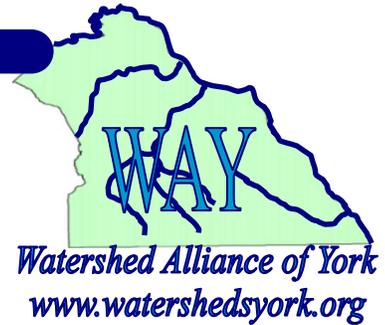


WAY E-NEWS

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



April 23, 2012

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Volume 12, Issue 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...**WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS...2****WATERSHED EDUCATION & OUTREACH...Page 4**

- Connect the Dots on May 5th!
- Water Now More Valuable Than Oil?
- Pollution Trading: Hurting Local Waterways, the Bay, and the Clean Water Act
- Answering the Unanswered Questions: Conowingo Dam's New License & Sediment
- Animated Graph of Dissolved Oxygen in northern Chesapeake Bay
- Bay 101: Algae Blooms
- Maryland's Assembly approves stormwater pollution mandate
- Maryland Legislature Completes Work on Flush Tax Increase
- Take the Challenge to Conserve Water
- You're getting short-changed on conservation of your public lands.
- Help Protect PA's Land, Water & Future!
- New Website, Great Learning Resource
- Updated Lancaster County Watershed Website
- Native Tree/Shrub Seedlings Available
- BUNKER HILL ROAD, PEACH BOTTOM TOWNSHIP CLEANUP A SUCCESS!
- York County Mosquito Surveillance
- Ticks and Lyme Disease
- York County's Drug Take Back events were a significant contribution to this national effort
- Encouraging proper disposal - Suggestion for your Public Educ materials, brochures, etc.

WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE...Page 7

- MAEOE Summer Internship - May 11
- New Funding To Assist Local Governments - May 16
- Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grants - May 16
- Potential Grant Funding for Dirt and Gravel Projects - May 16
- PA Watershed Grants - Aug 24
- Outreach & Community Engagement Mini-Grants
- Long-term Conservation, Environment and Natural Resources Sustainability Grant

WATERSHED FACILITATION ASSISTANCE...Page 8

- MAEscapes Native Plant Fest and Sale - May 19
- The 2nd annual Yellow Breeches Youth Sojourn - Jun 17-19
- INVITATION: PGC Wildlife Diversity Forum - Jun 28-29
- Call for Presentations For the 7th Annual CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED FORUM - Sep 28-30

WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE...Page 9

- Study: Impact of Warming Climate Doesn't Always Translate to Streamflow
- Coordination of the Water Sector and Emergency Services Sectors
- Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool Training Modules Available Online
- NESAC Has More Than 1,300 Free Products
- SRBC Releases Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Information
- 2009 Accident Spurs NTSB Dam Safety Recommendations Concerning Stormwater

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 717-705-4704
- Air Quality 717-705-4702
- Energy & Technology 717-705-4703
- Environmental Cleanup 717-705-4705
- Mining (800) 541-2050
- Radiation Protection 717-705-4704
- Waste Management 717-705-4706
- Water Supply Management 717-705-4708
- Water Management 717-705-4707
- Watershed Management 717-705-4704

FISHERIES - (800) 541-2050

- Wildlife (fish, reptiles, amphibians) nuisance problems or to report violations
- FISH KILL 1-855-347-4545

GAME & WILDLIFE - (888) 742-8001

- Wildlife (mammals or birds) to report violations or nuisance problems

ILLEGAL DUMPING

- Illegal dumping on state forest and park lands (877) 772-3673
- Illegal dumping York County 840-7687

MUNICIPAL (Phonebook Blue Pages)

- Air pollution by burning household garbage
- Dumping waste in surface waters
- Floodplain disturbances
- Municipal and residential septic/sewage problems
- Stormwater management

NOXIOUS PLANTS - (717) 772-5209**RECYCLING - (717) 845-1066****WETLANDS - (717) 249-2522***Updated 4/27/2011*

WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS

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

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

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

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

Codorus Creek Watershed Association – www.codoruscreek.net

- Jul 16 – Meeting of Members and Board, 7:00 pm, at York Water Co. (Mt. Rose Ave.)
- POST-PONED – 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

- 5-May 10-1 pm Tree Planting Gunpowder Falls State Park
- 6-May 10- 2 pm Garden Tour Carney
- 12-May 9-1 pm Tree Planting Bee Tree Preserve
- 19-May 9-1 pm Tree Planting Bee Tree Preserve
- 26-May 9-2:30 pm Trail Maintenance Workshop Loch Raven Reservoir
- 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

- 16 Jun – 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. 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: lawsusriver@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/>

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

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

- 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

- 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, 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

- 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

- 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

- 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/>

- 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/>

- 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 11 – Meeting of WAY Board of Directors, 7:00 PM, at SOLS, 324 W. Market St., York, PA.
- 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](http://www.ybwa.org) – 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.
- 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](http://www.yorkadamssmartgrowth.org) – 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/) – <http://www.yorkaudubon.org/>

- Contact Tom Smith at 717-246-9767 or tls35@psu.edu.

[York County Conservation District](http://www.yorkccd.org) – www.yorkccd.org

- 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](http://www.YorkCountyParks.org) – www.YorkCountyParks.org

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

[York County Planning Commission](http://www.ycpc.org) – 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

Connect the Dots on May 5th!

For those of us who are already on the front lines of climate change's worst impacts, we want you to know that you are not alone – in fact, you are joined by a global movement that in many ways is stronger than ever. For those of us who have not yet felt the harsh impacts of climate change, the video is a gripping wake-up call – and a chance to reflect on the urgent need to stop this global disaster in motion. It's abundantly clear that we're on a path that is incompatible with a sustainable future, and the first step to changing that path is to connect the dots. Please take two minutes to [watch the video](#), and then take a moment to share it on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and everywhere else. Just pass along this link: www.climatedots.org/ThingsHappen. Stephen's video reminded me of the creativity and passion in the [350.org](#) network – and I can't wait to see it on display on 5/5/12, when people all around the world Connect the Dots. [Please join us: www.ClimateDots.org](http://www.ClimateDots.org)

Water Now More Valuable Than Oil?

Savvy Investors and Successful Companies are Turning Water Into Gold. The most valuable commodity in the world today, and likely to remain so for much of this century, is not oil, not natural gas, not even some type of renewable energy. It's water—clean, safe, fresh water. Follow the Money! When you want to spot emerging trends, always follow the money. Today, many of the world's leading investors and most successful companies are making big bets on water. Do a little research, and it's easy to see why. There simply isn't enough freshwater to go around, and the situation is expected to get worse before it gets better. According to *Bloomberg News*, the worldwide scarcity of usable water worldwide already has made water more valuable than oil. The Bloomberg World Water Index, which tracks 11 utilities, has returned 35 percent to investors every year since 2003, compared with 29 percent for oil and gas stocks and 10 percent for the Standard & Poor's 500 Index. More... <http://environment.about.com/od/globalwarming/a/waterinvesting.htm>

Pollution Trading: Hurting Local Waterways, the Bay, and the Clean Water Act

Why has the long effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay failed? Why do local leaders still question what the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) means for their communities? That answer, like the Bay's restoration, has been a long time in the making. Initiatives to fix the Bay date back to the mid-1960s, before the passage of our landmark environmental laws like the Clean Water Act. Since then the Bay has witnessed four "landmark" agreements lauded as the final solution: the 1983 and 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreements, Chesapeake 2010, and recently the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order, all culminating with the current TMDL. The Bay TMDL offers tributary states like PA, NY, WV, DE, VA, and NY a new chance at restoring the Bay. We fully support its establishment. However, we are concerned that the Bay TMDL, as currently written, isn't as strong as it could be and contains several weaknesses that could prove to be its ultimate undoing. Notably, we disagree with the use of unproven and unscientific nutrient trading programs and the lack of clear-cut, enforceable, and meaningful nonpoint-source pollution controls. So why has this effort and previous efforts to restore the Bay failed? The answer is simple, but as the saying goes - the truth can hurt: tributary states have failed the Bay. States continue to refuse to address the largest contributors of pollution to the Bay from nonpoint source agricultural and urban/suburban runoff pollution. The Clean Water Act sets minimum water quality standards that states must follow, although states retain the authority to go above and beyond those minimum standards. Make no mistake, tributary states to the Bay watershed have the ability to restore the Bay. By enforcing the Clean Water Act many states succeeded in addressing pollution from

industrial and sewage treatment facilities. Likewise, the same methods can successfully address pollution from nonpoint source agricultural and urban sites. Unfortunately, the Bay TMDL's ability to provide these measurable, meaningful improvements is threatened by a pollution-trading scheme between nonpoint and point source polluters, written into the Bay TMDL largely at the urging of industry and their lobbyists. We do not believe that such a trading scheme is legal under the Clean Water Act as it provides polluters a vehicle to avoid conforming to current laws - laws which are effective when meaningfully enforced. Across the nation, successful pollution policies are always enforceable, with clear implementation deadlines and penalties - yet the current trading scheme makes these proven approaches meaningless as it vauges and uncertain. Although it needs improvement, the Bay TMDL is a great accomplishment that speaks highly of the effectiveness of the Clean Water Act. Since Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper's inception we have pushed tirelessly to stop pollution and restore clean water using enforcement, science, and community engagement. It is largely through the Clean Water Act that we are given the mandate to use those tools - enforcement, science, and community engagement - to fulfill our mission. We believe the Clean Water Act is critical to our work and that it is imperative that its strength not be undermined. *Source: Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper*

Answering the Unanswered Questions: Conowingo Dam's New License & Sediment

For over 7 years Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper has pressed decision-makers and scientists with what has become a dirty question: what is being done with the millions of tons of sediment stored behind Conowingo Dam? Dams on the Susquehanna trap sediment borne downstream in the water column. Over the years all dams upstream of Conowingo have reached "steady-state", which is to say they cannot trap more sediment. Today, only Conowingo has trapping capacity left; Conowingo traps roughly 2/3 of water-borne sediment in the Susquehanna, with only 1/3 of sediment generally passing through to the Bay. The problem arises when Conowingo reaches steady-state: then full sediment loads will hit the Bay, something that has never occurred since sedimentation today is far different than ratios present when dams were constructed in the early 1900s. Likewise, when large storms "scour" sediment behind dams they dump it downstream into the Bay. When full loads of sediment enter the Bay they create poor water quality, suffocate marine life, and further degrade the Bay's precarious ecological balance. In the late 1990s scientists and agencies began studying these sediment questions, but as the enormity of the problem and the costly means of a fix (dredging) clarified, funding - and momentum - was lost. Now, due in part to our work educating and advocating among decision-makers and scientists, a new Sediment Task Force comprised of state agencies, scientific agencies, and your Riverkeeper, has convened to address this problem - and hopefully settle on a solution. The studies commissioned by this coalition, and hopefully the discussions thereafter, will provide the impetus to finally settle on a solution and implement it before it's too late for the Bay. Figuring out what to do with sediment is a time-sensitive issue for three reasons. One, scientists estimate Conowingo will reach steady-state in 10-15 years! This means we need to implement a solution in the very near future to avoid certain negative consequences. Second, with the Bay TMDL's enactment in December 2010, there is a limit on the amount of sediment the Susquehanna River (and her tributary states - PA, NY, MD) may annually deposit in the Bay. Susquehanna states are supposed to be creating and implementing rules that reduce sediment and erosion throughout the Basin, and thus reduce loading in the Bay. However, many plans fail to account for the trapped sediment behind Susquehanna dams or changing land-use like shale gas development, and many political leaders and decisionmakers have yet to see the connection between dam steady-state and TMDL sediment limits. Lastly, Conowingo Dam is currently undergoing a relicensing process - something that occurs once in a lifetime (about every 50 years). Relicensing provides the opportunity to revise terms of operation and management, including an opportunity to make sure sediment issues are addressed. Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper is actively engaged with the Sediment Task Force, with ensuring the TMDL, PA, and MD address sedimentation behind dams, and in the relicensing of Conowingo dam. Our continued diligence on these issues, in conjunction with the unique nexus of events described above, will hopefully lead to a final resolution of this pressing issue before the Bay suffers the ultimate consequence of inaction. *Source: Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper*

Animated Graph of Dissolved Oxygen in northern Chesapeake Bay

For anyone interested, here is a link to an animated graph of dissolved oxygen measured in Chesapeake Bay at Susquehanna Flats during July 2011 by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This graph also includes water surface elevations measured by NOAA at Tolchester Beach and Chesapeake City, wind speed and direction measured at Chesapeake City, and a solar day / night indicator. This animated graph uses actual continuous data measurements and was programmed in VBA Excel. YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvzmVNo1vis>

Bay 101: Algae Blooms

Some of you may have noticed the Mahogany tide algae bloom in downtown Annapolis last month, but for those who missed it, here's a video we produced at the Chesapeake Bay Program explaining some of the reasons for early its occurrence. Thanks to Charlie Poukish and Chris Luckett of the Maryland Department of the Environment for stopping by the Bay Program on short notice to collect and analyze a water sample. http://www.chesapeakebay.net/videos/clip/bay_101_algae_blooms. YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEWDPAxcRCM>

Maryland's Assembly approves stormwater pollution mandate

Baltimore Sun - In a move aimed at helping Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, the General Assembly adopted a bill last month mandating that Maryland's largest localities, including Baltimore city and its suburbs, levy fees on their residents to pay for controlling polluted runoff from streets, parking lots and buildings. HB987 cleared the Senate after a protracted debate and repeated efforts by opponents to limit the requirement. All failed, though senators did exempt state, county and municipal governments and volunteer fire companies from having to pay any fees. House members quickly accepted the Senate version without debate just minutes before the scheduled midnight end of the 90-day session. Besides the city, the bill would require fees be imposed in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Harford, Howard, Prince George's and Montgomery counties. Montgomery already levies such a fee.

Maryland Legislature Completes Work on Flush Tax Increase

WTTG-TV - *Online*, ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Marylanders can likely expect a hike in their annual sewer bills. The state legislature finished work Monday on a proposal from Gov. Martin O'Malley to double the \$30 fee. Members of the House of Delegates voted 89-48 to accept Senate amendments, including a provision that exempts residents who live in places where wastewater is not discharged into the Chesapeake Bay. The so-called "flush tax" is used to fund a bay restoration account. House Environmental Matters Committee chairwoman Maggie McIntosh said the exemption, which would affect people in western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, is expected to reduce revenues by \$1.6 million. Read House Bill 446: <http://mlis.state.md.us/2012rs/bills/hb/hb0446t.pdf>

Take the Challenge to Conserve Water

Nancy Stoner, acting Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Water, blogged about her recent engagement with the Wyland Foundation to help announce the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation—a friendly, community-based competition between cities across the nation to see who can be the most “water-wise” during April. Noting the pledges of 40 mayors and EPA's WaterSense program, a public-private partnership that promotes water conservation, Ms. Stoner encourages readers to take the challenge. To read the blog, visit: <http://blog.epa.gov/blog/2012/04/06/take-the-challenge-to-conserve-water/>

You're getting short-changed on conservation of your public lands.

The oil and gas industry gives the federal government \$900 million each year for land and water conservation. Problem is, the government spends most of that money on other things. *The Land and Water Conservation Fund*, was created to offset the loss of one natural resource—oil and gas—by using a portion of drilling fees to protect important land and water elsewhere. The money is meant for creating and conserving community parks and public lands. But a loophole allows the government to raid the fund for unrelated purposes. Historically, less than half of LWCF money is used for its intended purpose of land and water conservation. [*Speak up for conservation*](#): urge your representative to pass the Land and Water Conservation Funding Act as part of the House Transportation Bill. Find out more at <http://www.tpl.org/what-we-do/policy-legislation/federal-funding-programs/speak-up-for-conservation.html>

Help Protect PA's Land, Water & Future!

Dear SGHA Friends & Supporters, as we've shared before, Keystone funding for Heritage Area's, Community and State Parks, Recreation facilities, and Land Conservation is at risk and we need your help voicing opposition to these proposed cuts! [Please join our efforts to save this funding!](#) Click on <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/2012budget> to sign the online petition. All that is needed is your name, zip code, and email address. If you would like to read more information about these proposed funding cuts, please click to read the Keystone Fund Fact Sheet. [Keystone Fund Fact Sheet](#). We hope you agree that cutting the Keystone Fund is not acceptable for our communities. Thank you for your support! Mark N. Platts, President, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area

New Website. Great Learning Resource

The Chesapeake Bay Program has launched a new, improved version of its website. The new Bay Program website provides students, educators and members of the public with the latest information about Bay science, wildlife, pollution pressures and restoration efforts. The new website comes complete with countless new resources, including an improved photo library with hundreds of high-resolution images of the Bay and its watershed, wildlife and pollution problems. Alliance staff have been instrumental in building the content featured by the site. Read about all the new features at www.chesapeakebay.net.

Updated Lancaster County Watershed Website

The Lancaster County Conservation District is delighted to unveil our new and redesigned Lancaster County Watershed website (www.lancasterwatersheds.org). The site has a new look, some new tools to locate your local watershed, interactive watershed maps, watershed videos, and a new social media page. Please use, share, and enjoy this new site and everything it has to offer for Lancaster County water resources. Matthew, W. Kofroth, Watershed Coordinator, Lancaster County Conservation District, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Room #200, Lancaster, PA 17601. Phone (717) 299-5361 ext 124. Web www.lancasterwatersheds.org.

Native Tree/Shrub Seedlings Available

Limited quantities of native tree and shrub seedlings may still be available, left over from Red Lion High school's recent buffer planting project, and they are: Sweet Bay Magnolia 50; White Oak 75; Pin Oak 64; Flowering Dogwood 250; Black Birch 25; Black Walnut 100; Serviceberry 300; Red Bud 325; Musclewood (Hornbeam) 100. Contact Jeffrey A Bryan, Director Of Buildings and Grounds, Red Lion Area School District, 696 Delta Road, Red Lion Pa. 17356. Telephone: (717)244-4518. Web <http://www.rlasd.net>.

BUNKER HILL ROAD, PEACH BOTTOM TOWNSHIP CLEANUP A SUCCESS!

York, PA – (April 13, 2012) – On Saturday, March 31, 2012, volunteers and Peach Bottom Township employees eliminated several dump sites along Bunker Hill Road. The cleanup event was arranged by United By Blue and Keep York County Beautiful. In three hours, participants removed and properly disposed of 9.83 tons of trash which included; 30 tires, 4 sofas, 2 chairs, cabinets, carpeting, flooring, toilet and vanity sink. Peach Bottom Township made arrangements for two 30 cubic yard dumpsters to be on site for the cleanup. Two Peach Bottom Township employees operating heavy equipment help move trash and debris from the steep bank and road to the dumpsters. The trash and waste was properly disposed of at the York County Solid Waste Authority at no charge through their Free Litter Disposal Program. Another cleanup will be planned for the area in the fall. Areas of Scott Creek, downstream of the cleanup site are used for trout fishing. Scott Creek is also a tributary of Muddy Creek and the Susquehanna River. Continued efforts to clean trash will help the local community and provide a variety of recreational activities nearby. Individuals and groups interested in volunteering for future cleanup events can contact Keep York County Beautiful at 717-840-2375. Partners on the Bunker Hill Road Cleanup included United By Blue, Penn State Extension-York County West Nile Virus Program, Peach Bottom Township and local Peach Bottom residents. Funding, supplies and donations were provided by United By Blue, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Watershed Alliance of York and Starbucks-Older Tollgate Village. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed almost 85 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.

York County Mosquito Surveillance

Penn State Cooperative Extension – York County West Nile Virus Program is starting county-wide mosquito surveillance for the 2012 season. During the 2011 season adult mosquito trapping in York County collected over 90,000 adult mosquitoes and included twenty seven different species. This is the highest number of mosquitoes ever collected in a season in York County. In 2011, York County also had the highest number of samples testing positive in Pennsylvania for the detection of West Nile Virus in mosquito populations. The most common sources of high mosquito populations continue to be from trash and yard clutter. Residents, businesses and municipalities can greatly reduce

mosquito concerns and health risk by cleaning up their own property and local community. Eleven years of surveillance in York County indicates that the most common mosquito species in residential areas; the House Mosquito (*Culex* spp.) and Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*); breed predominately in artificial containers created by humans. Artificial containers can be something small like bottle cap to sometimes as large as a swimming pool with shallow water. Additional containers such as tires, buckets, tarps and roadside trash are preferred by mosquitoes because other predators found in nature that would eat mosquito larvae are not present. During a drought these containers continue to hold water and breed mosquitoes. One bucket or tire in someone's backyard can produce hundreds of mosquitoes a year. *We also want to remind residents, municipalities and police departments that mosquito traps are not to be confused for explosive devices. Traps are routinely placed throughout York County from April through October to monitor mosquito populations. Traps are labeled with contact information. A flyer is attached with images showing what mosquito traps look like.* To report mosquito concerns York County residents can contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension – York County West Nile Virus Program office by calling (717) 840-2375. Additional information can be found on our website at: <http://extension.psu.edu/york>. For information about West Nile Virus symptoms in humans, contact the Department of Health at 1-877-PA-HEALTH, or visit the Pennsylvania West Nile Virus website at www.westnile.state.pa.us.

Ticks and Lyme Disease

Within the last few weeks, there has been an increase in reported cases of tick bites. In an effort to promote wellness and to reduce the number of cases, the following information is being offered to keep you safe while at work and during your leisure time. Lyme disease is spread through the bite of infected ticks. The black-legged tick (or deer tick) spreads the disease in the northeastern United States. These ticks are usually found in wooded areas and have complex life cycles. More information regarding Lyme disease is available in this brochure titled "[Lyme Disease: A Public Information Guide](#)." Most humans are infected through the bites of immature ticks called nymphs. Nymphs are tiny, less than 2 mm, and are difficult to see. Adult ticks can also transmit Lyme disease bacteria, but they are larger and more likely to be discovered and removed before they transmit the bacteria. Prevent tick bites and reduce your risk of tick-borne disease by viewing this brochure titled "[Protect Yourself From Tick-Borne Diseases](#)". When you are outside, please follow these tips:

- Wear protective clothing - Long pants and long sleeves. Also, light colored clothing will help you spot ticks easily.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET on skin and/or clothes.
- Keep long hair tied back.
- Perform daily tick checks. Conduct a full-body tick check using a mirror to view all parts of your body upon return from tick-infested areas.
- Examine your gear! Ticks can ride into the office, home, or car on clothing, and then attach to a person later.

To safely remove a tick from your skin:

- Grasp the tick firmly and as closely to the skin as possible with tweezers.
- Pull the tick's body away from your skin.
- After removing the tick, clean the area with an antiseptic
- Contact your healthcare provider if you should develop fever, headache, fatigue or rash.

For more information on ticks please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/>.

Lyme Disease Surge Predicted for the Northeastern U.S. See article at: http://www.caryinstitute.org/press_2012-03-15.html.

York County's Drug Take Back events were a significant contribution to this national effort with WAY's support.

The Medication Take Back event held on Saturday April 28, 2012 was a GREAT SUCCESS! WAY in collaboration with Healing Hearts of Hanover, DEA, and participating pharmacies collected un-used medications at eight locations across York County. Two Giant pharmacy in Hanover collected 984 lbs in 4 hours. The American people again responded overwhelmingly to the most recent DEA-led National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. On April 28th, citizens turned in a record-breaking 552,161 pounds (276 tons) of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,659 take-back sites that were available in all 50 states and U.S. territories. When the results of the four Take Back Days to date are combined, the DEA and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed over 1.5 million pounds (774 tons) of medication from circulation. <http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/pressrel/pr050312p.html>. Additional partners include the York County Solid Waste Authority, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and York County Conservation District

Encouraging proper disposal - Suggestion for your Public Educ materials, brochures, etc.

WREN Grantees – One of the barriers citizens often face in doing correct environmental behavior is not knowing where to properly dispose of hazardous materials, used motor oil, batteries, electronics, etc. Based on this response below from the Earth911.com folks and my personal knowledge that they have been around for over 5 years providing an excellent resource about where to dispose of various materials – used oil, batteries, electronics, etc, and that they are linked into to DEP database, I would feel comfortable putting this link on your public information - brochures, websites, etc. to offer a simple- to- remember place (www.earth911.com) where people can go 24 X 7 to learn where locally they can dispose of materials properly. You can enter your zip code and find specific places where to dispose. Please try it out.



WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

MAEOE Summer Internship – May 11

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) is a non-profit organization which serves teachers, students, natural resource managers, nature staff, and environmental program managers with dynamic training programs, workshops, awards presentations, conferences, networking opportunities and related resources. One of MAEOE's programs is the Maryland Green School Award (MDGS), open to all Pre K -12 Maryland schools. This is a process which culminates with an application documenting the school's activities in environmental issue investigation, professional development, best management practices and community stewardship. MAEOE is seeking graduate or undergraduate interns starting 6/4/12. Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in the areas of education research, environmental education and/or environmental science. Days and times are flexible; MAEOE will work to assist interns to receive course credit with their school if possible. To Apply: Resume and cover letter must be received by mail or email by 5pm on May 11, 2012 to: Stacy Bond,

mdgsorganizer@maeoe.org, Maryland Green School Organizer, 7761 Waterloo Rd, Jessup, MD 20794. Applicants will be notified of acceptance starting on May 16, 2012.

New Funding To Assist Local Governments – May 16

New funding was announced on March 13th, for a \$4 million dollar initiative to provide financial and technical assistance to local governments to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. "Now more than ever, the Chesapeake Bay needs the creativity, innovation and ingenuity of local governments. This new EPA funding will enable local governments to implement the best solutions to on-the-ground challenges the face in restoring the Bay, and share those approaches with other towns throughout the entire watershed.", says EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin. The Alliance is working with a number of partners in southern Pennsylvania to find ways to expand its successful "Circuit Rider" program and pioneer new green infrastructure approaches with local governments. [Learn more about the new funding at allianceforthebay.org](http://allianceforthebay.org) For more information about the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund and grant opportunities for local governments, visit www.nfwf.org/chesapeake. The deadline for grant proposals is May 16, 2012. Contact Rick Keister at rkeister@allianceforthebay.org for more information about the [Local Government Advisory Committee](#).

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grants – May 16

The National Fish & 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 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.](#)

Potential Grant Funding for Dirt and Gravel Projects – May 16

Over the past few years, many Conservation Districts have taken advantage of outside grant programs such as ARRA or Growing Greener to fund Dirt and Gravel Road Projects. These outside grants can quickly address a backlog of "ready-to-go" worksites that Districts are unable to fund with Dirt and Gravel Road Program Funds alone. Over \$2.6 Million in Dirt and Gravel Road Projects have been completed with outside funds over the last two years! The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has one such current grant opportunity: Priority #1 in the RFP is "[Green Infrastructure Showcase Projects](#)" that includes the language "to demonstrate how communities can *simultaneously meet their infrastructure needs and enhance the health of local streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.*" This seems to make Dirt and Gravel Road Projects a logical fit. (and D&G funds can be used as an in-kind match!). There was a webinar on the grant opportunity on Friday 4/13 (<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/585540001>). Grant Proposals are Due May 16th.

PA Watershed Grants – Aug 24

The Foundation for PA Watersheds is requesting organizations with an interest in applying for their grant. 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.](#)

Outreach & Community Engagement Mini-Grants

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.](#)

Long-term Conservation, Environment and Natural Resources Sustainability Grant

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

MAEscapes Native Plant Fest and Sale – May 19

Mark your calendars for the Penn State Extension MAEscapes Native Plant Fest and Sale on May 19, 2012 from 9am to 2pm at the County Annex, 112 Pleasant Acres Rd, York, PA 17402. This year's event features a great selection of native plant vendors, 4 seminars, educational exhibits, an opportunity to buy books, gifts and tools. Experts will be on hand to answer all your gardening questions. www.maescapes.org

The 2nd annual Yellow Breeches Youth Sojourn - Jun 17-19

An educational canoeing and kayaking expedition for youth ages 11-15 Sunday, June 17 to Tuesday, June 19, 2012 - Boiling Springs to New Cumberland. Want to be an ambassador for conservation? Spend three unforgettable days exploring the Yellow Breeches Creek with a colorful flotilla of other young people. Observe nature in real time, learn about environmental issues, and show your commitment for healthy, sustainable waters and open spaces. Led by professional guides from Blue Mountain Outfitters and escorted by enthusiastic and capable adult leaders from local schools, outdoor groups, and conservation organizations, paddle this state scenic river and camp along its shores. Enjoy hearty meals, engaging programs, musical entertainment, and much more. Depart with new perspectives of the world around you, an appreciation for paddle sports, and great memories of an exciting adventure! You don't have to be an Olympic kayaker or canoeist to join the

fun, but a little paddling experience on creeks or rivers is required. If you'd like a refresher, we're offering paddling skill sessions at Boiling Springs Lake on June 17. We'll cover basic strokes, wet exits, paddling safety, and a little free time to get extra comfortable on the water. All meals are provided on the Sojourn, including vegetarian options, plus special campfire treats and supplementary snacks for our time on the water. Please read through all the Sojourn information provided and if you like what you see, sign-up! Registration opens April 23 and closes when the trip is filled or by May 25 (whichever comes first). Space is limited to the first 60 registrants. Special leadership opportunities are available for high school students. See the Junior Leader job description for details. Questions? Please call Brook Lenker at 717-756-2637 or email BrookLenker@comcast.net. Hope to see YOU on the Yellow Breeches!

INVITATION: PGC Wildlife Diversity Forum – Jun 28-29

The Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation, cordially invite you to join us for the state's first-ever Wildlife Diversity Forum at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College June 28 and 29, 2012. The invitation-only event will serve as a platform for conservation professionals to connect with established and potential partners to identify areas of common concern for imperiled birds and mammals, and their habitats. Guided by the state's Wildlife Action Plan and focusing on species of conservation concern and their habitats, the Forum will bring together conservation partners to discuss our current conservation objectives and explore ways to advance them. It's an unprecedented opportunity to build a stronger conservation community in Pennsylvania. Peter Duncan, noted conservationist and retired Game Commission Executive Director, will be our banquet presenter. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Visit the PGC Wildlife Diversity Forum web page for all the details. Registration deadline: May 25. Please note that registration is limited to 150, so register early! Call for posters : We are seeking poster presentations related to research, habitat improvement, or conservation planning projects for the state's bird and mammal species of special concern. Visit the PGC Wildlife Diversity Forum web page for more details. Deadline to submit abstracts: May 4. Door prizes : Interested in promoting your organization? Bring a door prize to the event! Visit the PGC Wildlife Diversity Forum web page for more details. Looking forward to seeing you there! Contact Catherine D. Haffner, PA Game Commission Wildlife Biologist, Conservation Planning Coordinator, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Diversity Division, Office: 570. 275. 3934. www.pgc.state.pa.us

Call for Presentations For the 7th Annual CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED FORUM – Sep 28-30

National Conservation Training Center Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The Forum Planning Committee is now accepting workshop proposals for the 2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum taking place on September 28 – 30 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. The Forum is a widely anticipated regional training opportunity for local watershed and conservation organizations along with local governments in the Bay region. Participants include volunteers, board and staff members, skilled restoration practitioners, experienced leaders, and funders. In 2012 we expect more than 300 participants, and the Forum provides an excellent opportunity to share your experience with a broad audience who comes from all over the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond. Go to <https://allianceforthebay.org/initiatives/connecting-people/chesapeake-watershed-forum/> for more information and to review the guidelines and instructions before submitting an application. *Save the Dates...September 28-30, 2012!*



WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Study: Impact of Warming Climate Doesn't Always Translate to Streamflow

CORVALLIS, Ore. – An analysis of 35 headwater basins in the United States and Canada found that the impact of warmer air temperatures on streamflow rates was less than expected in many locations, suggesting that some ecosystems may be resilient to certain aspects of climate change. The study was just published in a special issue of the journal *BioScience*, in which the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) network of 26 sites around the country funded by the National Science Foundation is featured. Lead author Julia Jones, an Oregon State University geoscientist, said that air temperatures increased significantly at 17 of the 19 sites that had 20- to 60-year climate records, but streamflow changes correlated with temperature changes in only seven of those study sites. In fact, water flow decreased only at sites with winter snow and ice, and there was less impact in warmer, more arid ecosystems. More... <http://www.stormh2o.com/SW/Articles/16817.aspx>

"Coordination of the Water Sector and Emergency Services Sectors: An Important Step to Better Response"

Document Released EPA has released a new document, "Coordination of the Water Sector and Emergency Services Sectors: An Important Step to Better Response," which describes the mutually beneficial relationship of the water sector and emergency services sector and provides examples on how to improve coordination between water utilities and local emergency management agencies. The document recommends a series of actions for utilities to improve their coordination with local emergency management agencies, including joint tabletop exercises, sharing and coordinating response plans and emergency contact information, getting to know each other in advance of an emergency, and sharing information about how water services support emergency management agencies during a response. The document can be accessed at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/emerplan/upload/epa817k12001.pdf>.

Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool Training Modules Available Online

Training modules for EPA's Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) software are now available for viewing or download at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/>. The CREAT software was developed under the Agency's Climate Ready Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative, which provides drinking water, wastewater, and storm water utilities with practical tools, training, and technical assistance to confront climate change through climate related risk assessment. With a better understanding of climate challenges, utilities can take the proactive steps needed for adapting to climate change impacts and increasing the overall resilience of their utility. For more information on how to become "climate ready," visit U.S. EPA's CRWU website at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/>.

NESC Has More Than 1,300 Free Products

Online Shopping Cart Allows Easy Downloads. The National Environmental Services Center (NESC) reminds readers that we now have an online shopping cart allowing our customers to download free PDFs. More than 1,300 products are currently available, including case studies, design manuals, and NESC's popular *Tech Briefs*. View the shopping cart by going to www.nesc.wvu.edu/ecommerce/. Products come from multiple sources and are searchable in the cart by key word. Visit our website where you can shop for your water and wastewater informational

needs. Among the free downloads are the Montana Water Center CDs (e.g., Operator Basics, Virtual System Explorer, Water Quality Expedition), which not only provide great training but are recognized for CEUs in various states. The National Environmental Services Center – Assistance. *Solutions. Knowledge.* Contact Mark Kemp, Communications Manager, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown, WV 26506-6064. Phone: (800) 624-8301. Web: www.nesc.wvu.edu.

SRBC Releases Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Information

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission Thursday [released a data report](#) on existing or baseline water quality conditions in small watersheds in the Marcellus shale region of the Susquehanna River Basin. Prior to 2010 when SRBC began collecting the data through its state-of-the-art [Remote Water Quality Monitoring Network](#), little to no water quality data existed for many smaller streams in northern Pennsylvania and southern tier New York. SRBC's data report lets people know what the "current" conditions are within the first 37 of 51 watersheds that SRBC is monitoring through the RWQMN. The data report outlines the process SRBC used for grouping like watersheds into ecoregions and determining what natural settings and/or man-induced activities can affect particular streams in terms of the water quality parameters SRBC is tracking. Each RWQMN station is equipped with sensors that can continuously detect subtle changes in water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductance (ability to conduct electricity, which typically increases as levels of dissolved solids increase) and turbidity (water clarity). Each station is also recording water depth to establish a relationship with streamflows. The parameters of primary interest in areas of natural gas drilling are conductance and turbidity since they are most likely to rise if local streams are being impacted by associated activities. SRBC also periodically collects on-site samples for more than 20 other parameters for lab analysis. Of the 37 watersheds covered in this data report, SRBC has determined that six of them will require more in-depth analysis due to anomalies in certain data results, including elevated pH readings at two stations and conductance spikes at two stations. Those watersheds – listed on page 12 of the report – are Blockhouse Creek in Lycoming and Tioga Counties, Kitchen Creek in Luzerne and Sullivan Counties, Trout Run in Clearfield County, Meshoppen Creek in Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties, Starrucca Creek in Susquehanna and Wayne Counties, and Bobs Creek in Blair and Bedford Counties. In addition to studying the six watersheds in greater detail, the next steps for SRBC are to analyze the baseline data for the remaining 14 RWQMN stations in Pennsylvania and to issue a future report that will include findings and conclusions if changes in water quality conditions are observed. SRBC's overarching objective of the RWQMN is to apply good science to track changes in water quality conditions over time and to allow for timely responses in the case of pollution events. Other objectives are to reduce the cost of data collection by using advanced technologies, enhance water supply protection through source water monitoring and be responsive to public concerns. The water quality parameters are measured at 5-minute intervals and transmitted to SRBC headquarters in Harrisburg every 2 to 4 hours. The raw, unadjusted data are then made available to the [public online](#). A user-friendly map, graphs and charts are key features for viewing and understanding the data. A copy of the report [is available online](#). A [Question/Answer fact sheet](#) on the monitoring network is also available.

2009 Accident Spurs NTSB Dam Safety Recommendations Concerning the Importance of Local Stormwater Management

Last month, the National Transportation Safety Board completed its investigation into the causes of a 2009 train derailment that involved the washout of a rail line by water from an unregulated storm water retention pond. On June 19, 2009, an eastbound CN freight train traveling at 36 mph derailed at a highway/rail grade crossing in Cherry Valley, Illinois. The train consisted of two locomotives and 114 cars. All of the derailed cars were tank cars carrying ethanol, a flammable liquid. Thirteen of the derailed tank cars were breached or lost product and caught fire. At time of the derailment, several motor vehicles were stopped on either side of the grade crossing waiting for the train to pass. As a result of the fire that erupted after the derailment, a passenger in one of the stopped vehicles was fatally injured, two passengers in the same car received serious injuries, and five occupants of the other cars waiting at the highway-rail crossing were injured. Contributing to the accident was CN's failure to work with Winnebago County to develop a comprehensive storm water management design to address previous washouts in 2006 and 2007. Also, contributing to the severity of the accident was CN's failure to issue a flash-flood warning to the train crew and the inadequate design of the tank cars, which made the cars subject to damage and catastrophic loss of hazardous materials during the derailment. As a result of the accident, the NTSB recommended that several organizations, including ASDSO, inform their members of the accident and their findings, specifically:

- *"To the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, the National Association of Towns and Townships, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors:*
- *Inform your members of the circumstances of this accident and emphasize the importance of periodically inspecting storm water management detention ponds (both private and public) to ensure that no deterioration has occurred that would result in the failure of a pond to function as designed."*

A [synopsis of the NTSB report](#), including the probable cause, conclusions, and a complete list of all the safety recommendations, is now available; the NTSB's full report will be available within a few weeks.

