payer dollars to a handful of corporate entities.

The science-based solutions we support generally cost one-third what the private, nutrient reduction technologies do.

Cost-effective strategies are already being implemented broadly across the Commonwealth with great success. They're helping farmers meet regulatory requirements and municipalities improve their bottom line by lowering infrastructure costs. They also help reduce flooding, protect drinking water, revitalize our communities, and support local economies.

Senate Bill 994 will not advance cost-effective or affordable pollution reductions in Pennsylvania streams and the Chesapeake Bay—it will merely subsidize a few private sector corporations and inflate the cost of clean water for Pennsylvanians. We have to stop it.

Click Here to urge your state senator to vote NO on this bill.

Pennsylvanians want truly affordable clean water solutions with a proven track record. While technology has a role, an emphasis on established clean water programs and effective pollution reduction practices must be our core focus.

Thanks for making your voice heard!

Kim Patten
Pennsylvania Outreach and Advocacy Manager
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

House OKs Republican Budget Restoring Conservation District, Heritage Parks Funding

The House Wednesday voted to approve the state General Fund budget drafted by House Republicans which restores $3.8 million in funding for conservation districts, adds $2 million for the Heritage Parks Program, restores $400,000 in funding for Sewage Facilities Planning Grants and provides a $4.4 million increase to the Department of Environmental Protection personnel line items.

The budget also cuts Commonwealth Financing Authority funding by $2.7 million and makes a 42.7 percent decrease to funding for the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution

Control and Conservation Committee.

None of the business tax cuts proposed by Gov. Corbett are included in the proposal.

Differences with FY 2012-13 (Governor's proposal)

Environmental Protection

General Fund - $129.2 million, 3.5 percent increase - $4.4 million (Governor's $127.6 million)
Conservation Districts - $2.8 million restored
Sewage Facilities Planning Grants - $400,000

Conservation and Natural Resources

General Fund - $54.9 million, 4.2 percent increase - $2.2 million (Governor's $52.7 million)
Heritage Parks Grants - $2 million restored

Agriculture

General Fund - $123.1 million, 4.9 percent decrease - $6.3 million (Governor's $117.8 million)
Animal Health Commission costs transferred to Race Horse Fund - $4.3 million
General Government Operations - cut $3.1 million
Conservation Districts - $1 million restored

The House Republican budget spends $28.3 billion, which is a $578 million or 2.1 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

The Governor proposed a budget of $28.4 billion General Fund budget, but included some $175 million in projected savings through pension reform. The current FY 2012-13 budget is $27.7 billion.

The budget contained in House Bill 1437 was based on current law and does not factor in any policy proposals currently being considered by the legislature. It does not include pension reform proposal, any revenue from liquor privatization or the pending transportation funding proposals.

Click Here for highlights of the budget by House Republicans. Click Here for the budget spreadsheet.

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration with 9 voting days left before the July 1 budget deadline.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has scheduled a meeting off the floor on June 17 to consider the bill.

NewsClips:

House Approves $28.3 Billion Budget
House Democrats Sharply Criticize GOP Budget
Corbett, GOP Leaders Meet On Budget
It's Crunch Time For Budget In Harrisburg
Corbett Not Backing Down On Big Policy Issues
Corbett Talks Tough, But It's Up To Lawmakers
Drilling Companies Pay $202.4 Million In Fees
Counties, Towns Share $202 Million In Drilling Fees
Western PA Counties Reap Increase In Drilling Fees
Washington County Municipalities Receive Impact Fees
Lehigh, Northampton Receive $545,000 In Drilling Fees
$3.4 Million In Drilling Fees For Philadelphia Area
Corbett Defends Impact Fee Over Severance Tax

Governor: Senate Transportation Plan Needs To Be Cut
House Panel Questions PennDOT Secretary On Funding
Rendell Supports Passing Transportation Funding
PA Struggles To Chip Away At Bridge Problem
Editorial: Time To Boost Transportation
Editorial: Transportation Bill Worth Every Penny
Now Playing (Again) Film Tax Credits
Op-Ed: Film Tax Credit Raw Deal For Taxpayers

Growing Greener Coalition Praises House For Restoring Critical Funding Programs

The PA Growing Greener Coalition Thursday praised the House for passing its version of the 2013-2014 state budget which restores funding for critical conservation programs.

Specifically, the House budget includes $3.8 million in restored funding for conservation districts and $2 million for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Heritage Areas Program. The budget also includes increased support for the Department of Environmental Protection.

"The Growing Greener Coalition praises House members for passing a budget that supports conservation and stewardship of critical open space, farmland, water resources and historic sites throughout Pennsylvania," said Andrew Heath, executive director of the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition. "We are especially grateful to House Leadership, with special recognition to Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Adolph for his role in drafting this legislation. The Leadership's support for Conservation Districts and the Heritage Areas Program is greatly appreciated."

Heritage Areas create jobs and bring small businesses to the region, which generates hundreds of millions of dollars of added value in personal income, profits, community revitalization and government taxes. For every $1 of state funding received, Pennsylvania's Heritage Areas leveraged an average of $5 of federal, local and private investment.

"Pennsylvania has some of the most significant historic, cultural and recreational sites in the country, making it a must-see destination for travelers from all over the world," said Jane Sheffield, executive director of the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area. "Although restoring funding for these programs is significant, it falls short of the need currently facing the Commonwealth and we are calling on Senate leaders to increase support for the Heritage Areas Program to $3 million, the bare minimum needed to operate."

According to a recent survey from the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg, 92 percent of Pennsylvanians surveyed think that state funds dedicated to preserving farmland and open space, providing parks and trails and protecting rivers and streams should continue to be used for these purposes.

"Pennsylvanians understand that conserving and protecting open space, farmland and waterways is key to improving not only the overall quality of life but also economic vitality throughout the Commonwealth," said Robert Maiden, executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. "With this vote, House leaders demonstrated that they too understand the need for critical conservation and preservation efforts across the state."

In addition, the survey found that nearly 78 percent of respondents support increasing state funds to conserve and protect open space, clean water, natural areas, wildlife habitats,

parks, historic sites, forests and farms even if that would cost the average household $10 more annually. These high levels of support are consistent across every geographic region, gender, ethnic, educational and economic demographic throughout the state.

The PA Growing Greener Coalition is the largest coalition of conservation, recreation and preservation organizations in the Commonwealth.

Gov. Corbett Asks For, Receives, Resignation of DCNR Secretary Richard Allan

Gov. Tom Corbett Thursday asked for and received the resignation of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Richard J. Allan.

Allan, 59, of Cumberland County, has served as a member of the cabinet since March 2011.

Ellen Ferretti, Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry, will serve as Acting Secretary effective immediately.

Since mid-April the Department of Environmental Protection has also had an Acting Secretary Chris Abruzzo. No permanent replacement has been nominated yet by the Governor.

With the General Assembly set to adjourn for the summer on July 1 after they act on the state budget, no permanent replacements can be put in place for either agency until late fall.

NewsClips:
Corbett Fires DCNR Secretary Over Racial Epithet
One Word Cost DCNR Secretary His Job (Email Copies)
Corbett Forces DCNR Secretary Allan To Resign
Corbett Forces DCNR Secretary To Resign
Corbett Forces State Forests Chief To Resign

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Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule (Updated)

Here are the Senate and House Calendars and Committee meetings showing bills of interest as well as a list of new environmental bills introduced--

Session Schedule (Updated)

Here is the latest voting session schedule for the Senate and House--

Senate
June 17, 18, 19, 20 (New), 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

House
June 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

Bill Calendars

House (June 17): House Bill 302 (Moul-R-Adams) transferring funds from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to DEP for a competitive grant program to convert small mass transit bus fleets to natural gas; House Bill 303 (Moul-R-Adams) transferring funds from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to DEP for a competitive grant program to convert large mass transit fleets to natural gas; House Bill 304 (Marshall-R-Beaver) funding conversions of transit buses to natural gas; House Bill 306 (Pickett-R-Bradford) redirecting the Alternative Fuels Incentive Fund to create the Keystone Fuel Incentive Program to fund conversions of vehicles to natural gas; House Bill 308 (Saylor-R-York) redirecting $6 million annually from the Clean Air Fund to finance vehicle conversions to natural gas. <> Click Here for full House Bill Calendar.

Senate (June 17): Senate Bill 994 (Vogel-R-Beaver) establishes a system to put in place capital-intensive nutrient reduction technology; House Bill 84 (Miller-R-York) requiring the inspection of all agricultural conservation easements. <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

Committee Meeting Agendas This Week

House: the **Environmental Resources and Energy Committee** meets to consider House Bill

387 (Gillespie-R-York) eliminating civil penalties for sewage enforcement officers-- summary; the **Transportation Committee** holds two hearings on Senate Bill 1 (Rafferty-R- Montgomery) providing further transportation infrastructure funding. <> Click Here for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate: the **Environmental Resources and Energy Committee** meets to consider House Bill 1325 (Maloney-R-Berks) and Senate Bill 946 (Baker-R-Luzerne) amending Act 537 to provide that onlot septic systems approved by DEP meet anti-degradation requirements-- summary, House Bill 34 (Harper-R-Montgomery) setting green building standards for state-owned or leased buildings-- summary; the **Appropriations Committee** meets to consider House Bill 1437 (Adolph-R- Delaware) FY 2013-14 General Fund state budget-- summary, House Bill 493 (Gabler-R-Clearfield) Capital Budget Reforms-- summary. <> Click Here for full Senate Committee Schedule.

Bills Pending In Key Committees

Here are links to key Standing Committees in the House and Senate and the bills pending in each--

House
Appropriations;
Education
Environmental Resources and Energy
Consumer Affairs
Gaming Oversight
Human Services
Judiciary
Liquor Control
Transportation
Links for all other Standing House Committees

Senate
Appropriations
Environmental Resources and Energy
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
Community, Economic and Recreational Development
Education
Judiciary
Law and Justice
Public Health and Welfare
Transportation
Links for all other Standing Senate Committees

Bills On Governor's Desk

The following bills were given final approval by the Senate and House and are now on the Governor's desk for action--

Stormwater/Non-Point Funding: Senate Bill 196 (White-R-Indiana) further providing for funding stormwater management and non-point source control projects was removed from the Table and referred into and out of the House Appropriations Committee and was passed by the House without amendment. The bill now goes to the Governor for his action. A summary and House Fiscal Note are available.

Senate/House Bills Moving

The following bills of interest saw action this week in the House and Senate--

House

State Budget: House Bill 1437 (Adolph-R-Delaware) FY 2013-14 was amended on the House Floor and referred back into and out of the House Appropriations Committee and passed by the House 108 to 92. A summary and House Fiscal Note are available. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration. Click Here for highlights of the budget by House Republicans. Click Here for the budget spreadsheet. *(The Senate Appropriations Committee has scheduled a meeting off the floor on June 17 to consider the bill.)*

Onlot Anti-Degradation: House Bill 1325 (Maloney-R-Berks) amending Act 537 to provide that onlot septic systems approved by DEP meet anti-degradation requirements was reported out of the House Appropriations Committee and passed by the House. A summary and House Fiscal Note are available. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration. *(The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to consider this bill on June 18 along with its companion Senate Bill 946.)*

Royalty Deductions: House Bill 1414 (Everett-R-Lycoming) providing for more transparency in deductions from oil and gas well royalty checks-- summary-- was reported out of the House Rules Committee and referred into and out of the House Appropriations Committee and passed by the House. A summary and House Fiscal Note are available. The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Wind Power Easements: House Bill 920 (Sonney-R-Erie) would authorizing the granting of easements in Agricultural Security Areas for wind power projects was reported out of the House Rules Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Water Well Standards: House Bill 343 (Miller-R-York)-- was amended to adopt private drinking water well construction standards established by the National Groundwater Association and reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the House Rules Committee.

Stormwater Management: House Bill 821 (Harper-R-Montgomery) authorized the creation of

municipal stormwater authorities and Senate Bill 351 (Erickson-R-Delaware) authorizing municipal authorities to undertake stormwater management projects were amended and reported out of the House Local Government Committee. House Bill 821 was then referred to the House Rules Committee. Senate Bill 351 was Tabled.

Alternative Energy Credit: House Bill 1171 (Dunbar-R- Westmoreland) repealing provisions of the Alternative Energy Production Tax Credit Program was Tabled.

Senate

Natural Gas Distribution Expansion: Senate Bill 738 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) providing for the expansion of natural gas distribution systems (amended) and Senate Bill 739 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) providing funding through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for natural gas infrastructure expansion (a summary and Senate Fiscal Note are available) were both passed by the Senate and now go to the House for consideration.

Ag Conservation Easements: House Bill 84 (Miller-R-York) requiring the inspection of all agricultural conservation easements was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action. A summary and Senate Fiscal Note are available.

Capital-Intensive Nutrient Reduction: Senate Bill 994 (Vogel-R-Beaver) establishes a system to put in place capital-intensive nutrient reduction technology in place was amended to make three changes: prohibited the use of any existing funding source to implement the program, restored the ability of the public, General Assembly and Commonwealth Attorneys to review regulations adopted to implement the program and set aside 25 percent of the reductions solicited through a request for proposal process for smaller farms. The amendments, however, did not address the fundamental flaws in the bill. The bill was then reported out of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Emissions Inspection Exemption: Senate Bill 332 (Vogel-R-Beaver) intends to exempt vehicles of up to 10 years old from the emissions inspection program was amended to exempt vehicles of up to two years old from safety inspections but held in the Senate Transportation Committee.

Permit Extensions: House Bill 784 (Evankovich-R-Armstrong) extend permits pending and approved in the Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies through July 2, 2016 was Tabled.

News From The Capitol

House Environmental Committee OKs Water Well Standards Bill

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Tuesday amended and reported out legislation authorizing the state to set standards for the construction of drinking water wells.

The legislation-- House Bill 343 (Miller-R-York)-- was amended to adopt water well construction standards established by the National Groundwater Association rather than

authorizing the Environmental Quality Board to establish standards by regulation. The bill was also amended to prohibit the Department of Environmental Protection to issue permits or charge for individual private water wells.

Some 20,000 new water wells are drilled each year in Pennsylvania, but the Commonwealth is one of the few states without private well regulations. More than 3 million Pennsylvanians rely on about 1 million private wells for drinking water.

Improperly constructed water wells can lead to poor water quality by providing pathways for bacteria and contaminants such as naturally occurring shallow methane gas to migrate into water supplies. Ensuring that the well is constructed properly from the start will help to prevent water quality problems in the future.

The bill was reported to the full House and then referred to the House Rules Committee.

Rep. Ron Miller (R-York) serves as Majority Chair and Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Minority Chair.

House Local Government Committee OKs Bills To Improve Stormwater Management

The House Local Government Committee Wednesday reported out House Bill 821 (Harper-R-Montgomery) and Senate Bill 351 (Erickson-R-Delaware), companion bills which give communities new tools to help address stormwater management issues by giving municipal authorities the power to engage in stormwater management.

"Stormwater management is a significant challenge facing our communities, especially those older communities developed without stormwater management adequate for today's storms," said Rep. Kate Harper, Chair of the Committee. "This legislation gives municipalities another tool to allow communities to address their need for stormwater projects and funding for them."

The bills allow, but do not mandate, the creation of a stormwater authority, or the addition of storm water management to an existing authority that might handle a township's water or sewage operations. It also would allow municipalities to create a joint authority with neighboring towns and townships in the same watershed to work together on storm water management issues.

Recognizing the importance of addressing storm water issues, the bill is supported by several environmental advocacy organizations and local government associations.

"PennFuture greatly appreciates Rep. Kate Harper guiding House Bill 821 through the House Local Government Committee with overwhelming bipartisan support," said Steve Stroman, policy director of PennFuture. "Giving local governments the option to form storm water authorities will assist multi-municipal efforts to tackle storm water issues on a watershed basis, provide them with additional resources for storm water planning and projects, and help reduce one of the largest sources of pollution of our rivers and streams."

"This bill will allow municipalities and counties to use another unit of government to address what many consider to be a multi-municipal or even a regional issue that needs to be addressed," said John Brosious, deputy director of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association. "A municipal authority becomes a vehicle they can use to address this both from an environmental infrastructure perspective as well as a financial one."

Ron Grutza of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs added, "Over the past several years, the federal government has placed an ever-increasing mandate on municipal storm water runoff. Due to these costly mandates and more communities being mandated to comply,

municipalities must dedicate more and more revenue from their general fund budget to comply with these mandates and maintain the infrastructure. This is a step in the right direct in helping our communities manage and finance storm water projects."

Both measures go to the full House for consideration.

Rep. Robert Freeman (D-Lehigh) serves as Minority Chair.

Senate Passes Bills To Expand Natural Gas Distribution Systems

The Senate Wednesday passed Senate Bill 738 and Senate Bill 739 to provide local natural gas service to un-served and under-served areas of Pennsylvania sponsored by Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware).

"The impetus for these bills started in Bradford County about two years ago," Sen. Yaw said. "The Center for Rural Pennsylvania held a hearing and during the course of that hearing it became apparent that a significant part of Pennsylvania was not served by natural gas, although we're sitting on one of the largest deposits of natural gas in the world. These bills will provide the opportunity for residents to obtain gas service should they choose that source of energy."

"Having abundance of affordable natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation gives Pennsylvania a unique opportunity to cut costs for homeowners and to encourage economic growth across the state," Sen. Pileggi said. "These bills make smart investments to allow us to take advantage of this new energy supply."

Senate Bill 738, known as the Natural Gas Consumer Access Act, will require every natural gas distribution utility operating in Pennsylvania to submit a three-year plan to the Public Utility Commission, outlining the utility's plans for extension and expansion projects. The PUC will have the option to reject, revise or order the utility to submit a revised plan for adequacy and completeness and do periodic reviews.

Senate Bill 738 will also create a system providing for expedited extension or expansion projects if an economic development agency or a large number of residential, commercial or industrial entities want to seek to obtain natural gas service. Further, this legislation allows a potential natural gas customer to spread project costs over a 10 year period, rather than full up-front costs that are currently required today.

Senate Bill 739 will amend the Alternative Energy Investment Act to provide for $20 million for grants to schools, hospitals and small businesses to obtain access to natural gas service. The funding will come from existing, under-utilized programs. Grants made under Senate Bill 739 may provide up to half of the cost of a project.

"There is widespread interest in seeing locally produced natural gas used locally to benefit our area businesses and homeowners," Sen. Yaw added. "Senator Pileggi and I commend our colleagues for supporting these bills."

The bills now go to the House for consideration.

House Environmental Committee To Consider SEO Penalty Bill June 18

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider House Bill 387 (Gillespie-R-York) eliminating civil penalties for local sewage enforcements officers.

A summary of the bill is available online.

The meeting will be held in Room 205 Ryan Building starting at 9:00.

Rep. Ron Miller (R-York) serves as Majority Chair and Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Minority Chair.

Senate Environmental Committee To Consider Green Building, On-Lot Bills June 18

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets on June 18 to consider legislation reversing an Environmental Hearing Board decision on how the Department of Environmental Protection reviews on-lot septic system modules in HQ and EV watersheds and a bill setting green building standards for state buildings.

The bills include--

-- House Bill 1325 (Maloney-R-Berks) and Senate Bill 946 (Baker-R-Luzerne) amending Act 537 to provide that on-lot septic systems approved by DEP meet anti-degradation requirements-- summary; and

-- House Bill 34 (Harper-R-Montgomery) setting green building standards for state-owned or leased buildings-- summary.

The meeting will be held in Room 156 (Majority Caucus Room) starting at 9:30.

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) serves as Majority Chair and Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair.

News From Around The State

PUC Posts Distribution Of $102.6 Million In 2012 Drilling Fees To Local Governments

The Public Utility Commission Thursday published information on the distribution of $202.4 million in Act 13 drilling fees to county and municipal governments collected in 2012, slightly more than the $202.2 million collected for 2011.

"The more than $202.4 million collected this year brings the two-year total for Impact Fees collected to more than $406.6 million," said PUC Chairman Robert F. Powelson. "The PUC is entrusted by the Governor and the legislature with the collection and distribution of the Impact Fee monies. Again, we have met all of the deadlines in the legislation, which contains a complex and specific formula for getting this money into the hands of local communities."

The Impact Fee producer payments for 2012 totaled $202,472,000. Of that $102,683,200 will be distributed directly to county and municipal governments who are directly affected by drilling.

Also, $28 million will be distributed to state agencies impacted by drilling. The remaining $71,788,800 will be placed into the Marcellus Legacy Fund, which was established under the law to fund environmental, highway, water and sewer projects, rehabilitation of greenways and other projects throughout the state.

"This industry is here to stay, and its benefits for every Pennsylvanian are clear: clean air for all, more jobs for working families, and hundreds of millions in impact fee dollars for local communities," Gov. Tom Corbett said. "Act 13 raised the bar for environmental compliance, and also sets aside money to deal with impacts. Local governments are taking this money and putting it to good use.

"In addition to fueling environmental reclamation and water infrastructure projects across

the state, the impact fee is protecting public health and safety. The Act is supporting the vital work of the Department of Environmental Protection, County Conservation Districts, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Office of the State Fire Commissioner."

Kathryn Z. Klaboer, CEO of the Marcellus Shale Coalition said, "To see how this new revenue stream, now totaling more than $406 million is being distributed to every corner of the Commonwealth is a vivid illustration and reminder of how safe, tightly regulated natural gas development is benefiting local communities, statewide programs and funding of government agencies. Our member companies are working each and every day to responsibly develop this clean-burning energy resource while also serving as good neighbors and community partners to ensure we get this historic opportunity right for all 12 million-plus Pennsylvanians.

"While the impact fee represents a new and substantial revenue stream for local and state government agencies, the natural gas industry has also generated more than $1.8 billion in tax revenues since 2006 and has invested more than $500 million in road and infrastructure improvements, while contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars for emergency response training and other community-based programing."

The PUC has forwarded the information for payment and expects the checks to be mailed June 28.

A breakdown of the payments to county and municipal governments, specifics on how much money was collected and comparisons to 2011 data is available on the Act 13 Interactive Impact Fee webpage.

The website includes graphical data analyses including the top paying producers, well count breakdowns and top receiving counties and local governments.

Users also can search and download statistics such as money paid by producers or money disbursed to state, county or local governments.

The information also breaks down the distribution calculations outlined in the law in areas such as eligible wells per county/ municipality; and distributions to municipalities and counties with qualifying wells; and to municipalities that are located within a county with qualifying wells and are contiguous to a municipality with wells or within five miles of a municipality with wells (based on population and highway miles calculations).

Producer Impact Fee payments are due to the PUC on April 1 of each year. Distributions of the money collected by the PUC are due to county and municipal governments by July 1 each year. County and municipal government information on how the 2012 Impact Fee monies were spent is due to the PUC by April 15, 2014.

On February 14, 2012, Gov. Corbett signed into law Act 13 of 2012, the Unconventional Gas Well Impact Fee Act, which amended Title 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

The PUC is responsible for implementing the provisions contained in Chapters 23 and 33 of the Act. Chapter 23 provides for the imposition, collection and distribution of an unconventional gas well fee (also called a drilling impact fee). Chapter 33 governs local ordinances that impose conditions, requirements or limitations on oil or gas operations.

For more information, visit the PUC's Act 13 Interactive Drilling Fee webpage and the Act 13 Impact Fee general information webpage. The PUC compiled reports from local governments on how they used the 2011 drilling fees.

NewsClips:

Drilling Companies Pay $202.4 Million In Fees
Counties, Towns Share $202 Million In Drilling Fees
Western PA Counties Reap Increase In Drilling Fees
Washington County Municipalities Receive Impact Fees
Lehigh, Northampton Receive $545,000 In Drilling Fees
$3.4 Million In Drilling Fees For Philadelphia Area
Corbett Defends Impact Fee Over Severance Tax

$94.7 Million In 2012 Drilling Fees Distributed To State Agency Programs

The Public Utility Commission also reported this week $94,788,880 in Act 13 drilling impact fees will be distributed to state agencies and programs.

The Impact Fee producer payments for 2012 totaled $202,472,000. Of that $102,683,200 will be distributed directly to county and municipal governments who are directly affected by drilling.

Also, $28 million will be distributed to state agencies impacted by drilling. The remaining $71,788,800 will be placed into the Marcellus Legacy Fund, which was established under the law to fund environmental, highway, water and sewer projects, rehabilitation of greenways and other projects throughout the state.

The 2012 distribution to state programs includes--

-- $ 5,000,000 - County Conservation Districts/State Conservation Commission
-- $ 1,000,000 - Fish and Boat Commission
-- $ 6,000,000 - Department of Environmental Protection
-- $ 1,000,000 - Public Utility Commission
-- $ 750,000 - PA Emergency Management Agency
-- $ 750,000 - Office of State Fire Commissioner
-- $ 1,000,000 - Department of Transportation
-- $ 7,500,000 - Natural Gas Energy Development
-- $71,788,800 - Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund
  -- $14,357,760 - Commonwealth Financing Authority
  -- $ 7,178,880 - Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) Fund
  -- $17,947,200 - PennDOT Highway Bridge Improvement
  -- $17,947,200 - Water and Sewer Projects -- $8.9 million to PennVEST, $8.9 million to Commonwealth Financing Authority H2O Program
  -- $10,768,320 - Greenways, Recreation Trails, Open Space, Natural Areas (each county to receive minimum of $25,000)
  -- $ 3,589,440 - Projects to liquefy natural gas or convert to natural gas (DCED)

The state agency program disbursement report is available online.

NewsClips:
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$3.4 Million In Drilling Fees For Philadelphia Area
Corbett Defends Impact Fee Over Severance Tax

2012 Natural Gas Royalties/Rents Top $731 Million In Pennsylvania

Rents and royalties collected on Marcellus Shale production in Pennsylvania have gone from $10.9 million in 2008 to $731 million in 2012, according to a study by the Allegheny Institute for Public Policy.

The AIPP study reports on rent and royalty income for landowners and mineral rights owners as shown in the latest income tax data available from 2008 to 2010 and projects more recent returns based on production, prices and the 12.5 percent minimum royalty in the state.

In 2008 total royalties paid in Pennsylvania from Marcellus Shale production were $10.9 million out of approximately $86.9 million generated by 9.8 Bcf of production, priced that year on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) at $8.90/Mcf, Frank Gamrat, senior research associate for AIPP said in the May 30 report, quoted by NGI's Shale Daily.

Gamrat said the report also projects, based on 2012 production volumes of 2.07 Tcf, average prices and 12.5 percent royalties, that land/mineral rights owners collected $731 million out of the $5.85 billion generated by Marcellus Shale production in Pennsylvania in 2012.

According to the tax data through 2010, "Northern tier counties Susquehanna, Sullivan and Tioga each had huge jumps of more than 1,000 percent," Gamrat, said. "In Susquehanna, the amount claimed in 2006 was $8 million and by 2010 it had topped $133 million, a gain of more than 1,500%. In fact, the top 10 counties in terms of growth, seven in the northern tier and Greene, Washington, and Butler counties in the Pittsburgh area, all reported rent and royalty income increases of at least 200 percent."

Seven counties in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area that lie in the southwestern, wet gas area of the Marcellus posted a 107 percen increase in rent and royalty income from 2006 to 2010, the years for which income tax data is available. Washington County led the way with a 289 percent increase, followed by Butler (201 percent). Allegheny, which includes the City of Pittsburgh, posted the smallest increase, 41 percent.

Gamrat said state law, specifically, Act 60 of 1979, stipulates that landowners and mineral rights owners be given a minimum royalty payment of 12.5 percent of the value of the gas "removed or recovered from the subject real property." Gas companies are allowed to deduct transportation fees and post-production costs (but not well fees or impact fees) from royalties.

"To keep this in perspective the [federal] Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) notes that in 2008 the amount of personal income in Pennsylvania was about $513 billion. Thus these royalty payments accounted for about 0.002 percent of state personal income," Gamrat said. "But, in the following years that royalty income paid to owners of land/mineral rights in Pennsylvania skyrocketed by more than 6,600 percent while BEA's estimate of personal income in the state for 2012 rose only slightly to just above $556.7 billion. In that year royalty payments from Marcellus Shale accounted for about 0.13 percent of personal income.

"While this is still a very small portion of the total, it has certainly grown over the last five years, reflecting the massive rise in royalty payments...And while the state income as a whole is not boosted significantly in percentage terms, royalty incomes in the counties where drilling and production activity are heaviest are certainly having a measurable effect on the county's total income."

NewsClips:
Marcellus Shale Royalties Rising
Royalties From Marcellus Gas Hit $731 Million In 2012
Report: Natural Gas Development Economic Boon In PA

Announcing Pennsylvania's First Master Watershed Steward Program

Many states throughout the nation offer Master Watershed Steward volunteer programs through their land grant university extension services; these programs train citizen volunteers in the basics of water resource stewardship.

Now Penn State Extension, with the help of the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley and other local environmental groups, are launching PA's first Master Watershed Steward Program in Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Pennsylvania's first Master Watershed Steward Program is currently being piloted in the Lehigh and Northampton counties as a collaborative effort between Penn State Extension, the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, the Northampton County Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Nurture Nature Center and the Wildlands Conservancy.

Other states throughout the nation have established "Master Watershed Steward" programs through their land grant colleges. These programs, modeled after the volunteer Master Gardener program, train citizens in a formal way about the basics of watershed resource stewardship and create an energized, educated group of citizens with structured volunteer opportunities available to them to educate the community about water resources.

Organizers hope to mirror the success of the Master Gardener program; last year alone, nearly 2,000 Master Gardeners across Pennsylvania collectively contributed 119,306 hours as educators, reaching 4.3 million Pennsylvania residents with their helpful advice. These volunteer hours have an estimated dollar value of $2.5 million.

The Lehigh Valley Master Watershed Stewards are receiving 40 hours of training on numerous topics, including water quality, stream health, native plants, recreational resources, and groundwater.

Once they complete the training program, to become a certified Master Watershed Steward, these trainees will need to fulfill 50 hours of volunteer service. In subsequent years, they can maintain their Master Watershed Steward status by giving at least 20 additional volunteer hours and attending at least 8 hours of update training annually.

Example projects include:
-- Organizing educational and informational workshops for students, the public, municipal officials, addressing topics such as rain barrels, wildlife, pollution prevention, stormwater management, and invasive plant control;
-- Organizing and executing stream clean ups;
-- Designing and installing demonstration rain gardens;
-- Monitoring streams for bacteria; and
-- Carrying out stream bank restoration projects.

The first Master Watershed Steward class has 19 trainees. They come from a variety of backgrounds, including engineers, students, educators, nurses and social workers with a wide

range of ages, from 15 to 65. Many are new faces to watershed conservation work in the Lehigh Valley.

'This is encouraging news as many of the over 400 watershed associations in the Commonwealth are struggling to recruit and retain new volunteers. This program hopes to offer a solution by providing training to ordinary community members without formal natural resource educational background, ultimately, strengthening local capacity for management and protection of watersheds, streams, and rivers across the Commonwealth.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact Erin Frederick.

(Written By: Erin Frederick, Program Assistant, Penn State Extension, 610-391-9340, reprinted from Penn State Extension's Watershed Winds newsletter.)

Spots Still Available For June 19 Source Water Protection Workshop

The PA League of Women Voters Water Resources Education Network still has slots available for a Source Water Protection Workshop on June 19 at the Raystown Lake Visitor Center in Huntingdon County.

This informative workshop brings top speakers who will share resources and techniques to help you safeguard a reliable supply of safe, affordable drinking water, and enjoy greater peace of mind.

Sponsored by the Water Resources Education Network (WREN Project), the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute and the Department of Environmental Protection, the workshop was designed with multiple audiences in mind – municipal officials and managers, community planners, water authority members and water utility staff– because all play an important role in providing safe and sustainable drinking water to our communities.

Click Here for more information. Visit the Source Water PA website for more information on how you can protect your drinking water.

Call For Presenters For PA Stormwater Management Symposium October 17-18

You are invited to submit an Abstract to the 2013 Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium "Stormwater From the Ground Up" to be held on the campus of Villanova University October 17-18.

The purpose of the symposium sponsored by the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership is to advance the knowledge and understanding of sustainable stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, construction, maintenance and operations, and regulatory compliance. A workshop for non-engineers will be held preceding the symposium.

Click Here for more information on how to submit your proposal. The deadline for proposals is June 30.

June Issue Of Chesapeake Bay Journal Now Available

The June issue of the Chesapeake Bay Journal is now available featuring articles in a Bay-friendly York County farm, efforts to designate the Susquehanna River as impaired and the

air quality benefits of improving Bay water quality. Click Here to read this issue.

NewsClips:
Susquehanna Dam Relicensing Comes With Responsibilities
Animals Pitch In At York County Chesapeake Bay Friendly Farm
Sick Bass Spur Effort To Seek Impaired Status For Susquehanna
State Stormwater Mandate To Affect Lancaster Building Projects
Ephrata Signs On To Cocalico Creek Watershed Study

Save The Date: Experience The Delaware Estuary Celebration October 3

On October 3 the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary will hold its annual Delaware Estuary Celebration in Philadelphia from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Independence Seaport Museum on the banks of the Delaware River at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. Click Here for more information.

CBF, Partners Hold June 22 Rain Barrel Festival, June 29 Paxton Creek Volunteer Day

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and its partners will hold two special events in June in and around Harrisburg, Dauphin County--
-- June 22: Rain Barrel Festival from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. Come out and see students paint rain barrels that they've been designing at this first-ever Rain Barrel Festival. There will be live music, food, and booths representing various Harrisburg groups. Rain barrels will be for sale for $50, and all proceeds from the rain barrels will fund future rain barrel workshops. Rain barrels help reduce harmful urban runoff pollution and can save you money in watering your garden!
-- June 29: Volunteer Day at the Paxton Creek Nursery. The Paxton Creek Watershed is covered by more than 30 percent impervious surfaces and is in desperate need of more trees and vegetation in order to be healthy. Help us restore this important watershed by coming out to volunteer with CBF and the Paxton Creek Watershed and Education Association to repot trees, remove debris, and set up an irrigation system. Your work is critical to help the Paxton Creek Nursery grow the plants and trees that will restore Paxton Creek. Afterward, stick around for a well-deserved lunch of delicious grilled food!

Click Here to register for these events. Space is limited so register early.

Penn State Study: Dredging Reduced Fish Population, Diversity

Comparing dredged and undredged sections of the Allegheny River, reduced populations of fish and less variety of aquatic life occurred in areas where gravel extraction took place, according to researchers in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences,.

The researchers investigated navigation pools 7 and 8 near Kittanning and Templeton and published their results in the journal Freshwater Biology.

"Understanding and untangling the complex effects of human activities on aquatic ecosystems present a challenge to ecologists and resource managers," said lead investigator Jonathan Freedman. "While the physical impacts of dredging have been relatively well studied, less is known about the ecological impacts, particularly on large-river fish populations."

Freedman focused on small, bottom-dwelling fishes such as darters because they have limited movements and specific habitat requirements, making them more susceptible to the effects of dredging. Several of these species -- including Tippecanoe, bluebreast, gilt and longhead darters -- are listed on Pennsylvania's endangered and threatened species lists.

Freedman, currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Illinois Natural History Survey, received his doctorate in wildlife and fisheries science in 2010 from Penn State. His research was overseen by his co-advisers, Jay Stauffer, Distinguished Professor of Ichthyology, and Bob Carline, adjunct professor emeritus of fisheries and retired leader of the Penn State Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

"We found that at dredged sites, with a maximum depth averaging about 12 meters (slightly more than 13 yards) there was lower species richness and diversity, driven by fewer sensitive species, than at undredged sites in the same navigational pools, which had an average maximum depth of about 5 meters (approximately 5.5 yards)," Freedman said.

The research found that total catch, species richness and diversity were negatively correlated with depth, while species richness, diversity and proportion of species that need rocky habitats to spawn were lower at dredged than at undredged sites.

"Our analysis revealed that taxa, such as darters, were associated predominantly with undredged sites, while generalist species, such as catfish and suckers, were more associated with dredged sites," Freedman said.

The research differed from most prior studies of the effects of dredging on fish, which were conducted in streams and shallow rivers.

"Large rivers are complex ecosystems containing unique fish communities that cannot be understood simply by scaling up the findings from lower-order streams and shallow rivers," Freedman noted.

As a result, "the effects of dredging on deeper rivers -- where methods such as electroshocking, gill nets and seines are ineffective for sampling the channel -- were largely unknown," he said. "So we developed an electrified benthic trawl to sample bottom fish assemblages at dredged and undredged sites in a deep, gravel-bed river with a long history of dredging."

In-stream removal of substratum affects the physical and flow characteristics of the river as the channel is modified, creating relatively homogenous, deep stretches, Freedman explained. The removal of coarse gravel and cobble increases river depth, and subsequent accumulation of fine sediment and detritus can greatly alter habitat characteristics required by aquatic organisms.

Subsequent bank erosion and head-cutting -- the erosion of the upstream end of the dredged area-- also can result, further homogenizing the aquatic habitat. The result is a loss of critical shallow-water habitats.

Habitat structure for invertebrates and fish is lost as gravel and rocks, coarse woody debris and other structure are removed from the river, the researchers found. Increased depth, compounded by water turbidity, reduces light penetration to the river bottom and reduces biomass and diversity of submerged vegetation and algae.

As a consequence, flowing water species are displaced by still water species, while generalist and invasive species displace native habitat specialists.

"Changes in substratum composition reduce populations of invertebrates living among rocks and burrowing within sediments and terrestrial detritus, thus altering not only invertebrate assemblage composition, but also fish-foraging efficiency and habitat use," Freedman said.

Many fish species depend on structured habitats for protection from predators and as refuge from the current, and some require rocky and gravel habitat in which to spawn. The loss of this habitat, as well as increased sedimentation rates due to dredging, can render habitats unsuitable for reproduction even if adults are able to survive.

River dredging causes a sort of regime shift in fish species, concluded Freedman. "Increased turbidity alters fish-foraging ability, while high sedimentation can affect spawning," he said. "Species that are tolerant of a wide range of environmental conditions come to dominate the community."

The research article is available online.

Keep PA Beautiful Accepting Applications For Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania Grants

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Wednesday announced it is now accepting applications for their 2013 Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania grants. The deadline for applications is July 31.

Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania, now in its third year, is designed to provide community groups with paint and painting supplies enabling them to renew a community structure in need into something beautiful through the application of fresh paint and a lot of elbow grease.

This annual event is held in partnership with support from BEHR and The Home Depot.

The 2013 Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania will take place in September. During this month-long period, eight grant awardees along with their volunteers will be eligible for up to 20 gallons of exterior paint and $50.00 for painting supplies.

The Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania grant is available to any tax-exempt group within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Private property owners or individual applicants cannot apply. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful will select the eight winning projects from among applications submitted.

Applications must meet the following requirements to be considered – only one building per application, proof of liability insurance, signed permission to paint from the building owner, and two before photos of the intended project. Selected awardees must also agree to provide a final report with during and after photos.

"Thanks to the strong partnership that exists between Behr and The Home Depot, we are thrilled to take part in the 2013 Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania," said Robert Kracker, Regional Operations/Sales Manager for BEHR. "Our culture of strengthening and growing the communities in which we serve is exemplified in the actions of this project. We look forward to sharing in the passion and pride of the participants who want to do whatever it takes, great or small, to make their community a better place."

"Through our partnership with BEHR and The Home Depot, Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania empowers community groups to take a direct role in community revitalization efforts," explains Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "Something as simple as a fresh coat of paint on a public library or community center sends a strong message that we care about our communities."

Grants will be awarded mid-August.

For more information or to download the application, please visit the Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania webpage. Any additional questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 1-877-772-3673 ext. 113 or send email to: mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

Centre County Clarifies Policy On Accepting Latex Paint For Disposal

The Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority's Transfer Station will accept up to 5 gallons of latex paint per person per day. There is a $10.00 minimum charge for this service.

The Authority will not accept latex paint at their Household Hazardous Waste Events.

For additional information, please call our office at 814-238-7005, or send email to: wasted5@uplink.net.

PA Recycling Markets Center Hosts June 20 E-Waste Summit

Featuring an internationally recognized speaker on CRT glass processing, the PA Recycling Markets Center, Inc. is offering a Markets Development Summit for E-Scrap Recycling on June 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East.

The E-Scrap Markets Development Summit is the 3rd annual E-Scrap Markets Development Summit offered by RMC and continues RMC's ongoing industry driven lineup of Markets Development Summits that also include organics management and plastics markets programs.

Featured demand side topics for the E-Scrap Markets Development Summit include CRT and glass cullet processing; Covered Device Recycling Act information from the Department of Environmental Protection; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the CRT Rule; PA General Permit (WMGR081) amendment updates; e-Stewards Standard information; Responsible Recycling Practices (R2) Standard information; and computer refurbishing best practices.

The complete E-Scrap Markets Development Summit Agenda can be downloaded here. The Registration Form can be downloaded here, or contact Jack Himes at 717-948-6660 for more information.

DEP Announces Upcoming Natural Gas Vehicle Workshops In Southeast

The Department of Environmental Protection, along with its partners at Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities and PECO, will hold four free workshops for municipal and other fleet managers in the southeast region of Pennsylvania.

The half-day workshops are being held in Montgomery, Chester, Delaware and Bucks counties. The workshops, which all have the same content and include a networking lunch, have been scheduled for these locations:

-- June 18, at Arcadia University in King of Prussia, Montgomery County;
-- June 19, at West Chester University, Chester County;
-- June 20, at the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce in Springfield, Delaware County; and
-- June 21, at Bucks County Community College Lower Bucks Campus in Bristol, Bucks County.

Workshop attendees will be provided with an overview of compressed natural gas (CNG) as a fuel for municipal vehicles, and discussions of cost effectiveness, vehicle conversions versus new purchase, fueling options and much more.

Information will be presented on the various funding opportunities available through

DEP, as well as support available from the Pennsylvania Partnership to Promote Natural Gas Vehicles (P3NGV).

P3NGV is a U.S. Department of Energy funded initiative managed by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to provide objective information to fleet managers in southeastern Pennsylvania on the benefits of using CNG as a fuel.

The partnership thanks TMA Bucks, TMA of Chester County, Delaware County TMA, Greater Valley Forge TMA, and the Partnership TMA for their help in arranging and hosting the workshops.

Registration is required for these free workshops

For information, visit DEP Natural Gas Vehicle Program webpage.

DEP Fines Northampton County Company For Air Quality Violations

Northampton Generating Company, LP will pay a $119,354 fine as part of a consent assessment of civil penalty, the Department of Environmental Protection announced Tuesday. The agreement resolves air emissions violations from late 2009 through the first half of 2012.

"The company is now in compliance," DEP Northeast Regional Director Mike Bedrin said. "We set a high but fair bar for environmental compliance, which is how Pennsylvania has achieved significant improvements in air quality across the state in recent years."

Northampton Generating, based in Northampton Borough, produces electricity using different types of fuel, including coal, ash, coke, and a fuel derived from tires. As part of its operating permit, the facility's boiler is equipped with several continuous emission monitoring systems that provide data on carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and opacity. The company must regularly report the emissions data, which DEP reviews for compliance.

DEP confirmed in its review of the emissions data that the company submitted invalid data on a daily basis from April 1 to June 20, 2012. DEP also found the company had failed to meet emissions limits for carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide five times between the last quarter of 2009 and the second quarter of 2012.

Northampton Generating has paid two other civil penalties for air quality violations in the last five years, totaling $1,900. Those violations were related to boiler emissions and late filling of reports.

The $119,354 penalty will be paid to the state's Clean Air Fund.

For more information, call 570-826-2511.

NewsClip: Northampton Power Plant Will Pay Fine

Community Leaders Urge President To Move On Climate Change

Twenty community leaders got together Monday in State College to express their concern and frustration with lack of action on climate change by the President as well as Administration officials charged with protecting clean air and public health, not to mention Congress.

"This administration has taken tangible steps toward reducing our ballooning contributions to climate change by increasing fuel efficiency and tailpipe pollution standards. While these steps are important, much more needs to be done," said Cricket Hunter, a parent and Director of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light.

"President Obama should be commended for his clear statements about climate change, and his stated commitment to action, but he has yet to take action to cut industrial carbon pollution from power plants. People of all faiths recognize that climate change threatens both people and planet, and that caring for Creation also means caring for the most vulnerable people: those who are hurt first and worst by climate disruption."

Following a deadly and costly year of extreme weather events in 2012, where Americans watched climate change happen right before their own eyes, including right here in State College, Pennsylvania, many in attendance at todays press conference say policy makers should now be crystal clear on their marching orders.

"The President and other leaders in Washington need to quickly move forward with a climate solution that: protects health; creates jobs; secures our energy future through clean energy investments; and, most importantly, reduces the threat of catastrophic climate change," says Steve Sywensky, owner of the popular Fly Fishers Paradise in State College.

"Developing a Carbon Pollution Standard that will effectively limit and reduce the dangerous industrial carbon pollution that causes climate change needs to be a top priority for the President, the EPA and Congress."

For more information contact Ed Perry, Pennsylvania Outreach Coordinator, National Wildlife Federation, State College by sending email to: paglobalwarmingoutreach@gmail.com or call 814-880-9593.

PUC Recognizes Global Wind Day On June 15

The Public Utility Commission recognized Global Wind Day June 15, a worldwide event, coordinated by the European Wind Energy Association and the Global Wind Energy Council.

The day is designed to help people discover wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to change our world.

"Pennsylvania embraces an all of the above and below approach to energy generation and alternative and renewable energy resources, such as wind, and recognizes them as key components of Pennsylvania's current energy portfolio," said PUC Commissioner Pamela Witmer and Chairman Robert F. Powelson in a joint statement.

"It is important to have a diversified energy generation portfolio. Wind, as with other alternative energy sources, can be a job enhancer. There are 22 facilities manufacturing and assembling components for the wind industry in our state," said Commissioner Witmer.

In 2004, Pennsylvania's General Assembly enacted the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act (AEPS), which requires that 18 percent of all energy generation come from alternative and renewable energy sources by 2021. Of that, 8 percent must be derived from Tier I renewable energy sources, like wind. According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), in 2011, the percentage of Pennsylvania power provided by wind was 0.9 percent.

More facts about Pennsylvania wind energy follow:

-- Pennsylvania is home to the first commercial wind farm east of the Mississippi River, located in Somerset County;

-- Pennsylvania currently has over 660 wind turbines, representing approximately 1,300 MW and ranks 15th in the nation in total installed wind capacity;

-- Pennsylvania was ranked 9th nationally for new capacity wind installations in 2012; and, Pennsylvania's installed wind power avoids over 1.75 million metric tons of carbon dioxide

emissions annually

"A clear indicator of the importance of wind in Pennsylvania is the fact that the Commonwealth served as a founding member of the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, a bipartisan group dedicated to the development of the nation's wind energy resources to meet domestic energy demand, reduce dependence on imported energy, collaborate on best practices and regulatory consistency and spur economic development," Commissioner Witmer and Chairman Powelson said in the joint statement.

Registrations Now Being Accepted For Delaware River Sojourn June 22-29

Interested paddlers are reminded that it is not too late to register for the 19th Annual Delaware River Sojourn, which will be held from June 22 through June 29. Individuals who sign up by June 15 can take advantage of a registration fee discount of $10/day.

The Delaware Sojourn is a guided paddling, learning, and camping adventure on and along the Delaware River. Participants may sign up for the entire eight-day trip or for the day(s) of their choice.

The cost for sojourners who register on or before June 15 is $80 per day for participants 16 and older and $60 per day for ages 15 and under. An additional one-time $5 per person insurance fee will be charged to non-members of the American Canoe Association, which sanctions the event. Add $10 to the daily rates for registrations made after June 15.

Split into daily trips ranging from six to 10 miles, a total of nearly 60 miles of the main stem Delaware River will be paddled. This year's sojourn will also revisit the Lackawaxen River, a Pa. tributary to the Delaware River.

From the pristine wilds of the upper basin, through the tranquility of the Delaware Water Gap, to the suburban lower Delaware and urban tidewaters around Philadelphia, the sojourn offers a full experience of the river to paddlers of all skill levels.

"The 2013 theme, Our Remarkable River, is based upon the 2012 National Park Service publication Delaware River Basin Wild and Scenic River Values, which highlights the characteristics and values that make the Delaware River worthy of special protection," said Richard Egan, chair of the sojourn steering committee.

"Six of the eight days are paddles on stretches of the Delaware included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Three-quarters of the non-tidal Delaware River and sections of several tributaries are federally designated as such, which is noteworthy given that only a little over one-quarter of one percent of all U.S. river miles is included in this national system," Egan continued.

In addition to paddling the river, experiencing nature's wonders, and enjoying the camaraderie of the "sojourn family," sojourners can participate in several interesting programs that are being offered this year.

For example, they can tour the Roebling Aqueduct Toll House on June 22 and the Zane Grey Museum on June 23, have dinner and tour the Grey Towers National Historic Site (which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2013) on June 25, take a trip on the Steamboat SPLASH, an authentic steam powered stern wheel paddle boat, on June 28, and tour the Independence Seaport Museum and its historic ships, the Olympia & Becuna, on June 29.

Registration fees cover the guided river trip, single or tandem kayak rental (with paddle and PFD), shuttle transportation, all educational programs, most meals, a souvenir T-shirt, and

optional overnight camping sites.

On June 24, all rentals will be rafts when the sojourn paddles the Lackawaxen River. Participants may bring their own river-worthy boat, but please note that aluminum canoes are not recommended.

"The Delaware Sojourn received a grant from corporate donor ShopRite to help subsidize the 2013 event," said Egan. "This is ShopRite's second annual contribution, and the steering committee is appreciative of its continued support."

The Delaware Sojourn also received a grant from the PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers to help fund the 2013 event.

Additional financial assistance this year is being provided by Café Devine, Callicoon, N.Y., and multiple individual donors. The sojourn is also grateful for its many partners who are providing livery and shuttle service, camping locations, meals, the 2013 T-shirt design, programs, and safety and logistical support.

By getting individuals out on the river to experience it first-hand, the Delaware Sojourn aims to promote stewardship of the Delaware River Watershed and its resources. The non-profit, annual event is organized by a steering committee comprised of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and individual volunteers, including the Delaware River Basin Commission.

This year's committee is chaired by Richard Egan, a volunteer with the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Other Sojourns

Click Here for the statewide sojourn schedule from the PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers.

Online Registration

Registration details, daily plans, event guidelines, and more are available on the Delaware River Sojourn website. Individuals can register online with PayPal until the day before they wish to paddle or they can mail in the downloadable registration form with payment; mail-in registrations must be received by June 20.

A limited number of "walk-in" registrants will be accepted on the morning of each sojourn day, provided that space is still available on the trip.

Registration-related questions and discount availability inquiries may be directed to Dejay Branch, Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition, at 646-205-2724 or send email to: info@riversojourn.com.

Diverse Coalition Aims At Transportation Funding For Walking, Bicycling

Legislators, bicycling and walking enthusiasts, health organizations and other supporters gathered on the state Capitol steps Tuesday calling for comprehensive transportation funding that includes a first-ever investment in active modes of transportation – walking and bicycling.

Rally participants praised the State Senate for recent passage of Senate Bill 1 (Rafferty-R-Montgomery), which included dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as an important first-step in support of active transportation.

Currently, Pennsylvania lags behind other states when it comes to dedicated funding for these modes of travel. Even though bicycling and walking compose 12 percent of all trips in Pennsylvania, NO state transportation funding is dedicated to bicycle or pedestrian projects.

Supporters at the rally raised key reasons why the state should invest in more walking and biking pathways around the state. Providing more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly roads and communities improves safety and opportunities for more physical activity. Safe spaces for walking and biking are good for the environment and can draw in more tourists boosting jobs and the economy.

Highlighting the growing importance of alternative modes of travel, Sen. Mike Folmer (R-Lebanon); Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton); Rep. Tom Killion (R-Delaware County) and Rep. Mark Longietti (D-Mercer) announced the creation of a legislative Bicycle Caucus. This caucus will be comprised of lawmakers who support ways to promote bicycling in the Commonwealth.

"I praise these co-chairs for launching this Bicycle Caucus — their bi-partisan commitment demonstrates how important it is to think about walking and bicycling as an environmentally friendly mode of transportation, an economic engine, and a means to improved public health across Pennsylvania," said Steve Doster, who heads Walk & Ride PA, a coalition dedicated to state funding for bicycle and pedestrian pathways in the state. Doster also runs Mission:Readiness, an national security organization of retired generals and admirals that focus on childhood obesity issues.

"For all of these reasons that benefit our state, legislators need to listen to the supporters here today and make certain the final comprehensive transportation funding bill includes dedicated funding for bicycles and pedestrians," said Doster.

Doster was joined by Brad Mallory, former PennDOT Secretary and current deputy secretary there, Shaun Underkoffler of the York City Bureau of Health. York has made a commitment to create a more walkable, bicycle assessable city.

Also speaking at the event were Jennifer Ebersole of the American Heart Association, Alex Doty of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, George Wolff of the Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition and Dan Miles, who survived a bike accident in 2012.

The speakers focused on four reasons why funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities is so important to the Commonwealth:

-- Safety: Pennsylvania had 4,770 pedestrian and 1,379 bicyclist traffic-related injuries in 2012. One of the reasons for the number of accidents is because Pennsylvania has more rural roads than any other state that are shared by cars, trucks, farm equipment, bicycles and non-motorized vehicles. Designated walkways and bicycle friendly roads improve safe travel for all users.

-- Obesity: The rates of obesity among children have tripled within the last three decades. Studies show that half the adults and adolescents don't get the recommended amount of daily physical activity. Better connecting communities for walking and biking will help people build physical activity into their daily routines.

-- Air Pollution: Cars produce 30 percent of the CO2 emissions and 80 percent of the CO emissions each year. In addition, a trip to work by bicycle keeps about 10 pounds of pollutants out of the air.

-- Jobs: Increasing walking and biking paths in the state is good for the economy. Bikers and hikers, for example, have brought in nearly $24 million in revenue to the Great Allegheny Passage of Western Pennsylvania. Bicycle friendly trails and roads will open Pennsylvania up to a larger share of the $46.9 billion that bicyclists spend each year for food, lodging, gifts and local entertainment.

Walk & Ride PA encourages people to contact their legislators and tell them that

Pennsylvania needs a comprehensive transportation funding plan that supports a first-ever state investment in active modes of transportation to expand Pennsylvania's walking and biking pathways.

For more information, visit the Walk and Ride PA website.

DCNR Invests In Connections To Great Allegheny Passage Trail

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Friday announced it will invest $2 million in capital budget monies to improve the connection between the Great Allegheny Passage and Point State Park in Pittsburgh.

"Pennsylvania is home to one of the most spectacular rail-trails in country, the Great Allegheny Passage," DCNR State Parks Bureau Director Dave Kemmerer said. "This connector trail will bring the trail into the newly renovated Point State Park, along the Monongahela Wharf, to Pittsburgh's iconic fountain."

The connector project will be a traffic-free, non-motorized ramp that will connect Point State Park to the western side of the Mon Wharf Landing. Currently, the only access in this area is a four-foot-wide path adjacent to Interstate 376, and it requires passage through a service parking lot at Point State Park.

This improved connection, along with a planned switchback on the Mon Wharf, will allow commuters, bikers, downtown residents and the users of Great Allegheny Passage to continue all the way into Point State Park on a traffic-free, nonmotorized route. The connector project design already is underway.

Ceremonies at Point State Park at 1 p.m. on Saturday will include the unveiling of the "Forks of the Ohio" marker at the park marking the western end of the Great Allegheny Passage.

DCNR Deputy Secretary Cindy Dunn, who will participate in the nine-mile bike ride from Sandcastle to Point State Park Saturday, said throughout the years the department has invested close to $10 million in grant funds in completing the Great Allegheny Passage.

"We've made investments not only in the construction of the path, but also in connections to trail towns, to tie destinations together, to provide visitors with opportunities for wellness, recreation and a chance to connect with nature, and to protect our history and natural resources," Dunn said.

For more information, visit the Great Allegheny Passage website.

NewsClips:
State Grant To Fund Link To Point State Park
Point State Park Welcomes Back Its Fountain

First Upper Delaware BioBlitz Coming To Wayne County June 29



An unusual opportunity to experience the diversity of life on a unique parcel of private property, and to interact with renowned scientists who will travel to Northeastern Wayne County to catalogue those life forms, will occur on June 29 during the first Upper Delaware BioBlitz.

During the event, biologists and volunteers will

gather to collect and identify as many living things as possible on a demarcated property in a 24-hour period. The public is invited to experience the results at the host property owned by the Norcross Wildlife Foundation in Starlight, PA.

(Photo: Volunteers examine the remains of a snapping turtle found on the site where the first Upper Delaware BioBlitz will be held.)

Teams of researchers will focus on specific categories of life, including aquatic macroinvertebrates, birds, botany, fish, fungi, reptiles and amphibians, invertebrates, mammals, mosses and lichens.

"The event is a way to highlight the richness of the environment in which we play, work and live and to help us see our lives in the context of all the other living things with which we co-exist," says BioBlitz organizer, Steve Schwartz.

"It's also an opportunity for scientists and amateur naturalists to work together and share information with the public about what they find," Schwartz adds. "The entire collection of species identified, along with vast biota of microscopic species, are interdependent and nourished by the mineral and organic composition of the soils and the air and water. People experienced in various disciplines working together at this event reflects the interdependence of life in the natural environment."

Schwartz became inspired to organize the Upper Delaware BioBlitz after attending the 2012 Monroe County BioBlitz at the Josie Porter Farm in Stroudsburg, PA as a member of the mushroom team.

That event catalogued 1,078 different species of plants and animals on the property in a 24-hour period, with the greatest number of species found by the invertebrate and botany teams.

"It was a great event," says Schwartz. "Why not do the same in the Upper Delaware watershed, which has incredible biodiversity to celebrate? We hope to find at least as many species overall and probably more aquatic species given the richness of the site's aquatic habitats."

The scientists are asked to identify what they find down to the species level, if possible. Some of this will be done in the field either by photos or visual identification. Other organisms will be brought back to the collection tables for further identification through careful analysis. Some of the life forms will be identified through dissecting scopes available on site.

The teams all have specialized methods of collection depending upon the groups. For example, the mammal team will erect mist nets to collect bats and the invertebrate team will utilize different types of traps for insects.

All of the data will be compiled into an inventory of species collected during the event. This information will be publicly available and may help future scientists understand what was living on the site at this particular time. If rare or endangered species are found, they will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory database.

Past surveys in the Upper Delaware region indicate that some interesting species reside on or near the site. Partly for this reason, some team members will travel from Pittsburgh and Philadelphia as well as parts of New York to participate.

The public should attend for an opportunity to meet scientists of different disciplines, see what they have collected and take a tour of the site to learn how different species live and thrive in the context of the overall property.

"The property itself is iconic, surrounded by three different water bodies (Shehawken Creek, the West Branch and Main Stem of the Delaware River), with spring seeps and spring fed

pools on site," says Schwartz. "It forms the northern border of the Pennsylvania side of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a National Park Service unit of the National Wild and Scenic River System."

Bring the family from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 29th to view the specimens, talk to the experts and enjoy a tour, all at no charge. Teams and sponsoring organizations will provide information and offer programs on their particular areas of expertise.

Hunt for mushrooms with the Delaware Highlands Mushroom Society and help to identify them. Explore the site's natural wonders on a short walk with Heron's Eye Communications, followed by a guided writing exercise to capture aspects of the experience. Join botanist Sarah Chamberlain of the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society to search for native plants and learn how to start your own garden.

Participating organizations are Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Delaware Highlands Mushroom Society, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Friends of the Upper Delaware, National Park Service, NEPA Audubon Society, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, Wayne Conservation District and the Wayne County Community Foundation.

Volunteers are still needed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 29 for as little as 1 to 2 hours at a time. Duties vary from handing out programs, helping with parking, answering visitor questions, assisting with event tables, monitoring trash and cleaning up the site afterward. Volunteers are also needed to help set up the site on June 27.

For more information, visit the Upper Delaware Bioblitz website, the Upper Delaware Bioblitz Facebook page or contact volunteer coordinator, Joann Morsch by sending email to: jomorsch12@verizon.net or 570-798-2530 for details.

Fort Indiantown Gap Offers Tours Of Rare Butterfly Habitat In July



Visitors are invited to see the only population of rare Regal Fritillary butterflies in Pennsylvania on four days in July at Fort Indiantown Gap, near Annville, Lebanon County.

Free guided tours will begin at 10 a.m. on July 5, 6, 11, and 12. Those wishing to attend should arrive at least 30 minutes early to fill out necessary paperwork, attend a mandatory safety and orientation briefing, and receive driving instructions. Tours will last approximately three hours, but attendees can leave earlier if needed.

The tours, which have been offered for more than 10 years, allow the public to see this rare butterfly and its associated habitat on military training ranges, as well as many other natural spectacles on the 17,000-acre military post, which serves as the Pennsylvania National Guard's headquarters.

"Fort Indiantown Gap is one of the busiest National Guard training centers in the country," said retired Brig. Gen. Jerry Beck, deputy commander of the Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Site. "And although the primary purpose of the installation is the training of soldiers for their combat mission, we also place a very high priority being environmentally friendly and conserving precious land and ecosystems for the future.

"Our guided butterfly tours promise to be an exciting and educational afternoon because our biologists are knowledgeable not only about butterflies, but birds, plants and other insects."

Participants should meet at the Fort Indiantown Gap Recreation Center in Building

13-190, located at the intersection of Asher Miner Road, Clement Avenue and Route 443 (GPS coordinates in decimal degrees: North 40.431, West 76.591).

Visitors are encouraged to bring cameras and binoculars and should wear appropriate clothing and footwear for a nature walk on well-maintained or mowed trails. No reservations are required and no rain dates will be scheduled.

The tours also will include information related to current efforts to restore native grassland habitat across Pennsylvania and current efforts to raise Regal Fritillary caterpillars from eggs in a lab with support from the PA Wild Resource Program and in partnership with ZooAmerica North American Wildlife Park and Pennsylvania State University. The ultimate goal is repatriating (returning) the Regal Fritillary to areas where they were located in the recent past.

The Regal Fritillary is considered a Pennsylvania responsibility species of immediate conservation concern and is the symbol of the PA Natural Heritage Program. Fort Indiantown Gap is home to 112 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan priority species.

It also provides a wide variety of habitats for 36 species of mammals, 143 breeding species of birds, 34 species of reptiles and amphibians, 25 species of fish, 792 species of plants, and many notable species of invertebrates including 85 species of butterflies and 243 species of moths.

The installation also features 1,000 acres of scrub oak and pitch pine barrens and 3,000 acres of native grassland habitat – the largest in the state.

Fort Indiantown Gap is the only live-fire, maneuver military training facility in Pennsylvania. It balances one of the region's most ecologically diverse areas with a military mission that annually supports 19,000 Pennsylvania National Guard personnel and more than 130,000 other states' Guard, military, law enforcement, and civilian personnel each year.

For more information about the tours, visit the Regal Fritillary Habitat webpage, send email to: RA-DMVA-Wildlife@pa.gov, or call the Wildlife Office at 717-861-2449.

Katie Krause Winner Of Delaware Highlands Conservancy/Yeaman Scholarship

On June 12, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy awarded its annual Delaware Highlands Conservancy/Yeaman Scholarship in the amount of $1,000 to Katie Krause, a 2013 graduate of Delaware Valley High School.

The scholarship has been awarded annually since 2004 to a student planning to pursue a field in environmental studies in college.

Katie will attend Pennsylvania State University in the fall, majoring in biology. She plans to continue her education by earning a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from George Washington University, bringing her closer to her planned career at the National Institute of Health or the Environmental Protection Agency, where, as Katie explains, she can "work with the government to research, protect, and influence the future world, its people, and the environment so vital to the survival of all."

Active in her school and community, Katie was an Officer in the Drama Club, the Vice President of her class in her junior year, and graduates now as the President of her class, where she acts as the Student Representative on the Delaware Valley School District Board.

She is a counselor for the Vacation Bible School held at St. Joseph's Church and a volunteer from the student council in other community service activities including Pennies for Patients, Toys for Tots, Relay for Life, and in collecting and distributing food items to local food

pantries.

Her interest in environmental studies began when she took Environmental Science and was intrigued and inspired, as she explains, “to make a difference in the world we depend so much upon."

Given in honor of the Conservancy’s founder, Barbara Yeaman, the scholarship is open to students in school districts bordering the Upper Delaware River in New York and Pennsylvania. The scholarship embodies Barbara’s vision and the dedication of our members to protect our special Upper Delaware River region now and for future generations.

To continue to inspire youth, encourage study and careers in natural science, and develop talent like Katie’s, contributions to the Conservancy are encouraged. People interested in supporting the scholarship fund and other environmental education and conservation activities can donate online at the Delaware Highlands Conservancy website or by mailing a contribution to PO Box 218, Hawley, PA 18428.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy works in partnership with landowners and communities to protect the healthy lands and forests, clean waters, eagles and eagle habitat, locally sustainable economies, and quality of life in the Upper Delaware River region.

For more information on the Conservancy and how it connects people to the lands where they live, work, and play, visit the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, call 570-226-3164 or 845-583-1010, or send email to: info@delawarehighlands.org.

June 12 DCNR Resource Newsletter Now Available

The June 12 issue of the Department Of Conservation and Natural Resources online Resource newsletter is now available. Sign up to receive your own copy at the bottom of the June 12 issue webpage.

Pennsylvania Adds 22 Farms, Nearly 2,000 Acres To Preservation Program

Pennsylvania’s Agricultural Land Preservation Board Thursday safeguarded 1,906 additional acres on 23 farms in 11 counties through the state’s nationally renowned farmland preservation program.

The board preserved farms in Berks, Bucks, Cambria, Columbia, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Wayne counties.

Since the program began in 1988, state, county and local governments have invested nearly $1.2 billion to preserve 475,000 acres on 4,426 farms in 57 counties for future agricultural production.

“Our farmland preservation program plays a critical role in keeping agriculture the cornerstone of Pennsylvania’s economy,” Agriculture Secretary George Greig said. “The producers who preserve their farms are helping ensure our prime farmland stays in agriculture production for generations to come, even against the challenges of population growth and urbanization.”

In its 25th year, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program identifies properties and slows the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses.

The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements, also called development rights, from owners of quality farmland.

In some cases, the federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program provides additional assistance. Last fiscal year, Pennsylvania received a record $6.1 million in federal reimbursements.

For more information, visit Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program webpage.

Opportunity To Bid On DEP Well Plugging Project In Washington County

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of an opportunity to bid on an oil and gas well plugging project in Washington County.

Help Wanted: PA Resources Council Western Regional Director

The PA Resources Council is seeking candidates to fill the position of Western Regional Director based in Pittsburgh. Application deadline July 5. Click Here for details.

Help Wanted: Chesapeake Bay Foundation Stream Buffer Specialist

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation-PA Office is seeking candidates to fill the position of Stream Buffer Specialist serving Southcentral Pennsylvania. Resumes are due by June 24. Click Here for details.

Help Wanted: ClearWater Conservancy Land Conservation Manager

The ClearWater Conservancy in Centre County is seeking candidates to fill the Land Conservation Manager position. Resumes are due by June 24. Click Here for details.

Your 2 Cents: Issues On Advisory Committee Agendas

This section gives you a continuously updated thumbnail sketch of issues to be considered in upcoming advisory committee meetings where the agendas have been released

June 18-- CANCELED. Environmental Quality Board meeting. The next scheduled meeting is July 16. *(formal notice)*

June 18-- CANCELED. DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. The next scheduled meeting is July 16. *(formal notice)*

June 18-- Agenda Released. State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
-- Approval of New, Upgrades, Reciprocity Applications
-- Operator Falsification
<> Click Here for available handouts.

June 19-- NEW. PA Energy Development Authority meeting. 16th Floor, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. *(formal notice)*

June 19-- Agenda Released. DEP Agricultural Advisory Board meeting. Susquehanna Room A, DEP Southcentral Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.
-- Revision to CAFO Permits
-- Potential future focus of Board
<> Click Here for available handouts

June 20-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission meeting on flood warning system, an update of the Comprehensive Plan for the basin and other issues. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 1:30. *(formal notice and agenda)*

June 26-- DEP Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Mine Rescue Training Facility, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00.

July 2-- NEW. DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

July 10-- NEW. DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:30.

July 10-- NEW. DEP Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Mining Equipment meeting. Fayette County Health Center, Uniontown. 10:00.

July 11-- NEW. DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting. DEP Cambria District Mining Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 9:00.

July 16-- NEW. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

July 16-- NEW. DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.

July 24-- NEW. DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

Click Here for links to DEP's Advisory Committee webpages.

DEP Calendar of Events [Visit DEP's new and improved Calendar]

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for awards and grants and other recognition programs. NEW means new from last week.

June 28-- CFA PennWorks Water Supply, Wastewater Funding

June 28-- NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program
June 30-- ARIPPA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Grants
July 1-- Northeast PA Environmental Partnership Awards
July 9-- Abandoned Mine Reclamation Watershed Heroes
July 12-- PROP Recycling Film Fest
July 19-- CFA High Performance Building Funding
July 19-- CFA Alternative, Clean Energy Funding
July 26-- DEP Alternative Energy Vehicle Grants
July 31-- NEW. Keep PA Beautiful Fresh Paint Days PA Grants
July 31-- CFA Act 13 Abandoned Mine, Watershed, Recreation Funding
August 1-- DPW Child Care Center Environmental Health Grants
August 9-- Foundation for PA Watershed Grants LOI
September 15-- CFA High Performance Building Funding
September 15-- CFA Alternative, Clean Energy Funding
September 30-- DEP Recycling Performance Grant
September 30-- Project Learning Tree Classroom Grants
October 31-- PRC Lens On Litter Contest
December 31-- DEP PA Sunshine Rebates (or before if funds run out)

-- Visit the DEP Grants and Loan Programs webpage for more ideas on how to get financial assistance for environmental projects.

Budget/Quick Clips

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

Corbett Fires DCNR Secretary Over Racial Epithet
One Word Cost DCNR Secretary His Job (Email Copies)
Corbett Forces DCNR Secretary Allan To Resign
Corbett Forces DCNR Secretary To Resign
Corbett Forces State Forests Chief To Resign
Budget
House Approves $28.3 Billion Budget
House Democrats Sharply Criticize GOP Budget
Corbett, GOP Leaders Meet On Budget
It's Crunch Time For Budget In Harrisburg
Corbett Not Backing Down On Big Policy Issues
Corbett Talks Tough, But It's Up To Lawmakers
Drilling Companies Pay $202.4 Million In Fees
Counties, Towns Share $202 Million In Drilling Fees
Western PA Counties Reap Increase In Drilling Fees
Washington County Municipalities Receive Impact Fees
Lehigh, Northampton Receive $545,000 In Drilling Fees
$3.4 Million In Drilling Fees For Philadelphia Area
Corbett Defends Impact Fee Over Severance Tax

Governor: Senate Transportation Plan Needs To Be Cut
House Panel Questions PennDOT Secretary On Funding
Rendell Supports Passing Transportation Funding
PA Struggles To Chip Away At Bridge Problem
Editorial: Time To Boost Transportation
Editorial: Transportation Bill Worth Every Penny
Now Playing (Again) Film Tax Credits
Op-Ed: Film Tax Credit Raw Deal For Taxpayers

Other

Crayola Starts Recycling Program For Markers
Battery Recycler Leaves Poisoned Legacy
Weis Markets Coverts Cooking Grease Into Fuel, Methane
Coal Project Concerns Some Living In Ligonier
PGW Soliciting Energy Efficiency Projects To Fund
WindStax Has Windmills For Unexpected Places
Utilities Push Bill To Retain Cut-Off Authority
PGW Gets Go-Ahead For Natural Gas Cars
Op-Ed: Time For EPA To Finalize Carbon Standard
Pittsburgh Begins Cool Roofs Program To Cut Energy Use
Northampton Power Plant Will Pay Fine
Exelon Scraps Plan To Expand Limerick Nuclear Plant
Power Plant Preserves A Great Place For Kids
Lyme Disease Cases Skyrocket
Firewood Quarantine Aims To Stamp Out Pests
Appalachian Trail Museum Inducts 2013 Hall Of Fame Class
Groups Hopes To Revive Luzerne Trail Project
Rattlesnake Hunts Tradition In Some PA Towns
Conewago Trail Hike Includes Wetlands, Farmland, Forest
Rails-To-Trails Movement Continues To Grow
Officially Opening Great Allegheny Passage Trail
Appalachian Trail Conservancy Executive Director Resigns
Senator Looking To Upgrade Law On Electric Bikes
Point State Park Welcomes Back Its Fountain
State Grant To Fund Link To Point State Park
Pittsburgh Eaglet Leaves Home Early
PA Birds Contribute To Collection Of Bird Sounds
New Partnership Launches Hunting Works For PA

Marcellus Shale NewsClips

Here are NewsClips on topics related to Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling---

Corbett Defends Impact Fee Over Severance Tax
Drilling Companies Pay $202.4 Million In Fees
Counties, Towns Share $202 Million In Drilling Fees

Western PA Counties Reap Increase In Drilling Fees
Washington County Municipalities Receive Impact Fees
Lehigh, Northampton Receive $545,000 In Drilling Fees
$3.4 Million In Drilling Fees For Philadelphia Area
Marcellus Shale Royalties Rising
Royalties From Marcellus Gas Hit $731 Million In 2012
Report: Natural Gas Development Economic Boon In PA
Gas Drilling Stays In Limbo In NE PA
Op-Ed: The Way Forward On Marcellus Shale
Gas Industry Targets Steelers Bars For Workers
Strange Case Of Rep. White a/k/a Victoria Adams
Clamor Over Rep. White's Online Personas Grows
Heyl: What's In A Name? Ask Jesse White
Editorial: Feds And Fracking, Stop The Meddling
Allegheny County Parks Considered For Drilling
Allegheny County Considers Drilling Under Parks
McKees Rocks Repositions Itself To Serve Shale Drillers
Corbett To Keynote Natural Gas Industry Summit
Corbett Touts Shale Gas Boom, Is Met By Protest
Corbett: Shale Gas Boom Eyed By Foreign Business
PGW Gets Go-Ahead For Natural Gas Cars

Financial/Other States

Drilling Support Company Moving From NJ To PA
Constitution Files For New Natural Gas Pipeline In PA

Flooding/Watershed NewsClips

Here are NewsClips on watershed topics from around the state--

Groups Want Alcosan To Include Green Infrastructure
Susquehanna Dam Relicensing Comes With Responsibilities
Animals Pitch In At York County Chesapeake Bay Friendly Farm
Sick Bass Spur Effort To Seek Impaired Status For Susquehanna
State Stormwater Mandate To Affect Lancaster Building Projects
Ephrata Signs On To Cocalico Creek Watershed Study
Little Sewickley Creek Seeks Exceptional Designation
Duff Run Creek In Penn Hills Contaminated By Aluminium
McCandless Receives Rain Garden Grant From Audubon
River Watchdogs Air Salt Pile Concerns To DEP

Regulations, Technical Guidance & Permits

No new regulations were published this week. Pennsylvania Bulletin - June 15, 2013

Proposed Regulations Open For Comment - DEP webpage

Proposed Regulations With Closed Comment Periods - DEP webpage

DEP Regulatory Agenda - DEP webpage

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of draft technical guidance on the certification of water and wastewater system operators and final guidance on state-funded water supply response actions.

DEP also published notice of Nutrient Credit Trading Program certification requests and changes to the list of companies certified to perform radon-related activities (PA Bulletin page 3295).

The Fish and Boat Commission published notice of the proposed addition of the Eastern Spadefoot to the state endangered species list.

DRAFT: DEP ID: 391-2300-002. Title: Operator Certification Program State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators. Description: This guidance serves to further document the policies and procedures the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators will follow to administer its responsibilities as defined by the Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Operator Certification Act and regulations in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 302 (relating to administration of the water and wastewater systems operators' certification program).

FINAL: DEP ID: 262-5800-001. Title: Guidance for Commonwealth-Funded Water Supply Response Actions. Description: This guidance is designed to assist the Department personnel in implementing Commonwealth-funded water supply response actions as authorized by the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act and the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act. The changes to the attached document are nonsubstantive and include those reflecting the Department program reorganizations.

Technical Guidance Comment Deadlines - DEP webpage

Recently Closed Comment Periods For Technical Guidance - DEP webpage

Technical Guidance Recently Finalized - DEP webpage

Copies of Final Technical Guidance - DEP webpage

Calendar Of Events

Upcoming legislative meetings, conferences, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. NEW means new from last week. Go to the online Calendar webpage.

Click on Agenda Released on calendar entries to see the NEW meeting agendas published this week.

June 17-- NEW. Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider House Bill 1437 (Adolph-R-Delaware) FY 2013-14 General Fund state budget-- summary, House Bill 493 (Gabler-R-Clearfield) Capital Budget Reforms-- summary. Rules Committee Room. Off the Floor.

June 17-- NEW. House Transportation Committee holds a hearing on Senate Bill 1 (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) providing further transportation infrastructure funding. Room 205 Ryan Building. 10:00.

June 17-- CANCELED. Environmental Issues Forum by the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. Dr. David J. Nowak, Ph.D, project leader for the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, will discuss the agency's innovative "i-Tree" program. Nowak was the driving force behind development of i-Tree's suite of software tools that helps users assess and manage urban tree populations to make for effective urban forest management and better understanding of the ecosystem services provided by community trees. Room G-50 Irvis Building. Noon.

June 18-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider House Bill 387 (Gillespie-R-York) eliminating civil penalties for sewage enforcement officers-- summary. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.

June 18-- NEW. House Transportation Committee holds a hearing on Senate Bill 1 (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) providing further transportation infrastructure funding. Room 140 Main Capitol. 10:00.

June 18-- NEW. Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider House Bill 1325 (Maloney-R-Berks) and Senate Bill 946 (Baker-R-Luzerne) amending Act 537 to provide that on-lot septic systems approved by DEP meet anti-degradation requirements-- summary, House Bill 34 (Harper-R-Montgomery) setting green building standards for state-owned or leased buildings-- summary. Room 156 (Majority Caucus Room). 9:30.

June 18-- CANCELED. Environmental Quality Board meeting. The next scheduled meeting is July 16. *(formal notice)*

June 18-- CANCELED. DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. The next scheduled meeting is July 16. *(formal notice)*

June 18-- Agenda Released. State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

June 19-- NEW. PA Energy Development Authority meeting. 16th Floor, Rachel Carson

Building. 9:00. *(formal notice)*

June 19-- Agenda Released. DEP Agricultural Advisory Board meeting. Susquehanna Room A, DEP Southcentral Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.

June 20-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission meeting on flood warning system, an update of the Comprehensive Plan for the basin and other issues. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 1:30. *(formal notice and agenda)*

June 25-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Agenda TBA. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.

June 26-- DEP Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Mine Rescue Training Facility, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00.

July 2-- NEW. DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

July 10-- NEW. DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:30.

July 10-- NEW. DEP Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Mining Equipment meeting. Fayette County Health Center, Uniontown. 10:00.

July 11-- NEW. DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting. DEP Cambria District Mining Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 9:00.

July 16-- NEW. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

July 16-- NEW. DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.

July 24-- NEW. DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 13-- Senate Game and Fisheries Committee holds a hearing on elk management and the 100th anniversary of the reintroduction of elk into Pennsylvania. Elk County Visitors Center, Benezette. 2:00.

DEP Calendar of Events [Visit DEP's new and improved Calendar]

Note: The Environmental Education Workshop Calendar is no longer available from the PA Center for Environmental Education because funding for the Center was eliminated in the FY 2011-12 state budget. The PCEE website was also shutdown, but some content was moved to

the PA Association of Environmental Educators' website.

Senate Committee Schedule House Committee Schedule

You can watch the Senate Floor Session and House Floor Session live online.

Stories Invited

Send your stories, photos and links to videos about your project, environmental issues or programs for publication in the **PA Environment Digest** to: DHess@CrisciAssociates.com.

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