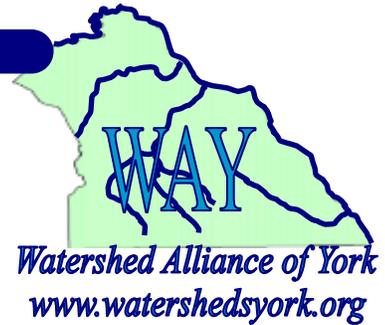


WAY E-NEWS

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



March 26, 2012

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Volume 12, Issue 7

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- Managing Municipal Stormwater Workshop – May 7
- Green and Sustainable Webinar: Landscaping with Native Plants in Pennsylvania – May 16
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- Conservation practices impact nutrient losses in the Ohio-Tennessee River Basin

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
- Director SCRO 717-705-47047
- 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

- Organic agriculture studied for pollutant emissions
- 'Fertilizer Forecaster' aimed at improving water quality
- UN report: Value ecosystems, not just crops, when managing water use
- Water We Drink Website Offers Resources
- EPA Releases Document for Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds
- Template for Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans Available Online
- WATERSHED TOOL OF THE MONTH



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

- Apr 16 - CANCELLED! CCWA 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 - www.dcnr.state.pa.gov

Conewago Canoe Club - www.conewagocanoecub.org

- May 3 - Club Meeting - 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/>

- **DCWA Annual Meeting** Thur., May 26, 6:30pm Harmony Deer Creek Presbyterian Church Rt 161, Darlington, MD
- 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 • Fax (717) 854-7452 or skenny@farmtrust.org

Friends of Codorus State Park - www.friends-of-codorus.org/

- For more information contact Becky Miller at 632-6747 or email beckymill1@juno.com or Dave Carbaugh at 637-9875 or email carbaugh3@embarqmail.com

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

- 31-Mar 10 -1 pm Tree Planting White Hall
- 7-Apr 10 -1 pm Tree Planting Gunpowder Falls State Park
- 14-Apr 9-12 pm Project Clean Stream Gunpowder Watershed
- 21-Apr 9-12 pm Stream Clean Up Loch Raven Reservoir
- 21-Apr 9-1 pm Earth Day Tree Planting Loch Raven Reservoir
- 28-Apr 9-1 pm Tree Planting Cromwell Valley Park
- How to contact us U.S. Mail: 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

- 2012 Susquehanna Biathlon - save the date now! This summer's biathlon will again be a run followed by a canoe/kayak paddle to an exciting finish, all overlooking the majestic Susquehanna. The date is Saturday June 16th, 2012. However, it looks like we're going to hold it at a new spot.
- Contact: Michael Helfrich, Lower Susquehanna RIVERKEEPER®, York, PA. Cell phone: 717-779-7915 E-mail: lowsusriver@hotmail.com.

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

- Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment Announcement (UNCLASSIFIED) – As indicated in the study notice, you may want to check out (and even bookmark?) the project website: <http://bit.ly/LowerSusquehannaRiver>.
- Contact: RupertRossett, Tributary Team Coordinator, e-mail: RupertRossetti@aol.com

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

- Game Land Fine – Recently an AMC hike leader got fined \$275 for leading a group larger than 10 people on a Game Land hike. Please notify your Game Commission Regional Office when you plan to lead a group of 10 or more on Game Lands. The southeast regional office for Chester and York Counties is (610) 926-3136 or (610) 926-3137.
- Contact: James Hooper at 717/252-3784 or j.e.hooper@ieee.org

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

- Apr 30 – Advisory Board meeting, 6:30 pm, York County ANNEX
- May 19 – Native Plant Fest, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at York County ANNEX
- June 30 – Gardening for Life – A Tour with a Difference. Tickets \$8.00
- 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

- Free trees for Carroll County residents Sat, 04/07/2012 - 9:00am - Sat, 04/28/2012 - 4:00pm. If you live in Carroll County and own 5 acres of land or less and would like to receive 25 free seedlings to plant on your property, see the [link](#) for the Backyards Buffers Program. Sponsored by the Carroll County Forestry Board. The seedlings will be available for pick-up in April - more information will be available after your application has been reviewed. The dates and times noted are approximate.
- Contact: Nancy Shaper at nshaper@jhmi.edu

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

- Monthly meetings will be held at the East Shore Area Library (ESA) in Harrisburg at 6:30 pm, except for select dates:
 - Tuesday, 4/24 - Held at Sisco's, 3716 N 6th St. Harrisburg
 - Tuesday, 5/29 - ESA
 - Tuesday, 6/26 - ESA
- 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

- New "Dinner with Ghosts" added Fri., April 13th
- *Civil War Hike re-scheduled to Sat. April 14th - some spots still available.*
- 2012 Spring & Summer program dates are now posted <http://www.shanksmare.com/html/news.html>
- Call Us: 717-252-1616. Email us: Shanksmare@comcast.net

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

- Apr 13 – Board of Directors meeting and strategic planning session, 6:00 PM, at the Farm
- May 4-6 – 21st Annual Fairie Festival <http://www.spoutwood.com/fairie-festival>
- Contact Rob & Lucy Woods at Spoutwood Farm at 717-235-6610 or spoutwood@comcast.net.

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

- April 3 - Free Lecture - Four-Season Gardening: Helping Nature Year Round
- April 11 - Heritage Lecture/Book talk with author Jack Brubaker
- Contact Mark Platts, Susquehanna Heritage Corporation, 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368. Office: 717-252-0229. E-mail: info@lyhr.org.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership – www.susquehannagreenway.org

- For more information about the Susquehanna Greenway, please contact: The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 201 Furnace Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Phone: 570-522-7211. Email: greenway@susquehannagreenway.org

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

- *Earth Day stream cleanup* - Our annual spring stream cleanup day is coming up on April 21st. We'll meet at 9 a.m. in the rear lot of the Porters Sideling Fire Hall. Long pants, long sleeves and gloves are recommended. Trash bags are appreciated.
- Monthly Chapter Meetings 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., at Gander Mtn. (winter)
- Contact: Tom Finenze 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/>

- March 31 - SEPA Trout Opener. Visit one of the MCTU Food Stands in Woodbine or High Rock.
- April 18 - General Meeting – Collinsville F&G Club - 6pm. Fly Casting and Fly Tying at 6pm. Refreshments.
- May 12 - Sight for Vision Fishing Day at Toms Run Handicapped Area.
- 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/>

- Meet the 3rd Wednesday @5pm.
- Contact: Adam McClain, Ph: 717-334-0636; E-mail: stilden@adamswatersheds.org

Watershed Alliance of York – www.watershedsyork.org

- Apr 4 – Annual Meeting of WAY Board of Directors, 7:00 PM, at The York Water Company, Mt. Rose Ave., York, PA.
- GoodShop Deals for WAY - <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx>
- 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

Yellow Breeches Watershed Association – www.ybwa.org

- March 31 Opening Day of Trout Season – United Water PA Rabold Plant--- Slate Hill and Limekiln Road 6AM --- 1PM DayOf fishing and food for anglers of all ages. Volunteers needed for PCS litter clean---up planned between 10---12noon.
- Spring 2012 Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Map & Guide Unveil the revised & updated 2012 guide in April. (Always Available online.) Will print 7,500 copies to be distributed through the YBWA kiosks, municipalities, & the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau free of charge.
- April 2012 Project Clean Stream Establish and organize teams to lead groups to clean up the litter before it blows or washes into the creek. Groups clean land areas in neighborhoods and along area rural roads adjacent to tributaries or the creek. All supplies are provided by the YBWA and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Lead or join a team to clean your favorite rural road, neighborhood, green---space, or tributary to the Yellow Breeches Creek.
- Board of Directors meets quarterly at Messiah College Library-Athenaeum Room 6 PM.
- Contact: Deborah Goetz, at deborah.p.goetz@gmail.com or phone 717-697-4734

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

- Mar 28 – Board meets from 9:00 to 11:00 Am, at RAYAC, York
- 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 tjs35@psu.edu.

York County Conservation District – www.yorkccd.org

- April 13 – Pick up tree seedlings at Rocky Ridge Park
- New Wildlife of PA Journal available for purchase \$24.95
- Rain Barrels- Get one while they last! Visit our website for more information and prices.
- 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

- Apr 7 – WCO David L. Grove Memorial Run. Register online
- 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. Nixon Park Nature Center, 5922 Nixon Drive • York PA 17403. Phone: (717) 428-1961. E-mail: NixonCountyPark@york-county.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

WATERSHED EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The woman who made environmental history by wading in the polluted Conestoga River

Lancaster Online – In the summer of 1948, Dr. Ruth Patrick, an upstart female scientist from The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and her hand-picked crew of about a dozen descended on Lancaster County.

http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/607838_The-woman-who-made-environmental-history-by-wading-in-the-polluted-Conestoga-River.html

Maryland watershed one of most polluted in nation

Baltimore Sun Online – Nearly all of the toxic pollutants in Maryland's waterways come from the watershed that enters the Chesapeake Bay near Baltimore, according to a report released Thursday by an environmental watchdog group. The Gunpowder-Patapsco Watershed, which stretches above the Maryland-Pennsylvania border and as far west as Mount Airy, had more than 1.3 million pounds of toxins dumped into it during 2010, the nonprofit group Environment Maryland concluded. That's 98 percent of the chemicals released into the state's waterways that year, the report said. The watershed is the 43rd most polluted in the country. Curtis Creek, south of Brooklyn along the border of Baltimore and Anne Arundel County, received the vast majority of those pollutants, the group's study said. About 922,000 pounds of chemicals were released into the creek, which feeds into Curtis Bay. The report, which has a national scope, said that 26 million pounds of chemicals find their way into the 1,400 U.S. waterways during 2010. The chemicals, which have been linked to cancer, developmental and reproductive disorders, include mercury, arsenic and benzene. Environment Maryland analyzed data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Release Inventory for 2010. It is the most recent data available, Environment Maryland said. The full report is available online http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-md-environment-maryland-report-20120322_0.4680670_story

Environmental Group Promotes Another Misleading Report On River Pollution

A Harrisburg Patriot-News story Thursday on an environmental group's report on pollution in Pennsylvania's rivers said the facts "aren't always as they seem in the environmental movement." From the article: "Pennsylvania's waterways are a polluter's paradise right now," according to Erika Staaf at the environmental group PennEnvironment. "Staaf was promoting a new report Thursday that claims industrial facilities dumped more than 10 million pounds of toxic chemicals into Pennsylvania's streams and rivers, making the state the seventh worst in the nation. "What Staaf didn't explicitly say was the "dumping" was regulated, permitted and legal. The report is based on emissions reported to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Release Inventory. [Click Here](#) for the full story by reporter Donald Gilliland. And there's more. It also turns out the Patriot-News [will report in Saturday's paper](#), PennEnvironment used a photo to illustrate the report that was actually taken of a pipe spilling wastewater into a river somewhere in South Africa. In the same Saturday article, the Patriot-News reported a photo published last September by PennEnvironment allegedly showing a flooded Marcellus Shale drilling rig caused by Tropical Storm Lee was actually a drill rig in Pakistan.

Health and Ecosystem Issues Found With Popular Pavement Sealcoat

ScienceDaily (Mar. 14, 2012) – A parking lot at the edge of the University of New Hampshire campus has contributed important research to an emerging concern for the environment and human health. The research, detailed in a recent feature article in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, has found that one type of pavement sealcoat, common on driveways and parking lots throughout the nation, has significant health and ecosystem implications. Alison Watts, research assistant professor of civil engineering at UNH, is a co-author of the article "Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat and PAHs: Implications for the Environment, Human Health, and Stormwater Management." Sealcoat, a black surface applied over asphalt pavements that is marketed as improving appearance and enhancing pavement longevity, is made of either an asphalt emulsion or a refined coal-tar pitch emulsion. Although the two sealcoats are similar in appearance and cost, concentrations of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), a group of organic compounds known to be detrimental to human and ecosystem health, are about 1,000 times higher in coal-tar-based sealcoats than those based in asphalt. Read more... <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/03/120314124209.htm>

PENNVEST, DEP Announce Results of Forward Nutrient Credit Trading Auction

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) and the Department of Environmental Protection, along with financial information services company Markit, has held the first "forward" auction in 2012 for the sale and purchase of nutrient credits in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay watershed. A "forward" auction means that the certified credits sold on March 21 will be delivered later and applied to the 2012-15 compliance years. The auction affords wastewater treatment plants and other regulated entities the opportunity to purchase credits to meet their nitrogen and phosphorus discharge limits for these compliance years. PENNVEST hosts the auctions to encourage the trading of nutrient credits in the Susquehanna and Potomac watersheds. DEP's nutrient credit trading program offers a cost-effective way for facilities that are subject to nitrogen and phosphorus limits to meet those limits by working with other facilities, non-point sources or both. For its auctions, PENNVEST is supported by Markit, which provides the platform for enrollment and eligibility, auctions and registry services. Markit has provided operations and infrastructure services to environmental programs worldwide. Credits representing the annual removal of 55,224 pounds of nitrogen from the Susquehanna River watershed and the Chesapeake Bay during 2012 were sold for \$4 per credit. Credits representing the annual removal of 30,000 pounds of nitrogen from the Susquehanna River watershed and the Chesapeake Bay over each of the following three years, 2013 to 2015, were sold for \$2.98 per credit. PENNVEST encourages the trading of nutrient credits by acting as a clearinghouse in the credit market, entering into contracts to buy and sell credits. By participating in these transactions, PENNVEST provides market certainty to buyers and sellers, which, in turn, encourages more activity in the market. Hosting periodic auctions is one way for PENNVEST to facilitate these nutrient credit trades. PENNVEST's next forward auction is June 13. The enrollment period for that auction is expected to begin on April 23. For more information, visit www.pennvest.state.pa.us or call 717-783-6798.

Tying conservation to crop insurance

Agweek – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the Obama administration wants to provide incentives for farmers to follow good conservation practices, rather than tying conservation compliance to subsidized crop insurance. The Environmental Working Group, the

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, the American Farmland Trust and the National Farmers Union have said that if Congress ends direct payments, the conservation compliance requirement attached to that program should be transferred to crop insurance, but other farm groups including the American Farm Bureau Federation oppose tying the two together. Read article... <http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/19639/>

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Acts On Water Withdrawal Requests, Low Flow Policy

The [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) held its quarterly business meeting Thursday voting on water withdrawal and consumptive use applications, a policy encouraging the use of lesser quality waters, a proposed Low Flow Protection Policy now open for public comment, and several administrative and financial matters. The commissioners denied three applications, tabled 10 applications, reconsidered 22 previously voted projects, and approved 20 additional projects. A list of actions [is available online](#). The commissioners also approved SRBC staff to release the proposed Low Flow Protection Policy for public review and written comments through May 16, 2012. The proposed policy was developed over the past year – based on scientific advances in ecosystem flow protection – to improve low flow protection standards associated with approved water withdrawals. If ultimately adopted, SRBC will use the policy and supporting technical guidance when reviewing withdrawal applications to establish limits and conditions on approvals consistent with SRBC’s regulatory standards. The proposed policy, its associated technical guidance, and options for submitting comments electronically are available on [SRBC’s website](#).

Nature Abounds to launch new "Citizen Watch" opportunity in Pennsylvania

Have you ever seen an illegal dump in the woods or a suspicious person near a waterway? How about an injured animal or even a stand of timber that didn't look healthy? If your answer is yes to any of these, did you know what to do? As a **Citizen Watch** volunteer, you will learn what to do, who to call, and how to be successful at seeing action on some of the biggest issues facing our forests and rural areas today. As a *Citizen Watch* volunteer, *Nature Abounds* will work with you to remedy those problems. Our forests and rural areas face challenges and it's up to us as citizens to do our best to protect our area. On April 28th, *Nature Abounds* will launch the *Keepers of the Forest Initiative* and the "Citizen Watch" opportunity at the *Forest Summit*. The event will be held at SB Elliott State Park, just off Exit 111 on Interstate 80 and just north of Clearfield. To register for the *Forest Summit*, go to: http://www.natureabounds.org/The_Forest_Summit.html For volunteers that can't make the event, the launch will happen the first week of May. Become a *Citizen Watch* volunteer today at http://www.natureabounds.org/Citizen_Watch.html. Please forward this information to anyone you feel might be interested.

Chesapeake Bay Photo Contest Underway

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation Monday announced its eighth annual [watershed photo contest](#) is now accepting entries. Photo submissions are being accepted through April 13. Photographers of all skill levels, ages 13 and up are encouraged to participate to win the top cash prize of \$500.00, and have their photo featured in CBF’s award-winning publications. The contest promotes awareness of conservation issues relating to the Chesapeake Bay and local rivers and streams. CBF is seeking images from around the watershed that illustrate the beauty, benefits, and bounty of the Bay and its rivers and streams. Photos can illustrate a wide variety of topics, but all MUST include water in the photo. All winners will receive a cash award ranging from the top prize of \$500.00 to \$100.00. The first prize winner also receives a premium spot in the CBF 2013 calendar. All winners will also receive a one-year membership to CBF and will have their photos displayed on CBF’s website, in a CBF e-newsletter, in CBF’s 2013 calendar, and in CBF’s award-winning magazine, *Save the Bay*. This year, concepts and topics for photographers to consider include: Beauty, Recreation, History and Legacy, and Agriculture. Judging will be conducted by a panel of CBF employees on the basis of subject matter, composition, focus, lighting, uniqueness, and impact. The public will also be able to vote online for their favorite photo in the Viewers’ Choice Gallery. Last year the judges had their work cut out for them with more than 600 entries. Participation in the Viewers’ Choice Award was outstanding, too, with more than 6,000 votes cast. Contest rules and details [are available online](#).

Department of Education Issues Draft Environmental Literacy Plan For Comment

Environmental educators and others with an interest in formal and non-formal education are being invited by the Department of Education's [Environmental and Ecology Education](#) program to comment on a draft [PA Environmental Literacy Plan](#) designed to move environmental education forward for the next 10 years. Comments are due by April 13.

Brunner Island Environmental Preserve Spring 2012 Environmental Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION*	TIME
Sat., April 21	SPRING BIRD WALK	BIW	9:30-11:30 a.m.

*Location Code: **BIW** – Brunner Island Wetlands **OCC** – Otter Creek Campground **CBL** – Conewago Boat Launch Area
For information on the current river conditions, call the Lower Susquehanna Hot Line at 1-800-692-6328.

Holtwood Environmental Preserve Spring 2012 Environmental Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION*	TIME
Sat., March 24	Lock 12 Historic Area Susquehanna Cleanup	L-12	9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sat., April 21	Earth Day at the Quarryville Library	Q	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sat., June 6	Endangered Species	PC	2-3 p.m.

* Location Code: **L-12** – Lock 12 **Q** – Quarryville Library **PC** – Pequea Creek Campground
For information on the current river conditions, call the Lower Susquehanna Hot Line at 1-800-692-6328.



WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

USDA Announces New Highly Erodible Cropland Initiative for Conservation Reserve Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. Lands eligible for this program are typically the least productive land on the farm. In many cases the most cost-effective option to reduce erosion is to put the land into a wildlife friendly cover, which will improve habitat and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and reduce wind erosion. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website for additional information regarding CRP.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp-sp>

EPA Announces \$4 Million in New Funding to Assist Local Governments with Bay Cleanup

(PHILADELPHIA – March 13, 2012) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) today announced a new \$4 million EPA-funded initiative providing financial and technical assistance to local governments needing to reduce water pollution to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. As local governments work to implement the Chesapeake Bay TMDL or 'pollution diet,' the Local Government Green Infrastructure Initiative will support them by making grants of up to \$750,000 available. The grants will be administered by NFWF through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, and competitively awarded to local governments to design and implement projects demonstrating the integration of green infrastructure into existing programs to meet community needs and improve local waterways and the Bay. With a combination of grants and technical assistance, the initiative aims to help local governments overcome obstacles to meeting pollution reduction goals for local waters and the Bay. The Bay TMDL provides states and local governments with considerable flexibility in how they achieve these objectives. Grants will be awarded for green infrastructure initiatives such as capital improvements, road maintenance programs, flood plain management, and other projects that produce measurable water quality improvements in local rivers and streams, and ultimately the Bay. The Bay TMDL requires approximately 25 percent reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution, with all of the of the pollution reduction measures needed for restoring the Bay in place by 2025. In addition to grant awards, local governments are eligible to receive technical assistance for specific challenges they identify as barriers to improving water quality, including financing assistance, project design and implementation, and stormwater and land use management. Selected localities will represent the diverse characteristics of local governments throughout the 64,000 square-mile watershed – including rural counties, predominantly agricultural communities, rapidly growing suburban localities, smaller cities, and urban municipalities. In partnership with the Local Government Advisory Committee, resources will also be made available for local governments to share information and experiences. Through forums and workshops, local governments will gain access to information about best practices and evolving strategies for achieving water quality goals for local waters and the Bay. Since 2000, the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund has offered \$68.9 million in grants for over 700 projects across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The goal of the fund is to accelerate local implementation of the most innovative, sustainable and cost-effective strategies for restoring and protecting water quality and vital habitats within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. For more information about the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund programs and grant opportunities, visit www.nfwf.org/chesapeake. Contact: David Sternberg, 215-814-5548 sternberg.david@epa.gov

HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants – May 1

HUD has announced availability of \$5 million in planning funds to help communities develop grassroots plans that link affordable housing with quality education, public transportation, good jobs and safe streets. Eligible applicants are public housing authorities (PHAs), local governments, nonprofits, tribal entities and for-profit developers that apply jointly with a public entity. Applications must propose to plan for the revitalizing a distressed public and/or HUD-assisted multifamily housing project into a viable, mixed-income community. Applications are due May 1, 2012. http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn/fy12funding

Roadmaps to Health: Community Grants – May 2

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Grants will support communities that implement policy or system changes to address one of the social or economic factors that most strongly influence health outcomes. These factors include education; employment and income; family and social support; and community safety. Grantees will receive awards of up to \$200,000 each for up to 24 months to implement their proposed policy or system-change strategy. Application deadline: May 2, 2012.

http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=21390&cid=XEM_A5734

Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge May 9

The Obama Administration has announced a \$15 million multi-agency Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge to spur job creation and economic growth in distressed rural communities. The Challenge is expected to give out approximately 20 awards for projects that benefit rural communities. Nonprofits, higher education institutions, tribes and state and local governments can collaborate to apply for funding. Applications are due by May 9, 2012. <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RuralJobsAccelerator.html>

Chesapeake Conservation Corps - seeking applications for stipend Volunteers – May 14

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to announce that applicants are being sought for the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program. The purpose of the Corps is 1) to enable stipend volunteers to work with host organizations and communities throughout Maryland to implement on-the-ground restoration and energy conservation projects, and 2) to provide leadership and training opportunities for young adults pursuing environmental and conservation careers. Corps volunteers will work on projects in the realms of environmental restoration, energy conservation, agriculture and forestry, and environmental education. Applications for CORPS VOLUNTEERS, ages 18-25, are currently being solicited throughout Maryland, with a deadline of May 14, 2012. Successful Corps Volunteer applicants will be matched with Host Organizations by the end of June, with the one-year service term to begin in late August, 2012. Potential Host Organization placement sites occur throughout Maryland. For more information, please see: www.cbtrust.org/chesapeakeconservationcorps

2012 Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Request for Proposals – May 16

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is soliciting proposals to restore the habitats and water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund will award over \$10 million in grants and technical assistance in

partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program. Major funding for the Stewardship Fund comes from the Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Forest Service and Altria. Through this Request for Proposals, NFWF will award at least \$8.5 million in Implementation Grants, and will award technical assistance valued at approximately \$1.5 million through a new Local Government Green Infrastructure Initiative. Applications must be submitted through our online Easygrants system by Wednesday, May 16, 2012. NFWF will host a webinar for potential applicants on Friday, March 30. To learn more, and to register for the webinar, visit www.nfwf.org/chesapeake.

DEP Accepting Applications for Act 101 Recycling Implementation, Planning Grants – Jun 29

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for Act 101 [recycling implementation and waste planning grants](#). Applications are due June 29. Grant applications and guidelines are available on DEP's [Recycling Grants](#) webpage. The formal [PA Bulletin notice](#) also has additional background information. For more information contact Mark Vottero, Recycling Grants Coordinator, Department of Environmental Protection, Rachel Carson State Office Building, Bureau of Waste Management, Division of Waste Minimization and Planning, P. O. Box 8472, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8472 or send email to: mvottero@state.pa.us.

Grants Available To Preserve, Promote Southcentral PA Natural, Cultural Assets - Jul 31

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Allan Thursday announced the [South Mountain Partnership](#) has [mini-grants available](#) communities and organizations can use to protect and promote natural and cultural assets in the southcentral region of the state. Applications are due July 31. For 2012, up to \$100,000 in grants will be available with a required one-to-one match. The maximum individual grant award is \$25,000. A workshop about the details of the program and application with time for participants to ask questions will be held March 29 at 3:30 p.m. at the Shippensburg University Conference Center. An online webinar similar to the workshop will be held May 23 at 4 p.m. Online registration is requested for both. Since the mini-grant program began, \$161,000 has been awarded with more than \$390,000 in matching dollars from grantees. The mini-grant money is provided by DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program. For more information, visit the [Mini-Grant webpage](#) or call Kim Williams at the ATC office at 717-258-5771.



WATERSHED FACILITATION ASSISTANCE

Webinar on Aquatic Invasive Species in Water Gardening – Mar 28

Speaker: Diane Oleson, Water Resources Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, York County. **Where:** The live webinar can be viewed at <https://meeting.psu.edu/water1>. What are aquatic invasive species and what do they have to do with my water garden? Why should I care? Aquatic invasive species have specific characteristics that make them a problem, and make them worthy of attention. Find out what invasive species are, how they are spread, and what you can do to help prevent their spread. Find out which species are considered invasive and should be avoided, and which Best Management Practices can make your water feature enjoyable for you and friendlier to the environment. The objectives of the webinar are to 1) understand what an invasive species is, 2) understand characteristics of aquatic invasive species, 3) understand potential AIS impacts, 4) understand water gardens in relation to AIS spread, 5) understand the value of prevention, 6) know where to find out which organisms are considered invasive and 7) create awareness of native alternatives. How to Participate: The live webinar will occur from noon to 1 PM and is accessible at: <https://meeting.psu.edu/water1>. You can access this webinar simply by signing in as a "guest". Taped versions of each webinar in the series are available at: <http://extension.psu.edu/water/webinar-series/past-webinars>. If you have not registered for past water webinars, please visit the following website to register so we can keep you updated about future webinar offerings: <http://extension.psu.edu/water/webinar-series/schedule/registration>

10th ANNUAL FISHERMAN'S BREAKFAST – Mar 31

FELTON FIRE COMPANY, 61 MAIN STREET FELTON. 5:00 AM – 10:00 AM. *All proceeds will benefit the MS Society.* Breakfast includes: farm fresh scrambled eggs, light and fluffy pancakes, hash browns, savory meats, coffee and juice. \$5.00 DONATION. Call 825-3982 for more info

National River Cleanup®

You love rivers, and you also know just how important it is to keep them clean so here's your chance to really make a difference. Rivers need your help to stay clean and trash-free. Each year millions of tons of trash end up in our nation's rivers from litter or illegal dumping, clogging these precious natural resources. [This year, you can help by organizing or participating in a local river cleanup through American Rivers.](#) National River Cleanup® is a great way to join friends and family out on the river and help save this community asset. Since 1991, more than *1,045,000 volunteers* have participated in thousands of cleanups across the country cleaning up more than *205,500 miles of waterways*. These cleanups have removed more than 13 million pounds of litter and debris from America's rivers and streams. [Help protect your clean water by volunteering at a river cleanup in your backyard or organizing a cleanup today!](#)

Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania - Mar 1 – May 31

Registrations for 2012 GACPA has begun. To register your event or for more information go to www.keeppabeautiful.org and click on the GACPA icon at the top of the page or contact [Michelle Dunn](#), GAC of PA Coordinator. Held each year from March 1st through May 31st in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, the Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, and PennDOT, this three month event offers many resources for groups that want to keep Pennsylvania beautiful. As in previous years, coordinators of registered events will be able to receive gloves, vests, and bags from local PennDOT District offices. Pick It Up PA Days will occur from April 21st through May 7th. It is during this two week period that trash collected at registered events can be disposed free of charge at participating landfills.

2012 WATERSHED ALLIANCE OF YORK'S CALENDAR OF WATERSHED EVENTS FOR SPRING

PARTNERS	EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Jst Fishin Guide Service	4 th Gut Rd. Cleanup	Mar 31 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Gut Rd., Saginaw, East Manchester Twp.
Keep PA Beautiful	Bunker Hill Rd. Illegal Dump Site Cleanup	Mar 31 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Intersection Bunker Hill Rd. and Main St., Delta Borough
GSA Shawnee Unit	Forever Green Rain Garden Journey	Mar 31 9:30 – 11:30 AM-	First Church of the Brethren, York
New Freedom Heritage	Community Stream Cleanup & Rehabilitation Project	Apr. 14 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	New Freedom Heritage Museum, Railroad St., New Freedom Borough
Guiding Hearts with Hope	Town Hall Meeting - Prescription Epidemic)	Apr 19 6:30 – 8:00 PM	YWCA of Hanover , 23 W. Chestnut St. Hanover
PPL, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper	43 rd Earth Day Cleanup	Apr 21 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Meet at the Conewago Boat Access Area, E. Manchester Twp.
Guiding Hearts with Hope	Drug Take Back Day	Apr 28 10:00 Am – 2:00 PM	Giant Stores in Hanover 801 Baltimore Street and 455 Eisenhower
Glen Rock Borough	Codorus Creek & Community Cleanup	May 5 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance, Water St., Glen Rock Borough
MAEscapes Partners	Spring Native Plant Sale	May 19 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	York County ANNEX, Springettsbury Twp.
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper	12 th Codorus Cleanup	June 30 & July 1 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	York County RailTrail and Central York H.S., along Mundis Mill Rd. Details TBA.

DAY OF ACTION 2012 SIGN UP! – Apr 2

There are but 12 days left to submit your projects for Day of Action 2012. Early submission gives us the opportunity to view the projects and assist you in making them the best they can be before the site goes live on April 9th for sign-ups. Volunteers are eager to select an agency to serve, and we want your project to be a first-round draft pick! To ensure your project is available for volunteer sign-ups on April 9th, we encourage you to submit your project as soon as possible. The deadline for project submissions is Monday, April 2nd. For your review, below are a few tips and tricks to creating a project that is a masterpiece. Questions? Please contact Day of Action co-chairs, Leslie or Shanna. Thank you! Leslie Brengle, SecureCorps Director, Day of Action Co-Chair, brenglel@unitedway-york.org or 717.771.3812.

Resources for Restoration Spring Forum Stormwater Service Provider Showcase – Apr 17

Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. In conjunction with The Watershed Assistance Collaborative's Resources for Restoration Spring Forum, you are invited to participate in a **Stormwater Service Provider Showcase**. On Tuesday, April 17, 2012 more than 150 local and county level decision makers will be participating in the forum looking for stormwater solutions. Please click [here](#) for exhibitor/sponsorship information. Space is limited. Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your firm! Deadline for applications is March 20, 2012.

Project Clean Stream is organizing trash cleanup sites through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed – Apr 14

This year, April 14th, 2012, we would like to help your organization participate in a cleanup. Project Clean Stream cleanups are a great way to engage volunteers, co-workers and/or neighbors in a communal outdoor activity that works to beautify local streams, woods and parks. Would your organization be interested in hosting a cleanup site? It's easy and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (the regional coordinator) can help! The Alliance can help you find a cleanup site, provide basic supplies (gloves, trash bags, first-aid kits, etc), help coordinate trash removal and help solicit volunteers. You would be responsible for returning results forms and leading the volunteers at the cleanup site. If April 14th doesn't work for you, that's fine. We work with several organizations who host cleanups on nearby dates. This is a great opportunity for non-profits, governments, and business alike as an easy way to generate volunteer/employee activities as well as see some immediate and gratifying results. To find out more information, check out the PCS2012 website – <http://allianceforthebay.org/pcs> or the [facebook event](#).

Rain Barrel Workshop – Apr 28

Barn – Lower Level 10:00 AM *Rain Barrels - Yellow Breeches Watershed Association and Cumberland County Conservation District*. This 2-hour session will discuss the importance of water harvesting in the garden with your professional-grade rain barrel. Participants will also hear about ways to control stormwater and protect the quality of the Yellow Breeches Creek. *Thanks to the generosity of our Township water supplier, Pennsylvania American, we are able to offer quality-grade rain barrels at a discounted rate of \$15.00.* Please register early and see below for detailed payment information! Pre-registration is *required* for workshop, limited to 20 participants each, with one compost bin and/or rain barrel allowed per household. Please mail your check made payable to *Lower Allen Township* attention to Donna Paul, Recycling Coordinator at 2233 Gettysburg Rd, Camp Hill, PA 17011. For more information, see www.lower-allen.pa.us or call 975-7575, ext. 1402. Pre-registration deadline for *both* workshops is April 15th.

National Drinking Water Week – May 6-12

National Drinking Water Week is coming up **May 6-12, 2012**, and offers a great opportunity for public water systems to promote Source Water Protection Awareness and Education: Below are some materials that AWWA is making available. What Can You Do For Drinking Water Week?

- Offer a tour of your facilities to your Town or School
- Promote Drinking Water Week Activities to your local school

- Volunteer to help at a Water Fair
- Meet with your local officials about your Source Water Protection program if you have not met with them yet.
- Take visual models like your delineation maps to educate about your protection areas, Groundwater Model and Enviroscape with you.

Do Something! More on the AWWA materials at: <http://www.awwa.org/government/content.cfm?itemnumber=44766&navitemnumber=3863>

Managing Municipal Stormwater Workshop – May 7

On May 7 a [Municipal Stormwater Management Workshop](#) will be held to help municipalities, municipal engineers and community planners implement new cost effective stormwater management practices in Carlisle. This program was developed in partnership between Penn State Extension, Cumberland County Conservation District, Cumberland County Planning Department, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership and USDA Forest Service. Dr. Robert G. Traver, Professor & Director, Villanova Center for the Advancement of Sustainability in Engineering, Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership is one of the featured speakers. He will be speaking on Sustainable Design and Best Management Practices for Urban/Suburban Stormwater. Additional speakers will include Dr. Paul DeBarry, NTM Engineering, Inc., Dr. William Elmendorf, Penn State Community Forestry Professor and Vincent Cotrone, Penn State Extension. Information on the Cumberland County Stormwater Management Plan will be presented by Jeff Kelly, Assistant Director with the Cumberland County Planning Department. In the afternoon, Cumberland County Conservation District staff will conduct a walking tour of installed stormwater best management practices. Stormwater runoff is impacting our streams and watersheds, causing declines in water quality, streambank erosion, flash floods, degrading fish habitat, and reducing groundwater recharge. Studies have shown that significant impairment of waterways often occurs when 10 percent of the land in a watershed is covered with impervious surfaces such as parking lots and roof-tops. The release of the 2006 Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual brought a new focus on water quality, designing systems that promote infiltration and capture “first flush” instead of just detaining volumes of stormwater. By participating in this workshop, participants will learn how some of these new techniques are being used in the field and how well they are working. The workshop will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Service Center which is located at 310 Allen Road in Carlisle. Registration Fee is \$35 per person if received by April 27. [Online registration is available.](#) If you do not have Internet access, you can call the toll free number at 877-489-1398 for assistance or contact Penn State Extension at 717-263-9226 ext 225 for more information. Registration deadline is May 1 and seating is limited. Certificates of Attendance will be issued for Engineer PDH Credits.

Green and Sustainable Webinar: Landscaping with Native Plants in Pennsylvania – May 16

Date: May 16, 2012. Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Speakers: Carrie Gilbert, Botanist, Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services, DCNR; Tracey Coulter, Forest Program Specialist, Bureau of Forestry, DCNR; Tina Alban, Forest Nursery Operations Manager, Penn Nursery, DCNR; Emilee Boyer, Environmental Review Specialist, Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services, DCNR. Description: Spring is in the air and the planting season is upon us! Join us for this presentation to learn about landscaping with native plants in your parks and public places. Topics covered include: edible native plants, native plants for pollinating insects, benefits and maintenance of native plants, deer management and partnerships to assist with planting and maintenance. Webinar Call-in Number: 1-877-668-4493. Access Code: 644 533 907. Webinar Log-in Web Address: <https://copa.webex.com/copa/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=644533907>. To register for the webinar please go to http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar/view_event.asp?CalendarID=23655. To check out other Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Updates go [here](#).

Learn how YOU can make a difference by planting natives – Jun 19

Come spend AN EVENING WITH DOUGLAS TALLAMY June 19, 2012, 6 p.m. Social hour. Visit displays of local organizations 7 p.m. Dr Douglas Tallamy St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, 839 West Market Street, York, 17401. Tickets \$5:00 /Person. Call: 717-428-1320. E-mail: priswald@comcast.net. Or Mail To: An Evening with Doug Tallamy 112 Pleasant Acres Rd. York Pa 17402. Checks Payable to PSCE Program Fund.



WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Gully Formation in Long-term No-tillage

Sjoerd Duiker, Soil Management PSU – Reports have come in about concentrated flow leading to gully formation in long-term no-till fields. In the tillage days one would level these areas annually basically covering up the problem without addressing the cause. So how to address this issue without losing the benefits you have built up with long-term no-tillage? Here are a few tips:

- Don't till the entire field. Tillage only helps to cover up your mistakes, not fix them. The only tillage justified is to repair the gullies and then to change management to address the cause of gully formation.
- Guarantee high residue cover throughout the crop rotation.
- Plant cover crops immediately after harvest - what we are trying to emulate is the grassed waterway with its massive root system and surface cover that holds the soil in place.
- Don't kill cover crops early, maintain high residue cover.
- Plant cover crops in the areas of concentrated flow.
- Maintain soil structure by avoiding compaction.
- Plant on the contour. This conservation practice is still highly relevant to avoid runoff following the rows.
- Install subsurface drainage system if needed. This may be the solution if the cause of gully formation is seeps and springs.
- Install terraces and diversions to help shorten slope length thereby reducing the potential of gully formation.
- Divert road runoff. Often a gully starts right at the low point of a road where road runoff enters the field or where a culvert channels runoff from above a road into a field. A diversion may be needed to make sure water fans out. A sedimentation basin and possible subsurface drainage may be the solution if the water can be taken to a safe outlet.

Some soil conservationists are recommending farmers to put these areas in grassed waterways. With their massive and permanent root system they can help control gully formation. However, from the farmer's point of view, it is desirable to avoid putting in grassed waterways. Grassed waterways result in lost production and the inconvenience of having to shut off sprayer booms and planters and drills. Add to that the expense of maintenance of the grassed waterway and it becomes a costly practice. So whatever the producer can do to protect the soil from gully formation without putting in grassed waterways would be helpful.

Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment Website

The LSRWA's mission is to address sediment accumulation behind the Conowingo Dam, and the associated potential for storms to affect water quality and aquatic life in the Chesapeake Bay. This currently is a basic site to contain LSRWA meeting agendas, news, and press releases, and will evolve to have content deemed helpful to the group. <http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/LSRWA/index.cfm>

Manure Management and the Small Farm

Proper Manure Management is a good idea for several reasons. Proper manure applications save you money by reducing fertilizer costs. Proper manure management protects water resources. Finally, proper manure management in Pennsylvania is now the law. http://extension.psu.edu/water/discovery-watersheds/newsletter/news/2012/manure-management-and-the-small-farm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29

Corn response to tillage and water table depth

Journal of Soil and Water – Yields in some sections of fields are commonly less than half of those in the best sections. These large yield differences are surprising because farmers usually use the same seed and rates of fertilizer, manure and herbicide and the same equipment for tillage and seeding over a whole field. W. Doral Kemper, et al., found that highest yields in Midwest corn fields occur where we get good stands, avoid high water tables in the spring and have deeper crop roots to supply more water in the ear-filling month of August. (SWCS editor's note: This article is available to all online through March 21. After March 21, electronic access is available to SWCS members and electronic Journal subscribers. To join or add electronic access to your membership, click [here](#).)

Conservation practices impact nutrient losses in the Ohio-Tennessee River Basin

National Hog Farmer – A recently released U.S. Department of Agriculture study shows that conservation practices applied to cultivated cropland in the Ohio-Tennessee River Basin are reducing losses of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus from farm fields and decreasing the movement of these materials into the Mississippi River and other waterways. The Ohio-Tennessee River Basin Conservation Effects Assessment Project study examines nearly 204,000 square miles in the river basin. Read more... <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/environment/conservation-practices-impact-nutrient-losses-ohio-tennessee-river-basin>

Organic agriculture studied for pollutant emissions

Western Farm Press – In organic agriculture, nutritional building blocks like nitrogen, carbon and phosphorus are introduced via organic matter to improve soil over time. But when these nutrients are released as gases into the air or in stormwater runoff, they can pollute water sources and contribute to greenhouse gas buildup. Scientists at Washington State University are developing a series of experiments to determine the types and amounts of gases emitted by organic cropping systems. Read more... <http://westernfarmpress.com/management/organic-agriculture-studied-pollutant-emissions>

'Fertilizer Forecaster' aimed at improving water quality

Gant Daily – A grant of \$484,000 will support a joint Penn State/U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service project designed to help farmers improve water quality by making better decisions about when and where to apply fertilizer. The funding, from USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, will enable scientists to develop the Fertilizer Forecaster, a Web-based decision-support tool that producers can use before applying fertilizer to assess the risk of nutrients running off in surface water. Read more... <http://gantdaily.com/2012/03/09/fertilizer-forecaster-aimed-at-improving-water-quality/>

UN report: Value ecosystems, not just crops, when managing water use

The University of York – A new UNEP report prepared by the Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York urges policymakers and planners to think about ecosystem services, not just agricultural crop yields, in determining the most productive uses of water. The report uses case studies from Africa and Asia to demonstrate how some of the pressure on limited water resources can be managed with existing techniques, such as soil and water conservation, minimum tillage and rainwater harvesting. Read report... <http://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2012/research/releasing-the-pressure/>.

Water We Drink Website Offers Resources

The Water We Drink: Small Community Outreach Campaign, which offers information about maintaining safe, sustainable, and secure water supplies in small and rural communities, has several articles written especially for those who oversee local water and wastewater services. http://extension.psu.edu/water/discovery-watersheds/newsletter/news/2012/water-we-drink-website-offers-resources?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29

EPA Releases Document for Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds

EPA recently released a new technical document titled "Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds: Concepts, Assessments, and Management Approaches." This document provides state water quality and aquatic resource scientists and managers with an overview of the key concepts behind the Healthy Watersheds Initiative. The initiative is intended to preserve and maintain natural ecosystems by protecting our remaining healthy watersheds, preventing them from becoming impaired and accelerating our restoration successes. The initiative encourages states to take a strategic, systems approach to protecting healthy watersheds and preventing future water quality impairments.

This document provides examples of approaches for assessing components of healthy watersheds, integrated assessment options for identifying healthy watersheds, examples of management approaches and assessment tools and sources of data. The document is available at <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/watershed/index.cfm>.

Template for Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans Available Online

EPA has posted a new template for construction operators to use in developing stormwater pollution prevention plans, which are site-specific documents required as part of EPA's new 2012 Construction General Permit. The template is designed to help construction operators develop a stormwater pollution prevention plan that is compliant with the minimum requirements of the new permit. The template allows operators to customize the document to the needs of the site, and includes tables and other fields that are easy to fill out. For questions about the template, or the permit in general, please send inquiries to CGP@epa.gov. For additional information on stormwater pollution prevention plans for construction activities and to view a copy of the template: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swppp.cfm>. For additional information on EPA's 2012 CGP: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp.cfm>.

WATERSHED TOOL OF THE MONTH

Watershed Central has been designed to assist users to develop and implement effective watershed management programs. The site includes guidance, tools, case studies, and data sets to help you share information, analyze data, and identify opportunities to initiate or strengthen your watershed efforts. Watershed Central includes a feature called a wiki, which is web site that allows the user to submit and edit content so that the information is constantly updated by the watershed community (just like Wikipedia). The wiki includes case studies, information on watershed organizations and various watershed management tools.

<http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/datait/watershedcentral/index.cfm>

