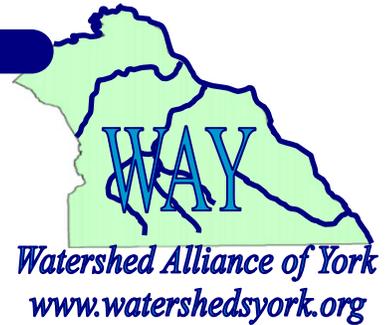


WAY E-NEWS

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



April 9, 2012

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Volume 12, Issue 8

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- Report: Farming needs 'climate-smart' revolution
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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

- Iowa wetlands initiative tests the ability to clean up runoff water
- DEP, Engineers Society Team to Promote Brownfields Redevelopment
- New Partners for Smart Growth Conference Proceedings now Online
- NRDC: Pennsylvania Among Best Prepared States For Climate Change
- Report on "Estimated Effects of Climate Change on Flood Vulnerability of U.S. Bridges" Available Online
- Draft EPA "Response to Climate Change" Released for Public Comment and Website on Climate Change and Water Launched – May 17
- PA Senate passes stormwater bill



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.)
- Apr 28 – Oil Creek Restoration Monitoring, Gits Run Rd., Hanover, 9:00 Am to 1:00 PM
- 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

- 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. 04/28/2012 - 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 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/>

- Muddy Creek TU will be making two weekday stockings of trout from the Nursery this month. The stockings will take place on:
 - Tuesday April 10
 - Monday, April 30If you are interested in helping, we will meet at the Nursery both mornings at 8:00A.
- Also, we will have a workday at the nursery to remove plastic from the hoop house and do a general clean up of the grounds and the native plant nursery on Sunday, April 15. Meet at the Nursery at 1:00P. A pair of gloves will come in handy. Tools will be provided as needed. Please respond to this email if you can help out with the workday or either stocking .
- 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/>

- Apr 25 – WAAC Annual Meeting here at the Ag Center on Wednesday, 7pm
- Stream cleanup in canoes Saturday, May 5th from 8am-noon with lunch from 12-1pm (Conewago Creek near East Berlin)
- Meet the 3rd Wednesday @5pm.
- Contact: Adam McClain, Ph: 717-334-0636; E-mail: stilden@adamswatersheds.org

Watershed Alliance of York – www.watershedsyork.org

- July 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

- 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

- TBA – 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 tls35@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

Bay restoration ahead of schedule, funding tight

BALTIMORE (AP) — The federally led strategy to restore the Chesapeake Bay is ahead of schedule for two of three key pollutants, although the cleanup is being held up in some areas by budget concerns, the Environmental Protection Agency said in two reports released Friday. Reducing nitrogen and sediment pollution is ahead of schedule, while phosphorus reduction is behind schedule. The three are the key pollutants in the bay. Nitrogen and phosphorus come from sources including sewage, fertilizer, auto and power plant emissions. Once they enter the Chesapeake and waterways that feed the bay they can spur oxygen-robbing algae blooms. Sediment that runs off lawns, development sites, farms, roads and other areas can cloud water and bury bay grasses, which provide food and habitat for a number of species. EPA spokesman Greg Barranco said a new tracking and reporting system for phosphorus offset most of the reductions for the pollutant. The reports, which detailed progress in fiscal 2011 and plans for fiscal 2012, also said that while the bay restoration effort was ahead of schedule in some areas, some planned restoration work wasn't funded. For example, the president's budget for fiscal 2011 requested \$900 million for a Land and Water Conservation Fund, which eventually received \$301 million. Despite the tight budget, EPA spokesman Tom Wenz said the federal agencies involved in bay restoration were working together to prioritize where their efforts could have the most impact. One area that saw increases was the number of monitoring stations around the bay and in waterways that lead to the Chesapeake. Jim Edwards, acting director of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program, said 40 new monitoring stations have been added in fiscal 2011 and 2012, particularly in the upper reaches of the bay and areas that are purely urban or agricultural. Those sites will allow researchers to get a better idea of whether steps being taken to control pollution are actually having an effect, Edwards said. The reports were issued on the deadline for states to submit their second round of plans for meeting bay restoration goals. The plans are the second set submitted by the six bay watershed states and include how they plan to achieve pollution reductions on the local level. The states in the Chesapeake watershed are Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and New York. Read more: <http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Bay-restoration-ahead-of-schedule-funding-tight-3447752.php#ixzz1qtSFnYON>

Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts take another step forward with Watershed Implementation Plans

The jurisdictions that make up the Chesapeake Bay watershed have reaffirmed their commitment toward restoring the health of this national resource with the submission of final Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). The Phase II WIPs are a landmark step forward in the collaboration between the Bay jurisdictions and their local governments and conservation districts to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This ongoing partnership is restoring thousands of streams and rivers that make up the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program Office has received final Phase II WIP submissions from Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. EPA has received New York's draft Phase II WIP and provided them with evaluative comments. In the meantime, EPA is actively working with state officials to complete their submission as soon as possible and continue the progress New York made in its Phase I WIP commitments. These plans were developed specifically by the states and the District through close coordination with their county, municipal and other partners. Each separate WIP identifies how that jurisdiction is working with its local partners to continue the process of putting measures in place by 2017 that will achieve at least 60 percent of the nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions needed to restore the Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, including state and federal officials, have committed to having all of the needed pollution control measures in place to fully restore the Bay no later than 2025. Much of this work already is being implemented by the jurisdictions consistent with their Phase I WIP commitments, building on 30 years of Bay restoration efforts. EPA will review the Phase II WIPs, provide feedback and assistance to each jurisdiction and determine the need (if any) for additional state and/or federal action to provide reasonable assurance of achieving the necessary pollution reductions. EPA officials will spend the next several weeks conducting a detailed review of the final Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), working closely with the states to ensure the viability of their commitments. As the review process takes place, the Phase II WIP submissions will be available online at <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/>.

Another step for clean water

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has submitted the second phase of a plan to restore and protect local rivers and streams like the Susquehanna, Juniata, Conodoguinet, and Octoraro. This marks another step forward in the federal effort to put the entire Chesapeake Bay region on a pollution diet and restore the quality of our local waterways. This plan, known as the Phase 2 Watershed Implementation Plan, includes more detail on how local projects — with assistance from municipal government officials, county conservation districts, county planning commissions, citizens and watershed organizations — will reduce pollution in our rivers and streams. The plan highlights some exciting success stories throughout the Susquehanna region. We look forward to the lessons learned in Lancaster, Lycoming, and York Counties that are being applied to clean water efforts in other Pennsylvania counties. http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/chesapeake_bay_program/10513

60+ Groups Sign Letter Opposing Goodlatte-Holden Bill Stopping Chesapeake Bay Cleanup

More than sixty organizations of the [Choose Clean Water Coalition](http://www.choosecleanwater.org) sent letters to their U.S. Representatives opposing H.R. 4153, Congressman Goodlatte (R-VA) and Holden's (D-PA) Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act, which would undo the years-long process developed by the States and the Federal government to restore clean water to the region. The groups include the

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Lancaster Farmland Trust, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, PennFuture, Potomac Riverkeeper and Sierra Club-Pennsylvania. The [Coalition's letter](#) explains that if states are left to voluntarily implement their own water quality rules, there will be no enforcement whatsoever. This approach is unworkable in addressing pollution problems that are interstate in nature such as those afflicting the Chesapeake Bay. The letter also points out that H.R. 4153 adds new layers of bureaucracy by requiring EPA to add a large and cumbersome 16-member Advisory Committee and a Trading Commission. EPA would be required to hire staff for these entities. In addition, the bill would require state and federal agencies to prepare 100 reports – 16 reports by federal agencies and the newly created advisory committee and commission and at least 84 reports by the six states and the District of Columbia – over the six year authorization timeframe of the bill. A copy of the letter [is available online](#). The [Choose Clean Water Coalition](#) brings together more than 230 organizations from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, New York and the District of Columbia, and their members to improve local rivers and streams which will result in restored Chesapeake Bay.

NACD Supports Holden, Goodlatte Efforts to Improve the Health of the Chesapeake Bay

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents 3,000 local conservation districts nationwide including Territories and Commonwealths with a U.S. relationship. These districts are local units of government established under state, territory or country laws to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. With 127 districts in the six states covering the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the ability to work with landowners and local communities to implement conservation practices and address both rural and urban nonpoint source issues is unrivaled. NACD would like to thank you for introducing the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act (CBPRIA), H.R. 4153. We strongly support the passage of CBPRIA, which would create the Advisory Committee and the Chesapeake Bay Nutrient and Sediment Trading Commission, giving states the opportunity to strengthen the locally-led process. Furthermore, the Act would provide necessary transparency and accountability for federal funds in the Chesapeake Bay Program. NACD supports the important role of state and local governments in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process especially in regards to nonpoint sources. States – rather than the federal government – are best equipped to determine the best methods of reaching water quality standards by effectively implementing TMDLs at the local level. As you may know, NACD is currently working with conservation districts and state associations on several Chesapeake Bay projects including obtaining better data on unreported conservation practices and systems. NACD and districts look forward to continuing to provide leadership and support towards ongoing Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. Once again, NACD would like to thank you for your leadership within the Chesapeake Bay. www.nacdnet.org

DEP Publishes Draft Water Quality Report, 80 Percent Of State Streams Meet Standards

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) on April 7 the draft 2012 [Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report](#) is available for public comment which found 80 percent of the 84,571 miles of streams and rivers assessed for aquatic life uses meet clean water standards. Of the 16,599 miles of impaired streams, 9,801 miles require the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load Plan and 6,490 miles have an approved plan. The primary source of impaired waterways remains Agriculture (5,705 miles), Abandoned Mine Drainage (5,596 miles), unknown (3,482 miles) and urban runoff and storm sewers (2,451 miles). Petroleum activities account for 60 miles of impaired streams, less than half of natural sources (152 miles). Of the 80,525 acres of lakes assessed in the state, 43,194– nearly 54 percent– are attaining clean water standards. 11,366 acres have an approved TMDL and 20,544 acres do not require a TMDL because they are not affected by pollution. 5,420 acres require a TMDL. The Integrated Report includes both a narrative description of this Commonwealth's water quality management programs (formerly the 305(b) Report) and various lists depicting the status of Commonwealth surface waters as required under section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C.A. § 1313). The Integrated Report is comprised of four parts and also includes a five-part list that collectively summarizes the designated use attainment status of Commonwealth surface waters. The Department invites public comments on the draft Integrated Report. The Department must receive comments on the draft Integrated Report by May 22. A copy of the report is available on [DEP's website](#). Written comments should be submitted to Molly Pulket, Division of Water Quality Standards, Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management, P. O. Box 8774, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8467 or send email to: mpulket@pa.gov.

Building Your Relationship with Water

This spring, get a little closer to the water in your life by making a visit to a stream near you. Spring is a great time to appreciate your local water resources. When is the last time that you paid a visit to the water that supports your community? If the winter has kept you indoors, you have been a little too busy to spend some time outside, or if you have never really considered a visit to your local stream, now is the time. On March 22, we celebrate [World Water Day](#) which is an international day of awareness and advocacy for sustainable management of freshwater resources, conceived by the United Nations in 1993. Exactly one month later, on April 22, we celebrate the [42nd Earth Day](#), now recognized globally, but started in the United States in 1970 to increase the American consciousness of environmental issues. Both of these events are great opportunities to reinvigorate your awareness of the water that runs through your neighborhood. Learn more...

http://extension.psu.edu/water/discovery-watersheds/newsletter/news/2012/building-your-relationship-with-water?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29

Fish & Boat Commission Says Bass With Black Spots Safe To Eat

Following recent reports from anglers that some smallmouth bass caught in the Susquehanna River have had irregular black blotches, the Fish and Boat Commission Wednesday confirmed that similar spots have been previously observed on fish from other waters in the state and that the spots do not appear to harm the fish. The PFBC added that because the spots are limited to skin discoloration, the fish are safe to consume under the state's general fish consumption guidelines. The PFBC started hearing from anglers late last year concerning the black spots, which are most often found on the head, lips, tail or fins. Melanin is a black pigment in the skin cells of fish and this condition is often referred to by fisheries scientists as melanosis. PFBC biologists have documented the blotchy bass condition previously in Pennsylvania in the Susquehanna River (2011, 2006); Cowanesque Lake, Tioga County (2003); the Allegheny River (1999); and in the 1980s in Conneaut Lake (Crawford County), Presque Isle Bay (Erie County), Raystown Lake and several other waters. It also was observed in New York's Hudson River during the 1980s, which resulted in a N.Y. fisheries biologist surveying other states about the condition. The survey showed that the condition was present in largemouth and smallmouth bass in 12 states in the East, South and along the Gulf Coast. PFBC biologists who have previously observed this condition indicate that it often occurs during the cold-water period of fall, winter and early spring, and it appears to affect only

fish larger than 12 inches. It typically occurs in a localized area and not uniformly in a lake or throughout a river system. Some bass have had one or two spots while others have had a dozen or more. Because of the previous disease issue with juvenile smallmouth bass resulting in multiple poor year classes, the PFBC has placed catch and release regulations on all smallmouth and largemouth bass on portions of the Susquehanna and Juniata rivers and on their tributaries to a point one-half mile upstream, with a closed season from May 1 through June 15. The regulations apply to approximately 32 miles of the Juniata River, from the State Route 75 Bridge at Port Royal in Juniata County downstream to the mouth of the river at Duncannon, Perry County. On the Susquehanna, the regulations cover 98 miles, from the inflatable dam near Sunbury in Northumberland County downstream to the Holtwood Dam in York County. Anglers who observe sick fish or other unusual conditions can report it to the PFBC through [the website](#).

DEP Launches New Earth Day Webpage For 2012

The Department of Environmental Protection Thursday launched an [interactive Earth Day](#) webpage offering a one-stop shop for information about Earth Day and environmental events around the state. The webpage includes several new features, including the Earth Day proclamation from Governor Corbett; an interactive calendar searchable by county, where event planners can promote their activities; biographies of environmental professionals with information about environmental careers; and links to educational resources. Earth Day is April 22, and this year's theme is "Honoring Pennsylvania's Environmental Public Servants." [Click Here](#) for the Earth Day 2012 Proclamation from Gov. Corbett.

New Interactive Tool Measures Citizen Impact on the Environment

Citizens can now gauge how they stack-up when it comes to sustainable living, with the Maryland Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) [Citizen Calculator](#). This interactive tool uses factors from individuals' economic, environmental and social activities to compute how their lifestyle affects the environment. This instrument is a more personalized adaptation of the [Policy Maker Calculator](#), which was released this past January.

WaterSense Interactive Water Budget Tool

This month as part of the Clean Water Act 40th anniversary EPA is celebrating water conservation. WaterSense® created the [Water Budget Tool](#) as one option to help builders, landscape professionals, and WaterSense irrigation partners meet the criteria for the 2009 WaterSense Single-Family New Home Specification. The tool will help you determine if your landscape meets EPA's criteria for efficient outdoor water use in your area. The water budget tool is comprised of three sections (Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3), each on its own worksheet:

- Part 1: Baseline & Landscape Water Allowance (LWA): Collects basic information and calculates the landscape water allowance (LWA).
- Part 2: Calculates the landscape water requirement (LWR) or how much water the landscape will need
- Part 3 Results: Displays the results of the tool.

Resource: http://www.epa.gov/watersense/water_budget/

EPA Initiates Website to Mark 40 Years of the Clean Water Act

2012 is the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the nation's law for protecting our most irreplaceable resource. This year EPA and others will highlight the tremendous progress in reducing pollution since 1972, the many milestones along the way, the ways that the job is far from over and the tough challenges we face today and in the future. EPA has set up a webpage - [Clean Water Act: 40th Anniversary](#) - as the central location for information, activities, news and networking. <http://water.epa.gov/action/cleanwater40c/>

Eyes on the Bay is now mobile!

Get the latest Maryland DNR real-time water quality readings from our more than 15 sites via your mobile browser while on your boat or at the beach. Data include water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity (water clarity), pH and chlorophyll. <http://bit.ly/baydata>. Of course you can still access current water quality conditions of Maryland's tidal waters from your home or office at Eyesonthebay.net.

Smithsonian Launches Database of Invasive Marine Organisms

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center has launched Nemesis, a collection of online databases that starts with information about exotic marine and estuarine species in the Chesapeake Bay area. The searchable database has information on over 300 species that have been observed in the Chesapeake Bay region. [Check it out...](#)



WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Register for Webcast on "Using the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund for Stormwater Management Projects – Apr 17

Join EPA for a free Watershed Academy Webcast titled "Using the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund for Nonpoint Source and National Estuary Projects" on April 17, 2012, 1-3 p.m. Eastern. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a large, flexible, and largely untapped source of funding for watershed protection projects. The CWSRF provides funding each year for traditional stormwater and wastewater projects, as well as for nonpoint source projects, such as land conservation, agricultural best management practices, and clean-up of contaminated sites. Join us to hear more about how you can access the CWSRF for nonpoint source and National Estuary projects. This webcast is part of our series of webcasts in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act www.epa.gov/cleanwater40. To register for this webcast, please visit www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts.

NRCS announcing CIG grants to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies – Apr 20

NRCS anticipates that the amount available for support of this program in FY 2012 will be approximately \$300,000. Applications are requested from eligible governmental or non-governmental organizations or individuals for competitive consideration of grant awards for projects between 1 and 3 years in duration. Applications must be received in the PA NRCS state office by 4PM on April 20th [For more information on CIG program visit the NRCS website](#).

National Water Research Institute Announces Three Fellowships for Graduate Students – Apr 25

For the 2012-2013 academic year, the National Water Research Institute is offering [three different types of fellowship funding opportunities](#) to students enrolled full time at a Master's or Ph.D. program at a U.S. university conducting research in the areas of water resources, treatment, and policy. The deadline for fellowship applications is April 25, 2012. <http://www.nwri-usa.org/fellowship.htm>

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) soliciting proposals to restore Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams – May 16

The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund will award more than \$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 Capacity Building Initiative. All NFWF grants under the Stewardship Fund are due May 16th. [For more information on any or all of the NFWF funding options visit the NFWF website.](#)

USFWS Youth Conservation Programs – Jun 30

Through on-site activities located at a variety of field stations, including wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries, and ecological services offices, youth will be introduced to natural resource careers through “hands-on” work with, and training by, natural resource professionals employed by the USFWS. Our goal is to help develop a new generation of youth, who are enthusiastic and effective conservationists and ecologists. Each selected individual or group is given the opportunity to serve a seasonal on-site assignment, usually between June 1st and September 30th. During the assignments, individuals or groups are introduced to various real-world conservation and rehabilitation activities such as invasive species management, habitat restoration, and public education. The USFWS invites submission of proposals from all potential sources willing and able to cooperatively administer a program for identifying and recruiting youth or youth groups for assignments at field stations in the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland. Applications are due **June 30, 2012.**

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=xcv7P7sdXtjr0GhVllpTm00SYBiVyhJgrfFyWshKhLvJsJ7PqGnBI755456391?oppld=79073&mode=VIEW>

National Sea Grant College Program Special Projects 2012 – Jun 30

The purpose of this notice is to request proposals for special projects associated with the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) strategic focus areas, and to provide the general public with information and guidelines on how Sea Grant will select proposals and administer Federal assistance under this announcement. This announcement is a mechanism to encourage research, and innovative projects that are not normally funded through Sea Grant national competitions. No funding has been dedicated to supporting applications submitted to this Federal Funding Opportunity, but funding may become available during the year. Awards will be made under this Opportunity only if funds have been announced as available. Applications received when no funding has been announced as available will be considered unsolicited and held for consideration when and if appropriate funding is announced for which the application is eligible. If no such funding is announced within six months, the application will be discarded. Applications are due June 30, 2012.

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=9w1xP5ZNvhrjmLnvWMJDRz2nyRH5kgTQcWBtGnIX1Scz3LvNDWJhI482729280?oppld=142733&mode=VIEW>

Foundation for PA Watersheds is requesting organizations with an interest in applying for their grant – Aug 24

Fall letters of intent will be due August 24th with applications due September 28th [For more information on the Foundation for PA Watersheds grant process and application visit the Foundation's website.](#)

Chesapeake Bay Trust is accepting applications for the Outreach and Community Engagement track of the Mini-Grant program

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is accepting applications for the Outreach and Community Engagement track of the Mini-Grant program on a rolling basis until funds are fully expended. Applications must be received at least 6 weeks prior to your project start date. [For more information visit the Chesapeake Bay Trust website.](#)

Wallace Genetic Foundation offering grants for projects focusing on long-term conservation of the environment

The Wallace Genetic Foundation is offering grant opportunities to non-profit organizations whose projects focus on long-term conservation of the soil and of the environment rather than the exploitation of natural resources for temporary profit. The foundation seeks applications from far-sighted organizations with innovative ideas. Specific areas of interest are: agriculture, farmland preservation, conservation of natural resources, biodiversity protection, reduction of environmental toxins, and global climate issues. Grants generally range between \$25,000 and \$40,000. Applicants may submit either a letter of inquiry or a full proposal. Grant applications are accepted year-round [For guidelines, forms, and more information, visit the Foundation's website.](#)



WATERSHED FACILITATION ASSISTANCE

Whiteford Biodiversity presentation – Apr 14

On Saturday evening April 14, Mr. Richard Whiteford will be speaking in Harrisburg on the effects of global warming on bio-diversity and the Climate Reality Project. Mr. Whiteford is a founding member of the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership and his presentation will begin at 7:15 p.m. at the Harrisburg Monthly Meeting (Quakers) located at 1100 N. 6th Street (at Herr) in Harrisburg. The event is free and open to the public and there will be a potluck supper prior to the presentation beginning at 6:15. If you think this may be of interest to any of the Watershed members, I've attached a flier with additional information for posting. If you have any questions or would additional information, please feel free to give me a call – Philip Walsh, P.G [717.691.9799](tel:717.691.9799).

Water Resources Events to be Offered Locally – Apr & May

If you have a pond or rely on a well, spring or cistern for your drinking water, we have events to interest you!

- Spring! thoughts of cleaning up yards and homes – and maintaining your pond! A Pond and Lake Management workshop is available to help pond owners do just that. Join us on April 14, 9am to noon at Gifford Pinchot State Park to learn about pond maintenance, vegetation control and fisheries management. Registration is required. Please visit our [Pond and Lake Workshop Event](#) for details.
- For well owners, there will be two Drinking Water Testing Clinics this spring. The Adams County Conservation District and Penn State Extension will be providing a Well and Septic System Management workshop for private well owners on Thursday, April 19th at two different times 1-3 pm and 6-8 pm. The workshop will be held at the Carroll Valley Community Center (Sally Cortner Pavilion) which is located at 5685 Fairfield Road in Carroll Valley. Cost for the workshop is \$10.00 per household. Space is limited to the first 50 people that register. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required by Thursday, April 12th. For more information or to register, contact the Adams County Conservation District at (717)334-0636. [Click here](#) to see the brochure with details.
- Another Drinking Water Testing Clinic will be held in York County at the Carroll Township Building, 555 Chestnut Grove Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019 May 22 from 1-3 pm, repeated 6-8 pm. For details and registration information, please visit the [Drinking Water Testing Clinic](#) listing.

Contact Diane Oleson at 717-840-7429 or by [email](#) for more information.

CREP Landowner Networking and Pollinator Habitat will be Featured – Apr 17 & 19

(Carlisle, PA) – The Capital Resource Conservation & Development Council collaboration with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is sponsoring two field days focused on networking with landowners, learning about beneficial pollinators, and noxious weed control in natural CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) areas. The field days will be offered on April 17 in New Oxford, PA and April 19 near Greencastle, PA. Grassland Walk and Q&A Highlighting Management and Enjoyment Benefits of CREP Enrollment

- Tuesday, April 17, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and
- Thursday, April 19, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Landowners participating in or considering enrolling their land in CREP are encouraged to attend. These field days are designed to provide landowners with the opportunity to view successful CREP grassland projects. Sharon Weigle, County Executive Director for FSA (Farm Service Agency) in Adams & Franklin counties will provide a CREP program update and address questions about program re-enrollment. Jim Gillis, USDA-NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) District Conservationist in Adams County, and Lindsey Kammerer, USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist in Franklin County will share details about the importance of pollinators and how to attract them to your property. Both sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions of land management experts and learn about noxious weed control techniques. The first field day will take place in New Oxford, PA on Tuesday, April 17 from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM and the second will be held near Greencastle, PA on Thursday, April 19 from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Both events are free but registration is requested by Monday, April 16. Both sessions will be held rain or shine. Directions to each site and agenda details will be provided in the registration confirmation.

For more information or to register, contact Cheryl Burns at Capital RC&D at 717.241.4361 or via email at cburns@capitalrcd.org. Online registration and a list of upcoming events are available at www.capitalrcd.org.

The 1801 Mapping of the Wild & Raging Susquehanna Featuring June Lloyd – Apr 20

Friday, April 20, 2012, 6pm – Local historian and archivist June Lloyd will introduce us to the amazing Benjamin Henry Latrobe. While he is best known as one of the fathers of American architecture, his work surveying the Lower Susquehanna in 1801 has more impact on area residents today. Latrobe described the Turkey Hill rapids or falls as “most formidable”. June will tell us about the trials and tribulations of this daunting job of mapping the steep banks and rocky spillways of the Susquehanna before the building of the dams that now form Lake Clarke, Lake Aldred and Conowingo Pond. June will treat us to pictures of the early maps and a variety of information from the York County Historical Trust archives. *Fee – Includes Dinner & Speaker – Members \$36/Person, Non-Members \$40/Person.* Ticket’s may be purchased at Shank’s Mare Outfitters, 2092 Long Level Rd., Wrightsville, PA 17368. Ph: (717)252-1616. Web: www.shanksmare.com

York Citizens Climate Lobby Features NWF’s Ed Perry – Apr 24

The York Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby will host a presentation by Ed Perry, National Wildlife Federation on the topic of Global Warming: The Science and Impacts on Fish and Wildlife on April 24. The event will start at 6:00 p.m. at the Gander Mountain, 1880 Loucks Rd., York (behind W. Manchester Mall). In 2002, Ed Perry retired after a 30-year career with US Fish and Wildlife Service, where he worked to protect streams and wetlands in Pennsylvania. In 2007, he began working for the National Wildlife Federation on their Global Warming Campaign. He works with hunters, anglers and the conservation community to get our political leaders to take action on global warming. Although global warming has been studied for over 150 years, it has only been in the past 50 years that scientists have been increasingly raising concerns over what they see as a major threat to our planet and way of life. In fact, this is one of the few instances when scientists are sounding the alarm, while many of our fellow citizens remain unconcerned. Global warming is here, and observant sportsmen and women, and conservationists, are already seeing its effects. Unless we begin, right now, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, our children’s experience with the natural world will be much different from ours. Although its effects cannot be known with absolute certainty, scientists predict over 40 percent of the species on earth could go extinct. Although there are some still in denial of a warming planet, there are no skeptics in the natural world. Already, nearly everything that can move north or to higher elevations is doing so. For more information, contact Jon Clark at 717-308-9974 or send email to: naturephotographer@earthlink.net.

Symposium on Soil, Stabilization, and Stormwater – May 11

Attention all Engineers, Designers, Land Developers, and other interested individuals! The Lebanon County Conservation District is proud to sponsor a one-day symposium on Soil, Stabilization, and Stormwater. This will be held on Friday, May 11, 2012 from 7 AM to 4 PM. For the low-price of \$150, each attendee will enjoy a hot fill-your-belly buffet breakfast, a hot no-need-to-eat-supper buffet lunch, break snacks, drinks, and admission to the course which will qualify for at least 7-professional development credit hours. Registration with payment to the Conservation District by Friday, April 27, 2012. Contact Angie Foltz, Natural Resources Program Specialist, Lebanon County Conservation District, Ph: 717-272-3908, ext. 4. www.lccd.org

Shank's Mare Kayak Demo Weekend – May 13

Sat., May 12 and Sun. May 13, 2012 – Mark your calendars for this special weekend that kicks off paddling season. We'll have our touring kayak program on display with on-the-water test paddles available. And, this year we are adding Jackson whitewater kayaks to our program. Come and check out all the latest models in both touring and whitewater. Chat with our own experienced staff and visiting factory reps. This year's Demo Weekend will also feature fishing kayaks with casting and technique demos on Saturday from 2-3pm by professional fishing guide Brian Shumaker. On both Saturday and Sunday we also welcome Jon Sairs and his mobile showroom featuring BSD Kayak Sail Kits. Kayak Demo Weekend is prime time to check out 2012 recreational, light touring and full touring, fishing, and whitewater kayaks, paddles and gear. Contact Shank's Mare Outfitters, 2092 Long Level Rd., Wrightsville, PA 17368. Ph: (717)252-1616. Web: www.shanksmare.com

Lancaster Choose Clean Water Conference June 4-6

The [Lancaster Choose Clean Water Coalition](http://www.lancasterchoosecleanwater.org) will be holding its [third annual conference](http://www.lancasterchoosecleanwater.org) June 4-6 in Lancaster at the Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square. Join local watershed organizations, clean water advocates, and government officials from across the Chesapeake region's six states and District of Columbia for panel discussions, workshops, policy experts and networking opportunities to learn about the latest clean water solutions at the local, state and federal levels. Lancaster offers powerful examples of how restoration programs produce results—and the ongoing work that needs to be done. For additional information, visit the [Conference webpage](http://www.lancasterchoosecleanwater.org) or contact Deb Kleiner, 443-759-3409 or send email to: kleinerd@nwf.org.

7th Annual Gardening for Life – a Tour with a Difference – Jun 30

Not just another garden tour, the 7th Annual Gardening for Life – A Tour with A Difference, is a great opportunity to learn how to make your yard more environmentally friendly. Six locations open their properties to show how they use native plants to conserve water, reduce pesticide and fertilizer use and create habitat for wildlife. Sponsored by Penn State Extension and Mid-Atlantic Ecological Landscapes (MAEscapes). The properties range from suburban and rural lots to an innovative interactive garden adjacent to a nursing home. Demonstrations will be offered at 5 of the sites. Every visitor receives a free native plant plug at each site (while supplies last) and there will be a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate for our Fall Plant Sale. As these very knowledgeable gardeners share their successes and challenges, you will learn what plants work well together and get ideas for transforming your own yard. Tickets are \$8 in advance (purchased at the Extension Office, 112 Pleasant Acres Rd, York, PA 17402 (840-7408) or \$10 the day of the tour. Locations on the tour can be found at www.maescapes.org. *Raindate will be Sunday, July 1 – please call 968-1107 to check.*

Native Plant Sales Make It Easy to Choose Native Plants

When purchasing new plants for your garden this year, why not choose native plants that will provide habitat and food for our native pollinators, butterflies and birds, who need our native plants to survive. If you were shocked by the effects of last year's record rainfall and flooding, you can also help reduce storm water runoff by replacing some of your lawn with native plants that have deep root systems to absorb rainwater and help prevent local flooding. If you've experienced flooding in your own yard, think about planting a rain garden in wet spots or areas adjacent to your downspouts. You'll find all the information you need at the following web sites: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/GW0037.pdf> (a good manual on how to create rain gardens), <http://www.slideshare.net/Sotirakou964/va-native-plants-for-rain-gardens-alliance-for-the-chesapeake-bay> (a short and sweet rain garden primer), and http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden_design/plant_lists.htm (includes sample plans/templates & plant lists). Our native plants have evolved here. Compared to non-native plants, they are harder in our area, have fewer pest and disease problems, are more drought tolerant, and need no fertilizers. In fact, our native meadow plants prefer poor soil, so you don't even have to improve the soil for them to thrive. I highly recommend drought-tolerant plants from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCNR) iConserve plant brochures. The plants included on these short lists are the hardest and most commonly available Pennsylvania natives. The iConserve website includes these short plant lists; an extensive plant database that you can search by plant type and site conditions; sample native plant templates for gardens in dry sun, moist sun, dry shade and moist shade; and much more. It also includes a template for a native butterfly/hummingbird garden. It doesn't get much easier than that. Check it out at: <http://www.iconservepa.org/plantsmart/nativeplants/index.htm>. George Weigel also has a great general gardening website with plant lists and guidance specific to our area at <http://georgeweigel.net/georges-favorite-plants-etc>. His plant lists include many natives that thrive in our area. If you want to try some native plants this year, here are local upcoming native plant sales and festivals that you should check out:

- The Manada Conservancy's Native Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday May 5th at Meadowood Nursery, 24 Meadowood Drive, Hummelstown, PA <http://www.manada.org/nativeplantsale.html> and www.meadowoodnursery.org
- King's Gap Spring Garden Day and Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They'll have lots of irresistible plant choices to tempt you, from both a local native plant nursery and the Kings Gap garden. Cumberland County Master Gardeners will also provide answers to your gardening questions on Saturday. Proceeds benefit the Kings Gap Mansion Garden. Plant sale only continues on Sunday, May 13 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. <http://www.friendsofkingsgap.org/home/events>
- The Cumberland County Master Gardener's will help you find the right native plants for your garden at their annual Native Plant Sale & Festival on Saturday, May 19, 2012. The plant sale runs from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., rain or shine, on the grounds of Claremont Nursing & Rehab Center, 1000 Claremont Road, Carlisle. Look for the big tents at the corner of Claremont Road and Army Heritage Drive. The plant sale includes herbs and vegetables, native perennials, and treasures from the gardens of Penn State Master Gardeners, where you'll find unusual and one-of-a-kind plants at reasonable prices. Educational displays and information, Trial and Idea Gardens, a plant clinic, a book sale, and a gardener's yard sale round out the event. Receive one free native plant with plant purchases over \$75! <http://extension.psu.edu/cumberland/programs/master-gardener/plant-fest-sale>.
- The Master Gardeners in York County are partners in a consortium with the County Conservation District, called MAEscapes (see <http://maescapes.org/about.htm>) that has wonderful experimental/educational native plant gardens & educational programs. Their Spring Native Plant Sale & Open House is on May 19th from 9 am - 2 pm. They also hold a fall event in September. Both will be held at their experimental gardens at 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA. Their sales usually include some plants from Master Gardener's gardens at reasonable prices. <http://extension.psu.edu/york/programs/master-gardener/events> for info on upcoming MAEscapes workshops.
- Ned Smith Center's Annual Native Plant Sale will be held at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art 176 Water Company Road Millersburg, PA on Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 9 am - 1 pm. <http://www.nedsmithcenter.org/>

- The Perry County Master Gardener native plant sale & open garden will be held on Saturday, May 26th from 9 am to 1 pm at 8 S. Carlisle Street, Courthouse Annex, New Bloomfield, PA. This fourth annual open garden event highlights herbs, natives, and pollinator plants in the Extension office garden. Many of the plants, as well as treasures from the gardens of Master Gardeners, will be available for sale also at very reasonable prices. <http://extension.psu.edu/cumberland/programs/master-gardener/perry-county-master-gardeners/2012-perry-county-mg-calendar-of-events/view>
- Millersville University's annual Native Plants in The Landscape Conference and Native Plant Sale June 7-9, 2012. <http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org/>
- Appalachian Audubon Society usually holds a Fall Native Plant Sale at Meadowood Nursery, 24 Meadowood Dr. Hummelstown. Meadowood carries over 300 varieties of native plants - trees, shrubs & perennials. <http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/native-plant-sale.html> and www.meadowoodnursery.com

2012 Choose Clean Water Conference – Jun 4-6

The Choose Clean Water Coalition will be holding its third annual conference June 4-6 in Lancaster, PA at the Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square. Join local watershed organizations, clean water advocates, and government officials from across the Chesapeake region's six states and District of Columbia for panel discussions, workshops, policy experts and networking opportunities to learn about the latest clean water solutions at the local, state and federal levels. Lancaster offers powerful examples of how restoration programs produce results—and the ongoing work that needs to be done. For additional information contact Deb Kleiner, 443-759-3409 or kleinerd@nfw.org.



WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Stream Restoration Provides Rapid Improvement in Aquatic Biota

The Environmental Research Center has published its first article detailing preliminary results from the Cacapon River Restoration Collaborative in the *International Journal of Ecology*. We have previously written some background material about the [Cacapon Project](#). Briefly this project involved using natural stream channel design principles, bank stabilization, and riparian improvement for the Cacapon River, which is located in the eastern Panhandle of West Virginia on 2 properties, and included 9 structures installed over 7 individual areas totaling ~1,600 linear feet (3,200 stream bank feet) during spring 2010. We sampled aquatic macroinvertebrates and fishes from the restoration reach, 2 degraded control and 2 natural reference reaches before, during, and after restoration (2009 through 2010). What is surprising is the almost immediate response of invertebrates, which are great indicators of water quality, within the restoration reach. Prior to implementation of restoration procedures, based on indices of biotic integrity, the restoration reach fish and macroinvertebrate communities closely resembled those sampled from the control reaches. Following restoration, the restoration reach more closely resembled those from the reference reaches, particularly in macroinvertebrates. Both communities recovered quickly from the temporary impairment caused by the disturbance of restoration procedures and suggest rapid improvement in local ecological conditions. We believe this bodes well for stream restoration in the Mid-Appalachian Highlands and we will continue to monitor the progression of the biotic communities to see if this trend holds. The entire article is available at the [International Journal of Ecology](#) website and is freely available for download.

Cover crops a good step toward soil health

High Plains Journal – Emporia, Kan., farmer Gail Fuller's advice for ranchers and farmers seeking to improve air, water and soil quality while increasing crop yield, livestock health and financial investments is simple. Farmers can do no better than to replicate nature, he said. Calling it "farming in nature's image," Fuller's approach is based on holistic principles. It involves increasing organic matter in the soil through the use of cover crops. More...

<http://www.hpi.com/archives/2012/mar12/mar26/0319WRAPSAgExpo2PIXsr.cfm?title=Cover%20crops%20a%20good%20step%20toward%20soil%20and%20livestock%20health>

Report: Farming needs 'climate-smart' revolution

BBC News – Major changes are needed in agriculture and food consumption around the world if future generations are to be adequately fed, a major report warns. Farming must intensify sustainability, cut waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from farms, it says. The Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change spent more than a year assessing evidence from scientists and policymakers. More... <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17495031>

Taking on nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River Watershed

Circle of Blue – Agriculture in the Midwestern bread-basket contributes significantly to water quality issues in the Mississippi River Basin and, subsequently, the Gulf of Mexico. Some estimates suggest that 43 percent of the nitrogen and 27 percent of the phosphorous flowing to the Gulf originate in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, an area encompassing parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Missouri. Agriculture occupies 67 percent of this area, and runoff packs a lot of nutrients into the water. More...

<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/2012/world/agriculture-and-sewage-dead-zone-taking-on-nutrient-pollution-in-the-mississippi-river-watershed/>

Farms hold key to limiting toxic algae blooms

The News-Messenger – The heads of three state agencies – the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Agriculture – recently released a report addressing agriculture's contribution to the problem of toxic algae blooms in Ohio's waters and gave suggestions for what farmers can voluntarily do to decrease the amount of nutrient runoff. More...

<http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20120331/NEWS01/203310308/Farms-hold-key-limiting-toxic-algae-blooms>

Iowa wetlands initiative tests the ability to clean up runoff water

The Gazette – A new project, the Iowa Wetland Landscape Systems Initiative, would expand the creation of wetlands, which take tile drainage

water from fields and filter out the nitrate. Unlike the Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program's wetlands efforts, the initiative's pilot projects do not retrofit wetlands into an existing tile system. Rather, they start afresh with a new tile layout, said Shawn Richmond, the program's coordinator for the Iowa department of agriculture. More... <http://thegazette.com/2012/04/02/wetlands-initiative-tests-the-ability-to-clean-up-runoff-water/>

DEP, Engineers Society Team to Promote Brownfields Redevelopment

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will team with the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP) to organize a single statewide brownfields conference to be held in Pittsburgh this October, the department announced today. Previously, DEP and ESWP each held separate statewide conferences that appealed to virtually the same audience. This combined conference will highlight the best elements of both conferences, including the Extreme Makeover competition; mobile workshops; a video showcase of success stories; technical updates on market trends and treatment options; and a tiered track of courses that will provide continuing education credits for economic development agency personnel and engineering professionals. Organizers plan to hold the conference in different regions of the state each year and will develop conference content with input from an advisory panel of industry experts. Brownfields are properties that are in need of expansion, redevelopment or reuse, but because of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, that work is made more challenging. Pennsylvania's approach to brownfields redevelopment has proven to be a national model for transforming abandoned, idle properties into places of economic opportunity. To learn more about brownfields redevelopment in Pennsylvania, visit www.dep.state.pa.us or call 717-783-1566.

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference Proceedings now Online

PDF files of nearly all of the PowerPoint presentations given at the 11th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in San Diego in February 2012 are now available for free online. <http://www.newpartners.org/program.html>

NRDC: Pennsylvania Among Best Prepared States For Climate Change

Only nine states-- [Pennsylvania among them](#)-- have taken comprehensive steps to address their vulnerabilities to the water-related impacts of climate change, while 29 states are unprepared for growing water threats to their economies and public health, according to a first ever detailed state-by-state analysis of water readiness released Thursday by the Natural Resources Defense Council. The report found, "Like other states across the northeastern U.S., Pennsylvania is expected to become warmer and wetter and to experience more short-term droughts and floods. The state has responded proactively to these challenges by beginning to address climate change issues through the development of a greenhouse gas pollution reduction plan and an initial adaptation strategy. However, it is not clear how much implementation will occur due to staffing reductions in state agencies and the lack of political support at the executive and legislative levels. The state's preliminary adaptation plan is intended to be integrated into the next iteration of the state's climate action plan, due in October 2012. Moving forward, Pennsylvania should ensure that the adaptation plan's recommendations are more robustly developed, included in future planning efforts, and implemented by the relevant state agencies. The NRDC report ranks all 50 states on their climate preparedness planning, and is accompanied by an [interactive online map](#) showing the threats every state faces from climate change. [Click Here](#) for a summary on Pennsylvania.

Report on "Estimated Effects of Climate Change on Flood Vulnerability of U.S. Bridges" Available Online

Daily precipitation statistics from four climate models and three greenhouse gas emissions scenarios were used to capture a range of potential changes in climate. Estimates of changes to the peak flow rates for the 100-year return period for 2,097 watersheds, combined with information from the National Bridge Inventory database related to bridge scour vulnerability, indicated there may be significant potential risks to bridges in the United States from increased precipitation intensities. The report is excerpted from "Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change." It expands on the adaptation costs and alternative strategies to reduce costs and vulnerability to increased damage associated with climate change. See the [report](#).

Draft EPA "Response to Climate Change" Released for Public Comment and Website on Climate Change and Water Launched - May 17

EPA has released the Draft "National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change," which describes how EPA's water-related programs plan to address the impacts of climate change and provides long-term visions, goals and strategic actions for the management of sustainable water resources for future generations. The 2012 Strategy, which builds upon EPA's first climate change and water strategy released in 2008, focuses on five key areas: infrastructure, watersheds and wetlands, coastal and ocean waters, water quality, and working with Tribes. It also describes geographically-based strategic issues and actions. EPA will accept public comments on the draft strategy until May 17, 2012. To read or submit a comment on the Draft "National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change" and to learn more about the climate change impacts on our water resources, visit [EPA's new website on climate change and water](#).

PA Senate passes stormwater bill

The Pennsylvania Senate this week unanimously [passed legislation](#) that would give municipalities another tool to address stormwater and flooding problems. [Senate Bill 1261](#) is sponsored by [Senator Ted Erickson](#), R-Delaware. The bill allows local governments to create stormwater authorities. These authorities could benefit local governments by providing them with sources of funding to tackle stormwater planning and projects, and facilitate the creation of multi-municipal authorities to address stormwater issues on a watershed basis. SB 1261 now goes to the [House Local Government Committee](#) chaired by [Representative Tom Creighton](#), R-Lancaster.

