

WAY E-NEWS

A coalition of stakeholders committed to being innovative leaders
encouraging watershed-based planning, restoration and protection



Monday, January 14, 2013

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Volume 13, Issue 2

WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS...2

WATERSHED EDUCATION & OUTREACH...Page 4

- Latest Edition Of Chesapeake Bay Journal Now Available – Jan-Feb
- The Effect of Stress On Atlantic Salmon's Congenital Immunity to IPN
- Drainage Ditches Can Help Clean Up Field Runoff
- Court: Stormwater runoff not a pollutant, EPA can't regulate it
- Governor O'Malley Signs Climate Change Executive Order
- Backyard Buffers Program Coming this Spring
Do you know what the acronym STEM stands for?
- Water Education Resources for Teachers
- Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps Sponsor Organizations Sought
- New Educational Materials Available

WATERSHED FACILITATION ASSISTANCE...Page 5

- Extension Offers Webinars - FW: Land Use & Decision Making Webinar Series – Jan 16
- NOAA Science Seminar Series on Ocean Acidification Monitoring and Research – Jan 17
- SHANKS MARE DINING & LEARNING SERIES: "The Susquehanna River...Do You Know"
- EPA Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative Bi-Monthly Webinar Series – Jan 23
- Adult volunteer leaders sought for 4-H Stream Teams program – Jan 29
- MAEOE Professional Development Institute – Feb 7
- The Green in Your Backyard Woods Workshop – Feb 9
- Applications Being Accepted for Next Master Well Owner Course – Feb 11
- The Wild & Scenic Film Festival – Feb 13
- YCCD Manure Management Information Meeting & Plan Development Workshop – Feb 26
- Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania – Mar 1 – May 31
- Spring into Science Education Expo – Mar 4
- GardenWise 2013 registration open – Mar 9
- Save the dates for the upcoming trail workshops! - Apr 4-6

WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE...Page 8

- DOT Grants: Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation Options – Jan 22
- PA American Water Accepting Stream Of Learning Scholarship Applications – Feb 28
- SWCS 2013 Scholarship Announcement – Mar 8
- \$1000 Scholarship Available – May 1
- RDUS Loan Rates
- Sustainable Environments Program Grants

WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE...Page 9

- ASA Course Covers 4R Approach to Soil and Water Quality
- Smart Growth Benefits 'Winter Cities'
- Convenient New Way to Request a Change in Flood Zone Designation
- New Maryland Sediment Control Regs - Exposed Soil Pollution
- Information Required for Short-Term Water Management Decisions Outlined
- Invading Species Can Extinguish Native Plants Despite Recent Reports to the Contrary

WATERSHED CONTACTS

- COUNTY PLANNING – (717) 771-9870**
CONSERVATION – (717) 840-7430
- Agricultural conservation planning
 - Environmentally sensitive dirt & gravel road maintenance
 - Environmental stewardship and watershed protection
 - Erosion & sediment control
 - Stormwater complaints
- 24-HR EMERGENCIES – (877) 333-1904**
- Chemical and oil spills from transport trucks, trains and industrial facilities
- ENVIRONMENTAL – DEP-SCRO**
- General Info 717-705-4700
 - Air Quality 717-705-4702
 - Energy & Technology 717-705-4703
 - Environmental Cleanup 717-705-4705
 - Mining (800) 541-2050
 - Radiation Protection 717-705-4704
 - Waste Management 717-705-4706
 - Water Supply Management 717-705-4708
 - Water Management 717-705-4707
 - Watershed Management 717-705-4704
- FISHERIES – (800) 541-2050**
- Wildlife (fish, reptiles, amphibians) nuisance problems or to report violations
 - FISH KILL 1-855-347-4545
- GAME & WILDLIFE – (888) 742-8001**
- Wildlife (mammals or birds) to report violations or nuisance problems
- ILLEGAL DUMPING**
- Illegal dumping on state forest and park lands (877) 772-3673
 - Illegal dumping York County 840-7687
- MUNICIPAL (Phonebook Blue Pages)**
- Air pollution by burning household garbage
 - Dumping waste in surface waters
 - Floodplain disturbances
 - Municipal and residential septic/sewage problems
 - Stormwater management
- NOXIOUS PLANTS – (717) 772-5209**
RECYCLING – (717) 845-1066
WETLANDS – (717) 249-2522

Updated 4/27/2011

WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS

Ag Land Preservation Board of York County - www.york-county.org/gov/AUTH/agri.htm

- For information about farmland preservation in York County contact Patty McCandless at pmccandless@york-county.org or call 717-840-7400.

Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth - <http://carrollcitizens.com/>

- Contact: Deana Weaver at (717) 432-2211 or admin@carrollcitizens.com

Codorus Creek Watershed Association - www.codoruscreek.net

- Jan 14 – Meeting of Members and Board, 7:00 pm, at York Water Co. (Mt. Rose Ave.)
- Contact: Jim Leaman at 843-2929

Codorus Endowment Implementation Committee - www.yccf.org

- For more information, contact the York County Community Foundation at 14 West Market Street York, PA 17401-1203. Telephone: York 717.848.3733; Hanover 717.630.1843. Email: info@yccf.org

Codorus State Park

- Contact: Manager: Warren Wertz, Codorus state Park, 2600 Smith Station Road, Hanover, PA 17331-8000. Ph: 717-637-2816; E-mail: codorus@pa.gov

Conewago Canoe Club - www.conewagocanooclub.org

- Club Meets bi-monthly at Mount Zion United Church of Christ, 7:00 pm, at Ridgewood Road in Pleasureville
- Questions or comments e-mail me oc1mike@comcast.net, but remember you catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

Deer Creek Watershed Association - <http://deercreekwatershed.com/>

- Contact Lee McDaniel at ldmcdaniel@aol.com.

Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County - www.farmtrust.org

- Contact: Sean Kenny at Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County, 156 North George Street, Suite 300, York, PA 17401. Phone (717) 843-4411 or e-mail skenny@farmtrust.org

Gifford Pinchot State Park - www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/giffordpinchot.aspx

- Event calendar <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp>
- Contact Elizabeth Kepley, Environmental Education Specialist, DCNR Bureau of State Parks/Gifford Pinchot State Park, 2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339. Phone: 717-432-5011

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy - www.gunpowderfalls.org

- Contact: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, P.O. Box 9733. Towson, MD 21284. Or Assistant Project Manager Rachel Streusand rstreusand@gunpowderfalls.org.

Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education - www.hornfarmcenter.org

- Contact: Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, 4945 Horn Road, York, PA 17406. Phone: (717)654-0571. Email: info@hornfarmcenter.org. Web: www.hornfarmcenter.org.

Izaak Walton League York Chapter #67 - www.yorkchapter67iwla.org/

- Club Open Meetings are held the Third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Clubhouse.
- Contact: York Chapter #67 IWLA, 7131 Ironstone Hill Road, Dallastown, PA 17313. Club Grounds Phone: 717-428-2000 *Leave a message for the Committee Contact or Club Officer you are trying to reach. Committee Contacts & Club Officers are listed on the Club Information Page. If no phone or email address is listed contact club grounds phone number.

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper - www.lowersusquehannariverkeeper.org

- Contact: Michael Helfrich, Lower Susquehanna RIVERKEEPER®, York, PA. Cell phone: 717-779-7915 E-mail: lawsusriver@hotmail.com.

Maryland's Upper West Shore Trib Team - <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/waters/tribstrat/>

- Contact: Rupert Rossetti, Tributary Team Coordinator, e-mail: RupertRossetti@aol.com

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. - <http://www.masondixontrail.org/>

- Contact: James Hooper at 717/252-3784 or j.e.hooper@ieee.org

Mid-Atlantic Ecological Landscapes Partnership [MAEscapes] - www.maescapes.org

- Jan. 28 – Advisory Board meets at 6:30 PM, at the York County ANNEX
- Contact: 717-840-7408 or Connie Schmotzer at cxs51@psu.edu

Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group Inc. - www.pbccg.com

- Contact Maria Payan by email pbccg@hotmail.com or mail: Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group, P.O. Box 307 Delta, PA 17314. PBCCG, Inc is a nonprofit organization supported solely by volunteers and donations.

Prettyboy Watershed Alliance - www.prettyboywatershed.org

- Contact: Nancy Shaper at nshaper@jhmi.edu

Sierra Club – Gov. Pinchot Group of PA – <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot/>

- Contact GVP Sierra Club, P.O. Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0606. GVPSierraClub@email.com

Shank's Mare Outfitters GO PLAY OUTSIDE! – www.shanksmare.com

- Call Us: 717-252-1616. Email us: Shanksmare@comcast.net

Spoutwood Farm Center for Sustainable Living – www.spoutwood.com

- Jan 18 – Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 PM, at Spoutwood Farm Center.
- Contact Rob & Lucy Woods at Spoutwood Farm at 717-235-6610 or spoutwood@comcast.net.

Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area – <http://www.susquehannaheritage.org/>

- Contact Mark Platts, Susquehanna Heritage Corporation, 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368. Office: 717-252-0229. E-mail: info@lyhr.org.

Trout Unlimited Codorus Chapter #558 – www.codorustu.org

- Monthly Chapter Meetings 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., at Gander Mtn. (winter)
- Contact: Tom Finenzen at 840-1372 or tom@codorustu.org. Cancellations due to winter weather will be announced here, and on WSBA Radio, 910 AM.

Trout Unlimited Muddy Creek Chapter #575 – <http://muddycreektu.org/>

- Our January membership meeting on Wednesday, 1/16 will be held at Gander Mountain at 7:00P. The meeting room is in the back of the store. Rick Nyles owner/guide for Skyblue Outfitters will make a presentation on flyfishing Central PA streams such as Penns, Spring and Bald Eagle Creeks at the meeting. Rick makes these presentations free of charge for TU Chapters. In addition for anyone who wants to join, we will meet Rick and possibly one of his guides for dinner prior to the meeting at Smokey Bones Restaurant between 5 and 5:30P. Smokey Bones address is 1301 Kenneth Road and is located between Dicks and Apple Honda. Please join us for an evening that promises to be very informative and entertaining. This would be a great time to bring a guest as well. For those of you that will be joining us for dinner, please respond to this email so we can make any necessary table arrangements. Below is a link to Rick's website. <http://www.skyblueoutfitters.com/>. We hope to see you there.
- Chapter Meeting 3rd Wednesday of month at [Collinsville Fish & Game](#)
- Contact: Ron Heuston, President MCTU, 244-1851 or Heuy1955@aol.com

Watershed Alliance of Adams County – <http://www.adamswatersheds.org/>

- WAAC meets the 4th Wed, 8:30AM, at the Adams County Ag Center
- Contact: Adam McClain, Ph: 717-334-0636; E-mail: stilden@adamswatersheds.org

Watershed Alliance of York – www.watershedsyork.org

- April 3, 2013 – Annual Meeting of WAY Board of Directors, 7:00 PM, at The York Water Co., Mt. Rose Ave.
- WAY E-News – Published by the Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. to inform the public about news and information that affect York County watersheds and beyond. PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND E-MAIL LIST. Contributions of news, events and information relating to watershed education, funding, planning, restoration, protection, and stewardship welcome. Send contribution to and contact us for mailing list additions/changes to the e-mail address below. Distribution: electronic (1,850). Frequency: bi-weekly. Subscription: No charge. Editor: Gary R. Peacock.
- You can make www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter WAY as the charity you want to support.
- Contact: Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. (WAY), C/o York County Conservation District, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402. Phone: (717) 840-7430. Facsimile: (717) 755-0301. E-mail: gpeacock@yorkccd.org

Wecology – www.wecologypa.org/

- Contact: WEcology 130 E. Market St., York, PA 17405. Phone: 717-718-7554.

Yellow Breeches Watershed Association – www.ybwa.org

- Contact: Deborah Goetz, at deborah.p.goetz@gmail.com or phone 717-697-4734

York-Adams Regional Smart Growth Coalition – www.yorkadamssmartgrowth.org

- Contact Shanna Wiest, Government Affairs Director, REALTORS Association of York & Adams Counties, Inc. 901 Smile Way York, PA 17404. Phone: (717) 843-7891. Fax: (717) 854-0720. <http://www.rayac.com>

York Audubon Society – <http://www.yorkaudubon.org/>

- Contact Tom Smith at 717-246-9767 or ts35@psu.edu.

York County Conservation District – www.yorkccd.org

- New Wildlife of PA Journal available for purchase \$24.95
- Board meets 2nd Friday, 11:00 a.m. (December-March) and 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m. (Apr.-Nov.), at the York County ANNEX
- Contact: YCCD at 717-840-7430 or yorkccd@yorkccd.org

York County Parks & Recreation – www.YorkCountyParks.org

- Nixon Park Nature Center, 5922 Nixon Drive, York PA 17403. Phone: (717) 428-1961. E-mail: NixonCountyPark@york-county.org.
- For more information, contact York County Department of Parks and Recreation, 400 Mundis Race Road, York PA 17406-9721. Phone: (717) 840-7440. E-mail: Parks@York-County.org. Web: www.YorkCountyParks.org.

York County Planning Commission – www.ycpc.org

- Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., except Wed. Nov. 1 at 7:30 and Tues. Dec. 1, 6:00 p.m., at 28 E. Market St., 2nd Floor.
- Contact YCPC at 717-771-9870 or planner@ycpc.org

York County Solid Waste Authority – <http://www.ycswa.org/>

- Contact YCSWA at 717-845-1066 or



WATERSHED EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Latest Edition Of Chesapeake Bay Journal Now Available – Jan-Feb

The January/February issue of the Chesapeake Bay Journal is now available highlighting the latest news about the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay and in depth articles on issues affecting the watershed. [Click Here](#) to read the Journal. NewsClips:

- [States Agree To Chesapeake Bay Pollution Control Tracking](#)
- [Relicensing Conowingo Dam Opportunity For Chesapeake Bay Issues](#)
- [Technique Reveals Loads, Trends In Chesapeake Bay Pollution](#)
- [Greener Landscapes For Healthier Chesapeake Bay](#)
- [Editorial: Maintain Chesapeake Momentum](#)

The Effect of Stress On Atlantic Salmon's Congenital Immunity to IPN

Science Daily (1/2/ 2013) – Stress affects the congenital immune defence system. New doctoral research has revealed how stress can lower the immunity of salmon and increase its susceptibility to viral infection. Furthermore, stress can increase the propagation of viruses in the fish's internal organs and can cause "benign" viruses to turn "pernicious." Up until now, there has been little documentation of how different environmental factors affect salmon's immune defence system. Changes in temperature and salinity, too much or too little oxygen in the water, pollution and physical handling are all sources of stress for these fish. The same applies to normal physiological changes such as for example smoltification, i.e. the way the fish prepares itself for the transition from fresh to seawater. Read more...

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/01/130102083557.htm>

Drainage Ditches Can Help Clean Up Field Runoff

Science Daily (1/4/ 2013) – Vegetated drainage ditches can help capture pesticide and nutrient loads in field runoff, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists report. These ditches – as common in the country as the fields they drain – give farmers a low-cost alternative for managing agricultural pollutants and protecting natural resources. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) ecologist Matt Moore at the agency's National Sedimentation Laboratory in Oxford, Miss., and his colleagues conducted the research. ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency. Until recently, the primary function of many edge-of-field ditches was to provide a passage for channeling excess water from crop fields. Many farmers controlled ditch vegetation with trimming or dredging to eliminate plant barriers that could impede the flow of runoff.

Court: Stormwater runoff not a pollutant, EPA can't regulate it

A federal judge ruled Thursday that the Environmental Protection Agency exceeded its authority by trying to regulate water as a pollutant and restricting stormwater flow into a Fairfax County creek. "Stormwater runoff is not a pollutant, so EPA is not authorized to regulate it," said federal judge Liam O'Grady, who sided with the county and Virginia in the ruling. In July, Virginia [Attorney General](#) Ken Cuccinelli and the Democratic-led Fairfax County Board of Supervisors filed a [lawsuit](#) against the EPA. The agency proposed a plan that required the county to control the flow of water in order to manage sediment discharges in Accotink Creek watershed. Read more:

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/01/03/court-stormwater-runoff-not-a-pollutant-epa-cant-regulate-it/#ixzz2HxpOU5ev>

Governor O'Malley Signs Climate Change Executive Order

After seeing the catastrophic capabilities of superstorms such as Hurricane Sandy, Governor Martin O'Malley signed a landmark initiative to increase the State's long term resiliency to storm related flooding and sea level rise. The [Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction](#)

[Executive Order](#) directs that all State structures and infrastructure improvements be planned and built to avoid or minimize future flood damage. Read more... http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2012/12/28/governor-omalley-signs-executive-order-helping-state-prepare-for-climate-change-and-extreme-weather/?utm_source=January+2013&utm_campaign=AccessDNR-January2013&utm_medium=email

Backyard Buffers Program Coming this Spring

The Carroll County Forestry Board and the DNR [Forest Service](#) invite homeowners with five acres or less and a stream on or adjacent to their property to a [Backyard Buffers program in April](#). Participants will learn how to create a streamside buffer of native trees and shrubs. Such buffers create wildlife habitat, reduce peak water temperatures and minimize the amount of toxic materials entering waterways. Read more...

http://www.ccfb.gardentotable.net/index.html?utm_source=January+2013&utm_campaign=AccessDNR-January2013&utm_medium=email

Do you know what the acronym STEM stands for?

There is a movement to use science, technology, engineering and mathematics more frequently as tools to reach out and connect youth to the environment. Students are using tablets, digital cameras and other forms of technology along with their textbook skills to learn, explore, and analyze the natural world around them. One of the recommendations of our statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, [Pennsylvania Outdoors. The Keystone for Healthy Living](#), is to maximize school-based outdoor experiences because "school grounds can serve as incubators of outdoor introduction and stewardship development". (p. 64) The [National Environmental Education Foundation](#) has developed a video that shows how educators are using technology to further STEM learning through the environment, both inside and outside the classroom. Click [here](#) to see the video.

Water Education Resources for Teachers

StormwaterPA's video case studies are powerful, educational tools. Recently, we have begun efforts on strengthening the educational impact of our videos by incorporating them into EcoExpress.org, which is our organization GreenTrek Network's environmental education program. EcoExpress.org is an online resource center designed specifically for local teachers and students. It features streaming documentaries and lesson plan content associated to Pennsylvania's Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology. Science education expert Anita Brook Dupree develops lesson plans associated with our videos. You can now find educational materials for the following video case studies on EcoExpress.org:

- [Green Schools: Albert Greenfield Elementary](#)
- [Greener, Healthier Play: Herron Playground](#)
- [Percy Street Goes Green: Another Philadelphia First](#)
- [Green City. Clean Waters](#)

Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps Sponsor Organizations Sought

Nature Abounds is seeking sponsoring organizations for the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps (PaSEC). The PaSEC has been engaging senior volunteers (aged 55+) since 1997 in activities like water quality monitoring and stream assessments, macroinvertebrate identification, riparian buffer assessment, trail restoration, clean-ups, marking of abandoned wells, and environmental education. As a sponsor, your organization would serve as a local host in your area, making sure volunteers feel connected and advising them on where to monitor. As every area of the commonwealth has different needs, as a sponsor, you will guide your SEC on what types of projects to become involved with, whether it be one of the activities listed or another environmental activity such as community gardening. Nature Abounds coordinates the PaSEC on the state level and the national level and can provide equipment and training for water quality activities. Nature Abounds is a national non-profit, headquartered in Central Pennsylvania, bringing people together for a healthy planet. To express interest in becoming a SEC sponsor or if you have additional questions, please contact Nature Abounds at sec@natureabounds.org or by calling 814-765-1453. You can also check out the new PaSEC website at www.secofpa.org - <http://www.secofpa.org>

New Educational Materials Available

As part of our acquisition of the [Leopold Education Project](#) (LEP), we have a number of new education materials for teachers and nonformal educators who are interested in using Leopold and A Sand County Almanac in their educational programs. These resources and others are now available in our [bookstore](#):

- *Lessons in a Land Ethic* – This Leopold Education Project curriculum guide consists of 21 lesson plans designed to align with the essays found in Aldo Leopold's conservation classic, A Sand County Almanac. Each lesson includes learning objectives, vocabulary, material lists, procedures, additional extensions and student worksheets that have both indoor and outdoor activity options. [Order in our bookstore.](#)
- *Lessons in GPS Technology* – Get your students studying nature using modern technology! The 11 lessons in this new guide will help you teach your students to use GPS receivers and put those skills to use to navigate, track, follow an animal's path, learn about wildlife, explore an area and construct a map and evaluate different ecological communities. Have fun exploring and learning outdoors! [Order in our bookstore.](#)
- *Exploring the Outdoors with Aldo Leopold CD* - These hands-on activities are designed to teach observation skills, plant and animal identification, natural history, land stewardship, and outdoors skills. Each one is based on an essay from Aldo Leopold's classic book, A Sand County Almanac. The 16 activities come on a CD and include background information, a list of supplies, procedure cards, and handouts. [Order in our bookstore.](#)



WATERSHED FACILITATION ASSISTANCE

Jan - May 2013 Extension Offers Webinars - FW: Land Use & Decision Making Webinar Series - Jan 16

Penn State Extension's Land Use & Decision Making Education Team will present a series of webinars to help planners, elected officials, and concerned citizens come together to make better land use decisions. Through this Land Use Decision Making Educational Webinar Series, you can learn more about planning and current planning issues; about local regulations and how and why they are created; about planning tools and resources available to decision-makers in Pennsylvania; and about how you can engage in planning to benefit your community. To register go to: <http://agsci.psu.edu/land-use-webinar>. Fee \$25 for as many webinars in the series as you want. Please share and forward to your local municipal officials and staff, planning commission members, zoning hearing boards, watershed groups, water systems, EACs, interested community members, etc. Webinar Topics & Schedule – Each webinar will air twice in the same day. For a more detailed listing of webinar topics, presenters, and descriptions, click on AGENDA tab. <http://www.cvent.com/events/land-use-webinar-series/event-summary-fc30407637ce40cbab68e52f3377983f.aspx>

- Jan. 16, 2013: Planning in PA: Land Use, Communities & Beyond (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.) and (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.) The January 16 webinar is Planning in Pennsylvania: Land Use, Communities & Beyond presented by Shawn McLaughlin AICP, Union County Planning Director & Neal Fogle, Extension Educator.
- February 20, 2013: How Preemption of Zoning & Other Local Controls Impacts Planning (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.) and (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.)
- March 20, 2013: Renewable Energy Implementation & Land Use Regulations – Is There Conflict? (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.) and (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.)
- April 17, 2013: Developing More Effective Citizen Engagement: A How to Guide for Community Leaders (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.) and (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.)
- May 15, 2013: Low Impact Development and Smart Growth: How are they best integrated and utilized in our communities? (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.) and (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.)

Registration Cost: \$25 for the Entire Webinar Series - watch as few or as many as you like! For more information, contact Extension Educator Peter Wulfhorst at ptw3@psu.edu. Economic & Community Development Educator Ag. Entrepreneurship/Economic & Community Development Extension Team at 570-296-3400 Ext. 1445 Email: ptw3@psu.edu. Web: extension.psu.edu

OneNOAA Science Seminar Series to Host Seminar on Ocean Acidification Monitoring and Research at NOAA – Jan 17

Increased carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere, in addition to contributing to global climate change, have also been linked to a reduction in pH of the world's oceans (ocean acidification). NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program manages a growing portfolio of research and synthesis activities as outlined in NOAA's Ocean and Great Lakes Acidification Research Plan including observation, experimental, modeling, data synthesis, and outreach components. The goals of the NOAA research program are both to track changes in the biogeochemistry of national and global waters and to forecast the impacts of those chemical changes on the functioning of marine ecosystems, valuable commercial fisheries, and associated economies. This webinar will provide an overview of current NOAA and interagency ocean acidification research and monitoring efforts, as well as some insight into future directions. For more information, visit:

<http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/seminars/2012/01-jan.html>.

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER DINING & LEARNING SERIES: Our Theme for 2013 – “The Susquehanna River...Do You Know”

The Susquehanna River offers so many interesting angles...from its incredible natural beauty, to its commercial uses over the last centuries, and to the trials and tribulations of the interesting people that settled on its banks. Our 2013 series will present a set of unusual facts about the river, and our knowledgeable speakers will explore the answers to these mysteries that make the Susquehanna River such a valuable resource to explore and enjoy. Programs take place in Shank's Mare's banquet room, The Rookery, and include a delicious dinner with the program presented over dessert and coffee. BYOB is welcome. Reservations are required and can be made by phone at 717-252-1616. Fee including Presentaiton & Dinner - \$41/Person.

- “Do You Know....Who built the first dam on the Susquehanna in 1779?” Speaker – Stephen Runkle Friday, January 18, 2013, 6:00pm
The setting is the Revolutionary War in the Susquehanna River Basin Region. Stephen Runkle, a Susquehanna River historian, explores the causes of and chronicles the events of the American Revolution in our area. All along the Susquehanna, the Revolution forced the early European settlers and Native Americans to choose sides often splitting families and resulting in a bloody civil war. Learn the answer to our “Do You Know” along with pictures, artifacts, and history of this period along the Susquehanna.
- Do You Know...What brought the Continental Congress to York when Philadelphia was taken over by the British in 1777-1778?” Speaker – Stephen Runkle. Saturday, January 26, 2013, 4:00-9:00pm. Come howl at the Wolf Moon. We'll explore the Native Lands Trail where some very souls resided that may have named that moon. After our hike, enjoy a wine tasting in The Rookery hosted by our neighbor, Allegro Vineyards. Owners Carl Helrich & Kris Miller currently grow seven varieties of grapes on six acres of vineyards in neighboring Brogue, PA. Good fortune and a favorable mesoclimate contribute to fruit with remarkable character and flavor resulting in some delectable wines. Following your tasting, we have a delicious dinner planned for you in The Rookery. Fee – Includes hike, tasting & dinner – Members-\$37/Person; Non-Members-\$41/Person
- Friday, February 1, 2013, 6:00pm. Our area played a crucial role during the most critical year of the American Revolution from July 1777 through June 1778. Most of us know that York hosted the Continental Congress, but why did the founding fathers pick this area as our young government fled from the British in Philadelphia. Learn the answer to this provocative question as you hear about colorful characters including Lafayette, Anthony Wayne, Benedict Arnold, and Molly Pitcher, and the important role the Susquehanna played in this period of our history.

Contact Shank's Mare, 2092 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368. Ph. 717-252-1616. Web www.shanksmare.com. Email shanksmare@comcast.net.

EPA Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative Announces Bi-Monthly Webinar Series Starting – Jan 23

EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative is beginning a new series of webinars on its CRWU tools and resources for the water sector, which includes drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities. These 45- to 60- minute webinars will assist the water sector in developing a better understanding of climate change, managing impacts, and creating adaptation strategies. Webinar topics include climate change readiness and an introduction to climate science for the water sector, followed by more in depth discussions of CRWU tools. The webinars will also feature case studies from utilities that have used CRWU tools to become more climate ready. Participant space is limited. To view the webinar series calendar and to register, visit: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/index.cfm>. For additional information or questions, email CRWUhelp@epa.gov

Adult volunteer leaders sought for 4-H Stream Teams program – Jan 29

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – If you are a Pennsylvania adult who is environmentally minded, Penn State Extension is offering you a chance to share your environmental interests with young people in your community. Extension is seeking volunteers for its 4-H Stream Teams program, which guides youths in learning about local water resources and encourages them to become water stewards and involved citizens, now and in the future. A four-part, Web-based training series for prospective 4-H Stream Teams adult volunteers will begin Jan. 29. Each live, one-hour webinar will be offered at noon and repeated at 7 p.m.:

- Tuesday, Jan. 29 Part 1: What is a 4-H Stream Team?
- Thursday, Jan. 31 Part 2: Teaching hands-on water education
- Tuesday, Feb. 5 Part 3: Connecting youth to local water resources
- Thursday, Feb. 7 Part 4: Leading youth in water-based service projects

This free training is open to anyone who already works with youth – such as 4-H volunteers, scout leaders, camp directors or classroom teachers – and to any adult that is looking for an opportunity to share their interest in the environment with youth. 4-H programs also provide important leadership, citizenship and life skills that will benefit youth throughout their lives. Registration for the training is required and can be completed at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StreamTeamsTraining>. For more information, contact Jennifer Fetter by email at 4HWater@psu.edu or by phone at 717-921-8803.

MAEOE Professional Development Institute – Feb 7

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE Thursday, February 7th. Half day and full day sessions! Half Day (9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm)

- Oysters Biology and Ecology: The session will provide participants with the fundamentals of oyster anatomy by examining shells and live oysters for use in dissection, the use of Maryland Sea Grant web-based interactive tools on oyster anatomy, and an analysis of the impacts of acidification and osier ecology as presented in a recent issue of Chesapeake Quarterly (Vol. 11, No.1) entitled, Acid Test for the Great Shellfish Bay. Hands-on work with oysters and understanding their anatomy will be the main focus and this will provide a springboard for the connection to web-related materials that can be used in conjunction with the presentations. Also, the analysis of the CQ article will engage participants in a better understanding of ocean acidification and related impact of acidification in the Bay.

(Presenters: Jackie Takacs, University of Maryland Extension/Sea Grant, Watershed Restoration Specialists. J. Adams Frederick, University of Maryland Extension/Sea Grant, Marine Education Specialist)

- Marcellus Shale and Implications for Maryland: Marcellus development, receiving much media attention, is often talked about without being understood. Do we even know the complete economic or environmental impact of Marcellus shale in a state like Pennsylvania? Certainly not; however, there are some known factors. In this session we will review Pennsylvania Department of the Environment (DEP) violations associated to the natural gas industry. Although they do not record every environmental impact these recorded violations do show trends and prevalent issues. We'll discuss what these records capture and what they don't. The other portion of this session will take a close look, at the county level, of natural gas development and economic impact in one of the most developed counties in Pennsylvania. (Presenter: Derrick Bender, University of Maryland Extension/Allegheny County)
- Pfiesteria Hysteria in the Chesapeake: The Wisdom of Dead Microbiologist: In 1996 a series of fish mortalities at Hyrock, a hybrid striped bass farm on Maryland's eastern shore, suggested that the dinoflagellate Pfiesteria piscicida the so called "cell from hell" might have arrived in Maryland's waters. Since its discovery in North Carolina coastal waters during extensive fish kills, researchers claimed that it had an unusually complex life history with a potent toxin that not only killed fish but caused memory loss and bizarre human behaviors. The fish deaths at Hyrock were attributed to Pfiesteria by researchers but another dinoflagellate that was more abundant than Pfiesteria at the time of fish deaths quickly became the management focus at Hyrock. In 1997 reports of fish death and memory loss in watermen working on the Pocomoke River suggested that the Pfiesteria problem had arrived in the Chesapeake, however the same dinoflagellate that was abundant at the fish farm mortalities was also present in some of the Pocomoke events. Was the "cell from hell" finally invading the Chesapeake or was another less frightening organism to blame? Was human health finally being impacted by water quality concerns in the Bay? Was the poultry industry to blame? All of these questions and concerns fueled by limited science and extensive media coverage precipitated a public hysteria that cost the Chesapeake seafood millions of dollars and something unthinkable in Bay country- the possibility of a summer without crabs. In this program we will consider the events that precipitated the hysteria and the dynamics of science, policy and politics that surrounded it. We will consider the increased knowledge of toxic algae in the Bay that the Pfiesteria scare facilitated. This program will include a presentation of the award winning Maryland Sea Grant film "Pfiesteria Files" written and produced by Michael Fincham that analyzes the role of media in the Pfiesteria hysteria. (Presenter: Dan Terlizzi, University of Maryland Extension Water Quality Specialist and Affiliate Professor UMD Institute for Marine and Environmental Technology)

PDI Full Day Session (9am- 4pm)

- eBirding Program- Classroom and Fieldwork: Participants will learn how to develop a bird monitoring station at a park, school, or home location. The online website eBird will be used for data entry and management, and we will present a monitoring model that maximizes the utility of this important citizen science resource. Several birding stops in the Ocean City area will demonstrate the monitoring protocols in the field. Binoculars will be loaned to any participants needing them. Open to both novice and advanced birders, the workshop will focus on monitoring techniques and, to a lesser extent, bird identification. The session will demonstrate how data from organized and carefully conducted bird observations can be used to manage a piece of property as simple as a home garden or as large as park, nature center, or school. Highlighted will be the Bird Monitoring Center at Cromwell Valley Park where eBird data from volunteers and school groups are being used to help manage areas of the park to promote optimum wildlife habitat. (Presenters: George Radcliff, Youth Coordinator for the Maryland Ornithology Society. Wayne Bell, Senior Associate, Washington College. Justine Schaeffer, Naturalist, Willow Grove Nature Education Center.)

Early Bird Registration extended through January 11, 2013! Click here for an online registration guide. Click here to register!

To view this message on the web, go to: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/m.htm?m=v&hid=72375>

The Green in Your Backyard Woods – Learn to create & enhance the natural areas on your land – Feb 9

Pennsylvania is known for its diverse and extensive woodlands. Although a majority of Pennsylvania's woodland owners now own less than 10 acres, these small landscapes can be valuable refuges for some of the commonwealth's important and unique vegetation. By enhancing your woods or creating natural areas on your land, you can have a significant impact on Pennsylvania's wildlife, air & water quality and landscape aesthetics; all while reducing your energy costs, increasing your property value, potentially generating a revenue source and increasing your enjoyment of your land. Penn State Extension along with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and DCNR Bureau of Forestry are sponsoring the Green in Your Backyard Woods workshop to be held in southeast Pennsylvania this winter. Participants will learn essential information about the region's vegetation and how to implement simple stewardship practices to enhance or establish vegetation on your land. Topics will include: tree (& shrub) selection and care, reading forested landscape, invasive plant control strategies, wildflowers/herbs and wild mushrooms of PA's woods, establishing edge habitat, riparian buffers, and more. When: Saturday, February 9th, 2013; 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Where: Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Cost: \$30.00 per person; \$50.00 per two from the same household. For more information contact: Craig Highfield, Alliance for the Chesapeake, 410-267-5723; chighfield@chesapeakebay.net or Julianne Schieffer, Penn State Extension, 610-489-4315; jxs51@psu.edu. Or visit: <https://www.forestryforthebay.org/files/VegWIYBY2.pdf>

Applications Being Accepted for Next Master Well Owner Course – Feb 11

Pennsylvania is home to over one million private water wells and springs but it is one of the few states that do not provide statewide regulations to protect these rural drinking water supplies. In 2004, Penn State Cooperative Extension and several partner agencies created the Master Well Owner Network (MWON), a group of trained volunteers who are dedicated to promoting the proper construction, testing, and maintenance of private water wells, springs and cisterns throughout Pennsylvania. Since its inception, hundreds of MWON volunteers have attended Saturday training workshops to learn about proper water supply management practices. Starting on February 11, 2013, this same training will be available entirely online. Prospective volunteers need to submit an application and be accepted into the program. Applications will be limited to about 15 eligible volunteers. Once accepted, each volunteer will receive seven weekly emails with links to short reading assignments and video presentations. Participants in online training will largely be able to determine their own training schedule. One optional online meeting will be offered in March to help answer questions (attendance at this optional meeting this will require a computer with high speed connection and speakers). Volunteers who successfully complete the training course and pass a short exam will receive a free copy of the 80 page publication - A Guide to Private Water Systems in Pennsylvania, a coupon good for a 10% discount on water testing through the Penn State water testing lab, and access to various MWON educational materials. In return, MWON volunteers are asked to pass along what they have learned to other private water supply owners and submit an annual report of their educational accomplishments. To learn more and complete an application, visit the following website: <http://extension.psu.edu/water/mwon/volunteer/online-mwon-volunteer-training>

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival – Feb 13

Save the date! The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is returning to central PA for the third year on February 13th, 2013 at the Grace Milliman Pollock Performing Arts Center in Camp Hill, PA. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, in partnership the Goddard Symposium, is hosting this notable environmental film festival to show you how you can get involved in your community. Tickets will be available online starting January 11th. Come join us for a night of fun-- meet with local environmental groups-- and of course films. Doors open at 5.30 PM and films start at 6.30. Come get wild! For more information, visit <https://allianceforthebay.org/2012/12/wild-scenic-film-festival-2013/>

York County Conservation District Manure Management Information Meeting and Plan Development Workshop – Feb 26

Do you own livestock, poultry or horses? Do you import manure to spread on your crop fields? If you fall into any of these categories an upcoming meeting and workshop sponsored by the York County Conservation District should be on your schedule. On Tuesday February 26th the York County Conservation District, in cooperation with Penn State Cooperative Extension, will hold an informational meeting to discuss manure management, conservation plans, and what landowners must know to be in compliance with state laws. Anyone who owns livestock, poultry or horses, including horse owners with only one or two horses on their property, should attend to learn how these laws affect them. On Tuesday March 12th a Manure Management Plan Development Workshop will be offered so participants can develop their own Manure Management Plan with the assistance the workshop staff. A Manure Management Plan must be developed by any owner of livestock, poultry or horses. Plans must also be developed by anyone who spreads manure on their crop fields. Both events will be held at the York County Annex Building, Room 1 at 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York starting at 7 pm. The events are free of charge but registration is required for the March workshop. To register for the workshop, call Penn State Cooperative Extension at 840-7408.

Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania – Mar 1 – May 31

We need your help to promote the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Great American Cleanup of PA 2013 to local groups in your area. A standard press release will be sent to you in mid-January which you can customize for your local area. The 2013 Great American Cleanup of PA will begin on March 1st and go through May 31st. During this period, registered events can get free bags, gloves, and vests from PennDOT district offices and several KAB Pennsylvania affiliates. Events consist of litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, beautification projects, special collections, and educational events. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association will again sponsor Let's Pick It Up PA Days. All registered events held from April 20th through May 6th will be eligible for free trash disposal at participating landfills. So let's make this the best year ever with more registered events and more trash removed from Pennsylvania's landscape. In 2012, all 67 counties participated by registering over 4,000 Great American Cleanup of PA events, removing over 6,500,000 pounds of trash, by the hard work and dedication of over 141,000 volunteers. Now is the time to start contacting groups in your area to empower your fellow Pennsylvania's to make their communities clean and beautiful. Registrations for the 2013 Great American Cleanup of PA will begin in mid-January. To register your event or for more information, go to www.keepbeautiful.org and click on the Great American Cleanup of PA icon at the top of the page, or go to www.gacofpa.org.

Spring into Science Education Expo – Mar 4

Hosted by EcoExpress.org and the Philadelphia Math + Science Coalition Monday, March 4, 2013, 4:30pm to 7:00pm, at the United Way Building (1709 Ben Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103). The 3rd Annual Spring into Science Education Expo is a FREE networking event and celebration for local educators. Educators of grades K through 12 will learn about inspiring resources and ideas that can be immediately brought back into the classroom! Highlights of the 2013 Spring into Science Education include:

- Screenings of EcoExpress.org's Documentaries
- Exhibits by Local Environmental, Science, and Math Education Experts
- Hands-On Activity Demonstrations
- Refreshments
- Prizes
- And more!

Stay tuned for more information. Register early at EcoExpress.EventBrite.com. Do you need help troubleshooting with registration, searching for content, or remembering your login information? Please contact us at info@ecoexpress.org with any questions, issues, or comments.

[Sign up for our email newsletter, the EcoExpression!](#)

GardenWise 2013 registration open – Mar 9

Registration is now open for the York County Master Gardener annual GardenWise School! Early bird registration is only \$49.00 and includes all seminars, continental breakfast and lunch. There is something for everyone at this year's GardenWise. Wesley Greene, Historic Colonial Trades Gardener from Williamsburg, VA, joins us for talks on Gardening Under Cover, and pruning. Jim McCormac covers the natural world with Growing Caterpillars. Gregg Tepper finishes the day with the Sensory Appeal of Native Plants. In between there are breakout sessions on hummingbirds, landscaping with native plants, tree care, and herbs. Register by phone (717-840-7408).

Save the dates for the upcoming trail workshops! - Apr 4-6

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, in collaboration with DCNR and other partners, is presenting a full-day seminar on Making Great Trail Projects Happen on Friday April 5, 2013 at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College. This seminar is held in conjunction with the 11th Annual Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference on April 4-6, 2013.



WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

DOT Solicitation for Pilot Projects: Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation Options Analysis – Jan 22

The Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is soliciting descriptions of proposed pilot projects from State Departments of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Federal Lands Management Agencies, and Tribes. The pilot projects must address one of two areas related to climate change and extreme weather adaptation: assessments of transportation vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, or options for improving resiliency of transportation facilities or systems to climate changes and/or extreme weather events. It is anticipated that eight to 15 pilots will be selected and funded at

approximately \$75,000 to \$300,000 each. As pilot program participants work on their studies, they will have opportunities for peer-to-peer discussions with participants from other pilots both in person and via webinars. The pilots will be required to complete their assessments within 18 months from work plan approval. This pilot program is jointly sponsored by DOT's Office of Environment, Planning and Realty, and Office of Infrastructure. Applicants must submit project descriptions to FHWA by January 22, 2013. For more information, visit:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/climate_change/adaptation/ongoing_and_current_research/vulnerability_assessment_pilots/2013-2014_solicitation/solicitation/index.cfm

PA American Water Accepting Stream Of Learning Scholarship Applications – Feb 28

[Pennsylvania American Water](#) Thursday announced applications are being accepted for its 2013 [Stream of Learning Scholarship Program](#) to provide college scholarship assistance to students who are planning to pursue careers in the water and wastewater industry. Applications are due February 28. The program is designed to support outstanding students living in Pennsylvania American Water's service territories who are charting a course of study in specific fields, ranging from engineering to environmental science, which are crucial to the water and wastewater business. The company will award scholarships of \$2,000 each to 10 students who are selected through the program's application process. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Students must currently live in one of Pennsylvania American Water's service areas. (Students can attend college outside of the company's service territory.)
- Students must plan to attend a two- or four-year college or technical school.
- Students must plan to study environmental science, environmental engineering, biology or chemistry.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges and will receive their awards in May. Family members of Pennsylvania American Water employees are not eligible. This month, the company is sending scholarship brochures and applications to high school guidance counselors throughout its service territory. Applications can be downloaded from PA American's [Stream of Learning](#) webpage

SWCS 2013 Scholarship Announcement – Mar 8

The Keystone Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is offering two \$750 scholarships to college undergraduate students in the fields of agriculture, environmental studies, soils, or natural resources, who are currently attending college in Pennsylvania. Applicants should have sophomore, junior, or senior status. Applications are to be postmarked no later than March 8th, 2013. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of a combination of academic merit and program of study, quality of the written essay, financial need, and educational and career goals that are consistent with the SWCS mission. The SWCS strives to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. Our work targets conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on working land— land which is used to produce food, fiber, and other services that improve the quality of life people experience in rural and urban communities. We work to discover, develop, implement, and improve ways to use land that sustains its productive capacity and enhances the environment. The scholarships will be available in late March or in April. Successful applicants will be notified by postal mail soon after the committee has arrived at a decision. We request that winners of previous years not apply a second time. Applications are available at our website: www.keystoneswcs.org. Please make the enclosed application available to students at your University and feel free to distribute copies to other departments that have eligible students. Part of this year's scholarship was once again made possible by a generous donation from the Pennsylvania chapter of the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE). If you need additional information, please contact: Yuri Plowden, Chair, Scholarship Committee, Keystone Chapter SWCS, 161 E. Aaron Drive, State College, PA 16803. E-mail: yplowden@hotmail.com

\$1000 Scholarship Available – May 1

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is accepting applications for the Sue Wiseman Scholarship award. One high school senior is selected each year to receive a \$1,000 award for implementing a project that focuses on one of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's focus areas of Prevent It, Clean It, or Keep It. You and your affiliate members can help by promoting this program with local schools, teachers, 4-H, civic and scout groups. Click [here](#) for an application and guidelines. Deadline is May 1, 2013. <http://keeppabeautiful.org/GrantsAwards/SueWiseman.aspx>

RDUS Loan Rates

Interest rates for Rural Development Utilities Service (RDUS) water and wastewater loans—issued quarterly at three different levels: the poverty line rate, the intermediate rate and the market rate— have been announced. The rate applied to a particular project depends on community income and the type of project being funded. To qualify for the poverty line rate, two criteria must be met. First, the loan must primarily be used for facilities required to meet health and sanitary standards. Second, the median household income of the area being served must be below 80 percent of the state's non-metropolitan median income or fall below the federal poverty level. For 2012, the federal poverty level was \$23,050 for a family of four. To qualify for the intermediate rate, the service area's median household income cannot exceed 100 percent of the state's non-metropolitan median income. The market rate is applied to projects that don't qualify for either the poverty or intermediate rates. The market rate is based on the average of the Bond Buyer index. The most recent rates announced are: poverty line: 1.875 percent; intermediate: 2.5 percent; and market: 3.125 percent. RDUS loans are administered through state Rural Development offices, which can provide specific information concerning RDUS loan requirements and applications procedures. For the phone number of your state Rural Development office, contact the National Environmental Services Center at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191. The list is also available on the Rural Development website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html.

Sustainable Environments Program Grants

THE SURDNA FOUNDATION is accepting applications under its Sustainable Environments Program on a rolling basis. The Foundation's grant making is focused on smart growth, climate and energy, and green economies. Letters of Inquiry are accepted at any time, and successful applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal. More information: [The Surdna Foundation](#)



WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ASA Course Covers 4R Approach to Soil and Water Quality

The American Society of Agronomy (ASA) is offering an online course called "The 4R Approach to Soil and Water Quality." The course combines

the science of plant nutrition and soil fertility with a practical knowledge and application to successfully manage crop nutrients. The goal of the course is to provide the base knowledge needed to increase crop production, while reducing the environmental impact of crop production systems. Whether you are personally involved in production agriculture, advising farmers as an agricultural retailer or consultant, a representative for an agricultural business or government agency, or just looking to build your expertise, this course will cover topics that should be of direct interest to you. The deadline to register for the online course is January 11. If you are interested learning more and/or registering for the course, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Michele Lovejoy](#)

Smart Growth Benefits 'Winter Cities'

Big snowfalls and frigid temperatures illustrate how vulnerable car-dependent cities and suburbs can be when faced with disruptive winter weather patterns. A recent article in The Huffington Post discussed how walkable, transit-friendly cities tend to be more resilient to winter weather, with locations closer together and more options for getting around. http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/brent-toderian/walkable-winter-cities-vancouver_b_2361419.html

Convenient New Way to Request a Change in Flood Zone Designation

Are you still using the MT-1 or MT-EZ form to apply for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA)? Now you can request changes to your flood zone designation online using a new FEMA web application! A LOMA is a letter from FEMA stating that an existing structure or parcel of land will not be inundated by the base flood. LOMA-eligible requests must be concerning properties on naturally high ground, which have not been elevated by fill. Visit www.fema.gov/online-lomc to learn more about the new Online LOMC application. In the near future, the Online LOMC application will be able to process all types of LOMC requests.

New Maryland Sediment Control Regs - Exposed Soil Pollution

This week Maryland's new construction site sediment pollution regulations went into effect. Protect All Exposed Soils 7 Days After Clearance Among the most important new requirements is that all exposed construction site soils must be protected from erosive forces within seven days of initial clearance. For most of a site, this means all disturbed areas must be covered with a layer of mulch (straw, etc.) sufficiently thick to obscure underlying soils. An equally important new requirement is that 95% vegetative (grass) cover must be achieved. Silt Fence & Settling Ponds Can't Protect The Bay; Only Thick Mulch & Grass In the past most sites might have a sparse cover of grass and mulch resulting in vast quantities of eroded soil flowing into nearby waters. It takes thick mulch and 95% cover to prevent pollution of nearby waters. Perimeter measures like black silt fence and settling ponds simply can't retain enough mud pollution on-site. In fact, whenever you see exposed soil on a construction site, you can assume pollution will occur come the next storm. In other words: Exposed Soil = Pollution. Please report it at the Watershed Advocates Construction ES=P Database and/or to your local enforcement agency. Sites Present Before March Must Have 95% Grass Cover By April 15th Of course grass will not begin growing until March with another two- to four-weeks needed to achieve 95% cover. If a site was cleared prior to March, yet by April 15th you see something less than 95% grass cover then you are also witnessing a violation of one of our most important aquatic resource protection laws. Again, please report it promptly! This is the best way to ensure this new law is fully enforced and the Bay and her tributaries are fully protected. Detailed Guidance: For further detail see [Exposed Soil = Pollution: How You Can Save 100 Feet of Chesapeake Bay Tributaries in an Hour by Halting Construction Site Mud Pollution](#). Questions? Contact Richard Klein, Community & Environmental Defense Services, 811 Crystal Palace Court, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Ph: 410-654-3021 Office.

Information Required for Short-Term Water Management Decisions Outlined

Science Daily (1/9/ 2013) – Adapting to future climate change impacts requires capabilities in hydroclimate monitoring, short-term prediction and application of such information to support contemporary water management decisions. These needs were identified in a report, "Short-Term Water Management Decisions: User Needs for Improved Climate, Weather, and Hydrologic Information," published by the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The report identifies how Federal agencies, along with state, local, tribal and non-governmental organizations and agencies are working together to identify and respond to the needs of water resource managers in the face of a changing climate. The report is broken into four categories: Monitoring Product Needs, Forecasting Product Needs, Understanding and Using Information Products in Water Management, and Information Services Enterprise. Read more... <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/01/130109185924.htm>

Invading Species Can Extinguish Native Plants Despite Recent Reports to the Contrary

Science Daily (1/9/ 2013) – Ecologists at the University of Toronto and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) have found that, given time, invading exotic plants will likely eliminate native plants growing in the wild despite recent reports to the contrary. A study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) reports that recent statements that invasive plants are not problematic are often based on incomplete information, with insufficient time having passed to observe the full effect of invasions on native biodiversity. "The impacts of exotic plant invasions often take much longer to become evident than previously thought," says Benjamin Gilbert of U of T's Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (EEB) and lead author of the study. "This delay can create an 'extinction debt' in native plant species, meaning that these species are slowly going extinct but the actual extinction event occurs hundreds of years after the initial invasion." Read more... <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/01/130109162030.htm>.

