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High School Students Determined To Continue Efforts To Have PA Recognize Eastern Hellbenders:

By B.J. Small, [Chesapeake Bay Foundation-PA](#)



The teenagers stood up as Heather entered the room, wheeled in by Shanna Gay, her caretaker.

The students, who care about clean water and critters that depend on it, gently stroked Heather's smooth skin and then gathered around for a group photo.

They studied, volunteered, and met with legislators on behalf of the 18-year-old and others like her for more than two years.

For some of the young people visiting the [Pittsburgh Zoo](#) and PPG Aquarium that day, it was their first chance to actually meet an [Eastern hellbender](#).

Members of the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Student Leadership Council](#) installed hellbender nesting boxes and sampled streams for evidence of hellbenders.

Their crowning achievement was [Senate passage of Senate Bill 658](#) [in November 2017], which they wrote, that would designate the Eastern hellbender as

Pennsylvania's official state amphibian. But the measure stalled in a state House committee.

Co-sponsors of Senate Bill 658 with Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) were Senators Mike Regan (R-Cumberland), and Richard Alloway (R-Franklin).

"These are a bunch of bright kids," Sen. Yaw said of the CBF students when the bill was introduced. "They've got some good ideas. They studied this. We will do it. It showed them that they have a voice and it does make a difference."

"Long-term we are also looking to raise awareness for clean water in general, but within the legislative process as well, because it's an issue that is commonly overlooked," Anna Pauletta said. She was SLC president when the hellbender bill was introduced.

The students' hellbender campaign garnered local, state, and national attention. The effort made the [front page of the Wall Street Journal](#) and was a subject of the iconic [Mark Trail Sunday](#) comic strip.

A lack of streamside trees along Commonwealth waterways allows waters to warm, polluted runoff to enter rivers and streams, and silt to build up in streambeds. As a result, habitat for hellbenders has been degraded and their numbers have been decimated in streams where they were plentiful as recently as 1990.

Senate Bill 658 essentially expired when the 2017-18 legislative session ended November 30. But student leaders vow to go back to the drawing board and are determined to recognize and save the critter when the new session begins next year.

"We may write two bills next time, one for the House and one for the Senate," Mechanicsburg student Andrew Waldman said. "We're determined to make this happen through all our outreach, advocacy, and informing people as to why the hellbender is so important."

"We put too much work into it as a group," Fairfield student Travis Zimmerman added. "To just throw it away and move on to something else would be giving up on the hellbender, which we don't want to do."

"We are going to have to get more sponsors and keep pushing," Cumberland Valley student Lauren Braught said.

"I don't think we can possibly give up after putting all of this work and effort into such an amazing creature that we feel so passionate about," Abby Hebenton of Duquesne University and former SLC president said. "Now we see why this needs to be pushed through and we're more encouraged than ever to do it."

CBF's Student Leadership Program is open to high school students and is designed to give them a voice and an active role in clean water efforts in Pennsylvania.

More information about the campaign for the Eastern hellbender, go to [CBF's Hellbender](#) webpage.

Not Just A Central PA Issue

The hellbender is not only found in Central Pennsylvania, but also now in the Western part of the state.

Work by the Western PA Conservancy has documented the endangered hellbender species in rivers and streams throughout the region.

[Click Here](#) for more information.

(Photo: Students with Sen. Yaw (top), Eastern hellbender.)

NewsClip:

[Help The Indiana Hellbender!](#) - If Indiana Can Do It, So Can PA!

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[Add Your Name To Petition Urging House To Name The Hellbender Official State Amphibian](#)
[Senate Passes Bill To Designate hellbenders As PA's State Amphibian And Symbol Of The Importance Of Clean Water](#)

[Lycoming College's Hellbender Research Helps Advance Senate Bill For First Ever State Amphibian](#)

[Sen. Yaw, CBF Student Leaders Support Bill To Save Hellbenders And Clean Water In PA](#)

Students Work For Environment:

[Times-Tribune: Teen Girl Scout Earns Silver Award With Trail Project In Lackawanna County](#)
[Boy Scout Takes On 4 Conservation Projects To Qualify For Prestigious William T. Hornaday](#)

[Silver Award](#)

Related Stories This Week:

[PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Steering Committee Meets Dec. 17](#)

[EPA Names Dana Aunkst Director Of Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

(Reprinted from [Chesapeake Bay Foundation Blog](#).)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

EPA Names Dana Aunkst Director Of Chesapeake Bay Program



On December 12, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the selection of former DEP Deputy Secretary Dana Aunkst as the new Director of [EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program](#).

"Dana has the leadership skills, experience and commitment we need to lead the Chesapeake Bay Office," said EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. "He has tremendous skill at building partnerships and creating a shared vision among geographically diverse stakeholders. His experience and relationships with multiple agencies will serve us and our partners well as we accelerate efforts to safeguard the Chesapeake Bay and its living resources."

"This is a tremendous opportunity to build upon the accomplishments to date by EPA and its partners," said Dana Aunkst. "I look forward to working collaboratively with our stakeholders in protecting our nation's largest estuary and the local waterways throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed."

Aunkst has extensive environmental and regulatory experience working 33 years in private industry and local and state government.

During his tenure at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection which began in 2002, Aunkst served in executive level positions as Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary. As the Deputy Secretary for Field Operations, he directed the operations of six regional offices in implementing the full array of state and federal environmental regulations.

As Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs, Aunkst directed the activities of more than 2,000 professional and technical staff engaged in all aspects of environmental protection.

While serving as Deputy Secretary for Water, he oversaw programs for surface and groundwater quality, soil and water conservation, public water supply withdrawals, sewage facilities planning, point source sewage and industrial discharges, flood protection and stream improvements.

In this position, Aunkst led the change to resuscitate Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay restoration effort by authoring the 2016 Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Reboot Strategy.

Aunkst holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University and is a licensed professional engineer in Pennsylvania. His appointment will be effective December 23, 2018.

EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program coordinates activities and implements strategies for meeting the restoration goals of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which covers 64,000 square miles across New York, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

To learn more about the program, visit [EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program](#) webpage.

NewsClips:

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[Bay Journal: EPA Names New Leader For Chesapeake Bay Program Office](#)

[Lancaster Farming: Conservation Taking Back Seat To Dairy Farm Survival](#)

[Study: Westmoreland Could Help Save Chesapeake Bay By Absorbing More Cattle, Manure](#)

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[Wyoming Sanitary Authority Hosts Info Session On Stormwater Fee](#)

[Compromise Federal Farm Bill Makes More Funds Available For Chesapeake Bay](#)

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[How PA Congressional Delegation Voted On New Federal Farm Bill](#)

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[Chesapeake Bay Advocates Raise Concerns About Changes To Waters Of U.S. Rule](#)

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[PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Steering Committee Meets Dec. 17](#)

[High School Students Determined To Continue Efforts To Have PA Recognize Eastern Hellbenders](#)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee Meets Dec. 17



The [PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee](#) is scheduled to meet on December 17 and are likely to discuss a more refined set of workgroup recommendations for strategies to achieve watershed cleanup goals in Pennsylvania.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Stormwater workgroups have already presented their recommendations to the Committee once and are likely to present a few more details, including an estimate of the resources they need to implement the strategies, for additional discussion.

The Wastewater workgroup is finishing up their recommendations and cost estimates so they are in the cue as well.

The other major workgroup-- Funding-- will not present its findings until January or February since their work is based on the needs identified by the other workgroups.

The meeting will be in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg from 1:00 to 4:00. [Click Here](#) to register to attend by webinar. Participants will also need to call in 1-650-479-3208, PASSCODE 644 895 237.

For more information, visit the [PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee](#) webpage.

NewsClips:

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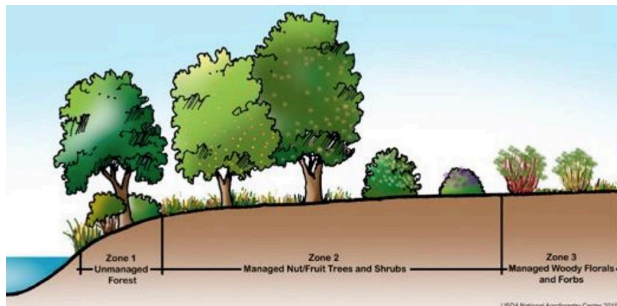
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[High School Students Determined To Continue Efforts To Have PA Recognize Eastern Hellbenders](#)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

DCNR, PennVEST Award Nearly \$1 Million In Grants To Support Multi-Functional Stream Buffers



On December 10, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and [PA Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) announced the award of nearly \$1 million in grants to support the planting of [multi-functional stream buffers](#).

“These grants are for some really unique projects to explore an added financial benefit to the farmer or landowner by including plant

species that can be harvested and sold,” Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. “Essentially, they let landowners take care of the land and water, and still pay attention to their bottom line.”

Properly planted and maintained, streamside tree and shrub plantings filter the runoff of sediments and fertilizers that are applied to lawns and crops; control erosion; slow stormwater runoff; cool stream temperatures; and improve fish habitat.

Multi-functional buffers contain species such as nut trees, berries, and willows in buffer zones so that the landowner can sell these products, and realize some income from land dedicated to buffers.

“The PennVEST Board approved funding for this innovative program, not only to

address water quality issues, but also to provide the basis for the development of a long term sustainable fund in order to support these sorts of projects into the future,” said PennVEST Executive Director Brion Johnson. “We look forward to helping these projects get underway.”

The grants by county are:

-- **Butler -- Butler-Freeport Community Trail Council, \$54,000**, for approximately 6 acres of multi-functional riparian buffers in the Ohio River watershed. The council is partnering with the [Audubon Society of Western PA](#) to install buffers throughout the Important Bird Area and high-quality watershed of Buffalo Creek. Goods harvested from the buffer will potentially be sold at ASWP’s nature centers, local caterers, and farmer’s markets.

-- **Centre/Clinton Counties -- Native Creations Landscape Services, \$40,000**, Construction of approximately 4 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the Susquehanna River watershed. In partnership with major land conservancies, the organization plans install income-producing buffers related to fruits, nuts and flowers, uniquely designed for each individual landowner’s interests.

-- **Westmoreland -- Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, \$172,000**, for landowner outreach and construction of approximately 9 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the Ohio River watershed. The association aims to partner with several local organizations, such as the West Overton Village and Museum, to eventually sell the harvested products such as honey and jams, floral centerpieces, and brandy.

-- **York -- Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, \$191,600**, for construction of approximately 20 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the Lower Susquehanna River watershed. The plantings are part of a recently completed Land Use Management Plan for the 186 acre farm property, and will include a diverse array of harvested products from nuts and medicinal herbs to florals and biomass. In partnership with Franklin & Marshall College, data related to the ecological impacts of the buffers will be collected throughout the stages of buffer installation and growth.

-- **Statewide/Regional -- PA Association of Conservation Districts Inc., \$451,000**, to support conservation districts in constructing approximately 85 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways throughout Pennsylvania. This sub-grant program will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to complete demonstration projects statewide, in partnership with local conservation districts. Each buffer will be designed for the needs of the watershed and interests of the landowner, resulting in a diversity of harvested products.

Pennsylvania has a goal of planting 95,000 acres of stream buffers by 2025.

Maintaining and restoring buffers along rivers and streams is a key strategy for improving water quality and aquatic habitat.

Resources

For more information on buffers, financial and technical assistance available, visit DCNR’s [Forest Buffers](#) webpage.

New DCNR Grant Round

To learn more about grant opportunities to support riparian buffer, trail and recreation projects, visit DCNR’s [Community Conservation Grant Program](#) webpage. A new grant round is opening January 22 and will close April 10.

Forest Buffer Summit

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Western PA Conservancy will be hosting a [Riparian Forest Buffer Summit](#) on February 20-21 at the Best Western Premier

Conference Center, 800 East Park Drive in Harrisburg.

NewsClips:

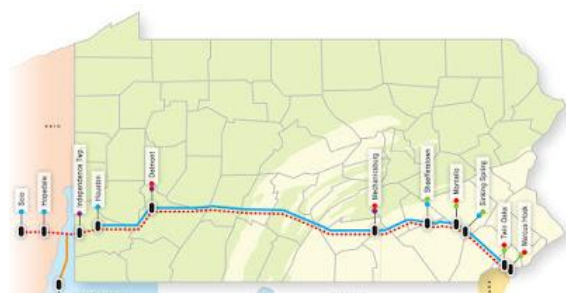
[Wyoming Valley Property Owners Receive New Stormwater Fee Notices](#)
[Wyoming Sanitary Authority Hosts Info Session On Stormwater Fee](#)
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[Tree Pittsburgh Branching Out In New Riverfront Center](#)

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[Bay Journal: Multifunction Stream Buffers Offer Food For Thought For PA Farms](#)

[Posted: Dec. 11, 2018]

PUC Judge Denies Petition For Emergency Order To Shutdown Interim Plan To Ship Natural Gas Liquids Through Mariner East Pipelines



On December 11, Public Utility Commission Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth Barnes [denied a petition by residents](#) of Chester and Delaware counties to prevent the operation of a [interim “workaround”](#) that would start the shipment of natural gas liquids through the 1930s era Mariner East 1 and other pipelines until the Mariner East 2 Pipeline is finished.

The Mariner East 1 Pipeline route parallels the Mariner East 2 and 2x Pipelines across the state.

The petition for an interim emergency shutdown order was denied because the petitioners failed to demonstrate they met the requirements for an emergency order, among other requirements--

- The situation did not constitute an “emergency” presenting a clear and present danger to life or property;
- Whether the need for relief is immediate; and
- Whether injury would be irreparable if relief is not granted.

The Mariner pipelines run from the natural gas fields of Western Pennsylvania to the Philadelphia area where refineries use natural gas liquids as a raw material to make other products.

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the decision.

The decision by Judge Barnes was forwarded to the full Commission for consideration. The next meeting of the Commission is December 20.

Mariner East 1 Penalty

On December 13, the PUC’s Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement [proposed a \\$225,000 penalty for violations](#) of federal pipeline safety regulations resulting from an April 1, 2017 leak of 840 gallons of ethane and propane from Sunoco’s Mariner East 1 Pipeline near Morgantown in Berks County.

Local residents reported the leak after they found product from the 1930's era, high pressure pipeline bubbling up out of the ground.

Investigators from the Bureau later found the pipeline leak was caused by corrosion requiring the replacement of 83 feet of the 12-inch Mariner East 1 Pipeline.

NewsClips:

[Hurdle: PUC Investigators Sees Statewide Concern With Mariner East 1 Pipeline Corrosion](#)

[Hurdle: Judge Grants First Eminent Domain Case To PennEast Pipeline In PA](#)

[Federal Judge Says PennEast Pipeline Can Take Property In Carbon County](#)

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[PUC Judge Rejects Plea To Shut Down Mariner East 1 Pipeline](#)

[PUC Judge Rules In Favor Of Mariner East Pipelines](#)

[PA Supreme Court Declined To Consider Eminent Domain Challenge To Mariner East 2 Pipeline](#)

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[Meeting Draws Some Opposition To Leidy South Pipeline Project In Lycoming](#)

[Rep. Everett Sets Meeting On PGE Water Withdrawal, Pipeline Project In Lycoming](#)

[Officials Discuss Proposed Leidy South Pipeline Project In Lycoming County](#)

[Upper Bucks Residents Fight Proposed Adelphia Gas Pipeline Project](#)

[DEP Holds Hearing On Proposed Adelphia Pipeline, Compressor Station In Montgomery County](#)

[Risberg Natural Gas Pipeline Project From Meadville Into Ohio OK'd By FERC](#)

[FERC Approves Birdsboro Natural Gas Pipeline To Begin Service](#)

[Frazier: 2 Hurt On Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction Near Pittsburgh](#)

[2 Hurt In Accident At Local Gas Line In Westmoreland County](#)

Resource Link:

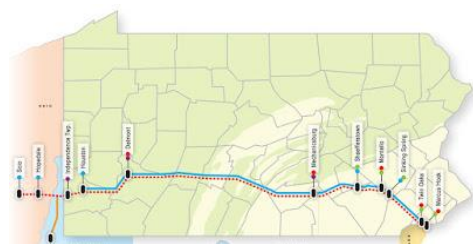
[Hurdle: Residents Urge PUC To Halt Mariner East Pipeline Operation, Hold Hearing On Emergency Plans](#)

Related Story:

[PUC Enforcement Bureau Proposes \\$225,000 Penalty For 2017 Ethane/Propane Leak From Mariner East 1 Pipeline In Berks County](#)

[Posted: Dec. 11, 2018]

PUC Enforcement Bureau Proposes \$225,000 Penalty For 2017 Ethane/Propane Leak From Mariner East 1 Pipeline In Berks County



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Judge Barnes concluded relief did not meet the requirements to be an emergency that presented a clear and present danger to life or property. [Click Here](#) for more.

Violations

In its complaint listing 15 violations, the Bureau said Sunoco’s corrosion control procedures were deficient at the time of the leak, Sunoco failed to adequately monitor external corrosion controls, failed to correct identified deficiencies in corrosion controls, failed to maintain adequate corrosion control records and overall failed to demonstrate the adequacy of the cathodic protection system on the Mariner East 1 Pipeline.

Among the Bureau’s other recommendations were--

- Sunoco conduct a remaining life study of the entire Mariner East 1 Pipeline to forecast the “retirement age” of the pipeline;
- Increase the frequency of inspections on all bare steel and poorly coated Sunoco Pipelines in Pennsylvania to at least once per year;
- Develop separate procedures to determine the adequacy of coated steel pipelines and bare steel pipelines; and
- Implement new cathodic protection procedures and where inadequate protection exists and replace the impacted sections of the Mariner East 1 Pipeline.

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the Bureau’s findings and recommendations.

Sunoco now has 20 days to respond to the complaint. If Sunoco contests the complaint, the case goes to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for hearings and a recommended decision before being considered by the full Public Utility Commission.

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[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Draft DEP Proposal To Cut Gas Well Methane Emissions Exempts Most Conventional Gas Wells Accounting For 50% Or More Of Methane Pollution



On December 13, DEP's [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) discussed a draft regulation outline to set limits on volatile organic compound emissions-- with the "co-benefit" of reducing methane emissions-- from existing gas well sites, pumps, storage and other equipment at oil and gas facilities.

The approach used in the regulation is based on a federal Control Technique Guideline for oil and gas facilities which will be used to develop a RACT standard. RACT is defined as the lowest emission limitation that a particular source is capable of meeting with economically feasible, reasonably available emissions control technology.

DEP acknowledged at the meeting EPA is now considering changes to its CTG requirement, but said they intend to move ahead with a proposed rule in any event because of regional commitments to meet federal ozone standards.

While the draft regulation technically proposes to regulate VOC emissions, these controls will in turn reduce methane emissions because both volatile organic compounds and methane are found in many oil and gas operations.

Generally, the draft regulation outline calls for a 95 percent reduction in VOC emissions, however, some equipment-specific requirements call for less or more. For example, natural gas processing plants are required to have zero VOC emissions.

At the meeting, DEP said the regulation, as drafted, would exempt the "lion's share" of conventional oil and gas wells (perhaps 80 percent or more) and roughly 6 percent of unconventional gas wells in Pennsylvania from the leak detection and repair requirements due to the threshold emission limits.

These estimates are rough because DEP staff said they have not yet done firm calculations to estimate how many wells may be exempt.

There are now about 80,000 conventional oil and gas wells and about 10,651 active unconventional gas wells in Pennsylvania.

A report by the [Environmental Defense Fund in February](#) of this year on methane emissions from oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania found about 50 percent of those emissions come from conventional oil and gas wells (268,900 tons) and about 50 percent from unconventional gas wells (253,500 tons).

The higher conventional gas well methane emissions cannot be accounted for by natural gas production.

In fact, conventional gas wells account for only about 5 percent of natural gas production in the state, while 95 percent of the production comes from unconventional (shale) gas wells.

Another difference in the way conventional gas wells are treated is in reporting methane emissions. Conventional oil and gas wells are not required to report their methane emissions to DEP, while [unconventional wells are](#), even though they make up about half the methane emissions.

[Marcellus Shale Coalition](#) President David Spigelmyer issued a statement about the draft regulation saying, “While we’re still reviewing the proposal, we do have initial concerns about potential costs as well as DEP’s timing given ongoing federal regulatory activity associated with existing source emissions.

“That said, Pennsylvania’s continued success in enhancing air quality, as reflected by DEP’s own data, is occurring alongside and largely due to the Commonwealth’s leading natural gas production position. Again, rather than creating more regulatory uncertainty, it would be prudent for DEP to delay any regulatory proposals until federal rules are finalized.”

DEP said after it reviewed the initial comments on the draft regulation by Committee members and the public at the meeting, it would provide a more final version of the regulation to the Committee for review. There was no firm timetable for when that might happen.

[Click Here](#) for a PowerPoint presentation on the proposal. [Click Here](#) for a very draft regulation.

For more information and available handouts, visit DEP’s [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) webpage. Questions should be directed to Kirit Dalal by calling 717-772-3436 or send email to: kdalal@pa.gov.

(Photo: [How Reducing Methane Emissions Creates Jobs](#), Environmental Defense Fund.)

NewsClips:

[Legere: DEP Drafts New Limits On Methane Pollution From Gas Wells As Feds Reconsider Rules](#)

[Sisk: DEP Unveils Proposal To Reduce Emissions From Existing Oil, Gas Wells](#)

[AP-Levy: PA Moves To Curb Air Pollution From Oil & Gas Operations](#)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

U.S. Postal Service 2019 Forever Stamp Series Features PA’s Clarion River



The U.S. Postal Service announced its upcoming 2019 Forever Stamp Series, which will feature wild and scenic rivers across the country -- including [Pennsylvania’s Clarion River](#).

The [National Wild and Scenic Rivers System](#) was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Pennsylvania has approximately 83,260 miles of river, of which [409.3 miles are designated](#) under the act, including: [Allegheny River](#); [Clarion River](#); [Delaware River \(Lower\)](#); [Delaware River \(Middle\)](#); [Delaware River \(Upper\)](#); and [White Clay Creek](#).

The protection efforts are largely carried out through a partnership between DCNR and other state agencies.

To learn more about conservation efforts visit DCNR's [Rivers Conservation](#) webpage.

River Of The Year Nomination

The Clarion River was also recently [nominated as one of four](#) possibilities for Pennsylvania's 2019 River of the Year. The public is invited to [vote on their choice](#) for the winner through 5 p.m. on January 4.

Related Stories:

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[DCNR Awards Grants To Support ATV Trails In Clarion & Jefferson, Northumberland Counties](#)

[DCNR Blog: Understanding Climate Change In Pennsylvania](#)

[DCNR Good Nutured Pennsylvanians - Robert Schiffbauer, Township Supervisor In Fayette County](#)

[Western PA Conservancy Conserve Magazine Celebrates 125th Anniversary Of State Parks & Forests](#)

[Pennsylvania Geological Information Available To Public In Many Forms](#)

[Dec. 13 Resource Newsletter Now Available From DCNR](#)

(Reprinted from the [December 13 DCNR Resource newsletter](#). [Click Here](#) to sign up for your own copy.)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

New Report: Outdoor Recreation Is A Bigger Economic Powerhouse Than Construction In PA

On December 10, the [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#) released [a new economic study](#) that found outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania, including hunting and fishing, generated \$26.9 billion in 2016-- that's \$2.2 billion more than the construction industry.

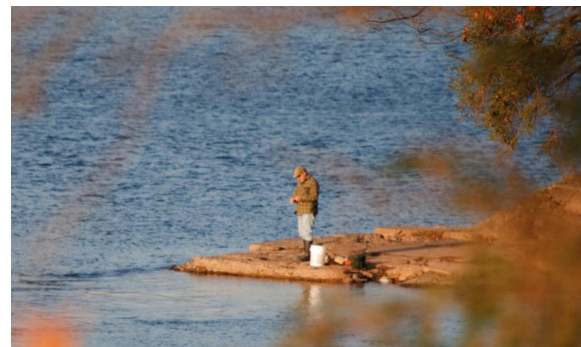
The state's wealth of natural resources and rich outdoor traditions also supported more than 390,000 jobs, where Pennsylvanians earned \$17 billion in salaries and wages.

The research, conducted by [Southwick Associates](#), showed 780,000 state residents hunted and 1.3 million went fishing in 2016.

Anglers and hunters spent nearly \$1.3 billion to pursue their passions, supporting nearly 20,000 jobs, \$800 million in salaries and wages, and more than \$300 million in local, state, and federal tax revenue.

In addition, 370,000 jobs in Pennsylvania were supported by other outdoor recreation activities, including biking, camping, and off-roading.

"Economic activity generated by outdoor recreation is too powerful to ignore," says Derek Eberly, Pennsylvania field representative for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "That's why our local, state, and federal decision-makers should prioritize legislation that helps conserve the fish and wildlife resources that outdoor recreation businesses



rely on to employ and serve Pennsylvanians.”

The [Growing Greener Program](#) is a good example. This important state program helps to preserve open spaces, improve working lands, and clean up abandoned mines that could endanger habitat.

But the program has seen drastic budget cuts in recent years, from a budget of roughly \$200 million per year in the mid-2000s to less than \$60 million this year.

The TRCP and other groups plan to advocate for better investments in conservation through increased funding for this program and others in the state.

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the full study.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#) website. Questions should be directed to Derek Eberly, PA Field Representative, by sending email to: DEberly@trcp.org.

NewsClip:

[Indiana County Commissioners Receive Sustainability Report Urging Actions On Renewable Energy, Environmental Restoration](#)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

Agriculture: Businesses Urged To Get Spotted Lanternfly Permits, Inspections Start In May



On December 12, the Department of Agriculture encouraged businesses to obtain the required Spotted Lanternfly permit to ensure they are complying with the Spotted Lanternfly quarantine orders.

Gearing up for the next phase of the Spotted Lanternfly life cycle, now is the best time for businesses to learn how they can jump-start this spring's fight.

“New York, New Jersey, and other bordering states have been good partners, but if we aren't careful in self-policing, ensuring we aren't sending Spotted

Lanternfly on vehicles traveling outside of the quarantine, we could disrupt the free flow of commerce,” said Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding.

There is no cost to businesses to obtain a permit. Under the law, businesses in the commonwealth need to take the online permit training and exam and receive a permit for their vehicles.

The Department of Agriculture continues its work to contain and minimize the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly while also keeping commerce flowing in Pennsylvania.

In November 2017, 13 Pennsylvania counties – Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill – were placed under quarantine to help stop the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly.

States with Spotted Lanternfly populations are also required to follow the permit requirements for Pennsylvania. This will help prevent the movement of the pest from other states into Pennsylvania.

The Spotted Lanternfly permit training teaches business owners, managers, or designated employees how to comply with the quarantine – an important legal designation to help stop the

spread of Spotted Lanternfly – to ensure each of their employees are complying with the law.

The quarantine order directs businesses, residents and county authorities to follow guidelines to prevent the movement of the certain articles that contain any living stages of the Spotted Lanternfly, including egg masses, nymphs and adults such as:

- Logs, stumps, or any tree parts;
- Nursery stock;
- Crated materials; and
- Trucks or vehicles not stored indoors.

“By investing time and personnel to inspect vehicles to safeguard against transporting insects, you can help to ensure this pest does not reach further beyond those counties that are already quarantined. Working together, we can protect Pennsylvania agriculture and our ability to access other markets,” added Redding.

Inspections Start In May

As part of the Spotted Lanternfly quarantine agreement beginning May 1, 2019, the Department’s Bureau of Plant Industry will begin to perform inspections and verification checks to confirm that businesses are properly permitted.

Failure to take the permit exam and educate employees could result in possible penalties and fines.

The permit training and testing can be accessed online through Penn State Extension. For any questions regarding permitting, please contact the Department’s Spotted Lanternfly permit coordinator.

Find out more about Spotted Lanternfly, visit Agriculture’s [Spotted Lanternfly](#), the [USDA Lanternfly](#) and the [Penn State Extension](#) webpages.

NewsClips:

[Are False Fears About Spotted Lanternfly Hurting Christmas Tree Sales?](#)

[Kummer: Businesses Must Get Trained, Permitted For Spotted Lanternfly Or Face Fines](#)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

Bob & Jane Slagter Of Warren County Recognized As Outstanding PA Tree Farmers Of The Year

By Maureen Burnham, [PA Forestry Association](#)



Jane and Bob Slagter own 52 acres of forested land along Caldwell Creek in Southwest Township, Warren County. The Slagters are the Pennsylvania Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year for 2018.

Bob Slagter is a member of the [Foundation for Sustainable Forests](#)’ Board of Directors, and donated a conservation easement on the property to the Foundation in 2014. To quote Dave Trimpey, Area Chair #1, “Bob is the epitome of forest steward. He has spent countless hours over many years improving his own land and promoting forest stewardship to others.”

The Slagters’ efforts over 20 years to manage their land sustainably with consideration of

Wood, Water, Wild- life, and Recreation are exemplary. As we all know, managing yourwoods is a multifaceted activity benefitting landowners and communities.

Conducting numerous tours on Pennsylvania Tree Farm #3533 has helped spread the word about woodland value and opportunities. These outreach activities always promote Tree Farming.

Bob's leadership and support exhibited for the [PA Forest Stewardship Program](#) with participation and writing newsletter articles have been very valuable in promoting Forest Stewardship in Pennsylvania.

Many of us got our first taste of planned forest management through the Forest Stewardship Program.

The PATFOY Award was announced along with presentation of a slide show at the PA Forestry Association Annual Meeting on October 6, 2018. The award will be presented to Jane and Bob at the December 13, 2018, Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee Meeting at the Central PA Visitors Center, State College, PA.

Congratulations to Jane and Bob for a well deserved recognition!

More information on programs, initiatives and how you can get involved is available at the [PA Forestry Association](#) website.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [Foundation For Sustainable Forests](#) website. [Click Here](#) to support their work. [Loving The Land Through Working Forests Conference](#) May 11, 2019.

(Photo: Bob Slagter (right), receiving the Warren Co. Conservation District Tree Farmer of the Year award, also in 2018.)

NewsClips:

[Christmas Tree Shortage Not Affecting Erie](#)

[Are False Fears About Spotted Lanternfly Hurting Christmas Tree Sales?](#)

[Kummer: Businesses Must Get Trained, Permitted For Spotted Lanternfly Or Face Fines](#)

[Foundation For Sustainable Forests, French Creek Valley Conservancy Host Woods & Waters Film Series Jan. 11, Feb. 22](#)

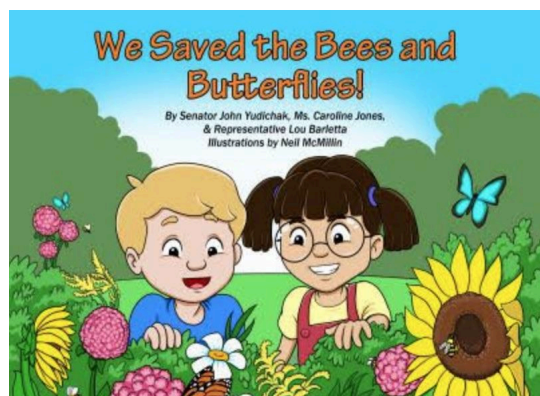
[Tree Pittsburgh Branching Out In New Riverfront Center](#)

[New Report: Outdoor Recreation Is A Bigger Economic Powerhouse Than Construction In PA](#)
[Western PA Conservancy Conserve Magazine Celebrates 125th Anniversary Of State Parks & Forests](#)

(Reprinted from the Fall/Winter newsletter of the [Foundation For Sustainable Forests](#).)

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

Sen. Yudichak, Cong. Barletta, Author Caroline Jones Celebrate The Launch Of We Saved The Bees And The Butterflies Children's Book



Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne), Congressman Lou Barletta (R-Luzerne) and local author Caroline Jones celebrated the launch of their children's book, [We Saved the Bees and the Butterflies](#) at the Barnes and Noble in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

The book focuses on two [SHINE \(Schools and](#)

[Homes in Education](#)) students being curious about the declining bee and butterfly populations. They embark on a project to save the bees and the butterflies, while learning about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics).

The book was published through a grant made by the [Yudichak Family Lighthouse Fund](#) of the Luzerne Foundation. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the SHINE after school programs in Carbon and Luzerne counties.

“It was a pleasure to collaborate with Congressman Barletta and Caroline Jones in writing a book that promotes STEAM based educational principles and benefits the SHINE after school program which has succeeded in bringing quality afterschool programming to northeastern Pennsylvania,” said Sen. Yudichak.

SHINE is a nationally recognized after school program operating in school districts in Carbon, Schuylkill and Luzerne counties. Sen. Yudichak and Congressman Barletta brought the SHINE program to Luzerne County in 2015.

“For years, Senator Yudichak and I have watched SHINE change the lives of children across Northeast Pennsylvania,” said Congressman Barletta. “It was a pleasure to work with both him and Caroline Jones on this book to teach students about the STEAM curriculum and promote the program that has helped so many children achieve their dreams. SHINE is a perfect example of what successful afterschool programming can do for children in the Commonwealth, and I am proud to have worked across the aisle with my colleagues in Congress and state lawmakers like Senator Yudichak to support it.”

Caroline Jones is a graduate of King’s College and the founder of the Read to Succeed Project, a program that promotes literacy and education.

“I had a great time collaborating with Senator Yudichak and Congressman Barletta on this book. Having a Democrat political leader and a Republican political leader work together for a meaningful cause is both refreshing and inspiring. Education isn’t a partisan issue; it’s an issue that should be important to everyone,” said Jones.

Joining Sen. Yudichak, Congressman Barletta and Caroline Jones at the book launch were SHINE students and their families from the Heights-Murray Elementary SHINE Center. SHINE of Luzerne County operated eight SHINE centers, serving 570 students during the 2017-18 school year.

“Senator Yudichak and Congressman Barletta have been leaders in recognizing the importance of afterschool programs and we’re so grateful for their support of the SHINE program. This book is a fun way for children to learn STEAM skills, while also highlighting the SHINE program,” said Carol Nicholas, Director, SHINE of Luzerne County.

Limited copies of the book are available for \$9.99. [Click Here](#) to contact Sen. Yudichak’s office if you are interested in purchasing a copy. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the SHINE after school programs in Carbon and Luzerne counties.

[Sen. Yudichak](#) serves as Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Resource Link:

[Senate Hearing: Non-Native, Invasive Plant Species And Preserving Pollinators](#)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

DEP Posts 2019 Advisory Committee, Board Meeting Schedules

The Department of Environmental Protection published the 2019 advisory committee, certification and rulemaking and other board meeting schedules and agency contacts in the [December 15 PA Bulletin \(page 7708\)](#). The committees include--

[Aggregate Advisory Board](#)
[Agricultural Advisory Board](#)
[Air Quality Technical Advisory Board](#)
[Board of Coal Mine Safety](#)
[DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#)
[Hazardous Sites Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#)
[Climate Change Advisory Committee](#)
[Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund Board](#)
[Coastal Zone Advisory Committee](#)
[Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#)
[Environmental Quality Board](#)
[Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#)
[Low-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Committee](#)
[Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council](#)
[Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#)
[Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board](#)
[PA Grade Crude \(Oil\) Development Advisory Board](#) (DCED - Conventional Wells)
[PA Energy Development Authority](#) (to be announced)
[Radiation Protection Advisory Committee](#)
[Recycling Fund Advisory Committee](#)
[Sewage Advisory Committee](#) (to be announced)
[Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee](#)
[Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board](#)
[Solid Waste Advisory Committee](#)
[State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers](#)
[State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#)
[Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#)
[Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Power Equipment](#) (Mining)
[Water Resources Advisory Committee](#).

What Issues Are They Working On?

To get an idea of the regulations and technical guidance documents DEP and these groups will be working on in 2019, visit these links--

-- August 4, 2018 DEP Regulatory Agenda - [PA Bulletin, Page 4733](#)

-- [DEP Non-Regulatory/Technical Guidance Documents Agenda \(July 2018\)](#)- DEP webpage
[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Senate/House Co-Sponsor Memos/Session Schedule/Gov's Schedule

Here are the Senate and House Calendars for the next voting session day and Committees scheduling action on bills of interest as well as a list of new environmental bills introduced--

House and Senate Co-Sponsorship Memos

House: [Click Here](#) for all new co-sponsorship memos

Senate: [Click Here](#) for all new co-sponsorship memos

Session Schedule

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

Senate

January 1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30

February 4, 5, 6

Budget Hearings: Feb. 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, March 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

April 8, 9, 10, 29, 30

May 1, 6, 7, 8

June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

House

January 1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30

February 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21

Budget Hearings: Feb. 11 March 7

March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30

May 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23

June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

Governor's Schedule

Gov. Tom Wolf's work calendar will be posted each Friday and his public schedule for the day will be posted each morning. [Click Here](#) to view Gov. Wolf's Weekly Calendar and Public Appearances.

News From The Capitol

House Appropriations Committee Sets Budget Hearing Schedule

The [House Appropriations Committee](#) budget hearing schedule is now available. The schedule follows for general budget, environmental and energy-related programs--

February 11-- 10:00- Independent Fiscal Office, 1:00- Dept. of Revenue/Lottery

February 13-- 10:00- State Treasurer, 1:00- Auditor General, 3:00- Attorney General

February 14-- 10:00- **Dept. of Environmental Protection**, 1:00- **Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources**

February 25-- 10:00- State Police/Homeland Security, 3:00- Dept. of Health

February 26-- 1:00- Dept. of Transportation, 3:00- Dept. of General Services

February 27-- 1:00- Dept. of Community & Economic Development

March 4-- 10:00- Dept. of Education

March 5-- 10:00- **Dept. of Agriculture**

March 6-- 10:00- Governor's Budget Secretary

March 7-- Open.

[Click Here](#) for the full schedule.

All hearings are in Room 140 of the Main Capitol Building and are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

The Feds

Farm, Conservation Groups Say New Federal Farm Bill Has Victories, But Serious Cuts To Farm Conservation

Congress this week gave final approval to the 2018 federal Farm Bill that groups like the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) and the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) say contains wins for ag conservation, but it also contains "serious shortcomings." The President is expected to sign the bill.

Federal financial and technical support to Pennsylvania's agricultural community is critical to helping Pennsylvania meet its water quality improvement goals, including the milestones for cleaning up its portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

National Sustainable Ag Coalition

The [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) issued this statement about the 2018 Farm Bill--

"By providing key "tiny but mighty" farm bill programs with permanent funding, the 2018 Farm Bill will make a critical investment in the future of American agriculture," said Juli Obudzinski, Interim Policy Director at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC). "No longer will the family farmers who rely on these programs to start or grow their small businesses, or the food and farm organizations who provide direct training and outreach services, have to worry about the fate of these vital resources each farm bill cycle."

"The final deal addresses a growing need to scale up our nation's farm-to-fork initiatives, invest in healthy food, support the next generation of farmers and other underserved producers, and continue making strides in organic agriculture research," said Obudzinski. "We thank the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees for providing much needed stability and reliability through these permanent investments."

"We are glad to see that the conference report retains CSP's structure as a unique and independent program, and believe these reforms send a strong message to USDA to focus funding on the most impactful conservation activities to address our most pressing environmental challenges," said Obudzinski. "We also applaud conferees for boosting conservation easement funding and for ensuring that the Conservation Reserve Program includes the new Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) initiative to support conservation buffers to benefit water quality."

PA Dept. Of Agriculture

Gov. Wolf and the Department of Agriculture released this statement on the federal Farm

Bill--

The legislation contains a number of positive aspects for Pennsylvania agriculture. Two provisions are particularly notable. The first strengthens support for dairy farmers by offering reduced premiums and new coverage levels for milk produced under the new Dairy Risk Management program. The second removes hemp as a schedule 1 drug under federal law, allowing states to create programs for the cultivation of hemp for commercial purposes.

The Bill also increases funding for conservation efforts and workforce and education opportunities, and continued support for programs that help rural communities and businesses thrive, including broadband access and local food systems.

Additionally, the legislation includes protections for crop insurance, helping farmers purchase policies to protect them from devastating weather conditions.

The Farm Bill also includes a significant increase in federal funding for farmland preservation nationwide through the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), with Pennsylvania poised to access these funds over the next four years.

[Click Here](#) for the full statement.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) Director of Science and Agricultural Policy Beth McGee said this about the Farm Bill compromise--

"The most cost-effective way to reduce pollution to local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay is to implement agricultural best management practices, many of which are funded through Federal Farm Bill programs. These conservation practices are essential to implementation of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint.

"The compromise legislation will increase conservation funding, simplify and streamline the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and help ensure adequate and fair compensation to landowners willing to implement forest buffers—one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce pollution from agriculture.

"CBF appreciates the work of Senators Chris Van Hollen and Bob Casey that made these changes possible."

The Farm Bill authorizes [\\$50 million more a year for states](#) participating in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Environmental Defense Fund

Callie Eideberg, Senior Policy Manager for Sustainable Agriculture for the [Environmental Defense Fund](#), issued this statement on the Farm Bill--

This farm bill recognizes farmers and ranchers as integral to achieving long-term climate resilience and water quality goals.

"It takes important steps forward on environmental priorities while ensuring that America's working lands are profitable, productive and part of the climate solution. The bill prioritizes sustainability impact and innovation on private lands, with full funding for the conservation title.

"We look forward to seeing the farm bill cross the finish line and to the U.S. Department of Agriculture implementing exciting conservation provisions that build agricultural resilience to benefit all Americans."

Highlights of the bill include:

-- **Public-private partnerships:** Annual funding of \$300 million for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program that will bring an additional \$3 billion in matching private dollars to the

table to deliver water quality improvements at the watershed-scale.

-- **Soil health:** Annual funding of \$25 million for a new soil health pilot project that will provide incentives to producers who improve soil health and increase soil carbon.

-- **Crop insurance:** Removal of a barrier to cover crop adoption by ensuring that planting and terminating cover crops won't jeopardize crop insurance eligibility.

-- **Agricultural data:** Requirement that USDA issue a feasibility report on existing data about crop yields, conservation adoption and risk management.

-- **Less red tape:** Expedited review process for Conservation Practice Standards to allow USDA to adapt quickly to new technologies and best practices.

The Nature Conservancy

Mark R. Tercek, CEO of [The Nature Conservancy](#) had this to say about the 2018 Farm Bill--

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 will increase the flexibility and resources going toward public-private partnerships and easements, and takes important steps toward climate-smart practices. The bill also extends the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, which encourages partnerships on science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes.

"This Farm Bill was the biggest opportunity in years for Congress to make the right policies for—and investments in—the conservation of private lands in the United States. Thankfully, lawmakers seized that opportunity. They passed a bill that will help farmers, ranchers and forest owners become more sustainable and productive, while protecting lands and waters for the benefit of all Americans and wildlife.

"In short, the new Farm Bill is a victory for the conservation and stewardship of the natural treasures that are America's ranches, farms and forests. The health of these lands is critical to the success of private landowners, to our economy and to rural communities. The bill's investment in conservation programs, combined with important forestry provisions, will give landowners tools to protect their land and their way of life.

"We look forward to seeing this Farm Bill become law and working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement these important programs."

Serious Shortcomings - NSAC

Despite several historic victories and investments, NSAC says the final bill contains serious shortcomings.

Over the next ten years, the 2018 Farm Bill will cut billions in funding for performance-based conservation through the Conservation Stewardship Program.

By failing to restore the \$6 billion cut to conservation funds made in the 2014 Farm Bill, the only way to provide for other necessary increases within the Conservation Title – given limited available funds – was to cut funding from working lands conservation.

That cut may start out small, but for the next farm bill in 2023, it amounts to a \$5 billion reduction in combined budget authority for CSP and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

"The final bill will ultimately shortchange working lands conservation by stripping billions in conservation support to farmers through programs like CSP [Conservation Stewardship Program]," said Obudzinski. "We are disheartened to see that this farm bill further reduces CSP funding at a time when farmers are increasingly struggling to deal with extreme weather and other climate change-related challenges."

Overall, the bill fails to address some of most significant challenges facing American agriculture and rural communities – food and farm business consolidation, dwindling rural populations and resources, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In some cases, the bill not only fails to move the needle forward, it actively takes steps backward by failing to restore funding cuts to conservation programs or close widening loopholes in our commodity subsidy and crop insurance programs.

Follow these links to the NSAC's 2018 Farm Bill Drill Down Posts--

- [Conservation Programs](#)
- [Organic Agriculture](#)
- [Local/Regional Food Systems, Rural Development](#)
- [Beginning And Socially Disadvantaged Farmers](#)
- [Text Of Final 2018 Farm Bill](#)

Visit the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Blog](#) for more information on the 2018 Farm Bill as it becomes available.

NewsClips:

[Cable: New Federal Farm Bill Will Have Big Impact On Lancaster County Farmers](#)
[Compromise Federal Farm Bill Makes More Funds Available For Chesapeake Bay](#)
[AP: Congress Approves \\$400B For Ag Subsidies, Conservation, Food Aid](#)
[What's In The New Federal Farm Bill- More Organic Farming Help, Dairy Lifeline](#)
[How PA Congressional Delegation Voted On New Federal Farm Bill](#)

Related Stories:

[EPA Names Dana Aunkst Director Of Chesapeake Bay Program](#)
[Small Farms, Big Impact Grant Applications Now Being Accepted To Help Small Sustainable Farms](#)
[High School Students Determined To Continue Efforts To Have PA Recognize Eastern Hellbenders](#)

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

Federal Flood Recovery Aid Available In 26 Counties Following Record Summer Rains

On December 12, Gov. Tom Wolf announced the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved his request to declare a disaster in Bradford, Columbia, Delaware, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Susquehanna counties after significant flood damage to homes and businesses was sustained from severe storms between August 10–15.

“Despite the devastating impact of these storms and the hard work of county and state emergency management personnel to document the damage and make the case for providing aid through the Individual Assistance program, the federal government determined that the scope of the damage didn’t warrant such aid,” said Gov. Wolf. “In lieu of funding from that program, my office immediately sought support through the SBA. Low-interest loan programs like these have proven to be important financial lifelines for families recovering from catastrophic weather events.”

Homeowners, renters and businesses impacted by the storms in Bradford, Columbia, Delaware, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Susquehanna, as well as neighboring counties Berks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Montour, Perry, Philadelphia, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union, Wayne and

Wyoming may be eligible for low-interest disaster loans through the SBA Disaster Loan Programs.

Low-interest loans of up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. SBA regulations permit loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property.

Businesses and nonprofits can borrow up to \$2 million to restore damaged or destroyed buildings, inventory, equipment and assets. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial qualifications.

Outreach Centers

The SBA will establish a Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOC) to assist anyone who wishes to apply for a loan. Applicants from any eligible county may report to any DLOC location in order to get help.

The DLOCs will be open at the following locations and times:

- Bradford County: Fairfield Inn By Marriott, 1248 Gold Mile Road, Towanda, PA 18848
- Columbia County: Benton Borough Building, 590 Everett Street, Benton, PA 17814
- Delaware County: Delaware County Emergency Services Building, 360 North Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063
- Northumberland County: Warrior Run Area Fire Department Headquarters, 1125 Main Street, Watsontown, PA 17777
- Schuylkill County: Port Carbon Borough Municipal Building, 301 First Street P.O. Box 71, Port Carbon, PA 17965
- Susquehanna County: Susquehanna County Department of Public Safety County Office Building, 81 Public Avenue, Montrose, PA 18801

Dates/Hours

Opening: December 13: 11 a.m.

Days: Friday, Monday – Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 15: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Closed: Sunday, December 16

Closing: Thursday, December 20: 4 p.m.

SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the disaster loan outreach center to issue loan applications, answer questions about the disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals to complete their applications.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the centers in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), or by sending email to: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Loan applications can also be [downloaded at the SBA website](#). Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the [SBA's secure website](#). Completed applications should be returned to the local DLOC or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Feb. 11, 2019. The deadline to return economic injury disaster loan applications is Sept. 11, 2019.

NewsClips:

[PEMA To Instruct Municipalities On How To Claim Federal Flood Relief In Lackawanna](#)

[Volunteers Work To Clean Up Flood Debris Along Otter Creek In York County](#)
[Sen. Yaw, State Agencies Tour Flood Areas In Lycoming County](#)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

EPA, Army Corps Propose New Waters Of U.S. Definition

On December 11, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers proposed to change the definition of “[waters of the United States](#)” to clarify federal authority under the federal Clean Water Act.

Jan Goldman-Carter, Senior Director Of Wetlands and Water Resources at the National Wildlife Federation, [told the Associated Press Sunday](#) the proposed rule would eliminate protection for about 60 percent of the stream miles in the continental U.S. and 50 percent of wetlands.

“Our proposal would replace the Obama EPA’s 2015 definition with one that respects the limits of the Clean Water Act and provides states and landowners the certainty they need to manage their natural resources and grow local economies,” said EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “For the first time, we are clearly defining the difference between federally protected waterways and state protected waterways. Our simpler and clearer definition would help landowners understand whether a project on their property will require a federal permit or not, without spending thousands of dollars on engineering and legal professionals.”

The agencies’ proposal is the second step in a two-step process to review and revise the definition of “waters of the United States” consistent with President Trump's February 2017 Executive Order entitled “Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the ‘Waters of the United States’ Rule.”

The Executive Order states that it is in the national interest to ensure that the nation's navigable waters are kept free from pollution, while at the same time promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty, and showing due regard for the roles of Congress and the states under the Constitution.

“EPA and the Army together propose this new definition that provides a clear and predictable approach to regulating ‘waters of the United States.’ We focused on developing an implementable definition that balances local and national interests under the Clean Water Act,” said R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. “I have heard from a wide range of stakeholders on Clean Water Act implementation challenges. This proposed definition provides a common-sense approach to managing our nation's waters.”

The agencies’ proposed rule would provide clarity, predictability and consistency so that the regulated community can easily understand where the Clean Water Act applies—and where it does not.

Under the agencies’ proposal, traditional navigable waters, tributaries to those waters, certain ditches, certain lakes and ponds, impoundments of jurisdictional waters, and wetlands adjacent to jurisdictional waters would be federally regulated.

It also details what are not “waters of the United States,” such as features that only contain water during or in response to rainfall (e.g., ephemeral features); groundwater; many ditches, including most roadside or farm ditches; prior converted cropland; stormwater control features; and waste treatment systems.

The agencies believe this proposed definition appropriately identifies waters that should

be subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act while respecting the role of states and tribes in managing their own land and water resources.

States and many tribes have existing regulations that apply to waters within their borders, whether or not they are considered “waters of the United States.”

The agencies’ proposal gives states and tribes more flexibility in determining how best to manage their land and water resources while protecting the nation’s navigable waters as intended by Congress when it enacted the Clean Water Act.

In response to requests from some states, EPA and the Army are exploring ways the agencies can work with our federal, state, and tribal partners to develop a data or mapping system that could provide a clearer understanding of the presence or absence of jurisdictional waters.

The agencies invited written pre-proposal recommendations and received more than 6,000 recommendations that the agencies have considered in developing this proposal. The agencies listened to those directly affected by the regulations, and this proposal balances the input the agencies received from a wide range of stakeholders.

The agencies will take comment on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. EPA and the Army will also hold an informational webcast on January 10, 2019, and will host a listening session on the proposed rule in Kansas City, KS, on January 23, 2019.

The rule, if it becomes final, will not have an impact in Pennsylvania because the state has had a stricter definition of waterways and wetlands to be protected for decades under state law. A different federal definition, however, may cause confusion in the regulated community.

More information including a pre-publication version of the Federal Register notice, visit EPA’s [Waters Of The U.S. Rule](#) webpage.

Reaction

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) Vice President Lisa Feldt issued this statement on the proposed change--

"This proposed revision undermines this nation’s fundamental clean water protections.

“The new definition would remove federal protections from certain waters and wetlands that aren’t otherwise protected by state law. In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, this includes waters in Delaware and West Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia, which are governed by federal law. Additionally, the revised definition could prevent states with more strict protections, such as Maryland, from holding upstream states accountable for water pollution they allow to cross state lines.

"Clean water is a right, not a luxury. The Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint is working. Now is not the time for the federal government to weaken efforts to reduce pollution."

NewsClips:

[Bay Journal: Feds Announced Proposed Rollback Of Some Waterway, Wetlands Protections](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Advocates Raise Concerns About Changes To Waters Of U.S. Rule](#)

[Trout Unlimited: Standing Tall For Small Waterways, Proposed EPA Stream Definition Changes](#)

[Kummer: Environmentalists Call Trump Proposed Water Rule Changes Big Gift To Business](#)

[Trump Administration Proposes Roll Back Of Obama-Era Water Protections](#)

[Trump Administration Moves To Slash Federal Protection For Waterways](#)

[AP: EPA To Eliminate Protection For 60% Of Waterways, 50% Of Wetlands](#)

[Posted: Dec. 11, 2018]

News From Around The State

Spotlight: How Floodplain Restoration Can Impact Stream Temperature In Restored Watershed Systems

The [LandStudies](#) project along Kurtz Run in Lancaster County shows promise as an example of how floodplain restoration can result in improvement of hyporheic exchange within the system and how that improvement can benefit the health of the system.

Issue

One of the leading topics of discussion over the years in regard to stream health and water quality is stream temperature.

It is commonly accepted that the best and most effective way to regulate stream temperature is by blocking incident solar radiation by shading with riparian vegetation.

There is much evidence to support this practice and it is known that solar radiation is the primary contributor for thermal loading within a stream (Johnson 2004).

Hyporheic exchange can provide additional benefits to riparian buffers, such as sustained temperature buffering, especially during the early stages of vegetative growth.

Background

In the context of overall stream health and stream temperature dynamics, the practice of enhancing surface-groundwater interaction, known as hyporheic exchange, in restored systems has shown real promise for sustainable water temperature regulation.

Although the impact of hyporheic exchange has been shown to alter the mechanics of stream temperature regulation (Forney, Soulard, & Chickadel, 2013), its influence is rarely taken into account in temperature analyses.

Hyporheic exchange is best defined as the mixing of surface water and groundwater in the saturated region with and along a stream channel, also known as the hyporheic zone. This exchange is driven by energy gradients at and near the stream bed and banks and is impacted by characteristics such as channel bed topography, planform, and bed and bank material.

Case Study

To better understand the impact of hyporheic exchange on stream temperature, LandStudies compared a year of pre and post-restoration daily maximum temperatures for a floodplain restoration project completed in 2012 along Kurtz Run and its tributary in Lancaster County.

The goals of this restoration were to effectively utilize multiple stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce stormwater runoff peaks and volumes below pre-development levels; to employ BMPs in a manner to provide water quality treatment for stormwater runoff prior to its entrance to surface waters; and increase stream channel stability and decrease bank erosion, further improving water quality.

The floodplain restoration project consisted of a number of physical modifications



including floodplain grading/legacy sediment removal and channel relocation along both Kurtz Run and the unnamed tributary, the creation of over 300 feet of new stream channel, and the installation of in-stream structures such as root wads, log vanes, log sills, and toe wood protection.

The project also included the creation of over 5 acres of wetland.

Findings

The results of the study indicate an improvement of hyporheic exchange within the system. Temperature data for 2011 and 2014 (representing pre and post-restoration conditions, respectively) was taken from five on site pressure transducers with integrated temperature probes, and solar radiation data was retrieved from a public NASA database.

The daily maximum temperature was then plotted against total daily solar radiation to determine a relationship.

After analyzing the relationship between the two sets of data, preliminary results have indicated that the influence of solar radiation on stream temperature has been substantially reduced in the restored floodplain system.

Better understanding of the potential impact of hyporheic exchange on stream temperature could represent a significant opportunity to improve stream health with restoration practices that reconnect the stream channel with the hyporheic zone.

LandStudies presented on this topic at the 2018 Susquehanna River Symposium at Bucknell University, and is in the process of completing a paper to be published further detailing the specifics of this analysis with additional supporting research, which will be made available upon completion.

[Click Here](#) for the references included in the article.

For more information, visit the [LandStudies](#) website or contact Laurel Etter Longenecker, 717-627-4440 or send email to: laurel@landstudies.com. [Click Here](#) to sign up for green infrastructure updates.

LandStudies is certified as a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) based in Lititz, Lancaster County. [Follow LandStudies on Twitter](#), [Like them on Facebook](#).

NewsClips:

[Wyoming Valley Property Owners Receive New Stormwater Fee Notices](#)

[Wyoming Sanitary Authority Hosts Info Session On Stormwater Fee](#)

[Back Mountain Communities Paying More For Stormwater Mandate](#)

[500 York County Residents Sign Petition Opposing Stormwater Authority](#)

[Lancaster Farming: Conservation Taking Back Seat To Dairy Farm Survival](#)

[Study: Westmoreland Could Help Save Chesapeake Bay By Absorbing More Cattle, Manure](#)

[Franklin County Farmers Agree To Manage Manure After Visit From Regulators](#)

[Tree Pittsburgh Branching Out In New Riverfront Center](#)

Related Stories:

[Climbers Run Nature Preserve Conservation & Management Plan, Lancaster Conservancy](#)

[Fall And Winter Natural Landscape Maintenance Tips](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Level 1 Training Feb. 12-13](#)

[Penn State Recognizes Kelly Gutshall, President Of LandStudies](#)

[Job Openings At LandStudies](#)

(Reprinted from the [Dec. 10 LandStudies](#) newsletter.)

[Posted: Dec. 11, 2018]

Audubon Society Of Western PA Seeking Public Input On Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan Update In Armstrong, Butler Counties



The [Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania](#) is working with local partners and residents in Butler and Armstrong counties to conduct a 10-year update to the [Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan](#).

The plan will be used by local leaders to prioritize investments in the community and help municipalities receive funding for projects.

Do you live, play, or work in the Buffalo Creek Watershed? We want to hear from you!

[Please fill out this short survey](#) to help guide the Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan 10-year update.

Located in Butler and Armstrong Counties, the Buffalo Creek Watershed is an area of great beauty with

important recreational, ecological, and cultural resources. The Buffalo Creek Watershed is a high quality watershed and an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area.

[Click Here](#) to review a copy of the 2008 Watershed Conservation Plan.

Funding for this initiative is provided by the [Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds](#).

[Click Here](#) for more information on Buffalo Creek and a map of the watershed.

To learn more about this program, visit DCNR's [Rivers Conservation](#) webpage.

(Photo: Buffalo Creek Watershed Important Bird Area, ASWP.)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Small Farms, Big Impact Grant Applications Now Being Accepted To Help Small Sustainable Farms



Small farms and agricultural nonprofits looking to fund environmental sustainability projects to reduce water and power use, increase pollinators, improve soil health, promote natural pest control, or extend their growing season can now apply at no cost for a [2019 Small Farms, Big Impact Grant](#) from [The FruitGuys Community Fund](#).

Applications are due January 11.

Grants ranging in amounts from \$2,000–\$5,000 will be awarded to 10–20 farms in spring 2019. Interested farmers should read [the eligibility requirements](#) and [submit a letter of intent](#) describing their farm and proposed project before midnight on January 11.

Twenty finalists will be notified by February 5 and provided with a supplementary application-- due by February 25. The 2019 grantees will be notified on or before April 5.

[Click Here](#) for all the details. [Click Here](#) to watch a video about the program.

The [Root Mass Farm in Berks County received](#) a Small Farms, Big Impact Grant in 2018 to support its operations.

For more information, visit the [The FruitGuys Community Fund](#) website. Questions should be directed to Sheila Cassani, Project Manager, by calling 510-541-4806 or sending email to: sheila.cassani@fruitguys.com.

PA Sustainable Agriculture

[Click Here](#) to find Community Supported Agriculture farms near you courtesy of the [PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture](#).

Related Story:

[Root Mass Farm, Berks County Receives Small Farm Environmental Sustainability Grant](#)

Related Story This Week:

[EPA Recognizes 3 Organizations In PA With 2018 Food Recovery Challenge Awards](#)

NewsClips:

[Lancaster Farming: Conservation Taking Back Seat To Dairy Farm Survival](#)

[Crabbe: Are Lancaster's Largest Dairy Farms Escaping The Dairy Crisis?](#)

[Study: Westmoreland Could Help Save Chesapeake Bay By Absorbing More Cattle, Manure](#)

[Franklin County Farmers Agree To Manage Manure After Visit From Regulators](#)

[Pennsylvania Acts To Preserve 28 More Farms, Nearly 2,000 Acres](#)

[Berks County Seeks New Criteria For Farmland Preservation Easements](#)

[Crabbe: After Wettest Year, Lancaster County May Be In The Longest Dry Spell](#)

[Yudichak, Barletta Team Up On We Saved The Bees Children's Book](#)

[Barletta Looks To The Future At Charity Book Reading](#)

[Crabbe: New Federal Farm Bill Will Have Big Impact On Lancaster County Farmers](#)

[AP: Congress Approves \\$400B For Ag Subsidies, Conservation, Food Aid](#)

[What's In The New Federal Farm Bill- More Organic Farming Help, Dairy Lifeline](#)

[How PA Congressional Delegation Voted On New Federal Farm Bill](#)

[Posted: Dec. 11, 2018]

DEP Posts 2019 Schedule For Sewage Enforcement Officer Examinations

The [State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers published notice](#) in the December 15 PA Bulletin announcing the 2019 examination scheduled for local sewage enforcement officers.

[Click Here](#) for the schedule. Questions should be directed to the Board by contacting Amy Forney by sending email to: aforney@pa.gov or calling 717-772-2186.

To learn more about the program, visit DEP's [Sewage Enforcement Officers](#) webpage.

For more information on professional development, visit the [PA Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers](#) website.

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

NOAA Now Accepting Applications For Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Grants



The [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office](#) is now accepting

applications for [FY19 Chesapeake Bay-Watershed Education and Training \(B-WET\) Program](#). A total of roughly \$700,000, subject to appropriations, may be available to fund three to seven new projects.

Applications are due by February 20.

B-WET supports programs that provide hands-on environmental education about issues affecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed for students through “meaningful watershed educational experiences” (MWEs) and related professional development for educators who serve formal K-12 audiences.

While [Chesapeake B-WET](#) focuses on the development and implementation of MWEs in school districts throughout the Bay watershed, NOAA remains interested in expanding the reach of B-WET into school districts that have never received B-WET support before.

Webinars

Informational webinars, which give potential applicants the opportunity to learn about the program priorities and application process, will be held on January 8 at 2:00 p.m. EST and January 11 at 11 a.m. EST, 2019; [more information and registration is available](#).

For more information on the program, visit NOAA’s [Chesapeake Bay-Watershed Education and Training \(B-WET\) Program](#) webpage. [Click Here](#) for examples of education partnerships that have been funded to date, is available. Questions should be directed to Elise Trelegan by sending email to: elise.trelegan@noaa.gov.

NewsClips:

[High School Students Determined To Continue Efforts To Have PA Recognize Eastern Hellbenders](#)

[Yudichak, Barletta Team Up On We Saved The Bees Children’s Book](#)

Related Stories:

[Appalachian Audubon Society Chapter Accepting Hog Island Youth Education Program Scholarship Applications](#)

[Sen. Yudichak, Cong. Barletta, Author Caroline Jones Celebrate The Launch Of We Saved the Bees And The Butterflies Children’s Book](#)

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Urges Feds To Provide Funding For Flood Warning System

At its December 6 meeting, the [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) adopted a resolution urging the federal government to provide its fair share of financial support to the National Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program which provides the data used by the Susquehanna Flood Warning System.

The Commission also--

- Accepted the independent financial audit report for fiscal year 2018;
- Approved the signing of an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to assist in collecting LiDAR for 22 Pennsylvania counties and two grant agreements with Department of Environmental Protection for mine drainage restoration efforts;
- Adopted a resolution approving a consumptive use mitigation project located in Lancaster, County, Pa., and approved the signing of a water supply agreement with the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority; and

-- Adopted a resolution deferring updates to the Comprehensive Plan for the Water Resources of the Susquehanna River Basin until 2021.

[Click Here](#) to see a list of other actions taken at the meeting.

The voting Commissioners and alternates were: Paul D'Amato, Chair, Director, Region 8, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Col. John T. Litz, Commander and District Engineer, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; and Virginia Kearney, Deputy Director, Water Management Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment.

For more information on programs, training opportunities and upcoming events, visit the [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for SRBC's newsletter. [Follow SRBC on Twitter](#), [visit them on YouTube](#).

[Posted: Dec. 10, 2018]

DEP Reports On 2017-18 Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program Actions At 273 Sites In PA

On December 11, the Department of Environmental Protection posted an online [FY 2017-18 annual report](#) for the state Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program, Land Recycling, and other waste site remediation programs highlighting actions taken under the programs.

[Click Here](#) for a video introduction to the report by DEP Secretary McDonnell

Hazardous Sites Cleanup

The Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program was created in 1988 with three main purposes--

- Establish a process for the investigation, cleanup and monitoring of hazardous substance contaminated sites the federal Superfund program could not;
- Funding for the state-share of the federal Superfund Program cleanup costs; and
- Funding to pay state costs for administering the federal Hazardous Waste Program.

The report lists the status and ongoing state responsibilities for 273 sites in Pennsylvania under the program--

- 95 DEP Investigations, Cleanups, and Monitoring Funded under HSCA
- 46 Cleanup Activities by Responsible Parties (RPs)
- 19 Federal Military Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Still to be Addressed in PA
- 113 Pennsylvania Active Sites on the Federal Superfund Priorities List

DEP also took action under HSCA to provide residents at 18 sites around the state with temporary, replacement water supplies when their water was contaminated with TCE or other pollutants. In some cases, permanent supplies were installed.

The report details steps DEP is taking investigate and identify the risks posed by emerging contaminants like PFOA and PFOS to water supplies. DEP has replaced water supplies affected by these chemicals and other measures where they are found to exceed the current EPA health advisory standard.

Although not part of the FY 2017-18 report, [Gov. Wolf formed a PFOA Task Force](#) in October of this year to bring together the resources of several state agencies to deal with the



serious concerns raised by PFOA and related pollutants.

Land Recycling

In FY 2017-18, the Land Recycling Program approved 367 Act 2 cleanups bringing the total number of cleanups approved in the 22-year history of the program to 6,687.

Hazardous Waste Cleanups

Joint DEP-EPA Hazardous Waste Cleanups have resulted in the remediation of 355 sites since 2004 in Pennsylvania.

Cost Recovery

DEP has recovered over \$1.8 million in cleanup costs from parties responsible for contamination at the sites under these programs.

[Click Here](#) to read the annual report. To learn more about the program, visit DEP's [Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program](#) webpage.

Program Challenges

Not addressed in the report is the ongoing challenge of providing funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

When the program was established in 1988, it was provided with \$41.3 million a year in dedicated funding. That dedicated funding is now down to just \$1.6 million in FY 2018-19 as a result of the phase out of the state's Capital Stock and Franchise Tax.

As a temporary measure the last few years, the General Assembly took money from DCNR's Oil and Gas Lease Fund, transfer it to the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund created to Act 13 in 2012 so it could be transferred again to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

For FY 2018-19, the transfer was \$15 million. Total funding for HASC this fiscal year is \$16.6 million, a real drop from the original \$41.3 million.

In recent budget hearings, [DEP Secretary McDonnell has identified](#) securing financial stability for this program as an important priority for the agency.

(Photo: Cleaning up radioactive waste a former [Karnish Instruments Site](#), Clinton County.)

Related Stories:

[Senate Budget Hearing: DEP Plans To Add Safe Drinking Water Program Staff Ahead Of Fee Revenue To Address Deficiencies](#)

[Budget Testimony By DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell, Improving Efficiency, Customer Service](#)

[PA's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act Is 30 Years Old: Where Will Future Funding Come From?](#)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

KPB: Two Men Cited In Crackdown On Illegal Dumping In Arnold, Westmoreland County



On December 14, [Keep PA Beautiful](#) announced two individuals were cited for illegal dumping by the City of Arnold in Westmoreland County with the help of its [Surveillance Camera Loan Program](#).

Mitchell C Swann (age 53) and Harold J Lee (age 52) were both cited by City of Arnold Code officer Scott Ponteri for illegal dumping.

Swann was found guilty of scattering rubbish for

dumping debris from a contractor job into an abandoned lot on 9/13/2018. He paid a fine and cleaned up his trash.

Lee was found guilty of dumping furniture and other household items on 9/26/18. He paid a fine plus \$150 restitution to reimburse the city for removing what he had dumped. Both cases were heard by the Honorable Frank J Pallone, Jr.

According to Officer Ponteri, “The cameras are working as a great deterrent and dumping has decreased at the site. We’re happy to be working with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to turn around the dumping problem the city has been dealing with the past few years.”

In addition to the KPB camera loan, Officer Ponteri and the city of Arnold have stepped up other efforts to curb trash, including deploying additional cameras at different locations that had been donated by a resident.

“Illegal dumping is more than just unsightly. It attracts disease-spreading pests like rodents and mosquitoes, can contaminate water and soil, and also brings a financial burden to our communities as they are often who must clean up the trash,” explained Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful found that on average, it costs local communities \$600/ton or nearly \$3,000 for an average illegal dump cleanup.

The [Surveillance Camera Loan Program](#) is funded by the Department of Environmental Protection from fines that the state agency receives for environmental infractions. These cameras are able to capture high quality, prosecution-worthy photos, even of license plates at night.

For more information on the program, visit KPB’s [Surveillance Camera Loan Program](#). Municipalities and other agencies can find out more about the program at [IllegalDumpFreePA.org](#), or contact Rob Dubas by sending email to: rdubas@keeppabeautiful.org or calling 724-836-4121 ext 107.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) website. [Click Here](#) to become a member. [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from KPB, [Like them on Facebook](#), [Follow on Twitter](#), [Discover them on Pinterest](#) and visit their [YouTube Channel](#).

(Photo: Example of a nighttime photo from KPB’s surveillance camera equipment.)

Related Stories:

[EPA Recognizes 3 Organizations In PA With 2018 Food Recovery Challenge Awards](#)
[PA Resources Council, Partners Host True Zero Waste Symposium Feb. 21 In Pittsburgh](#)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

PA Resources Council, Partners Host True Zero Waste Symposium Feb. 21 In Pittsburgh



The [PA Resources Council](#), [Zero Waste Pennsylvania](#) and the [Green Building Alliance](#) will host the [True Zero Waste Symposium](#) for businesses or institutions on February 21 in Pittsburgh from 8:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#).

[TRUE \(Total Resource Use & Efficiency\)](#) Zero Waste Certification enables facilities to define, pursue and achieve their Zero Waste goals while cutting their carbon footprint, supporting public health and maximizing profits.

TRUE certification is offered through [Green Business Certification Inc.](#) (GBCI) a program for businesses to access performance in reducing waste and maximizing resource efficiency. GBCI continuing education credits will be available to attendees.

Symposium attendees will learn from [Stephanie Barger](#) about the TRUE process and her pioneering work in the world of Zero Waste.

Additional presentations will include case studies from early adopters of TRUE and other national leaders focused on how thoughtful waste management systems are protecting the environment and the bottom line.

Early registration offers end January 15.

To register or for more information, visit PRC's [True Zero Waste Symposium](#) webpage.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the [PA Resources Council](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates, follow [PRC on Twitter](#) or [Like them on Facebook](#). [Click Here](#) for PRC's Events Calendar. [Click Here](#) to support their work.

NewsClips:

[Pittsburgh Council Bill Would Allow Residents To Recycle E-Waste In 2019](#)

[E-Waste Bill To Be Introduced In Pittsburgh Council Tuesday](#)

[Keystone Landfill Opponents Appeal To Commonwealth Court Over Zoning Issue](#)

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[KPB: Two Men Cited In Crackdown On Illegal Dumping In Arnold, Westmoreland County](#)

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

EPA Recognizes 3 Organizations In PA With 2018 Food Recovery Challenge Awards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently recognized the Philadelphia Department of Prisons with a national award from the [2018 Food Recovery Challenge Program](#) and gave regional awards to Giant Foods Stores and the University of Pittsburgh.

EPA recognized the organizations for their leadership in the sustainable management of food as part of a national goal of reducing food waste by 50 percent by 2030.



“EPA is proud of the way the Philadelphia Prison System has developed an innovative program to reduce food waste,” said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. “Through EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, EPA partners with municipalities, businesses, nonprofits and other entities to reduce the amount of food in landfills and help them save money on waste disposal.”

Here's more about the Pennsylvania winners--

-- Philadelphia Department of Prisons

The [Philadelphia Department of Prisons](#) (PDP), which was also [recognized in 2015](#) for its food recovery efforts by EPA, consists of six facilities with an average daily inmate population

of 8,250 and approximately 2,600 employees (2017). In 2017, the PDP collected approximately 44,344 tons of food waste from two of its facilities - the Riverside Correctional Facility and House of Corrections Facilities.

The food waste was separated and processed into compost at the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, saving the city an average of \$28,000 per year in landfill fees. The finished compost was donated to the local community as well as used in the Philadelphia Prisons Orchard Program.

Previously, all that food waste had been sent to a landfill.

Since 2011, PDP has had a comprehensive vocational training program for participating inmates. This training program works with the PDP Orchard, consisting of over 200 fruit bearing trees.

The fruit produced is consumed within the PDP prisons, in addition to being donated to city organizations. As part of the program, PDP has also partnered with Temple University in Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to provide classroom instruction for participating inmates in composting and urban land care.

The Philadelphia's Public Defenders Office has been involved as well. Once a participating inmate completes the PDP vocational training program, that person may be eligible for early release from prison.

The Philadelphia's Public Defenders Office has been involved as well and there are benefits to a participating inmate completing the PDP vocational training program. Some have gone on to receive paid internships in composting and land care in the community.

Since the initial grant from EPA in 2011, the Philadelphia Department of Prisons has secured additional grant funding from the City of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability. This additional funding had been allocated for the expansion of PDP's composting program. The expansion will allow all the food waste produced by the PDP facilities to be composted.

-- Giant Food Stores

[Giant Food Stores](#) first began its partnership with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in 1983 by donating canned goods and surplus food to help feed the hungry.

With the recession in 2008, it was clear that innovative solutions were needed to help the food bank meet new, increased demand. In addition, high-protein meat was missing from the food bank.

Giant and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank convened a task force to develop the innovative charitable meat rescue program called "Meat the Needs." Considered a huge success and a "game changer" for Central Pennsylvania's regional food banks, now all 171 Giant stores safely freeze and donate meat that is pulled from sale, a day before its sell-by date.

In 2017, Giant proudly donated 3,922,000 pounds of wholesome quality food to the food bank, equal to 3,268,333 meals served.

Looking forward, Giant will expand its store food donation program so that all departments can participate. This expansion is part of Giant's commitment to reduce food waste by fifty percent by 2025.

In 2012, Giant began recycling unsold food that could not be donated by collecting its food waste for composting and feeding animals.

In 2017, Giant implemented a new recycling program to redirect even more food from the waste stream by anaerobically digesting its food waste. Sending its food waste to anaerobic digesters enabled Giant to divert 77 percent of its total food waste from landfills and incinerators.

Recycling food waste is not only socially responsible for the community, but it is also fiscally beneficial for Giant. In 2017, each Giant store saved an average of \$1,600 by recycling its food waste.

In 2018, Giant is working on a solution to analyze its food waste and to reduce its food waste even more.

Christopher Brand, Director of External Communications and Community Relations for Giant states, “Our focus on a new and easy organic recycling program in our stores has really paid dividends; we were able to increase our total waste diversion from landfill and incineration by 4.8 percent (2016 v. 2017). This new program allows our associates to recycle organic items, even when they’re packaged, so the work is easily integrated into our day-to-day operations.”

-- University Of Pittsburgh

In 2014, students from the University of Pittsburgh student group [Food Recovery Heroes](#) began recovering surplus food from a campus bakery when they noticed surplus food was being thrown out at the end of the night.

Four years later, in 2018, after conversations with chefs and volunteers, students are recovering food from multiple campus-wide dining halls and cafeterias, including the basketball arena after games and concerts.

Students and Pitt Dining teamed up with the local food recovery organization 412 Food Rescue and together they donated more than 24,000 pounds of surplus food from campus - delivering it to local hunger-fighting agencies in the area, including the campus food pantry and the local housing authority.

Ciara Stehley, Sustainability Program Assistant, added, “About one-third of the food we distribute at the Pitt Pantry is recovered. Most of our clients are busy college students, and they really appreciate the fresh ready-to-eat foods and occasional bakery treats. Better yet, because food is recovered from campus, food insecure students have access to more of the same dining options as their peers. This partnership has allowed us to expand our variety and provide clients with more of the types of foods they want to eat.”

The awareness students brought to food waste also led to an increase in composting on campus. Student involvement in composting resulted in the University's composting effort increasing nearly 600 percent from 2016 to 2017 - from 19.5 tons to 135.8 tons.

Orientation week events, student affairs programming, and the second-largest dining hall are now all composting thousands of pounds of food waste each month with a new University goal to compost 50 percent of food waste.

Additionally, students from the newly formed Compost Coalition student group hosted pop-up food waste drop-off stations to facilitate composting for interested offices, dorms, and off-campus residents who want to compost but who have no collection stations at which to drop their food waste.

The pop-ups are turning into permanent composting stations making composting more accessible on campus.

According to Young Sarah Grguras, Student, Compost Coalition Co-Founder, “Our Do It Yourself food waste compost drop-off stations have proven there’s demand for composting from students, faculty and staff on campus. We’re now working with the University to create permanent composting stations around campus as the next step in establishing a campus-wide composting system.”

For more information on the EPA program, visit the [Food Recovery Challenge Program](#)

webpage.

(Photo: Food compost helps Philly prison system [raise vegetables and fruit](#) (Civil Eats).)

NewsClips:

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[Pittsburgh Council Bill Would Allow Residents To Recycle E-Waste In 2019](#)

[E-Waste Bill To Be Introduced In Pittsburgh Council Tuesday](#)

[Keystone Landfill Opponents Appeal To Commonwealth Court Over Zoning Issue](#)

Related Stories:

[Philadelphia Prison System Receives Accolades From EPA For Food Recovery](#)

[Weis Markets, Ahold USA, PepsiCo Among EPA's First Food Loss & Waste Champions](#)

[EPA Recognizes Food Recovery Challenge Participants, Ursinus College In PA](#)

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[Posted: Dec. 11, 2018]

Anthracite Heritage Foundation, King's College, Partners Celebrate Anthracite Mining Heritage Month In January

A regional observance of Anthracite Mining Heritage Month will take place during January featuring programs in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Pittston, Port Griffith, Plymouth, Dallas, Wyoming, and Ashley.

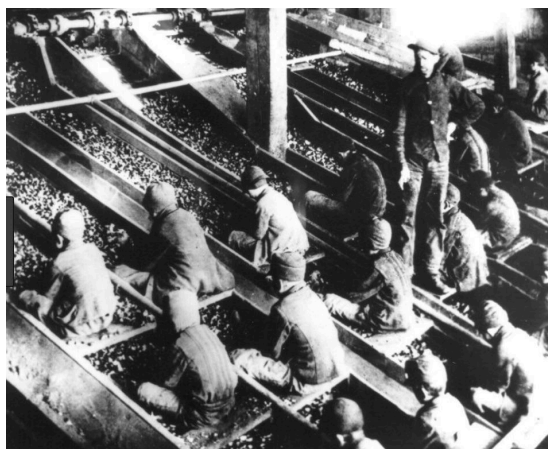
This annual event focuses on the history and culture of the anthracite region of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The events are sponsored by the [Anthracite Heritage Museum](#), the [Anthracite Heritage Foundation](#), King's College, Wilkes University, Marywood University, Misericordia University, the [Lackawanna Historical Society](#), the [Luzerne County Historical Society](#), the [Plymouth Historical Society](#), the [Greater Pittston Historical Society](#), the [Huber Breaker Preservation Society](#), the [Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Committee](#), the [Boy Scouts of America-Northeastern PA Council](#), and the [Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration](#) - Pennsylvania Anthracite Section.

Schedule of Public Events

The public is cordially invited to attend all programs--

-- **Saturday, Jan. 5 Penn State-Scranton—Public Program: Screening of the Documentary Film, “Centralia: Pennsylvania's Lost Town,”** (2017); followed by Q&A with Joe Sapienza II of Philadelphia, Executive Producer and Director of the film; Moderator: Phil Mosley, PSU-Scranton; Venue: Sherbine Lounge, Study Learning Center, PSU-Scranton, 120 Ridgeview Drive, Scranton; 2 – 4 pm; refreshments



-- **Tuesday, Jan. 8 Huber Breaker Preservation Society—Public Program: “Anthracite Mineworkers Speak: Stories and Reflections from Current and Retired Coal Miners;”** Speakers: Bill Hastie (tentative), Tom Supey, Chester Zaremba, Chris Merli; Moderator: Bill Best, HBPS; Venue: Ashley Fire Hall, 160 Ashley Street, Ashley; 6:30 – 8 pm; refreshments

-- **Thursday, Jan. 10 Luzerne County Historical Society—Public Program: “The Lattimer Massacre of 1897: A Radio Broadcast;”** Presenter: William Bachman, Penn State-Wilkes-Barre; Moderator: Aimee Newell, LCHS; Venue: Wyoming Presbyterian Church, 454 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming; 6:30 – 8 pm; refreshments

-- **Friday, Jan. 11 Greater Pittston Historical Society—Public Program: “Pittston’s Social and Industrial History;”** Speakers: F. Charles Petrillo (“The North Branch Canal”); Ron Faraday (“The Early Pennsylvania Coal Company”); Tony Brooks (“The Butler Family and Their Coal Business”); Ed Philbin (“The West Pittston & Exeter Railroad and the Stanton Power Plant”); Moderator: Julio Caprari, GPHS; Welcome: Mayor Mike Lombardo; Venue: Cosgrove Room, Pittston Memorial Library, 47 Broad Street, Pittston; 6:30 – 8:30 pm; refreshments

-- **Saturday, Jan. 12 King’s College—Public Program: “Episodes in Anthracite Labor History;”** Speakers: Thomas Mackaman, King’s College (“Labor and Industry in the Early Years of Anthracite”); Anne Flaherty, Kehoe Foundation (“The Molly Maguires: Fact vs. Fiction”); Robert Wolensky, King’s College (“The Industrial Workers of the World—The Wobblies”); Robert Schmidt, Independent Scholar (“Labor, Violence, and Dynamite in Coal Country”); Moderator: Jamie Costello, King’s College; Venue: Snyder Room, Student Center, King’s College, 133 N. River Street, Wilkes-Barre; 7 – 9 pm; refreshments

-- **Tuesday, Jan. 15 Lackawanna Historical Society—Public Program: “Four Major Anthracite Mining Disasters;”** Speakers: Richard Fitzsimmons, Penn State-Scranton (“Twin Shaft Disaster, 1896-Pittston”); Charles Kumpas, Independent Scholar (“Pancoast Disaster, 1911-Scranton”); Thomas Mackaman, King’s College (“Baltimore Tunnel Disaster, 1919-Wilkes-Barre”); Bryan Glahn, Northwest Area High School (“Knox Disaster, 1959-Port Griffith”); Moderator: Mary Ann Savakinas, LHS; Venue: Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton; 6:30 – 8:30 pm; refreshments

-- **Thursday, Jan. 17 King’s College & The Anthracite Heritage Foundation—Public Program: “The Annual Msgr. John J. Curran Lecture;”** Presenter: Artist Sue Hand will show and discuss images from her latest creative project on anthracite breakers, “Coal Breaker Communities: Faded Memories;” Moderator—Robert Wolensky, King’s College; Commentators: Joe Husty, Bill Best, and Bill Hastie (tentative); Venue: Burke Auditorium, McGowan School of Business, King’s College, Corner of N. River Street and W. Union Street, Wilkes-Barre; 7 – 8:30 pm; refreshments begin at 6:30 pm (See January 18th below)

-- **Friday, Jan. 18 King’s College—“Meet the Artist” Public Reception:** A gathering to meet artist Sue Hand and view her latest art creations on anthracite breakers, “Coal Breaker Communities: Faded Memories;” Venue: Widmann Art Gallery, Student Center, King’s College, 133 N. River Street, Wilkes-Barre; Welcome: Michelle Leonard, Widmann Art Gallery; 6 – 8 pm; refreshments (See January 17th above)

-- **Friday, Jan. 18 Marywood University—Public Program: “Major Environmental Issues in Anthracite Country;”** Speakers: Robert Hughes, EPCAMR, Ashley, PA (“Mapping Surface and Underground Mines and Mine Pools throughout NePa”); William Conlogue, Marywood U. (“On Unstable Grounds: Mine Subsidence in the Anthracite Region”); Craig Robertson, Groundwater Sciences Corp., Harrisburg, PA (“The Butler Mine Tunnel Contamination in

Pittston”); Moderator: Jeremy Rich, Marywood U.; Venue: Swartz Center B, Marywood University, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton; 6:30 – 8:30 pm; refreshments

-- **Saturday, Jan. 19 Anthracite Heritage Museum—Public Program: “The Annual Knox Mine Disaster Commemorative Program—The 60th Anniversary;”** Presenters: David Brocca and Albert Brocca showing excerpts from their documentary, “The Knox Mine Disaster;” William Lukasik speaking on “Knox Disaster Photography from the Lukasik Studio;” Music by Jimmy Waltich; Mining Memorabilia by Mike Mostardi; Moderator: John Fielding, AHM; Venue: AHM, 22 Bald Mountain Road, Scranton; 2 – 3:30 pm; refreshments; (see January 22nd program below)

-- **Sunday, Jan. 20 Annual Knox Mine Disaster Mass:** St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church, Pittston, 35 William Street, Pittston; 9 am

-- **Sunday, Jan. 20 Annual Knox Mine Disaster Public Commemoration:** Pennsylvania Historical Marker, in front of Baloga Funeral Home, Port Griffith, 1201 Main Street, Pittston; 10:30 am

-- **Sunday, Jan. 20 Annual Knox Mine Disaster walk** to the disaster site along the Susquehanna River in Port Griffith: Gather 11 am at Baloga Funeral Home

-- **Tuesday, Jan. 22 (60th Anniversary of the Knox Mine Disaster), “The Knox Mine Disaster Documentary Premiere,”** A film by David and Albert Brocca; showing followed by Q&A with the filmmakers; Music by Lex Romaine; Venue: Kirby Center for the Creative Arts at Wyoming Seminary, 260 N. Sprague Avenue, Kingston; tickets must be purchased in advance either online at www.KnoxMineDisaster.com, or by calling the box office at 570-270-2190; general admission only; doors open at 6:30 pm, premiere starts at 7 pm

-- **Thursday, Jan. 24 Wilkes University—Public Program: “Doing Journalism in Northeastern Pennsylvania;”** Speakers: Paul Golias (Citizens’ Voice), Fred Ney (formerly of the Sunday Independent and Citizens’ Voice), Kalen Churcher (Wilkes University), Joseph Butkiewicz (Scranton Times-Tribune/Sunday Times); Moderator: Mark Stine, Wilkes U.; Venue: Ballroom, Henry Student Center, Wilkes U., 84 W. South Street, Wilkes-Barre; 6:30 – 8 pm; refreshments

-- **Friday, Jan. 25 Plymouth Historical Society—Public Program: “The Avondale Mine Disaster of 1869—A 150th Anniversary Commemoration;”** Speakers: Steve Kondrad, Plymouth Historical Society; Georgetta Potoski, Plymouth Historical Society; Robert Wolensky, King’s College; Moderator: Mary Beth Kondrad, PHS; Venue: Plymouth Municipal Building, 162 West Shawnee Ave, Plymouth; 6:30 – 8 pm; refreshments

-- **Sunday, Jan. 27 Misericordia University—Public Program: “Writing Coal Country Literature: Commentaries on Fiction, Nonfiction, and Drama;”** Speakers: Lucia Dailey, Writer, Pennsylvania Council of the Arts Roster Artist, Clarks Green; Tom Granahan, Independent Writer, West Pittston; Michael Cotter, Playwright, Wyoming; Rick Sedlisky, Independent Writer, New York City; William Kashatus, Luzerne County Community College; William Conlogue, Marywood University; Moderator: Maureen Cech, Misericordia U.; Venue: McGowan Room, Bevevino Library, 301 Lake Street, Dallas; 6:30 – 8:30 pm; refreshments

-- **Thursday, Jan. 31 Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) and its Pennsylvania Anthracite Section (Penn-Anthracite)—Public Program: “The Contributions of SME to Anthracite Mining** (The Jeddo Tunnel, Scranton Mine Cave Problems, Wilkes-Barre Historic District Homes, and other topics);” Speakers Include: John Ackerman, Chairman of Penn-Anthracite Section; and Mike Korb and John Mack, Past Chairmen; Moderator: Barbara

Arnold, President of the (International) SME; Venue: Rodano's Pizza & Restaurant (back room), 53 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre; refreshments 4:30 – 5:30 pm, presentations 5:30 – 7 pm.

Questions About Anthracite Mining Heritage Month should be directed to Prof. Bob Wolensky, Anthracite heritage Foundation & King's College, by calling 715-252-6742 or send email to: rwolensk@gmail.com.

(Photo: "Breaker Boys" as young as 6 once picked rocks and other impurities out of anthracite coal. [Discover Mining History](#).)

NewsClips:

[A New Anthracite Coal Mine Is Opening In PA, Is Trump To Thank?](#)

[Indiana County Commissioners Receive Sustainability Report Urging Actions On Renewable Energy, Environmental Restoration](#)

[3 Found Alive Inside Abandoned West Virginia Coal Mine](#)

[AP: Rescue Of 3 People From WV Abandoned Coal Mines Shows Dangers](#)

[WTF Smart Talk: PA's Nuclear Dilemma: Should The State Bail Out Plants?](#)

[U.S. DOE Issues RFP For Coal Plants Of The Future](#)

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

Penn State Ground And Stream Water Research Reveals Clues To Shale Drilling Impacts

By Matthew Carroll, [Penn State News](#)

Chemical clues in waters near Marcellus Shale gas wells in rural Pennsylvania can identify new drilling-related sources of methane contamination, according to scientists.

The findings provide a new tool for distinguishing potential environmental impacts of shale drilling from pre-existing methane levels commonly found in Pennsylvania waterways, the researchers said.

Scientists also found that methane contamination may be more likely to occur when drilling takes place in certain geological settings, like those found in the study area in Lycoming County.

"This study provides new clues about where we might expect to find potential environmental impacts related to shale drilling and how to better identify new incidents after they occur," said Joshua Woda, a graduate student in geosciences at Penn State.

Woda and a team of researchers reported the finding in a [paper published online](#) in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences December 4.

The study focuses on an area where state regulators have cited multiple Marcellus Shale gas wells for well integrity issues. The nearest gas well was cited by state regulators for contaminating five residential water wells with high levels of methane. This gas poses an explosion hazard in enclosed spaces.

Methane levels remain above pre-drill conditions in stream and well water samples seven years after leaks were initially reported, researchers said.



Natural gas is primarily composed of methane, and drilling can cause the gas to escape into waterways or the atmosphere, where it is a potent greenhouse gas. Scientists think these incidents are rare compared to the overall number of shale gas wells drilled, but they are also difficult to identify.

Methane is common in Pennsylvania waterways, caused by natural sources like bogs and wetlands, as well as natural migration from deep underground rocks. This migration occurs separately from shale drilling.

"Because we lack good baseline data for water quality throughout Pennsylvania, it can be difficult to identify possible impacts of shale drilling," said Susan Brantley, distinguished professor of geosciences at Penn State and director of the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute. "While we believe these incidents of gas-well leakage are rare compared to the total number of gas wells, this study gives us a new tool to identify them when they occur."

Scientists analyzed pre- and post-drilling water samples from stream and well water around the reported leaks. They found that concentrations of some metals in the water began to rise shortly after the leaks began.

"We've documented that recent methane migration can change water chemistry in a way that can mobilize metals, such as iron, and release other unwanted chemical compounds, such as hydrogen sulfide," Woda said. "This is important because it can let people know what they might expect if they are recently impacted by something like a shale gas well leaking into their water supply."

The change in water chemistry indicates a gas plume moved into an aquifer from deep underground where horizontal drilling into shale has been accompanied by fracking. The clues could be used elsewhere to determine new leaks, researchers said.

"In other words, we have come up with new tracers that can be used with other lines of evidence to determine if a water well was impacted by recent gas migration," Woda said. "It is especially useful for people who did not collect pre-drill water samples."

Scientists said a high number of wells around the study area have been cited for cementing or casing violations. Drilling-related leaks are often caused by these types of construction issues.

"A high percentage of unconventional wells have received violations in this study area — about one third of the 101 producing wells — which is much higher than statewide estimates," Woda said.

The shale formation in the area is shallow and located along the axis of a large fold. Scientists said wells there may intersect fractures that are interconnected, forming good pathways for upward migration.

"We discovered that the drilled shale is very shallow at this point and the overlying rocks are tightly folded," Brantley said. "We think we have discovered a site where fractures in the folded rock may be helping natural gas come to the surface and that it may be accelerated by the presence of gas wells."

Further study could provide maps of areas where drilling could be avoided or lead to better management practices that could reduce risks for methane migration, the researchers said.

The National Science Foundation and the Pennsylvania State University General Electric Fund for the Center for Collaborative Research on intelligent Natural Gas Supply Systems funded this research.

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the paper.

NewsClips:

[Penn State Researchers Identify Methane Contamination Caused By Fracking](#)
[Draft DEP Proposal To Cut Gas Well Methane Emissions Exempts Most Conventional Gas Wells Accounting For 50% Or More Of Methane Pollution](#)
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[Penn State Researchers Identify Methane Contamination Caused By Fracking](#)
[PennFuture Blog: The Cost Of Replacing Nuclear Power With Natural Gas](#)
[4 Hurt In Natural Gas Plant Explosion In Washington County](#)
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[Northeast Railroad Traffic Up Again, Primarily Due To Fracking](#)
[Litvak: Team Behind Rice Energy Launches Bid To Take Over EQT Leadership](#)
[Op-Ed: EPA's Assault On Northeast Continues On Renewable Fuel Standard](#)
[AP: Environmental Groups To Sue Over Offshore Drilling Tests In Atlantic](#)

(Reprinted from [Penn State News](#).)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

DCED, DEP, Local Partners Hold Groundbreaking For New Solar Energy Array In Bedford County

On December 12, Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin and Department of Environmental Protection Executive Deputy Secretary Ramez Ziadeh joined local leaders to break ground on a new solar array in Bedford, Bedford County.

“The Wolf Administration is committed to cultivating a robust and diverse energy portfolio that takes full advantage of renewable technologies like solar,” Secretary Davin said. “This project makes sense not just from an environmental perspective, but from an economic perspective as well. It’s great news for the Bedford area.”

The 1,838 kW solar photovoltaic system will be located by the Bedford County Jail and Courthouse. It will produce more than 2.1 million kWh of electricity every year.

In addition to creating a cleaner and more environmentally-friendly energy solution for the county, it will also create significant cost savings for taxpayers, saving around \$5.5 million over 30 years.

“Pennsylvanians are increasingly interested in the benefits of getting electricity from solar energy at home, at work, at school, and throughout the community,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “While multi-purposing land around the correctional facility, creating jobs, and lowering electricity costs, the Bedford County solar array will remove over 1,600 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the air, helping to address the challenges of climate change. The project perfectly exemplifies how the diverse benefits of solar energy can improve quality of life for our communities.”

The project was supported by a \$900,698 grant through DCED's [Solar Energy Program](#) through the [Commonwealth Financing Authority](#). The Solar Energy Program provides financial assistance to promote the use of solar energy across Pennsylvania.

In fiscal year 2017-2018, more than \$30 million was approved for various energy generation and distribution projects in the Commonwealth.

"The Bedford County solar project is a great example of coordination and collaboration working – one of the county's overarching goals," said Commissioner Josh Lang, chairman of the Bedford County commissioners. "This project is another successful implementation of forward-thinking innovative technology that will benefit taxpayers for years to come. I thank everyone who helped to make this project a reality."

The Solar Energy Program is just one part of the Wolf Administration's commitment to promoting solar energy across Pennsylvania.

In November, the Department of Environmental Protection unveiled the [Pennsylvania's Solar Future Plan](#) to increase solar development. The plan identifies 15 cost-effective strategies that can be implemented to supply 10 percent of the state's electricity by 2030.

The plan also notes that increasing solar development in Pennsylvania could create approximately 60,000 to 100,000 jobs in rural, urban, and suburban areas, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from electricity by 9 percent.

Electricity generation creates about 33 percent of greenhouse gases in Pennsylvania.

In 2017, Gov. Wolf also [signed legislation to enhance the solar market](#) in Pennsylvania, and revised the Solar Energy Program to provide grant funding rather than just loan funding.

For more information on this program, visit DCED's [Solar Energy Program](#) webpage. Applications for funding are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. Questions should be directed to Greg Welker by sending email to: gwelker@pa.gov or calling 717-787-6245.

NewsClips:

[WTF Smart Talk: Pennsylvania's Solar Future](#)

[PA's State Parks Are Recharging Themselves, Environmentally](#)

[Indiana County Commissioners Receive Sustainability Report Urging Actions On Renewable Energy, Environmental Restoration](#)

[Op-Ed: Conservatives Should Lead The Way On Clean Energy, It Means Jobs, Prosperity](#)

[Trump Tariffs Prompt Nearly 50% Drop In U.S. Utility Solar Installations](#)

[U.S. Senate Democrats: To Get Infrastructure Deal, Make Renewable Tax Credits Permanent](#)

Related Story:

[PA Solar Future Plan Recommends Dramatic Increase In AEPS Solar Mandate Of Up To 8%](#)

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

Emerging Erie 2030 District Energy Efficiency Workshop Dec. 20



The [Emerging Erie 2030 District](#) will host an [Energy Efficiency Workshop](#) on December 20 at the [UPMC Hamot Magee Women's Hospital](#) at 118 East 2nd Street in Erie from 3:00 to 4:30.

This is the third in a series of bi-monthly workshops offered by the Erie Emerging 2030 District to help educate downtown organizations and businesses about energy efficiency opportunities. Every other month, the District will provide experts and

presentations on a variety of efficiency topics, in order to help achieve the District's overall goal of reducing energy use 50 percent by the year 2030.

The session will include the following presentations, as well as a building tour:

- **Guy McUmb**, [Green Building Alliance](#), Erie Emerging 2030 District Update
- **Geoff Bristow**, **Regional Energy Manager, DEP**, Initiatives from DEP's Energy Program Office
- **Allana Colvin**, **Technical Advisor**, [PA Technical Assistance Program](#) (PennTAP), Energy Efficiency for Small Business
- **Jeff DeBello**, **Manager, Facilities Engineering, UPMC Hamot**, Energy Efficiency and Green Initiatives at UPMC Hamot

[Click Here](#) to register for this free event or for more information.

The workshop will be preceded by a meeting of the Erie 2030 District Advisory Committee from 2:00 to 3:00. Anyone interested in becoming a committee member or in need of information about the District, is welcome to attend.

For more information, visit the [Erie 2030 District](#) webpage or contact Guy McUmb, Committee Chair, by sending email to: guym@gbapgh.org or call 814-547-2606.

There are also 2030 Districts in [Pittsburgh](#) and [Philadelphia](#).

NewsClip:

[Kummer: Eagles' Lincoln Financial Field Awarded Gold LEED Certification For Energy Use](#)
[Posted: Dec. 10, 2018]

DCNR Blog: Understanding Climate Change In Pennsylvania

Although climate change may be more evident in some places, such as the Arctic, no place is considered immune to its effects.

Over the past 110 years, Pennsylvania has undergone a long-term warming trend of almost 2 degrees Fahrenheit and an overall increased trend in precipitation.

Models show this pattern will continue into the future at an accelerated rate.

Given these projected effects, it is likely that the plants, animals, and landscape in Pennsylvania will be impacted by climate change.

The challenge for conservation managers is how to adapt and mitigate.

Planning To Address Climate Change

Climate change will likely alter the distribution and abundance of plant and animal species in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania may even gain new species from surrounding states as ranges shift.

As part of its [Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan \(PDF\)](#), DCNR is working with partners to review and expand monitoring to ensure that changes in natural communities, species distribution, and populations are detected.

Data collected will inform conservation practices and priorities -- including protecting land and managing it -- to create a system of habitats that would allow species to move north and to higher elevations.



Monitoring Vulnerable Habitat

Biologists from the [Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program](#) (PNHP) currently are monitoring to better understand how peatlands are changing, possibly in response to climate change.

[Peatlands](#) are a unique group of wetlands generally found at higher elevations. They are typically cooler and provide a special environment that supports plants normally found farther north in the U.S. They provide habitat for some of Pennsylvania's rarest bird species.

In 2010, PNHP established a long-term monitoring network that included targeting plant species believed to be vulnerable at 30 sites.

They returned to all of the sites over the past several years, and are beginning to analyze data to determine what, if any, changes have occurred during the time between the sampling.

What Species Are Vulnerable?

A beginning step for agencies responsible for conservation is to determine those species most vulnerable and the factors that influence that vulnerability.

To contribute, PNHP biologists are using the [Climate Change Vulnerability Index](#). Assessments continue, but so far, more than 85 species in Pennsylvania have been examined to understand their sensitivity and exposure to climate change related factors.

Some of those species include: Eastern hellbender; White-fringed orchid; Bog turtle; and Golden-winged warbler.

Findings from these projects and other monitoring efforts will help guide the future management of natural resources.

What Can Citizens Do?

Learn more about climate change this month by watching National Geographic's new film, "[Paris to Pittsburgh](#)."

As you are doing your garden planning this year, [check information on iconservePA](#) about incorporating native plants, which provide food and habitat for wildlife.

Be a citizen scientist by participating in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Find locations on the [DCNR Calendar of Events](#) or check the [Audubon map](#).

This information was gathered from a story by PNHP ecologist Mary Ann Furedi in the most recent [Wild Heritage News](#). [Subscribe to keep up](#) with information about conserving biodiversity in Pennsylvania.

(Photo: PNHP biologist, Scott Schuette, is sampling peatland mosses along a permanent transect. Photo by Mary Ann Furedi)

NewsClips:

[Draft DEP Proposal To Cut Gas Well Methane Emissions Exempts Most Conventional Gas Wells Accounting For 50% Or More Of Methane Pollution](#)

[Legere: DEP Drafts New Limits On Methane Pollution From Gas Wells As Feds Reconsider Rules](#)

[Sisk: DEP Unveils Proposal To Reduce Emissions From Existing Oil, Gas Wells](#)

[AP-Levy: PA Moves To Curb Air Pollution From Oil & Gas Operations](#)

[National Geographic Premieres Paris To Pittsburgh Environmental Documentary](#)

[DCNR Blog: Understanding Climate Change In Pennsylvania](#)

[Op-Ed: Climate Change - It's Real, It's Now And It's Us](#)

[Cralle: After Wettest Year, Lancaster County May Be In The Longest Dry Spell](#)

[Editorial: State Lawmakers Should Debate Future Of Nuclear Energy In PA](#)

[Pittsburgh Mayor Represents U.S. Mayors At Climate Conference In Poland](#)
[New Governors Plan Aggressive Climate Steps](#)
[UN Report: Cities Are Key Implementers' Of Climate Policies](#)
[World Climate Talks At Risk Of Failure With U.S. Leaving Leadership Void](#)
[U.S. Pushes Fossil Fuels At Climate Conference, Protesters Howl, Allies Emerge](#)
[U.S., Russia, Saudi Arabia Resist Global Climate Efforts At Home, Overseas](#)
[U.S. DOE Issues RFP For Coal Plants Of The Future](#)
[Letter: Learn About Proposed Federal Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act](#)

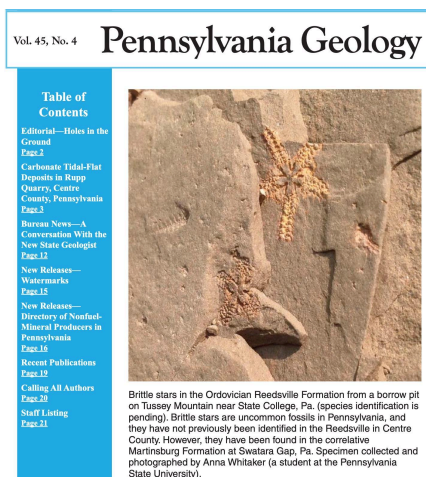
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[Dec. 13 Resource Newsletter Now Available From DCNR](#)

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[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Pennsylvania Geological Information Available To Public In Many Forms



Did you know the [Pennsylvania Geological Survey](#) has an extensive library at the office in Middletown? It continues to add to its collection, which is open to the public for use.

Titles that recently were added include:

-- [Pennsylvania Caves and Other Rocky Roadside Wonders](#) by Kevin Patrick

-- [Isabella and Trent's Hot Air Balloon Adventure](#) -- A children's book of Pennsylvania Geology by Jeri Jones and Dennis Low.

For information about library hours, visit the [Library webpage](#) or call 717-702-2020. The Library is located at 3240 Schoolhouse Road in Middletown, Dauphin County. [Pennsylvania Geology](#) is a free online magazine published by the DCNR Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey. It

includes information about:

- Geology of Pennsylvania
- Earth science education
- Topographic mapping
- New publications

- Conferences
- Other geologic and topographic items of interest

[See past editions](#), or to receive each new issue, send an email to the Pennsylvania Geological Survey at: RA-pageology@state.pa.us.

Among the many types of information available, the Survey also maintains an [online library of historical geologic photographs](#).

For more on the kinds of digital and published information available and services, visit DCNR's [Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey](#) webpage.

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[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Pennsylvania Acts To Preserve 28 More Farms, Nearly 2,000 Acres



On December 13, the [PA Agricultural Land Preservation Board](#) took action to preserve 1,974 additional acres on 28 farms in 14 counties through the state's nation-leading farmland preservation program.

"There are people on both sides of the food equation: producers and consumers. They rarely interact but are deeply intertwined," said Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. "Without farmers, we would have no farmland, but without the millions of Pennsylvanians who have shown support for our state's nation-leading

farmland preservation program over the past three decades, our best farmland would be lost to development. These investments help to secure a future for agriculture and the world our industry feeds, clothes, and fuels."

The 28 farms are in Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Clinton, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Union, and Westmoreland counties.

Under Governor Tom Wolf, funding for farmland preservation has increased more than 45 percent, or \$12.5 million, which means \$40 million is available for the program this fiscal year, Redding added.

Since taking office, the Wolf administration has preserved 696 farms totaling 58,899 acres of prime farmland across Pennsylvania.

Since Gov. Robert Casey signed Act 149 into law to create the program in December 1988, federal, state, county and local governments have invested more than \$1.4 billion to preserve 559,698 acres on 5,428 farms in 58 counties for future agricultural production. In 2018, the board approved for preservation 185 farms and 14,696 acres in total.

In some cases, federal funding helps to preserve these lands. In 2016, the department signed a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service that allows Pennsylvania's program to submit farms for consideration by the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

The department secured more than \$2 million under its most recent cooperative agreement to preserve eight farms totaling 1,097 acres.

The PA Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program, as it is formally known, is dedicated to slowing the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. Funding allows state, county, and local governments to purchase conservation easements, from owners of quality farmland.

State, county, local, and federal funds committed at Thursday's meeting, and allocated to county programs, will secure the purchase of development rights to preserve farms waiting on the county backlog lists.

For more information on the program, visit Agriculture's [Farmland Preservation](#) webpage.

NewsClips:

[Berks County Seeks New Criteria For Farmland Preservation Easements](#)

[Penn State Investigating Ways To Conserve 365 Acres Near Toll Brothers Site](#)

[Penn State Looking At Conserving Musser Gap Property In Centre County](#)

Related Stories:

[Conservation Partners, Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Funds Protect 77 Acres In Berks County](#)

[Penn State, ClearWater Conservancy Partner To Conserve Musser Gap Property In Centre County](#)

[PA Land Trust Assn. Invites Comments On Model Conservation Easement Language](#)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Foundation For Sustainable Forests' Loving The Land Series - Carmen & Kathy Testi, Erie County

By Ellis Giacomelli

On a quiet afternoon, Carmen Testi planted young trees. He worked for hours, trying to build new life on his new land, pausing only to reorganize the plans in his head or to smile at his then-girlfriend, Kathy, who was crocheting in his pick-up truck.

A small hickory had an unfortunate injury, a split down its center, and Kathy offered to mend it.

"We used the yarn to wrap around it, to heal



it, because he didn't have rags or tools with him," Kathy Testi said. "He said 'That's when I knew you were the one.'"

Carmen was 24 years old when he first purchased a parcel of North East, Pennsylvania property: 17 acres in 1981, seven acres in 1986, nine in 1996 and 17 more in 2006.

Carmen and Kathy now live on the 50 acres, but their journey with the land has been long and laborious.

John Testi of Harborcreek, Carmen's father, introduced his children to forestry through his own part-time logging work, selling to Hammermill Paper in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Carmen loved the outdoors as a child and young adult and knew he wanted to own land as an adult.

When he found the North East property, it was littered with farm equipment, industrial waste, car parts, tires, a trailer, an old house and an old barn. He had work to do.

Carmen spent a year doing initial clean-up work, and a large field in the back of the property had begun to regenerate into a woodlot, so he wanted to plant young trees there.

Carmen gathered acorns from Lawrence Park, hickory nuts in Waterford and black walnuts from his father, and he grew 600 trees.

He then transplanted them into the open field and began a confrontation with local deer. Because Carmen could not afford fencing to prevent deer from damaging the juvenile woodlot, he used several odorous materials to detract deer from the property.

"Deer have a wonderful ability to get used to things," Carmen said. "So once they get used to a smell, you have to introduce a different smell."

Trees were adorned with ornament-like rags soaked in oil or diesel fuel, Irish Spring soaps or perfumes.

"That's how I got rid of all my bottles of old stinky perfume," Kathy said.

Carmen persisted in these detraction efforts and was successful in bringing the field to life, and the former field eventually required thinning.

Carmen was a truck mechanic for 42 years, and according to Kathy, can fix almost anything. He has demonstrated an incredible dedication to managing deer and invasive species and has worked for nearly 40 years to ensure a new legacy for the once deteriorating land.

Carmen and Kathy use what they learn from conservation magazine articles, other landowners and Foundation events to increase their understanding of timber stand improvement and sustainable principles.

"I was really glad we got the opportunity to be introduced to the [Foundation for Sustainable Forests](#) because we don't have any children, and I don't know if we had any children if they would appreciate it anyway," Carmen said.

Carmen and Kathy have lived on the property since 1993-- in a barn-style structure they built-- and hope to leave the 50 acres with the Foundation.

Their interest in Foundation values continues to grow as they spend time with other landowners and develop new local relationships.

"The story is about when we get together with all of those landowners, and we share stories and what we've tried-- our failures and our accomplishments and our common goal," Carmen said. "That's the most important thing."

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [Foundation For Sustainable Forests](#) website. [Click Here](#) to support their work. [Loving The Land Through Working Forests Conference](#) May 11, 2019.

(Reprinted from the Fall/Winter newsletter of the [Foundation For Sustainable Forests](#).
Contributed to the newsletter by Carmen & Kathy Testi.)

NewsClips:

[Christmas Tree Shortage Not Affecting Erie](#)

[Are False Fears About Spotted Lanternfly Hurting Christmas Tree Sales?](#)

[Kummer: Businesses Must Get Trained, Permitted For Spotted Lanternfly Or Face Fines](#)

[Tree Pittsburgh Branching Out In New Riverfront Center](#)

Related Stories:

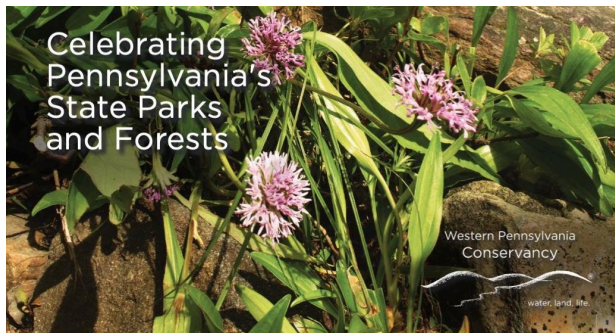
[Bob & Jane Slagter Of Warren County Recognized As Outstanding PA Tree Farmers Of The Year](#)

[Foundation For Sustainable Forests, French Creek Valley Conservancy Host Woods & Waters Film Series Jan. 11, Feb. 22](#)

[New Report: Outdoor Recreation Is A Bigger Economic Powerhouse Than Construction In PA](#)
[Western PA Conservancy Conserve Magazine Celebrates 125th Anniversary Of State Parks & Forests](#)

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

Western PA Conservancy Conserve Magazine Celebrates 125th Anniversary Of State Parks & Forests



The [Winter issue of the Conserve magazine](#) published by the [Western PA Conservancy](#) celebrates the 125th anniversary of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests featuring articles on--

- State Parks & Forests, PA's Invaluable Assets, Indispensable Legacy
- Explore Parks & Forests WPC Helped Establish Or Expand
- Pittsburgh's Iconic Point State Park
- Laurel Highlands State Parks
- Partners Work To Improve Wild Trout In Laurel Ridge State Park
- Explore PA's Countless Acres Of Lush Forestland
- Kaufman Family Helps Turn Ferncliff Peninsula Into National Natural Landmark
- Trail Recommendations For Your Next Visits
- Family's Close Connection To Nature Blossoms Into Dedication To Conservation

[Click Here](#) to read all these articles and more.

More information is available on programs, initiatives and special events at the [Western PA Conservancy](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from the Conservancy, [Like them on Facebook](#), [Follow them on Twitter](#), add them to your [Circle on Google+](#), join them on [Instagram](#), visit the [Conservancy's YouTube Channel](#) or add them to your [network on LinkedIn](#). [Click Here](#) to support their work.

Resource Links:

[PA Parks & Forests Foundation: Celebrating 125 Years Of State Parks, Forests \(Video\)](#)

[PA Parks & Forests Foundation: 125 Years of Stewardship & Conservation](#)
[125 Facts On Pennsylvania State Parks And Forests](#)

Related Stories:

[PA Parks & Forests Foundation Launches 125th Anniversary State Parks, Forests Celebration Feature: A Legacy You Can Take Pride In Continuing - 125 Years Of State Parks & Forests](#)
[PA Parks & Forests Foundation Forthcoming Report: Conserving the Legacy: The Future Is In Our Hands](#)

[Online Story Map Celebrates 125th Anniversary Of Pennsylvania's State Parks, Forests Senate, House, Gov. Wolf Recognize 125th Anniversary Of Pennsylvania's State Parks, Forests](#)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

DCNR Awards Grants To Support ATV Trails In Clarion & Jefferson, Northumberland Counties



On December 11, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced the award of nearly \$100,000 in grants to support two ATV trail riding projects. The projects are in these counties--

-- **Clarion and Jefferson -- Piney Rail Riders, \$64,000**, to prepare a feasibility study for the Piney Branch ATV Rail Corridor, which approximately 24 miles from Piney Township to Brookville Borough in Clarion and Jefferson counties.

-- **Northumberland -- Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area Authority, \$25,000**, for construction of approximately a quarter mile of the Boyers Knob Trail and rehabilitation of approximately half a mile of the Boyers Knob Trail at AOAA in Coal, East Cameron, Mt. Carmel, West Cameron, and Zerbe townships.

"Using funds from ATV riders when they register their vehicles, these grants will help improve riding opportunities," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "ATV trails draw visitors and can have a positive economic impact on nearby communities."

DCNR's ATV and Snowmobile grant program can help to buy land; develop plans and surveys; construct and maintain ATV trails; buy equipment; and conduct educational programs relating to ATV use.

The department can award grants two times each year to municipalities and organizations for development of publicly accessible ATV trails and facilities.

With a few limited exceptions, all ATVs in Pennsylvania must have a registration issued by DCNR. Pennsylvania has around 285,000 registered ATVs. The grants are administered by DCNR with funding provided from ATV registrations.

New ATV Grant Round

DCNR will open a new application round for All-Terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile Grants on January 22. The deadline for applications is April 10. [Click Here](#) for more information.

For information on ATV riding, visit DCNR's [ATV Riding In State Forests](#) webpage.

New CCGP Grant Round

To learn more about grant opportunities to support riparian buffer, trail and recreation

projects, visit DCNR's [Community Conservation Grant Program](#) webpage. A new grant round is opening January 22 and will close April 10.

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit [DCNR's website](#), [Click Here](#) to sign up for the Resource newsletter, Visit the [Good Natured DCNR Blog](#), [Click Here](#) for upcoming events, [Click Here](#) to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

DCNR Good Natured Pennsylvanians - Robert Schiffbauer, Township Supervisor In Fayette County

The following Good Natured Pennsylvanians article appeared in the [December 13 DCNR Resource newsletter](#).



Robert Schiffbauer has been a [South Union Township](#) Supervisor in Fayette County for 40 years. From the start of his tenure, one of his main goals in serving residents was to develop a well-rounded recreation program.

When he started out, South Union Township had no recreation facilities and few tax dollars to work with; however, by setting priorities on recreation development, the township now stands out as having one of the best recreation programs in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Contributing to that success is the [Sheepskin Trail](#).

Twenty years ago, the concept of constructing the Sheepskin Trail was introduced to the township and to all other municipalities where the trail was proposed to run -- from the [Great Allegheny Passage](#) in Connellsville to Point Marion Borough, which borders West Virginia.

Because of budgetary constraints, the trail project was deferred until the township applied for DCNR trail funding.

Most of the trail was constructed on an old railroad right-of-way, but a large part was constructed on natural surfaces, which posed several challenges, including crossing a stream leading into the township community park.

With his experience of having limited dollars to work with, Robert inquired with his local PennDOT district office about a pedestrian bridge that was being removed in an upgrade of the New Stanton Route 70 interchange.

After some negotiation, the bridge was donated to the township and converted into an old-fashioned wooden covered bridge, which has become a focal point of the Sheepskin Trail portion in South Union Township.

"From the very start of our trail project, we knew the trail would be a success, but at that time, we had no idea how big a success it would be," said Schiffbauer.

"I have never seen an outpouring from the public like this [about the trail] in my 40 years as a township supervisor. Not only did we far exceed the number of trail users originally anticipated, the expression of appreciation for the new trail became overwhelming."

Robert makes it a point to walk the trail periodically and speak to the users looking for

feedback to make the trail an even nicer place to enjoy.

“Being involved with the trail project has taken me to a point in my career as a township supervisor where it has given it a new and even greater meaning,” said Schiffbauer.

With his continued enthusiasm, plans are being made to extend the Sheepskin Trail another three and a half miles, where it will run through the remainder of South Union Township and its neighboring township. Plans are also being finalized for two smaller spur trails.

(Know of a good natured Pennsylvanian who is passionate about outdoor recreation and/or conservation that we should feature? Send an email with your suggestion to:

ra-resource@pa.gov to nominate someone.)

New DCNR Grant Round

To learn more about grant opportunities to support riparian buffer, trail and recreation projects, visit DCNR’s [Community Conservation Grant Program](#) webpage. A new grant round is opening January 22 and will close April 10.

Related Stories:

[DCNR, PennVEST Award Nearly \\$1 Million In Grants To Support Multi-Functional Stream Buffers](#)

[DCNR Awards Grants To Support ATV Trails In Clarion & Jefferson, Northumberland Counties](#)

[DCNR Blog: Understanding Climate Change In Pennsylvania](#)

[U.S. Postal Service 2019 Forever Stamp Series Features PA’s Clarion River](#)

[Western PA Conservancy Conserve Magazine Celebrates 125th Anniversary Of State Parks & Forests](#)

[Pennsylvania Geological Information Available To Public In Many Forms](#)

[Dec. 13 Resource Newsletter Now Available From DCNR](#)

(Reprinted from the [December 13 DCNR Resource newsletter](#). [Click Here](#) to sign up for your own copy.)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Pike County Tick Borne Disease Task Force Has Donated Supply Of Tick Keys Available For Public



The [Pike County Tick Borne Diseases Task Force](#) recently received a gift of 100 tick keys from the [Hemlock Farms Conservancy](#).

The tick keys are used for easy tick removal, and are safe for adults, children and pets. They are available to the public, while supplies last, through several county locations--

-- Community Planning, 837 Route 6, Unit 3, in Shohola

-- Pike County Conservation District, 556

Route 402, in Blooming Grove

-- Treasurer’s Office, 506 Broad Street, in Milford

A \$5 donation is requested. Proceeds will benefit the Task Force, which is focused on decreasing the number of tick borne illnesses by building community awareness through education, support, and advocacy.

“The Pike County Board of Commissioners along with the Pike County Tick Borne Diseases Task Force would like to extend a thank you to the Hemlock Farms Conservancy for their gracious donation of Tick Keys,” said Commissioner Chairman Matthew Osterberg. “These will fund our continuing efforts in education, prevention, and support for Pike County residents to bring awareness to tick borne diseases.”

The [Hemlock Farms Conservancy](#) is a nonprofit organization with a mission is to protect, preserve, conserve and sustain the water, air, land, forest, wildlife, and other natural resources of Hemlock Farms and its environs in partnership with Hemlock Farms Community Association members.

For more information, visit the [Tick Borne Diseases Task Force](#) webpage. Questions should be directed to Brian Snyder by sending email to: bsnyder@pikepa.org or calling 570-296-3569.

[Posted: Dec. 10, 2018]

Foundation For Sustainable Forests, French Creek Valley Conservancy Host Woods & Waters Film Series Jan. 11, Feb. 22



Gather on a winter's night for warm community and great films by joining the [Foundation For Sustainable Forests](#) and the [French Creek Valley Conservancy](#) at the Woods & Waters Film Series. The dates include--

-- **January 11:** Helene Barco-Duratz Cultural Center, 415 Chestnut Street (East Alley entrance), Meadville, Crawford County.

-- **February 22:** Erie National Wildlife

Refuge Visitor Center, 11296 Wood Duck Lane, Guys Mills, Crawford County.

This event is free and open to the public. Both evenings begin with light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. with the films beginning at 7:00. [Click Here](#) for more information.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [Foundation For Sustainable Forests](#) and [French Creek Valley Conservancy](#) websites.

Related Stories:

[Bob & Jane Slagter Of Warren County Recognized As Outstanding PA Tree Farmers Of The Year](#)

[New Report: Outdoor Recreation Is A Bigger Economic Powerhouse Than Construction In PA Western PA Conservancy Conserve Magazine Celebrates 125th Anniversary Of State Parks & Forests](#)

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Conservation Partners, Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Funds Protect 77 Acres In Berks County

On December 10, [Hawk Mountain Sanctuary](#), [The Conservation Fund](#), [Berks Nature](#), and the [Game Commission](#) have partnered to conserve vital acreage for migratory birds, announcing plans to protect and improve more than 77 acres of farmland located in the shadow of the [Kittatinny Ridge](#) in Berks County.

These lands are being conserved, in part, by funding from Williams [Pipelines] in connection with the construction and operation of the company's Atlantic Sunrise natural gas pipeline project.

"Cooperation is the keystone of smart conservation, especially when it comes to land," says Bryan Burhans, Executive Director of the Game Commission. "This project will protect habitat for declining species such as the northern harrier, American kestrel, Eastern Meadowlark, bobolink, grasshopper sparrow and more."

With assistance from Berks Nature and support from Williams through a grant provided by The Conservation Fund, the Sanctuary purchased the tract, which was under threat from developers.

Working with the Game Commission, the conservation partners developed a land improvement plan to convert the former fields into native grasslands and meadows. In turn, this work will support migratory birds and other wildlife and expand wildlife diversity and recreational opportunities.

"The Sanctuary is a significant economic driver, and partnering with the Game Commission provides more land for birdwatching, hunting, and hiking," says Hawk Mountain President Sean Grace.

The property has long been identified by state and local planning organizations as a top priority for protection due to its location at the base of the Kittatinny Ridge, a mega greenway and migration superhighway, as well as its adjacency to the Appalachian Trail and State Game Lands.

To ensure public access, the property was transferred at signing to the Game Commission, as an addition to the adjacent State Game Lands 106.

Future plans include planting of grasses and other native species and addition of a parking area along Hawk Mountain Road.

"This is public-private partnership at its best," said Williams Chief Operating Officer Micheal Dunn. "The Commonwealth identified the protection of this property as a top priority, so we are glad to have the opportunity to coordinate with our partners in the preservation of this important wildlife habitat."

"Protecting this property is a win-win, both for the birds and for the people who enjoy wild places," said Kyle Shenk, Pennsylvania Director for The Conservation Fund.

During spring and fall, more than 150 species of raptors and songbirds follow the Kittatinny Ridge or "Blue Mountain," using habitats along its slope and base to rest and feed.

The 2,500 acres at Hawk Mountain and the 9,000 acres of adjoining State Game Lands offer healthy habitats for forest wildlife, but field, riparian, and wetland species have declined.

Conservation of this property addresses a critical need for bird habitat locally and along the entire Ridge, as grassland and wetland birds are some of the fastest declining groups in Pennsylvania due to habitat loss.

Insectivorous birds such as warblers, vireos, and flycatchers that depend upon the riparian areas or field edges will also benefit, and new foraging habitat will become available for bats, mammals, and migrating birds along with breeding areas for many amphibians.

Related Stories:

[Pennsylvania Acts To Preserve 28 More Farms, Nearly 2,000 Acres](#)

[Penn State, ClearWater Conservancy Partner To Conserve Musser Gap Property In Centre County](#)

[PA Land Trust Assn. Invites Comments On Model Conservation Easement Language](#)

[Posted: Dec. 11, 2018]

Penn State, ClearWater Conservancy Partner To Conserve Musser Gap Property In Centre County



On December 11, Penn State President Eric Barron announced the University is investigating ways to conserve land it owns roughly between Whitehall Road and [Rothrock State Forest](#) at Musser Gap, in Ferguson Township just outside of the University Park campus in Centre County.

[Click Here](#) for a video announcing the initiative by President Barron.

“Our vision for this area is to not only help protect the local water supply, plant and animal species, but also make it a place where people can enjoy nature, learn about the environment and be inspired,” Barron said.

The 365-acre property, which is being referred to as the Musser Gap to Valleylands (MG2V) site, includes the Musser Greenway Trail and is bordered by Rothrock State Forest and the proposed Whitehall Road Regional Park.

As part of the work, the University is partnering with the [ClearWater Conservancy](#) which will work with the community and seek input from local residents.

“ClearWater is excited to partner with Penn State and engage our local community around this important initiative. Public input is key to shape future use of the MG2V site — not only for our community today, but for generations to come,” said Deb Nardone, executive director at ClearWater Conservancy. “We will be leading public engagement sessions and surveying stakeholders in the community beginning this January.”

Jan. 31 Meeting

The first such community forum organized by ClearWater Conservancy will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 31 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County at 780 Waupelani Dr. in State College.

David Gray, senior vice president for finance and business at Penn State, said, “As we explore the ecological needs of this unique site that connects town and forest, we are going to take a careful and deliberate approach in our process. We will consult extensively with the local community and government as we consider passive use options that help protect the overall environment, including the water supply, while advancing the University’s core missions of education, research and outreach.”

A student team, comprised of Penn State undergraduate and graduate students, has spent the fall 2018 semester carefully studying the property as part of an upper-level landscape

architecture course.

“This project is all about providing both environmental and social benefits — which is what our department consistently strives to do,” said Eliza Pennypacker, professor and head of landscape architecture. “In this first phase of exploration, the students, led and mentored by some of our top faculty, have explored many aspects of the MG2V property, examining the biophysical, geological, hydrological, ecological, agricultural and historic characteristics of the land. This has resulted in a very useful profile of the site’s existing conditions.”

Pennypacker said another class will continue the work in the spring. This group will expand their project understanding by working with ClearWater Conservancy to gain input from stakeholders both within and outside of the University.

Using all of the information gathered this fall, as well as feedback from stakeholders this spring, the students will then generate preliminary ideas for possible future land use of the site that focuses on environmental and social benefits.

“These are some of the very preliminary steps as we begin to consider how to preserve access to the Musser Gap,” Barron said. “I’m looking forward to hearing the results of the student report, and continuing the conversation with our community as we explore together the possibilities for conserving the MG2V site.”

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [ClearWater Conservancy](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for their e-newsletter. Visit them on [Facebook](#), follow them on Twitter and watch their [YouTube Channel](#). [Click Here](#) to support their work.

Related Stories:

[Pennsylvania Acts To Preserve 28 More Farms, Nearly 2,000 Acres](#)

[Conservation Partners, Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Funds Protect 77 Acres In Berks County](#)

[PA Land Trust Assn. Invites Comments On Model Conservation Easement Language](#)

(Reprinted from [Penn State News](#).)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

PA Land Trust Invites Comments On Model Conservation Easement Language

As a result of recent litigation, the [PA Land Trust Association](#) is inviting comments on proposed changes to a section of the Model Grant Of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants language.

PALTA is proposing changes to subsection 6.04(c). The change seeks to balance various concerns: (1) safeguarding against inadvertent holder process errors; (2) achieving optimal conservation outcomes; (3) holder being reasonable and avoiding potential negative consequences of failing at that; and (4) arriving at a provision that landowners and their counsels (and holders) should find acceptable. Importantly (and the initial motivation for exploring the issue), the change also eliminates a potential pathway for the IRS to challenge the tax-deductibility of an easement donation.

[Click Here](#) to see the entire proposal for changes.

Depending on public feedback on this proposed change, this or an alternative modification will be made in 2019. In any case, this present proposal is suitable for use in the model now.

Please send comments to Andy Loza by sending email to: aloza@conserveland.org as

soon as possible but no later than January 11.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [PA Land Trust Association](#) website, [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from PLTA, [Like them on Facebook](#), and [Follow them on Twitter](#). [Click Here](#) to support their work.

The [2019 PA Land Conservation Conference](#) will be held May 16-18 at Skytop Lodge in Monroe County.

Related Stories:

[Pennsylvania Acts To Preserve 28 More Farms, Nearly 2,000 Acres](#)
[Conservation Partners, Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Funds Protect 77 Acres In Berks County](#)
[Penn State, ClearWater Conservancy Partner To Conserve Musser Gap Property In Centre County](#)

[Posted: Dec. 11, 2018]

Dec. 13 Resource Newsletter Now Available From DCNR

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-- [DCNR Blog: Understanding Climate Change In Pennsylvania](#)

-- [U.S. Postal Service 2019 Forever Stamp Series Features PA's Clarion River](#)

-- [DCNR Awards Nearly \\$1 Million To Support Multi-Functional Stream Buffers](#)

-- [DCNR Awards Grants To Support ATV Trails In 3 Counties](#)

-- [Good Natured Pennsylvanians - Robert Schiffbauer, Township Supervisor In Fayette County](#)

-- [Mon Wharf Switchback Helps Connect Pittsburgh's Riverfront Trail Network](#)

-- [PPFF Working to Bring Accessible Kayak/Canoe Launch to Little Buffalo State Park](#)

-- [Pennsylvania Geological Information Available To Public In Many Forms](#)

-- [Conservation Tip - Recycle Your Christmas Tree](#)

-- [Click Here](#) to sign up for your own copy.

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit [DCNR's website](#), Visit the [Good Natured](#) DCNR Blog, [Click Here](#) for upcoming events, [Click Here](#) to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]



Op-Ed: Reflecting On 12 Years Of Service On The Fish & Boat Commission Board

By Len Lichvar, Former District 4 Commissioner



Over the last 12 years, I have proudly served as an unpaid volunteer state appointed official in the role of the District 4 Commissioner for the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

The agency has evolved and progressed to maximize its services to the anglers and boaters of the state and enhance natural resources, perhaps collectively more so than in its entire previous history.

Now that my term limit has come to a close I would like to document the many accomplishments that we made during my tenure.

My fellow Commissioners and I, along with the dedicated professional PFBC staff, have accomplished much through partnerships with countless organizations and agencies including through cooperation with and essential assistance and support from our elected legislative allies as well as listening to and using public input from the anglers and boaters.

As appointed state officials, rather than elected ones, my fellow commissioners and I have a unique role and have been willing and able to lead this process by doing what is needed rather than what is wanted and making the right decisions rather than popular ones.

We have also strived to use resource science, not political science, to guide our decision making and the results have been and are impressive.

The following is only a partial summary of those pro-active and positive accomplishments.

- **Mentored Youth Trout Day** – A special day for youth and mentors to fish together.
- **Unassessed Waters Program** – A monumental statewide effort to protect our best water resources.
- **Keystone Select** – An opportunity like no other for anglers to catch large trout.
- **Legislator Regional Meetings** – A direct line of two way communication with the legislature.
- **Save Our Susquehanna** – Implementing regulations to protect smallmouth bass from over harvest and putting projects on the ground to effectively address water quality issues.
- **Voluntary Youth License** – A way for youngsters to feel like they belong on the water.
- **Three Rods** – Enabling anglers to more fully enjoy special angling opportunities.
- **Marketing Program** – Aggressively promoting angling and boating.
- **Water Trail Guides and Maps** – Showing how our waterways are user friendly.
- **Multi-Year Licenses** – Making purchasing a license more practical for the angler and productive for the agency.
- **License Buttons** – Value added component to the angling experience.
- **Lake Erie Access** – Securing miles of public stream access in the Lake Erie tributaries.
- **Wild Trout Summit and Wild Trout Work Group** – Providing the public a first ever serious look at wild trout management present and future and enabling angler input.
- **Pollution Hotline** – Enabling citizens to quickly report pollution events.
- **Funding for High Hazard Dams** – Secure \$21 million to save recreational lakes throughout the state that otherwise would be lost.
- **Renovation of Hatcheries** – Found innovative sources of funding to renovate and update trout hatcheries to state of the art facilities.
- **Dunkard Creek Settlement** – Holding the responsible party accountable and restoring a fishery.
- **Portage Creek Settlement** – Restoring a fishery ravaged by a pollution incident.
- **Lake Habitat Projects** – Ramp up the fish habitat structure program and significantly improve angling.
- **Stream Habitat Projects** – Ramp up stream improvement program and significantly improve angling.

- **Women's Fishing Initiatives** – Focus efforts to bring more women into angling.
- **Family Fishing Programs** – Provide everything a family needs to go fishing together.
- **Swift Water Rescue** – Creating and building a program that saves lives.
- **Free Fishing APP** – Free downloadable APP with everything you need to fish and boat in PA on your phone.
- **The Fishing Hole** – An online way to get any question the public has answered.
- **Three Rivers Management Plan** – A blueprint for improving and protecting the Allegheny, Mon and Ohio Rivers.
- **Yough River Plan** – A blueprint to enhance and improve the Youghiogheny River.
- **Penn State Business Plan** – A financial guide to fiscal stability for the agency.
- **Reserve Fund** - Creation of an essential Reserve Fund for the agency for emergency operations.
- **Threatened Species Protection** - Retooling of the Union City Hatchery to produce and repopulate threatened mussel species.
- **Centre Region Office** – Securing a consolidated modern multi function facility to better serve the agency and its customers.
- **Penns Creek Special Regs** – Implementation of special regulations to properly protect a growing wild trout resource.
- **Voluntary Permits** – Innovative method to secure funding to enhance specific resources.
- **Executive Director Choices** – The selection of highly qualified persons who have led and will lead the agency into the future.

Given this leadership success driven by the dedicated and professional PFBC staff in concert with the Commissioners and all accomplished under severe financial limitations, there seems to me to be no justification for additional impediments to this documented and ongoing progress.

Proposals such as limiting the agency's Executive Director's term or combining the PFBC with other agencies are just two examples of past misguided efforts driven by something other than valid justification.

There is a an overwhelming wave of reality and facts that prove that if the PFBC is simply provided the ability to maintain itself financially the huge return on the small investment required to do that will continue to increase countless opportunities for the anglers and boaters and continue the documented positive impact to the state's economy that benefits all the citizens.

Despite the many challenges we have and still do face I can tell you as a life- long angler and boater and volunteer and professional in the conservation field for over 30 years our outdoor opportunities in this state are far greater today than ever before.

I played a small role in creating and sustaining that and I hope those who come after me in this important role will continue that positive path forward.

(Photo: Len Lichvar, left of the picture in the photo.)

Len Lichvar lives and works in Somerset County and can be contacted by sending email to: lennyll@yahoo.com

NewsClips:

[Schneck: Fish & Boat Commission Cuts Free Regs Booklet, Adds New Permits](#)

[Op-Ed: Why Lawmakers Should Raise The Fishing License Fee](#)

[Kirik: Once-Controversial Deer Management Changes Improved Deer Hunting](#)

[Man Accused Of Trying To Hunt Deer With Crossbow While Driving](#)
[Lycoming County Woman Drug From Home By Bear In Stable Condition](#)
[Bear Attacks, Drags Woman Outside Lycoming County Home](#)
[First Snowy Owl Of Season Spotted On Presque Isle In Erie](#)
[Bog Turtles, Public Menace In Northampton County](#)
[Help The Indiana Hellbender!](#) - If Indiana Can Do It, So Can PA!

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

Appalachian Audubon Society Chapter Accepting Hog Island Youth Education Program Scholarship Applications



The Harrisburg-based [Appalachian Audubon Society Chapter](#) is now accepting [applications for scholarships](#) for the summer [Hog Island Youth Coastal Maine Bird Studies Program](#) for students ages 14 to 17. The deadline for applications is January 25.

This intensive 6-day, 5-night program on Hog Island (Muscongus Bay, Maine) allows enthusiastic young birders to work with some of the country's best-known birders and ornithologists

on field identification, bird ecology and conservation.

Occurring concurrently with the adult Field Ornithology and Hands-on Bird Science sessions, and sharing many of the same instructors, this program includes the unique opportunity to see Audubon's Seabird Restoration work in action, and is the only Hog Island program that lands participants on Eastern Egg Rock during the puffin breeding season (weather and sea conditions permitting).

"I just want to say that I can highly recommend this camp to everyone, especially to teens. It's a really inspirational week... Plus, the food is incredible." - Benjamin Van Doren, White Plains, NY

The price of the program is covered in full by Scholarship: \$1,395. Cost includes all meals, housing, instruction and boat trips. Teens must arrange transportation to and from the Audubon dock in Bremen at the start and end of the session. Participants can be picked up and dropped off at Portland airport by Audubon staff for an additional fee of \$100, but 14-year-olds cannot fly alone.

A camper must be able to be an independent minor (by airline definitions) on an aircraft to be picked up and dropped off independently.

[Click Here](#) for more information on the Hog's Island program. [Click Here](#) to watch a video about the program.

To apply for the scholarship or for more information, [Click Here](#). Questions should be directed to Georgia Kagle, Education Chair, AAS, by sending email to: education@appalachianaudubon.org.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming programs, visit the [Appalachian Audubon Society Chapter](#) website.

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[Posted: Dec. 10, 2018]

In Memoriam: John Waffenschmidt, Covanta, Leader On Environmental Justice Issues

[John G. Waffenschmidt](#), 63, Vice President of Environmental Science and Community Affairs for [Covanta](#) passed away on December 5 at this home in Blauvelt, NY.

Waffenschmidt's leadership on environmental justice issues and his long-time association with the [Chester Environmental Partnership](#) in Chester, Delaware County and the Delaware County Energy-From-Waste Facility there allowed Covanta and the community to develop one of the first corporate [environmental justice policies in the United States in 2011](#).

In [2016 he was honored by the Partnership](#) for his efforts in this area.



"I want to thank John for his support of CEP. With his leadership, we have been able to improve the lives of Chester residents and further the environmental justice movement on a national level," stated CEP Founder and Chairman Reverend Dr. Horace W. Strand. "I applaud Covanta as one of the first companies in the United States to establish an environmental justice policy for its work within the community. This is a national example of what working together can do."

Covanta's Community Outreach and [Environmental Justice Policy](#) was prepared in response to the need to ensure all communities, especially communities which are disadvantaged, have a fair and just opportunity to participate in the decision-making process in matters impacting their local environment.

The policy provides a tangible commitment by Covanta to engage fully with the communities in which it has, or will have, facilities to reduce discharges and minimize emissions, and to do this in a manner which ensures meaningful involvement by those communities.

"I'm deeply honored to receive this recognition from the Chester Environmental Partnership; I have been enriched by being a member of the CEP," said Waffenschmidt in 2016. "The question of how to integrate industrial facilities into communities in a positive way is in part answered by the process developed by the Chester Environmental Partnership under Dr. Strand's leadership. That format, which allows direct communication between companies and citizens, ensures that all parties are knowledgeable of each other's needs."

In addition to his work at Covanta, Waffenschmidt served on DEP's [Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#).

Waffenschmidt worked with the Board and the Chester Environmental Partnership to enact state legislation to promote the safe recovery and destruction of unused and excess prescription drugs in [Act 123 of 2016](#).

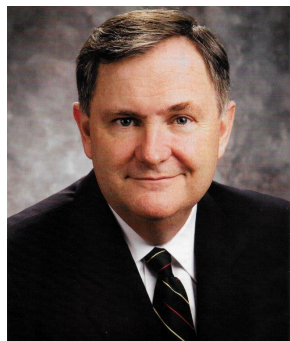
He was also a member of the National Stewardship Action Council Board, and the Product Stewardship Institute Advisory Council.

The Waffenschmidt family requested memorial donations in his memory go to the [Chester Environmental Partnership](#).

[Click Here](#) to read his full obituary.

[Posted: Dec. 14, 2018]

New Leadership On PA Parks & Forest Foundation Board Of Directors



On December 12, the [PA Parks and Forests Foundation](#) announced new leadership on its Board of Directors with Brad Mallory serving as Chairman; Tina Molski, Vice-Chair; Jim Grace, Treasurer; and Mary Soderberg, Secretary.

At the November meeting the new executive team was chosen to lead PPFF in its mission to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests through public engagement in volunteerism, recreation and conservation.

The new leadership team includes backgrounds as government, military, business, and recreation leaders. The diverse skill set of the new leadership team will be a huge asset to the group's efforts in the 20th year of the foundation.

Mr. Mallory's prior work experience includes Executive Deputy Secretary and Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; Chief Executive Officer, member of the Board of Directors, and President of Engineering, Michael Baker Corporation; and Chair, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

The Foundation noted Mallory's proven track record in mergers and acquisitions, strategic planning, organizational development, as well as his enjoyment of state parks and forests will be advantageous to his work as PPFF's Chairman..

Ms. Molski is the current Director of Operations for REI's East Coast Distribution Center. Previously, Molski held the position of Operations and Distribution Manager with General Mills and served as a Logistics Officer in the US Army. She is an avid user of state parks and forests and wants to ensure that they are available for recreation and educational purposes for all.

Dr. Grace, is a recent retiree from the [Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources at Pennsylvania State University](#), as well as State Forester and Deputy Secretary of Parks and Forestry at Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Grace was central to Pennsylvania's state forests becoming the nation's first certified public forest.

Ms. Soderberg, with more than 30 years of experience working and volunteering in Pennsylvania state government, has worked for the Appropriations Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget and the Auditor General. Additionally, Soderberg is the vice chair of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

"The Foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2019, thanks to the visionary leadership of its founders and board members," said Marci Mowery, President of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. "We are excited to move forward with continued quality leadership for the advancement of our mission to be stewards and advocates for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests."

Additional Board Members include Nancy Ball, Brian Clark, George Fernandez, Gus

Frederick, Brian Kavalukas, Rep. Mark Longietti, and Maria Montero. Advisory board members consist of Linda McKenna Boxx, William Forrey, Jon C. Oliver III, Gary Smith, and Rob Wonderling.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the [PA Parks & Forests Foundation](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from the Foundation, [Like them on Facebook](#) or [Follow them on Twitter](#). [Click Here](#) to become a member of the Foundation.

(Photo: Brad Mallory.)

[Posted: Dec. 12, 2018]

Help Wanted: Londonderry Twp, Dauphin County MS4 Stormwater Environmental Specialist

[Londonderry Township](#) in Dauphin County is seeking qualified candidates to fill a [MS4 Environmental Specialist position](#) to manage its MS4 Stormwater Pollution Reduction Program. [Click Here](#) for a detailed job description and how to apply. Deadline for applications November 30.

[Posted: Dec. 13, 2018]

Help Wanted: PA Governor's Invasive Species Council Coordinator

The Department of Agriculture is seeking qualified candidates for a Plant Inspection Program Specialist Position which will serve as the [PA Governor's Invasive Species Council Coordinator](#).

This position is responsible for coordinating activities of the [PA Governor's Invasive Species Council](#) through administrative work, scheduling of meetings, applying for grant funds to enhance the work of the Council, creation of documents, coordinating public outreach and training events, and maintaining the Council's webpage.

The position works with the Council to develop, enhance and implement a comprehensive Invasive Species Management Plan for the Commonwealth, including aquatic and terrestrial species; revises the ISMP at regular five-year intervals or as needed; works with the Council to provide guidance on prevention and control of invasive species and rapid response to new infestations; facilitates coordination and cooperation among federal, regional, state, and local initiatives and organizations engaged in the documentation and management of invasive species, including public outreach and training activities; schedules Council meetings at least quarterly or at the call of the Council chair; and provides meeting minutes and an annual report of accomplishments including MOU deliverables and meetings attended.

[Click Here](#) for all the details and how to apply. Applications are due December 14.

[Posted: Dec. 9, 2018]

Environmental NewsClips - All Topics

Here are NewsClips from around the state on all environmental topics, including General Environment, Budget, Marcellus Shale, Watershed Protection and much more.

The latest environmental NewsClips and news is available at the [PA Environment Digest Daily](#)

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[Schneck: Fish & Boat Commission Cuts Free Regs Booklet, Adds New Permits](#)

[Op-Ed: Why Lawmakers Should Raise The Fishing License Fee](#)

[Kirik: Once-Controversial Deer Management Changes Improved Deer Hunting](#)

[Man Accused Of Trying To Hunt Deer With Crossbow While Driving](#)

[Lycoming County Woman Drug From Home By Bear In Stable Condition](#)

[Bear Attacks, Drags Woman Outside Lycoming County Home](#)

[First Snowy Owl Of Season Spotted On Presque Isle In Erie](#)

[Bog Turtles, Public Menace In Northampton County](#)

[Help The Indiana Hellbender! - If Indiana Can Do It, So Can PA!](#)

Other

[R.K. Mellon Foundations' Leader Stepping Down](#)
[Philly Preservation Task Force Offers Modest Proposal](#)

[Click Here For This Week's Allegheny Front Radio Program](#)

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

This section lists House and Senate Committee meetings, DEP and other public hearings and meetings and other interesting environmental events.

NEW means new from last week. Go to the [online Calendar](#) webpage for updates.

Note: DEP published the 2019 schedules of its advisory committees, councils and board meetings in the [Dec. 10 PA Bulletin, page 7708](#).

December 17-- [PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00. [Click Here](#) to register to join the meeting by webinar. Participants also need to call in 1-650-479-3208, PASSCODE 644 895 237.

December 17-- [Penn State Extension Farm Soil Health & Cover Crop Workshop](#). York County Annex Building, Room 1, 112 Pleasant Acres Rd., York. 9:00 to Noon.

December 18-- [Agenda Posted. Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Laura Edinger, 717-772-3277, ledinger@pa.gov.

December 18-- [DEP Hearing \[If Needed\] On RACT II Air Quality Plan For East Penn Manufacturing In Berks County](#). DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg. 10:00.

December 18-- [U.S. Office Of Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes Webinar On Upcoming Funding Opportunities](#). 2:30.

December 20-- **NEW**. [Emerging Erie 2030 District Energy Efficiency Workshop](#). [UPMC Hamot Magee Women's Hospital](#), 118 East 2nd Street, Erie. 3:00 to 4:30.

December 28-- [DEP Hearing \[If Needed\] On Lebanon County Fine Particulate Standard Plan](#). DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg. 1:00.

January 1-- First Day Of New 2019-2020 Legislative Session

January 9-- **NEW**. [DEP Coastal Zone Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. Contact: Stacey Box, 717-772-5622 or sbox@pa.gov.

January 9-- **NEW**. [DEP Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment](#) (Mining) meeting. DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton. 10:00. Contact: Peggy Scheloske, 724-404-3143 or mscheloske@pa.gov.

January 10-- NEW. [DEP Coal And Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund Board](#) meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact: James Charowsky, 717-787-7007. jcharowsky@pa.gov.

January 10-- [Penn State Extension Farm Soil Health & Cover Crop Workshop](#). Penn State Extension Mercer County, 463 North Perry Highway, Mercer. 10:00 to 1:00.

January 10-11-- [NDAL Ecology Based Landscape Design: What Comes Next?](#) Montgomery County Community College.

January 11-- NEW. [Foundation for Sustainable Forests. French Creek Valley Conservancy. Woods & Waters Film Series](#). Helene Barco-Duratz Cultural Center, 415 Chestnut Street (East Alley entrance), Meadville, Crawford County. 6:30.

January 12-- [Delaware Highlands Conservancy Eagle Watch Bus Tour](#). 10:00 to 1:00, [Click Here](#) for more.

January 15-- Inauguration Day For Gov. Wolf, Lt. Gov. Fetterman

January 16-- [PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00. [Click Here](#) to register to join the meeting by webinar. Participants also need to call in 1-650-479-3208, PASSCODE: 642 304 985.

January 17-- NEW. [DEP Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting & Regulatory, Legislative & Technical Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 8:30 (Committee), 10:00 (Board). A conference call option will also be available. DEP Contact: Daniel Snowden, 717-783-8846 or dsnowden@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

January 22-- NEW. [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact: Keith Calador, Executive Director, 717-787-8171 or ksalador@pa.gov.

January 23-- NEW. [DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact: Nancy Herb, 717-783-9269 or nherb@pa.gov.

January 24-- NEW. [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. Contact: Diane Wilson, 717-787-3720 or diawilson@pa.gov.

January 24-- NEW. [DEP Aggregate Advisory Board](#) Regulatory, Legislative & Technical Committee meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. A conference call option will also be available. DEP Contact: Daniel Snowden, 717-783-8846 or dsnowden@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

January 24-- [Penn State Extension, Partners Online Tree Tender Training](#). First of weekly sessions through March 7. Noon, 7:00.

January 26-- [Delaware Highlands Conservancy Eagle Watch Bus Tour](#). Noon to 1:00. [Click Here](#) for more.

January 27-30-- [Partnership For The Delaware Estuary. 2019 Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit](#). Cape May, NJ.

January 31-- NEW. [DEP Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. Contact: Dawn Hissner, 717-772-2189 or dhissner@pa.gov.

February 2-- [Delaware Highlands Conservancy Eagle Watch Bus Tour](#). 10:00 to 1:00. [Click Here](#) for more.

February 5- Governor's Budget Address.

February 6-- [Penn State Extension Woods In Your Backyard Webinar Series Starts](#). 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

February 6-9-- [PA Association For Sustainable Agriculture. Pennsylvania Sustainable Agriculture Conference. Lancaster County Convention Center](#), Lancaster.

February 11-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 10:00- Independent Fiscal Office. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

February 12-13-- [Advanced Watershed Educator Workshops For Non-Formal Educators. Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center](#), 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin, Dauphin County. [Click Here to register](#).

February 13-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 10:00- State Treasurer, 1:00- Auditor General, 3:00- Attorney General. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

February 14-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 10:00- Dept. of Environmental Protection, 1:00- Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

February 20-21-- [DCNR, Western PA Conservancy. PA Riparian Forest Buffer Summit](#). Best Western Premier Conference Center, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg.

February 21-- NEW. [PA Resources Council. Zero Waste Pennsylvania. Green Building Alliance. True Zero Waste Symposium. Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#), Pittsburgh.

8:00 to 3:00.

February 22-- NEW. [Foundation for Sustainable Forests. French Creek Valley Conservancy. Woods & Waters Film Series. Erie National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center](#), 11296 Wood Duck Lance, Guys Mills, Crawford County. 6:30.

February 24-25-- [PA Environmental Council, PA Organization For Watersheds & Rivers. Statewide Watershed Connections Conference](#). State College.

February 25-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 10:00- State Police/Homeland Security, 3:00- Dept. of Health. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

February 26-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 1:00- Dept. of Transportation, 3:00- Dept. of General Services. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

February 27-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 1:00- Dept. of Community & Economic Development. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

March 2-- [PA Wilds. Retailers, Producers, Public 3rd Annual PA Wilds Buyer's Market. Gemmell Student Complex Multi-Purpose Room](#), Clarion University.

March 4-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 10:00- Dept. of Education. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

March 5-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 10:00- Dept. of Agriculture. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

March 5-- [DEP Board Of Coal Mine Safety](#) meeting. DEP Ebensburg Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00. DEP Contact: Margaret Scheloske, 724-404-3143, mscheloske@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

March 5-6-- [Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance. Healthcare Industry Forum On Energy Efficiency](#). Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, Centre County.

March 6-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 10:00- Governor's Budget Secretary. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

March 7-- NEW. [House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings](#): 10:00- Open. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Hearings are typically webcast through the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

March 9-- [2019 Watershed Congress Along The Schuylkill River](#). Montgomery County Community College [campus in Pottstown](#).

March 18-19-- [PA Assn. Of Environmental Educators. 2019 Cityscapes & Greenscapes Conference](#). Philadelphia.

March 21-- [DEP Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Todd Wallace, 717-783-9438, twallace@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

March 27-28-- [Advanced Watershed Educator Workshops For Non-Formal Educators. Jennings Environmental Education Center](#), 2951 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, Butler County. [Click Here to register](#).

April 5-- [Wildlife For Everyone We Love Wild Things & Wild Places Gala](#).

April 7-9-- [CMU Mascaro Center For Sustainable Innovation. 2019 Engineering Sustainability Conference](#). [David L. Lawrence Convention Center](#), Pittsburgh.

April 29 to May 2-- [Center for Watershed Protection. 2019 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference](#). South Carolina.

May 8-10-- [PA Assn. Of Environmental Professionals. 2019 Annual Conference - Growth Through Collaboration](#). State College.

May 16-18-- [PA Land Trust Association. Land Conservation Conference](#). Monroe County.

July 24-26-- [Professional Recyclers Of PA. Annual Recycling & Organics Conference](#). Harrisburg.

October 8-10-- [Natural Areas Association Natural Areas Conference](#). Pittsburgh.

Related Tools -----

Visit DEP's [Public Participation Center](#) for public participation opportunities.

[Click Here](#) for links to DEP's Advisory Committee webpages.

Visit [DEP Connects](#) for opportunities to interact with DEP staff at field offices.

[Click Here](#) to sign up for DEP News a biweekly newsletter from the Department.

[DEP Facebook Page](#) [DEP Twitter Feed](#) [DEP YouTube Channel](#)

[DEP Calendar of Events](#) [DCNR Calendar of Events](#)

[Click Here](#) to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

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

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

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.

December 15-- [Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grants](#)
December 17-- [Governor's Awards For Environmental Excellence](#)
December 17-- [PA Parks & Forests Foundation 2019 Awards](#)
December 21-- [ORSANCO Ohio River Sweep Student Poster Contest](#)
December 21-- [NRCS-PA Farm, Forest Conservation Grants, Central, SE PA](#)
December 28-- [Western PA Conservancy/Dominion Energy Watershed Mini Grants](#)
December 30-- [Coca-Cola, Keep America Beautiful Public Spaces Recycling Bin Grants](#)
December 31-- [DEP County Act 101 Waste Planning, HHW, Education Grants](#)
January 4-- [Voting Ends For 2019 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#)
January 11-- [DEP Class 8 Truck/Transit Bus Clean Vehicle Grants](#)
January 11-- [PennDOT Green Light-Go Program, LED Light Upgrades](#)
January 11-- [DEP Environmental Education Grants](#)
January 11-- [PA Solar Center Assistance To Nonprofits Converting To Solar Energy](#)
January 11-- **NEW**. [Small Farms, Big Impact Sustainable Farming Grants](#)
January 16-- [West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund Project Funding](#)
January 18-- [South Mountain Partnership Spirit Of South Mountain Award](#)
January 18-- [PA Land Trust Assn. Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
January 25-- [DEP Grants/Rebates Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#)
January 25-- **NEW**. [Appalachian Audubon Hog Island Youth Education Scholarship](#)
January 31-- [NFWF Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grants](#)
January 31-- [EPA Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup and Multipurpose Grants](#)
February 4-- [PA Environmental Professionals College Scholarships](#)
February 8-- [DEP FAST Act Alternative Fuels Corridor Infrastructure Grants](#)
February 8-- [Wildlife Leadership Academy Youth Conservation Ambassador](#)
February 11-- [PA Land Trust Assn. Government Leadership Award](#)
February 15-- [EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants](#)
February 15-- [Delaware River Basin Commission Winter Photo Contest](#)
February 20-- **NEW**. [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education & Training Grants](#)
February 28-- [PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau Winter Photo Contest](#)
March 1-- [PA Parks & Forests Foundation Wilderness Wheels Grants](#) (*Rolling Deadline*)
March 1-- [West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Investment Funding](#) (*Rolling Deadline*)
March 4-- [DCNR PA Outdoor Corps Young Adult Crews](#) (*At The Very Latest!*)
March 31-- [DEP Level 2 Electric Charging Station Rebates](#) (*First-Come*)
May 10-- [DEP Class 8 Truck/Transit Bus Clean Vehicle Grants](#)
July 15-- [DEP Grants/Rebates Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#)
December 16-- [DEP Grants/Rebates Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#)
March 1-- [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)
March 22-- [DEP Act 101 Recycling Implementation Grants](#)
June 1-- [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)
September 1-- [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)

September 23-- [DEP Class 8 Truck/Transit Bus Clean Vehicle Grants](#)

December 1-- [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)

-- Visit the [DEP Grant, Loan and Rebate Programs](#) webpage for more ideas on how to get financial assistance for environmental projects.

-- Visit the DCNR [Apply for Grants](#) webpage for a listing of financial assistance available from DCNR.

Regulations, Technical Guidance & Permits

Here are highlights of actions taken by agencies on environmental regulations, technical guidance and permits.

Regulations -----

The Fish and Boat Commission published a number of final-form regulations in the December 15 PA Bulletin relating to-- [Reptiles and Amphibians](#), [Administrative Provisions](#), [Boating](#) and [Commission Property](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin - December 15, 2018](#)

Technical Guidance -----

No new technical guidance published this week.

Permits -----

The [State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers](#) published notice in the December 15 PA Bulletin announcing the 2019 examination scheduled for local sewage enforcement officers.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the December 15 PA Bulletin of changes in the list of individuals and companies certified to perform radon-related activities in Pennsylvania ([page 7707](#)).

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 62 pages of public notices related to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the December 15 PA Bulletin - [pages 7646 to 7708](#).

Sign Up For DEP's eNotice: Did you know DEP can send you email notices of permit applications submitted in your community? Notice of new technical guidance documents and regulations? All through its eNotice system. [Click Here](#) to sign up.

Related Tools -----

Visit DEP's [Public Participation Center](#) for public participation opportunities.

DEP Proposals Out For Public Review

[Other Proposals Open For Public Comment](#) - DEP webpage

Submit Comments on Proposals Through [DEP's eComment System](#)

[Recently Closed Comment Periods For Other Proposals](#) - DEP webpage

[Other Proposals Recently Finalized](#) - DEP webpage

DEP Regulations In Process

[Proposed Regulations Open For Comment](#) - DEP webpage

Submit Comments on Proposals Through [DEP's eComment System](#)

[Proposed Regulations With Closed Comment Periods](#) - DEP webpage

[Recently Finalized Regulations](#) - DEP webpage

[DEP Regulatory Update](#) - DEP webpage

August 4, 2018 DEP Regulatory Agenda - [PA Bulletin, Page 4733](#)

DEP Technical Guidance In Process

[Draft Technical Guidance Documents](#) - DEP webpage

[Technical Guidance Comment Deadlines](#) - DEP webpage

Submit Comments on Proposals Through [DEP's eComment System](#)

[Recently Closed Comment Periods For Technical Guidance](#) - DEP webpage

[Technical Guidance Recently Finalized](#) - DEP webpage

[Copies of Final Technical Guidance](#) - DEP webpage

[DEP Non-Regulatory/Technical Guidance Documents Agenda \(July 2018\)](#) - DEP webpage

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[PA Capitol News Blog](#) to get updates every day on Pennsylvania State Government, including NewsClips, coverage of key press conferences and more. Sign up and receive as they are posted updates through your favorite RSS reader. You can also sign up for a once daily email alerting you to new items posted on this blog.

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