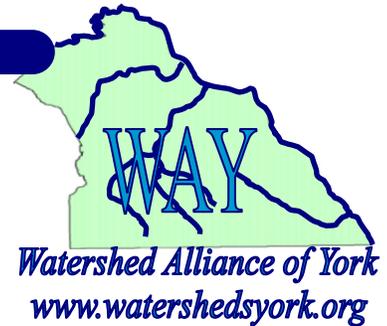


WAY E-NEWS

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



Monday, May 20, 2013

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Volume 13, Issue 10

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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
 - 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

- Real-time Stormwater Monitoring System with Alerts Helps County Track Watershed Health and Maintain NPDES Compliance
- Research Confirms Government Commitment to Improve Water Quality
- Letter from Leadership: Stormwater fees a useful funding source
- Report: The Importance of Operation and Maintenance for the Long-Term Success of Green Infrastructure
- Researchers think industrious oysters could clean up Chesapeake
- PENNVest Grant/Loan Calculator Tool
- Web Soil Survey Version 3.0 to be Released
- Comment Period Open for Habitat Designation for Freshwater Mussels Jun 10



WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS

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

- For information 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

- July 8 –Meeting of Members and Board, 7:00 pm, at York Water Co. (Mt. Rose Ave.)
- Contact: Jim Leaman at 843-2929

Codorus Endowment Implementation Committee - www.yccf.org

- For more information, contact the York County Community Foundation at 717.848.3733; Email: info@yccf.org

Codorus State Park

- Contact Manager Warren Werntz, Codorus state Park Ph: 717-637-2816; E-mail: codoruspp@pa.gov

Conewago Canoe Club - www.conewagocanooclub.org

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

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

- Contact Lee McDaniel at ldmcdaniel@aol.com.

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

- Contact: Sean Kenny at Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County. Ph: (717) 843-4411 or e-mail skenny@farmtrust.org

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

- Event calendar <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp>
- Contact Elizabeth Kepley, Environmental Education Specialist, DCNR Bureau of State Parks. Ph: 717-432-5011

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy - www.gunpowderfalls.org

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

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

- Contact: Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education. Ph: (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. Ph: 717-428-2000

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper - www.lowersusquehannariverkeeper.org

- 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/>

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

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

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

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

- Contact: 717-840-7408 or Connie Schmotzer at cxs51@psu.edu

[Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group Inc. - www.pbccg.com](http://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](http://www.prettyboywatershed.org)

- Contact: Nancy Shaper at nshaper@jhmi.edu

[Sierra Club – Gov. Pinchot Group of PA - http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinshot/](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinshot/)

- 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](http://www.shanksmare.com)

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

[Spoutwood Farm Center for Sustainable Living - www.spoutwood.com](http://www.spoutwood.com)

- May 22 – Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 PM, at Spoutwood Farm Center.
- Contact Rob & Lucy Woods at Spoutwood Farm at 717-235-6610 or spoutwood@comcast.net.

[Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area - http://www.susquehannaheritage.org/](http://www.susquehannaheritage.org/)

- Contact Mark Platts, Susquehanna Heritage Corporation. Ph: 717-252-0229. E-mail: info@lyhr.org.

[Trout Unlimited Codorus Chapter #558 - www.codorustu.org](http://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

[Trout Unlimited Muddy Creek Chapter #575 - http://muddycreektu.org/](http://muddycreektu.org/)

- Monthly Chapter Meetings 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.,
- Contact: Ron Heuston, President MCTU, 244-1851 or Heuy1955@aol.com

[Watershed Alliance of Adams County - http://www.adamswatersheds.org/](http://www.adamswatersheds.org/)

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

[Watershed Alliance of York - www.watershedsyork.org](http://www.watershedsyork.org)

- July 10, 2013 – Annual Meeting of WAY Board of Directors, 7:00 PM, at The York Water Co., Mt. Rose Ave.
- WAY E-News – Published by the Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. to inform the public about news and information that affect York County watersheds and beyond. Distribution: electronic (1,850). Frequency: bi-weekly. Subscription: No charge. Editor: Gary R. Peacock.
- Contact: Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. (WAY), C/o York County Conservation District, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402. Phone: (717) 840-7430. Facsimile: (717) 755-0301. E-mail: gpeacock@yorkccd.org

[Wecology - www.wecologypa.org/](http://www.wecologypa.org/)

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

[Yellow Breeches Watershed Association - www.ybwa.org](http://www.ybwa.org)

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

[York-Adams Regional Smart Growth Coalition - www.yorkadamssmartgrowth.org](http://www.yorkadamssmartgrowth.org)

- Contact Shanna Wiest, Government Affairs Director, REALTORS Association of York & Adams Counties, Inc. Ph: (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 - www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org)

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

- For more information, contact York County Department of Parks and Recreation. Ph: (717) 840-7440. E-mail: Parks@York-County.org. Web: www.YorkCountyParks.org.

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

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

[York County Solid Waste Authority - http://www.ycswa.org/](http://www.ycswa.org/)

- Contact YCSWA at 717-845-1066

WATERSHED EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Chesapeake Bay's blue crab abundance drops

Chesapeake Currents – The blue crab population in the Chesapeake Bay has dropped, but a substantial boost in the number of spawning-age females has offered officials a piece of good news in spite of this disappointing decline. According to the results of the annual [winter dredge survey](#), which measures the blue crab population in Maryland and Virginia, the number of spawning-age females in the Bay has risen 52 percent. The Chesapeake Bay Program tracks this number as an [indicator](#) of Bay health, and an increase is a sign that management methods to conserve adult female crabs are working. But an overall decline in the Bay's blue crabs—from 765 million in 2012 to 300 million in 2013—could lead to the tightening of commercial harvest restrictions. Read more...

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/blog/post/chesapeake_bays_blue_crab_abundance_drops

Oyster Numbers Show Continued Improvement

Governor O'Malley announced that the 2012 Fall Oyster Survey results show population and reproduction increased for the second consecutive year, and diseases — which decimated the population in 2002 — remained far below their long-term averages. DNR invites citizens to help raise baby oysters through the [Marylanders Grow Oysters](#) program.

Chesapeake Bay's underwater grasses decline in 2012

Close to 15,000 acres of underwater grasses have disappeared from the Chesapeake Bay. While robust grass beds on the Susquehanna Flats and expanding beds in the James River offer two examples of the Bay's resilience, an aerial survey conducted by the [Virginia Institute of Marine Science](#) (VIMS) showed a 21 percent decline in the Bay's grasses in 2012. This so-called “alarming” loss—from just over 63,000 acres in 2011 to just over 48,000 in 2012—approaches lows last reported in 1986. Read more...

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/blog/post/chesapeake_bays_underwater_grasses_decline_in_2012

Flyway winter waterfowl survey counts more geese but fewer ducks

Bay Journal - Biologists this year reported an overall increase in the number of waterfowl along Maryland's Chesapeake Bay shoreline and Atlantic Coast compared with what they observed during the 2012 midwinter waterfowl survey. Crews counted more Canada geese and snow geese but observed fewer ducks during the survey, which is conducted by biologists from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who count ducks, geese and swans. Read more...

http://www.bayjournal.com/article/birdcount_flyway_winter_waterfowl_survey_counts_more_geese_but_fewer_ducks

Invisible microplastics a threat to bottom of marine food web

Bay Journal – More study is called for on effects of degraded bottles and bags, as well as cosmetic microbeads on creatures that ingest them. The ubiquitous plastic bags and bottles that litter streets, rivers and beaches around the Bay and its watershed create an eyesore and a threat to wildlife that may ingest or become entangled in them. But increasingly, scientists around the region, and the globe, wonder whether tiny bits of plastic that go unseen may pose as much— or an even greater — threat. Much of the concern about plastic marine debris has stemmed from emotionally charged photos of birds wrapped in plastic fishing line or tangled in six-pack plastic rings, or reports of plastic bags found in the guts of turtles. But plastic doesn't easily go away. Over time, it typically breaks down into smaller and smaller particles known as microplastics, eventually becoming invisible to the human eye. Now, scientists are worried that the growing concentrations of those unseen particles in the nation's waterways may be consumed by filter-feeding fish and oysters, or by tiny zooplankton, which help form the base of the aquatic food chain. Read more...

http://www.bayjournal.com/article/plastics_invisible_microplastics_a_threat_to_bottom_of_marine_food_web

EPA Approves Pennsylvania Impaired Waters List

(PHILADELPHIA – May 9, 2013) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today approved Pennsylvania's 2012 final list of impaired waters. The list is part of a bi-annual monitoring and assessment report characterizing the condition of Pennsylvania's surface waters. The 2012 list submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) contains 7,009 impaired waters, of which 263 are newly listed. The list also includes more than 650 stream miles within the Susquehanna River Basin that were added or updated in the 2012 list. The new list removes 39 water bodies that were on the previous list including over 96 miles in the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna basin and 27 miles of the Lehigh River. A complete list is available at:

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/water_quality_standards/10556/integrated_water_quality_report_-_2012/1127203

DEP Releases 2012 Susquehanna River Sampling Report

HARRISBURG – The Department of Environmental Protection today released the 2012 Susquehanna River Sampling Report, explaining the latest results from an aggressive sampling effort across the Susquehanna River. Work is continuing across the watershed this spring and summer as the scope of the study broadens to include more tributaries of the three main sections of the Susquehanna watershed: the Juniata River, Main Stem and West Branch of the Susquehanna. The 2012 report, available online, discusses what data DEP biologists collected at eight sites in the Susquehanna basin, two of which were along the Juniata River, and at one control site in the Delaware River. DEP staff spent 187 days on the river last year collecting hundreds of samples. All dissolved oxygen levels across the eight sites were acceptable compared with the current dissolved oxygen criteria. Phosphorus, nitrogen and nitrate levels were higher at the Delaware River control site than at any site in the Susquehanna River. Within the Susquehanna River basin, sample results for these pollutants were higher at the Juniata River sites. DEP biologists also applied an established water quality index method that uses the number and diversity of aquatic insects as a barometer. The results indicate the Susquehanna River north of Harrisburg water quality is between fair and good, according to the index, with greater richness of aquatic life than the Delaware River site. DEP recognizes this sampling method and results are only a starting point, as many more sites need to be sampled and the fish community as a whole needs to be evaluated throughout the river. Samples taken near Harrisburg show that water quality can vary greatly across one cross-section of the river, representative of the three large waterways that make up the Susquehanna watershed: the Juniata River, Main Stem and West Branch. DEP recently announced its work plan for 2013, broadening the

scope of the study and the 2012 sampling. The 2013 work plan includes greater study of the Juniata and additional sampling across the tributaries of the three major waterways. DEP is providing regular updates on its website about it and PFBC's ongoing efforts, which include analysis of water quality, water flow, sediment, pesticides, hormones, invertebrates, fish tissue and other areas of study. Portions of the study focus on areas of the river or its tributaries where smallmouth bass reproduce. DEP continues to wait for final approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of its final 2012 Integrated Waters report, a biannual assessment of the state's rivers and streams that the federal Clean Water Act requires. The report describes the health of various waterways in the state and, where appropriate and based on sound science, DEP proposes listing waterways as impaired. For more information, to view DEP's 2012 River Sampling Report and to register for the webinar, visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click the "Susquehanna River Study Update" button.

Bay Foundation cites nutrient pollution as big threat to smallmouth bass

Over the past decade, smallmouth bass in five Chesapeake Bay tributaries have suffered from fish kills and perplexing illnesses—and nutrient pollution could be to blame. According to a new [report](#) from the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (CBF), excess nitrogen and phosphorous in our rivers and streams could be behind two of the leading problems affecting smallmouth bass: first, the rapid growth of fish parasites and their hosts, and second, the expansion of large algae blooms that can lead to low-oxygen conditions and spikes in pH. When paired with rising water temperatures and ever more prevalent chemical contaminants, [nutrient pollution](#) seems to have created a "perfect storm" of factors that are making smallmouth bass more susceptible to infections and death. Read more...

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/blog/post/bay_foundation_cites_nutrient_pollution_as_big_threat_to_smallmouth_bass

Chemicals from Parking Lots Causing Water Pollution and Settling into Housedust

Parking lots treated with coal tar-based sealants are polluting streams 65 times more than an untreated lot. The chemicals in the sealant are called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or [PAHs](#). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) suspects that this family of contaminants is cancer causing in humans and harmful to the aquatic food chain. However, the USGS believes the risk to human health from PAH is small in drinking water. Besides water impacts, several studies are showing PAHs have an effect on air quality and human health. Why are these sealants used? They are intended as a barrier to protect paved surfaces from the elements like water, which can cause cracking during freezing weather. They are the black liquid you see sprayed or painted on many parking lots, driveways, and playgrounds. The sealants eventually wear off and wash into the nearest stream when it rains. Homes using the sealant are 14 times more likely to have carcinogenic doses of PAH in housedust. These findings and others are listed on USGS's [PAHs and Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat](#) website. Several studies are available for further details:

- U.S. Geological Survey issued a report, "[Coal-Tar-Based Parking Lot Sealcoat: An Unrecognized Source of PAH to Settled House Dust.](#)"
- USGS publication, "[Parking Lot Sealcoat: A Major Source of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons \(PAHs\) in Urban and Suburban Environments](#)"
- [Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons \(PAHs\), and Environmental Health.](#)

These findings and other scientific studies are available at the [USGS website](#)

Source Water Protection Plans Key to Protecting Water Supplies from Agricultural Pollution

It is finally spring again in Pennsylvania. As shades of green begin to creep across the land, the farmers of our state get down to business – and what a big business it is! Over 7.7 million acres of farmland produce \$5.9 billion in agricultural products each year, according to the PA Department of Agriculture. Adding associated businesses, like food processing and transportation, brings the total up to \$57 billion in revenue annually. These totals make farming the most economically important business in Pennsylvania. Of course, water is essential to farming – livestock drink it and crops may require irrigation, using roughly 10% of the water consumed in Pennsylvania every day (according to the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences). Given its top place in our state's economy, it is no surprise that agriculture also presents a leading source of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution of the very water that farmers themselves and other families need. Agricultural NPS pollution includes runoff to waterways from farm fields, fertilizer and pesticides, soil erosion, and bacterial contamination from livestock. Read more... http://wren.palwv.org/documents/WRENAPR2013E-NewsFeature-AgrFocus_000.pdf?utm_source=April+2013+WREN+E-News&utm_campaign=April+2013+E-News&utm_medium=email

Hanover Drug take back Final numbers and THANK YOU

Both Giants combined a grand TOTAL of 556 lbs (20 boxes)! Thank you all for your support, getting the word out there by each of the pharmacies as well and the team work by the law enforcement and the Giant for allowing to host the event at their sites. Every person that came through those doors "thanked us" and they were made aware about the permanent site at the Penn Township police thank you York County Solid Waste Authority for making this goal a reality.....a seed that was just a thought 4 years ago!!!! The National DEA events are still important, these numbers speak volumes, and a time to engage people face to face with education and awareness....that is rewarding. Martha King, York-Adams Pharmaceutical Stewardship Alliance

Keep York County Beautiful Cleanup Events In Peach Bottom Township and Jackson Township Successful

York, PA – (May 3, 2013) – Illegal dump site cleanup events coordinated by Keep York County Beautiful were successful with the help from many volunteers, local municipalities and other supporters. The Bunker Hill Road cleanup event was held on Saturday, April 20, 2013 and the Hanover Trolley Trail cleanup was held on Saturday, April 27, 2013. Both events were part of the Great American Cleanup Pennsylvania. These locations are being cleaned up because locally methods have been implemented to prevent future illegal dumping. Efforts to expand and improve the Hanover Rail Trail are continually improving the surround area, and performing illegal dump cleanups in the vicinity supports this. Both of these sites were documented as part of the York County 2010 Illegal Dump Survey report. During the Bunker Hill Road cleanup event sixteen volunteers and two township equipment operators helped pick up 2.39 tons of trash. This included 37 tires, furniture, carpeting, flooring, vinyl siding, flooring, a shower surround, bagged trash, automotive parts and other household waste. For this event we need to recognize the support from Peach Bottom Township for providing heavy equipment and operators for assisting. Volunteers consisted of the Stewart family, Penn State Master Gardeners, Millersville University student and others. During the Hanover Trolley Trail cleanup event seventeen volunteers, township equipment operator and township manager helped pick of 2.12 tons of trash and 700 pounds of scrap metal. Scrap metal was recycled separately from the trash. The 2.12 tons of trash included 109 tires, carpeting, old furniture, plastic piping, shower surround, and other household waste. A special thank you goes out to the York County Rail Trail Authority for allowing access to the

properties where the illegal dumping had previously occurred prior to the construction of the Hanover Trolley Trail. Credit needs to be given to the Jackson Township Sewer Authority who allowed access and use of their parking lot for metal storage and safe location for dumpster placement. Penn Waste also donated the drop off, pickup and use of the dumpster for the weekend. The York County Solid Waste Authority accepted the waste from this cleanup at no charge. Many of the local community volunteers were from the York County Rail Trail Authority, Spring Grove Chamber and Glatfelter. Additional support, supplies and contributions were provided by the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, PennDOT, York County Commissioners, Keep York County Beautiful, Penn State Extension-York County West Nile Virus Program and York County Solid Waste Authority.

Spring Time is Pond Time!

If you are a pond owner, it is a good idea to take a walk around your pond in early spring and check to see if any maintenance is needed. Follow up with another inspection in early fall. If you don't inspect your pond regularly and make any necessary repairs promptly, more costly or even irreparable damage may occur. Read more...

http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/discovery-watersheds/news/2013/spring-time-is-pond-time?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29

May is Watershed Awareness Month

Established in 2001, the purpose of this month is to promote watersheds through volunteer activities and education events. It is important to educate the next generation about watershed importance, so that students learn to work with nature and not fight against it. If there are any watershed awareness events in your area, please email a picture and details to jessica-espenshade@pacd.org.

EPA Celebrates American Wetlands Month: Learn! Explore! Take Action!

EPA and partners are announcing a number of events to celebrate American Wetlands Month this May. On May 21 and 29, the Association of State Wetland Managers will hold webinars on state and regional wetland restoration strategies and designing wetlands for rare amphibians. For more information, visit <http://aswm.org>. On May 30, EPA and NOAA will hold a webinar on coastal wetlands restoration efforts. To register, go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/833866322>. For information on other activities happening this month, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/> or share and embed EPA's American Wetlands Month widget available at <http://tinyurl.com/3935qyh>.

Pennsylvania's Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species

Finding new infestations of aquatic invasive species (AIS) early, before they have a chance to become established and spread, is extremely important for AIS control and management in Pennsylvania. Therefore, Pennsylvania Sea Grant developed Pennsylvania's Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species to help agency field biologists, water conservation officers and others working in Pennsylvania's waters to quickly and accurately identify potential new AIS infestations. Read more...

http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/discovery-watersheds/news/2013/pennsylvania2019s-field-guide-to-aquatic-invasive-species?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29

iConservePA H2O Webpage Fills Up With New Water Content

iConservePA's website is turning its focus to water. We've added new content to help you use water wisely in all aspects of your life. At home, we can make simple choices inside and outside the home that help save money and water. Managing storm water, providing access to water-based recreation, and protecting water supplies are vital to citizens' health and well-being. If you are an outdoor enthusiast, you know our lakes, rivers and streams provide natural beauty and countless opportunities for exploration and adventure. Log on today to find daily tips and new ways to conserve. <http://iconservempa.org/relatedwaterresources/index.htm>

Videos to Watch

- [Field Survey of Macroinvertebrates in the Susquehanna River Basin](#)
- [Program Shares Storm Drain Stencils](#) - a GiveCorps Project
- [Soil Health Lessons in a Minute: Soil Stability Test](#)

PooPrints™ works by creating a community DNA database of each dog on the property

PooPrints West Introduces the only DNA dog waste management & control program for Apartment, Condo and HOA Management! Our PooPrints™ program eliminates dog waste on your property. If dog waste is found, the DNA can be matched to the correct dog and their owner. Keep your property clean for all of your residents to enjoy! PooPrints™ by BioPet Vet Lab is the responsible pet waste solution for managed communities and for the environment. <http://www.pooprintswest.com/#!about1/c1aza>



WATERSHED FACILITATION ASSISTANCE

Clean Streets Mean Clean Streams – May 23

Thurs., May 23rd, 11a.m. PDT / 2 p.m. EDT. Improve your street cleaning and stormwater quality program. Join international sweeping expert, [Roger Sutherland, P.E.](#), as he explores the science behind the relationship between an effective street sweeping program and its ability to significantly reduce pollutants found in stormwater. Sutherland will start at the source of the problem—"Street Dirt"—exploring the contaminated sediment-like material that accumulates on urban streets and highways, the pollutants it contains, and its chemical and physical characteristics that influence the effectiveness of a cleaning program. We'll discuss its influence on street runoff and why the quality of street runoff is important to an effective stormwater management program. Additionally, we'll review the essential elements of a street sweeping program for maximum effectiveness, outline the appropriate way to manage these elements, and identify the associated program

and water quality benefits. In this webinar, Sutherland will also introduce and discuss the various types of street cleaners exploring both their advantages and disadvantages. And, we'll learn how to test street sweeper pickup performance, how to evaluate the results, and why both matter. Sutherland will also introduce to the unique Simplified Particulate Transport Model (SIMPTM) which can be used to optimize the sweeping frequency of various land uses needed to cost effectively reduce the amount of pollutants being transported by Stormwater, as well as discuss these results and results from other SIMPTM applications. We'll overview the various available best management practices (BMPs) and show how the unit cost of street sweeping compares to these alternative stormwater treatment technologies. And, finally we'll explore the growing body of evidence that demonstrates Clean Streets Means Clean Streams.

<http://www.foresteruniversity.net/webinar-clean-streets-clean-streams.html>

2013 River Experience – Jun 1

York – Join SGHA for the 5th Annual River Experience, 5:30PM - 8:30PM. We're bringing the River to the City. Enjoy a fun, relaxing evening amid Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection, on temporary display at Marketview Arts in Downtown York. Tastings from Local Restaurants, Wineries & Breweries. Silent Auction to benefit SGHA. Live Music. Tickets may be purchased online or by calling 717-252-0229 ext. 6. New or renewal of SGHA Membership's available at half-price at time of event ticket purchase. Take advantage of this great offer! Become a Sponsor of this event by calling 717-252-0229 ext. 6.

Webinar: SRBC's Low Flow Protection Policy – Jun 18

Tuesday June 18, 2013 12 PM to 1 PM – The new Low Flow Protection Policy (LFPP) and Technical Guidance, adopted by the Commission on December 14, 2012, provides implementation guidance to the Commission staff, project sponsors and the public on the criteria, methodology, and process used in its review of withdrawal applications to evaluate potential adverse impact to streams during low flow conditions. The LFPP is grounded in contemporary instream flow science and provides for seasonal flow recommendations based on the Susquehanna River Basin ecosystem, which are preferred as ecosystem flow needs are naturally seasonal. The LFPP will be used in concert with other tools to establish limitations or conditions such as passby flow or conservation release requirements on withdrawal approvals issued by the Commission. Mr Balay will discuss:

- Recent revisions to SRBC's policy for low flow protection, developed with the goal of recognizing and accommodating natural and seasonal variations to hydrology; and
- Recommendations from The Nature Conservancy that inspired the policy, the various provisions of the technical guidance, and presentation of a few real-world applications.

Register: <http://state.awra.org/pennsylvania/Webinars/SRBCLowFlow.htm>

Environmental Educators Conference – Seats Available! – Jun 19

Seats are still available for the 2013 Environmental Educator Conference in Harrisburg on June 19! The event will take place at the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center, Wildwood Park, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Running from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the conference is an opportunity for conservation district education and outreach staff, teachers and other educators to learn about environmental education resources that are available to them and also to network with other education professionals. There is a \$25 registration fee which includes program materials, lunch and refreshments. For registration details, including the complete agenda and session descriptions, click [here](#). The conference is made possible by a grant from the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Grants Program through the Northumberland County Conservation District. For more information about the conference, contact Terry Fisher at terry-fisher@pacd.org or Brandi Hunter-Davenport at brandi-davenport@pacd.org. You can all also call PACD at 717-238-7223

8th Annual Gardening with Native Plants – The Tour – Jun 29

Although we have changed our name, our goal is the same. We have added more features to our tour to show how they use native plants to conserve water, reduce pesticide and fertilizer use and create habitat for wildlife. Along with learning how to create wildlife habitat and being introduced to new native plants, you will have an opportunity to see a bumble bee colony and talk about the importance of pollinators. You will also have a chance to "Ask the Expert" about problems you have in the garden, get ideas about the control of erosion and other water problems, learn about butterflies and their host plants, using containers for planting native perennials and see a native bumblebee hive in action. Ask our Master Gardeners how to start with natives if you haven't already started. As you tour these gardens, notice there is less lawn, closer spacing of plants and that the plants are chosen to enhance wildlife habitat. Take a stroll through the gardens, learn, and enjoy the day! It will be held on Saturday, June 29th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. – rain date will be the following Sunday, June 30. We have 5 locations in York County: 2716 Sparrow Drive, York; 652 Observatory Drive, Lewisberry; 2000 Cly Road, York Haven; 1032 Edison Street, York; and 8829 Park Street, Red Lion. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Extension for \$8.00, or on the day of the tour at any of the garden locations for \$10.00.

SAVE THE DATE – National Roundtable on New Tools for Water Quality: Trading and Beyond – Jul 18

It's been a decade since EPA's Water Quality Trading Policy was established. Financial, regulatory and demographic challenges and opportunities underscore the need for innovative tools and market-based strategies. The U.S. Water Alliance's Business Advisory Council will convene key policy makers, industry leaders, agriculture, environmental groups, and others to discuss practices and policies for advancing market-based solutions aimed at accelerating the cleanup up of impaired waters around the Nation on July 18 at the Hilton Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio. The dialogue will highlight advances made in trading over the past decade, continuing concerns, and the future of trading based on growing needs, new technologies, developing standards, and greater transparency and accountability. Is it time for updating and improving a national water quality trading policy based on lessons to date? How do we find common ground on the best ways to accelerate the pace of environmental progress? Please join us around a large and diverse table to share insights and explore opportunities for water's future. Email lkoss@uswa.us for more details. http://www.uswateralliance.org/2013/05/09/july-18-save-the-date-national-roundtable-on-new-tools-for-water-quality-trading-and-beyond/?goback=.gde_4321281_member_240470285



WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Local Sustainability Matching Fund Round 3 – May 22

The Funders' Network provides matching investments from national foundations to build partnerships between sustainability directors and local place-based foundations. Funds are to be used to advance discrete sustainability initiatives that demonstrate broad-based community support and engagement. Awards will range from \$25,000 to \$75,000 with a 1:1 match required. Application Deadline: May 22, 2013.

<http://www.fundersnetwork.org/participate/green-building/local-sustainability-matching-fund>

CSP Applications due – May 31

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that NRCS's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will provide roughly \$175 million in funding for conservation on up to 12.6 million acres this year. Though applications for CSP are accepted year round, it's important to submit applications by May 31 to your local NRCS office to ensure consideration for this year's funding. For the self-screening checklist and more information on CSP, [click here](#) or visit your local NRCS office.

TIGER Grant Funds Available for 2013 – Jun 1

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced a fifth round of the popular TIGER transportation grant program. DOT is seeking surface transportation projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or a metropolitan area. Approximately \$475 million is available. Application Deadline: June 1, 2013. <http://www.dot.gov/tiger>

NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Announces 2013 Request for Proposals – Jun 6

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund announced its 2013 funding cycle. Proposals are due Thursday, June 6th at midnight. The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund will award approximately \$8 million - \$10 million in grants 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, Altria Group and CSX. Grants will be awarded in two categories:

- Small Watershed Grants (SWGs) of \$20,000 to \$200,000 each will be awarded to nonprofit organizations and local governments working to protect and improve local waters that contribute to the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay, while building citizen-based resource stewardship. These grants require minimum matching contributions valued at 25% of total project costs.
- Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants (INSRGs) of \$200,000 to \$750,000 each will be awarded to nonprofit organizations, local governments, universities and state agencies to demonstrate innovative approaches to accelerate adoption of the most cost effective and sustainable approaches to reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. These grants encourage non-Federal matching contributions valued at 50% of total project costs (i.e., 1:1 ratio).

http://www.waterwordsthatwork.com/blog/untitledpost-9?utm_source=April+2013+WREN+E-News&utm_campaign=April+2013+E-News&utm_medium=email

Chesapeake Bay Trust's K-12 Environmental Education Mini Grant Program - Jun 7

The Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini Grant Program supports activities such as Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE), teacher professional development and programs to advance environmental literacy in the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams. What this funds: Activities such as Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE), teacher professional development and programs to advance environmental literacy. Who can apply: Non-profit organizations, community associations, faith-based organizations and more. See [RFP](#) for full list of organizations. How much can be awarded: Up to \$5,000. Is match required? The Trust requires that all non-Title 1 schools provide funding for at least half of their field trip or experience costs. Deadline: First deadline is June 7, 2013 at 5:00 pm. For other deadlines, see below. http://www.cbtrust.org/site/c.mjJPKXPCJnH/b.5457547/k.D6AC/K12_Environmental_Education_Mini_Grant.htm
Partners: The Mini Grant Program is supported by a partnership with the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Bay Watershed Education and Training Program](#).

Commonwealth Finance Authority Accepting Applications For Water Supply, Wastewater Infrastructure Projects - Jun 28

The Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure Program (which shall be referred to as "PennWorks") was established by the General Assembly, subsequent to the overwhelming approval by the electorate of a referendum in May of 2004. The program provides single-year or multiyear grants to municipal utilities and municipal authorities and loans to municipalities, municipal authorities, industrial development corporations and investor-owned water or wastewater enterprises for projects which construct, expand or improve water and wastewater infrastructure which are related to economic development. The PennWorks Program is administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority ("CFA"). http://www.newpa.com/sites/default/files/uploads/PennWorks_guidelines-2013.pdf?utm_source=Winter+2013+Water+Policy+News&utm_campaign=Winter+2013+WPN&utm_medium=archive&utm_source=April+2013+WREN+E-News&utm_campaign=April+2013+E-News&utm_medium=email

Wild Resource Conservation Program accepting grant applications – Jul 1

The Wild Resource Conservation Program is now accepting grant applications in the following subject areas: 1) Surveys, 2) Research, 3) Conservation and Management, and 4) Education. Applications must be received by July 1. To apply for a grant, go to <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/conservationscience/wrcp/grants/index.htm>

If you have any questions regarding this year's grant priorities, please contact Greg Czarnecki at 717-783-1337 or gczarnecki@pa.gov

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Jenn Girton at 717-787-3212 or jgirton@pa.gov

Walkable Watershed Initiative Pilot Project – Jul 1

Applications are sought for The Walkable Watershed initiative, a new opportunity for local governments and community organizations in the Mid-Atlantic Region to improve both water quality and the quality of life in urban, underserved areas. This initiative calls for visualizing a range of physical improvements that transform a neighborhood, from better creek access and vegetation to enhanced sidewalks, street plantings,

parcs, and other communal spaces. The value of professional services and materials is approximately \$30,000. Application Deadline: July 1, 2013. <http://www.walkablewatershed.com/assistance/>

Green Infrastructure Funding Through US Forest Service Grant Program – Jul 15

We are pleased to announce the posting of the 2014 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program: Request for Proposals (RFP) Due to the continual changes to our end of year grant award due dates, we are shifting the program timeline to allow more time for applicants to apply, and proposals to be reviewed, and awarded. This year the grant proposals will be due July 15, 2013. We plan to announce future grant "Requests for Proposals" in January of each year. The 2014 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Information is posted on the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council's Website: www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac and Grants.gov www.grants.gov. Search [CFDA number: 10.675], or [Grant Opportunity No.: USDA-FS-UCF-01-2014] The grant applications are to be submitted through grants.gov: This year, the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) has identified three national grant categories:

- Making Urban Trees and Forests More Resilient to the Impacts of Natural Disasters and the Long-term Impacts of Climate Change
- Green Infrastructure Jobs Analysis
- Utilizing Green Infrastructure to Manage and Mitigate Stormwater to Improve Water Quality

An applicant may apply to more than one category; however they are to use a separate application for each category. The purpose of these grants is to address national issues. This RFP is not for local or State-wide projects. Please contact me or your Forest Service Regional Urban Forestry Program Manager, if you are interested in applying and have any questions. The Forest Service Regional Urban forestry Coordinators are located: http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/contact_regional.html. Thank you for your support of the U.S. Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. Nancy Stremple, Natural Resource Specialist, Executive Staff, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, (NUCFAC), U.S. Forest Service. Phone: 202-205-7829. E-mail: nstremple@fs.fed.us. Web: www.fs.fed.us/ucf.

South Mountain mini-grants available – Jul 31

The South Mountain Partnership Mini-Grant program, administered by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, is currently accepting applications for the 2013 grant round until July 31. [Read more...](#)

Additional Funding Announced for National Water Quality Initiative Conservation in PA

As part of its commitment to improving impaired watersheds, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced additional funding for the second year of its National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). Up to \$1,100,000 in financial assistance will be made available to Pennsylvania farmers and forest landowners in three selected watersheds to implement conservation practices intended to improve water quality. The selected watersheds include the [Upper Kishacoquillas Creek](#) in Mifflin County, the [Upper Maiden Creek](#) in Berks and Lehigh counties, and [Sacony Creek](#) in Berks County. With help from state agencies, partners and the NRCS State Technical Committee, these watersheds were identified as priority areas in 2012 because on-farm conservation investments will deliver the greatest water quality improvement benefits. For more information, click [here](#).



WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A Farmer's Story: Conservation District Sustain Agriculture

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) has released "Conservation Districts Sustain Agriculture: A Farmer's Story." The two-and-a-half minute video highlights the types of work districts do to support the state's residents and the economy. This video, while short in length, is long in reach and explains how the districts help sustain the state's number one industry: agriculture. Many times, the conservation districts assist farmers with their nutrient management plans and installation of best management practices (BMPs) so they can stay productive. Agriculture feeds families. You can access the video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=oQI9fLSZ0mM. PACD is asking the legislature to provide funding through the state's general fund to support the districts' work in 66 Pennsylvania counties.

Water quality index for ag runoff streamlined

Ag Professional – USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has developed a new Web-based tool to help producers easily calculate the quality of water flowing off their fields. It's called the Water Quality Index for Agricultural Runoff, or WQlag for short, and this is how it works: Producers input variables about their field, such as slope, soil characteristics, nutrient and pest management, tillage practices and conservation practices. The WQlag then takes the complex scientific information of these variables and synthesizes them into a single number. <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Water-quality-index-for-ag-runoff-streamlined-and-accessible-204748211.html?lisms=195951&c=y>

New LID Storm Water Management System Launched

Oldcastle Precast and Oldcastle Architectural announced the U.S. launch of their new low impact development (LID) storm water management system, PermeCapture, an all-inclusive storm water run-off control system that manages water volume in addition to protecting water quality by providing integrated pretreatment. PermeCapture combines the advantages and versatility of structural precast concrete modules (vaults) with the aesthetics and performance of permeable interlocking concrete pavers to provide a stand-alone, low maintenance, LID green solution for storm water retention, detention, reuse, ground water recharge and flood management.

Read more... http://www.estormwater.com/new-lid-storm-water-management-system-launched?goback=.gde_1982059_member_235599664

Real-time Stormwater Monitoring System with Alerts Helps County Track Watershed Health and Maintain NPDES Compliance

After receiving the text indicating a real-time spike in ammonium and conductivity, field technicians dropped what they were doing to track the potential illicit discharge. Something unusual was going on near one of the stormwater monitoring stations in the Reedy Watershed. The team quickly mobilized and drove to the station. Using a portable water quality sonde from YSI, the team began taking readings around the station, and then continued to take readings as they hiked upstream in search of changes in the water chemistry. First they found a small pipe dumping water in the river; they traced the pipe back to a small tributary. Finally, they pinpointed the source... The real-time alerts from the continuous monitoring station had given the team fast insight into a suspicious discharge and they reacted quickly to address it. Read the full story: [Real-time Stormwater Monitoring System for NPDES Compliance](#)

Research Confirms Government Commitment to Improve Water Quality

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) released new research findings that confirm local government investment in public water and wastewater infrastructure and services has reached an all time high in 2010 at \$111.4 billion, compared to spending \$7 billion in 1972 when the Clean Water Act was passed. Public spending on water and wastewater over the decade 2001 to 2010 was \$864 billion. Spending on water at the local level continues to grow at a faster rate than several standard national economic indicators. The rate of growth in public water spending over the decade exceeded the rate of inflation for both capital and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) investments. Public water spending increased 60% over the decade compared to 37% growth in GDP over the same period. Average year over year growth in public water spending over the decade was 5.99%. Read more... http://www.estormwater.com/research-confirms-government-commitment-improve-water-quality?goback=.gde_1982059_member_239509201

Letter from Leadership: Stormwater fees a useful funding source

Chesapeake Currents – I bristle when I hear people refer to stormwater utility fees as a "rain tax." In fact, these fees generate critical funding for green practices that mitigate the effects that roads, parking lots and rooftops have on our environment. Businesses and residents have been adding impervious surfaces to the landscape for decades, preventing rain from percolating into the ground, where it would otherwise recharge groundwater and provide base flow for nearby streams. Instead, these impervious surfaces increase the volume and velocity of rainwater, causing flooding, damaging property and destroying local waterways. I am not trying to fix blame, but to inform folks about the problems associated with stormwater management and the best ways to correct them. [Read More](#)

Report: The Importance of Operation and Maintenance for the Long-Term Success of Green Infrastructure

Recent EPA Report: "The Importance of Operation and Maintenance for the Long-Term Success of Green Infrastructure: A Review of Green Infrastructure O&M Practices in ARRA Clean Water State Revolving Fund Projects" The report examines the O&M practices of 22 green infrastructure projects funded by the ARRA CWSRF, and highlights both the opportunities and challenges associated with green infrastructure O&M. Activities examined include planning and tracking of maintenance, training and education, use of partnerships, and funding. http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/cwsrf/upload/Green-Infrastructure-OM-Report.pdf

Researchers think industrious oysters could clean up Chesapeake

Washington Post – Behold the tiny oyster. No, not on the half-shell, with a squirt of lemon, but in its watery habitat, the Choptank River. Out there on a reef with many other oysters, the bivalve is awesome, a janitor that helps remove pollution with incredible efficiency. A research team in Oregon has produced embryonic stem cells from cloned human embryos. A reef seeded with oysters by the state of Maryland – about 130 oysters per square meter – removed 20 times more nitrogen pollution from stuff such as home lawn and farm fertilizer in one year than a nearby site that had not been seeded, according to [a recently released study](#). Read more... http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/researchers-think-industrious-oysters-could-clean-up-chesapeake/2013/05/05/1778a79c-b353-11e2-9a98-4be1688d7d84_story.html

PENNVEST Grant/Loan Calculator Tool

One of the first questions people ask about the PENNVEST Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program is, "Will we be able to get a grant?" PACD developed the Loan/Grant Calculation Worksheets to help potential applicants answer that question before they start the online application process. While some grants are available for nonpoint source projects, it's important to remember that PENNVEST is primarily a low-interest loan program. To access the worksheets, visit <http://pacd.org/pennvest-application-assistance/loangrant-calculation-worksheets>. For more information about the PENNVEST application process, contact Terry Fisher at terry-fisher@pacd.org or 717-238-7223.

Web Soil Survey Version 3.0 to be Released

The WEB Soil Survey Platform provides on-line access to soil maps and data for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties. In late May, 2013, Web Soil Survey Version 3.0 is scheduled to be released and will bring many changes. Some of the highlights of Version 3.0 include: The Area of Interest (AOI) has been expanded to 100,000 acres from the traditional 10,000 acres, which is a major benefit for users working on watershed-level or MLRA-level projects. The AOI can be saved for later use or can be exported to your GIS system for incorporation into other projects or you can import an AOI from a GIS project or zip file. Please be on the lookout for the release of Web Soil Survey 3.0 in late May and the many new features available for using soils information. For additional information relating to Web Soil Survey and the many features click [here](#)

Comment Period Open for Habitat Designation for Freshwater Mussels Jun 10

The Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking comment on the estimated cost and economic impacts and draft environmental assessment of the proposed critical habitat designation of two freshwater mussels. All comments must be received by June 10, 2013. Read more [here](#)

