



WAY E-NEWS

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

Volume 8, Issue 14

June 30, 2008

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – "Smart Growth must be more than a plan – it must change reality on the ground..."
– Sanibel Bicycle Club's Government Issues Committee past chair Darla LeTourneau

WATERSHED CONTACTS

COMPREHENSIVE 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

EMERGENCIES – (800) 541-4741

- Chemical and oil spills from transport trucks, trains and industrial facilities

ENVIRONMENTAL – (877) 333-1904

- Air Pollution from burning materials other than household garbage
- Illegal dumping of wastes
- Encroachment on surface waters and floodways
- Groundwater contamination
- Industrial sewage problems
- Mining/quarrying operational problems (800) 541-2050
- Pollution of water supply wells
- Underground storage tank failures

FISHERIES – (800) 541-2050

- Wildlife (fish, reptiles, amphibians) nuisance problems or to report violations

GAME & WILDLIFE – (888) 742-8001

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

ILLEGAL DUMPING – (877) 772-3673

- Illegal dumping on state forest and park lands

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

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WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS

[Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring \(ALLARM\)](http://www.dickinson.edu/allarm) – www.dickinson.edu/allarm

<> Jinnie Woodward, Assistant Director, woodwarj@dickinson.edu or 717.245.1021. ALLARM Phone: 717.245.1135 fax: 717.245.1971

[Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](http://www.alliancechesbay.org/) – www.alliancechesbay.org/

<> Contact: Donna Morelli, Director Pennsylvania Office, 3310 Market Street Suite A, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011. Phone: (717) 737-8622 Fax: (717) 737-8650. E-Mail: acbpa@acb-online.org

[American Rivers](http://www.americanrivers.org) – www.americanrivers.org

<> Contact: Sara Dueling, Associate Director, Restoring Rivers Initiative, American Rivers, Pennsylvania Field Office, 355 N. 21st Street, Suite 309, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Phone: 717.763.0741

[Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth](http://carrollcitizens.com/) - <http://carrollcitizens.com/>

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

[Codorus Creek Improvement Partnership](http://www.codoruscreek.com) – www.codoruscreek.com

- July 24 – Next meeting, 7:00 PM, at 324 W. Market St., York, PA.

<> Contact: Michael Helfrich, Codorus Creek Improvement Partnership, at 324 W. Market St., York PA 17401. Ph: 717-718-5431. E-mail: info@codoruscreek.com

[Codorus Creek Watershed Association](http://www.codoruscreek.net) – www.codoruscreek.net

- HELP-Buffers Program accepting applications for 2008 projects
 - Next Meeting: July 14, at Jeff Kuhn's River Roost
- <> Contact: Jim Leaman at 843-2929

[Codorus Implementation Committee](http://www.ecoconstructionllc.net)

<> Contact: Jake Romig, Coordinator, 848-4717 or e-mail jakeromig@ecoconstructionllc.net

[Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association](http://www.ccwa.org)

- PICNIC for CCWA members. Please Attend to get to know the other members and the board. Please see attached flier announcing the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association picnic at Willow Mill at noon on Saturday July 19. Please respond to Michele Saul at michele_saul@hotmail.com for more information and to register. Please register so we can know how much food to bring along.

[Conewago Canoe Club](http://www.conewagocanoecclub.org) – www.conewagocanoecclub.org

- Sept.4 – Next meeting of club, 7:00 pm, at Mount Zion United Church of Christ at Ridgewood Road in Pleasureville.
- Check web site for pool schedule and other activities

[Deer Creek Watershed Association](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/PlanningZoning/WRAS) – www.harfordcountymd.gov/PlanningZoning/WRAS.

<> Contact Lee McDaniel at ldmcdaniel@aol.com.

[Friends of Codorus State Park](http://www.friendsofcodorus.org) – www.friendsofcodorus.org

<> Contact Codorus State Park, 2600 Smith Station Road, Hanover, PA 17331. (717) 637-2816. Warren Werntz, Manager

[Friends of Loch Raven Reservoir](mailto:FriendsLochRaven@aol.com) – FriendsLochRaven@aol.com

<> Contact: Nate Thompson 410-667-9825 (home) or natect@gmail.com

[Greater Hanover Alliance](mailto:pwingert@legacycaps.com) – pwingert@legacycaps.com

<> Contact: G. Paige Wingert, President, Greater Hanover Alliance, Inc., Hanover, PA 17331. Ph :(717) 630-0892.

[Gunpowder Valley Conservancy](http://www.gunpowdervalley.org/) – www.gunpowdervalley.org/

<> Resource: http://www.gunpowderfalls.org/2006/08/sept_16th_join_.html

[Izaak Walton League York Chapter](http://www.yorkchapter67iwla.org/)– www.yorkchapter67iwla.org/

- July 8 – Board meeting, 7:00 pm, at Clubhouse
 - July 16 – Club meeting 7:00 pm, at Clubhouse
- <> Contact Lee Irwin 428-9368

[Lancaster-York Heritage Region](http://www.lyhr.org) – www.lyhr.org

<> Contact Mark Platts, Lancaster-York Heritage Region, 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368. Office: 717-252-0229. E-mail: info@lyhr.org.

[Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper](http://www.LowerSusquehannaRiverkeeper.org) – www.LowerSusquehannaRiverkeeper.org

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

Maryland's Upper West Shore Trib Team – www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/index.html

- Hello again everyone, at our next UWS Trib Team meeting we will continue our focus on the source sector reviews to gauge our progress towards meeting our 2010 goals. Point sources are on the agenda for July, and we'll have an update from MDE on progress towards upgrading the major and smaller WWTP's in our basin. We've also asked MDE to be prepared to discuss any innovative technologies that are on the horizon. ALSO, we will have a presentation on the 2010 Trust Fund RFP... so please bring along others from your county, municipality, watershed organization or SCD who might be interested in partnering on submitting a proposal for the DNR portion of the 25 million. The agenda and speakers are still pending...but hold that date, and we'll see everyone in Bel Air on Monday, July 7th. Please note that for our July and August meeting, we will meet at the Harford County Administration Building on 220 South Main Street, in the second floor
 - Maryland's BayStat Newsletter Subscribe at www.baystat.maryland.gov
- <> Contact: Mike Bilek, Tributary Team Coordinator, MD DNR, Tawes Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401. Ph: 410-260-8988. E-mail: mbilek@dnr.state.md.us

Mid-Atlantic Ecological Landscapes Partnership [MAEscapes] – <http://york.extension.psu.edu/Horticulture/events.html>

Important dates to remember...

- July 30 – Advisory Board meeting, 6:30 pm, at the ANNEX. Strategic Plan unveiling.
 - Sept. 19 – Fall Demonstration Site Workshop
 - Sept. 27 – Watershed Weekend Fall Open House & Native Plant Sale
 - Dec. 5 – Winter Demonstration Site Workshop
- <> Contact: 717-840-7408 or Connie Schmotzer at cxs51@psu.edu

Prettyboy Watershed Alliance – www.prettyboywatershed.org

<> Contact: Nancy Shaper at nshaper@jhmi.edu

Shank's Mare "Go Play Outside" – www.shanksmare.com

- Check our calendar of events link to our Website at for more information or call us toll free at 877-554-5080. All programs require advance registration and payment. "Member" rates are offered to our Adventure Club participants (\$25/year/household dues give a 10% in-shop discount, 5% additional discount on sale items, and "Member" rates on all programs).

Spoutwood Farm CSA – www.spoutwood.com

- Oct. 5 – Mother Earth Harvest Fair
- <> Contact: www.spoutwood.com or contact: Rob Wood, 717-235-6610, Spoutwood@supernet.com

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

<> Kim Anderson at sgfornyc@aol.com.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission – www.srbcc.net

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

- July 9 – Chapter meeting, 7:00 pm, Club house, Porters Sidling
- <> Contact: Tom Finenze at 840-1372 or tom@codorustu.org

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

- On June 16 Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited began the long awaited stream projects on Piney Hill Road at the Hemlocks in the C&R FFO area includes some rock toe and two deflectors.
 - July 16 – General Meeting 7:00pm at the Collinsville F&G Club.
- <> Contact: Ron Heuston, President MCTU, 244-1851 or Heuy1955@aol.com

Watershed Alliance of Adams County – www.adamswatersheds.org/pages/5/index.htm

- July 16 – Members meet, 4:30 pm. at the Adams County Ag Center, Gettysburg
- <> Contact: Michelle Kirk 717-677-4628 or email at: mkirk@adamswatersheds.org

Watershed Alliance of York – www.watershedsyork.org

- July 2 – Next Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, at CCIP (324 W. Market St., York, PA). **CANCELLED!**
- July 31 – The Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. (WAY) is pleased to announce the opening of registration for the 6th Annual Watershed Weekend to be held September 27 and 28, 2008. The purpose of the Watershed Weekend is to increase public awareness about the importance of their watersheds. The idea is to encourage as many WAY partner organizations as possible to plan and sponsor one activity, locally. Past venues have included educational programs, hiking and paddling tours, stream cleanups, riparian buffer plantings or any activity that will draw people to you and allow them to participate in some manner while learning more about your organization and watershed. Individuals and families would be encouraged through multi-media Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to tour one or more of their local watersheds and attend the specific activities being hosted by each group. WAY will serve a central coordinating role, handling advertising and promotion and provide technical assistance for the venue. Our responsibility will be to get as many organizations and people involved in the tour as possible. Venue sponsoring organizations will be responsible for planning, staffing and implementing their sponsored activity. Watershed Weekend participation is open to all conservation, environmental, sportsmen, and watershed groups, nonprofit organizations, and governing agencies in Maryland's Upper West Shore of Maryland and Pennsylvania's Lower Susquehanna River regions, of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Registration opens June 16, 2008 and closes July 31st. There is no cost to register or participate. If you would like to sponsor a venue, then please visit our web site at www.watershedsyork.org to download and complete a registration form and mail or e-mail it to WAY, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402 or e-mail Gary R.

Peacock at gpeacock@yorkccd.org. For more information about how to sponsor a Watershed Weekend venue, you may call Gary R. Peacock at (717) 840-7430 or e-mail. We hope you choose to sponsor a venue and be a part of the 6th Annual Watershed Weekend 2008.

- DONATE – GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue to the charities its users designate. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter WAY as the charity you want to support.
 - WAY E-News is 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 (1,000+). 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

Yellow Breeches Watershed Association – www.ybwa.org

- Next Meeting: YBWA meetings listed on web site.
- <> Contact Bob Edwards, Secretary, at redwa218@comcast.net or (717) 761-2756

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

- Check out our new web site!
- <> Contact 717-428-3673; liriodendron@netzero.net

YorkCounts – yorkcounts.org

York County – www.york-county.org

- <> Contact the Board of Commissioners, Administrative Center, 28 East Market St. York, PA 17401-1588. Phone: 717-771-9964.

York County Agriculture Land Preserve – www.york-county.gov

- <> Contact Patricia McCandless, Director, 118 Pleasant Acres Road (Suite F), York, PA 17402. Hours of Operation (for business office): 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Phone: 717-840-7400. E-mail: PMcCandless@york-county.org

York County Community Foundation – www.yccf.org

- <> Contact Jane Sload at 717.848.3733 or jsload@yccf.org.

York County Conservation Alliance – www.yorkcountyconservationalliance.org

- Input from attendees at the Jan. 29, 2008 meeting of YCCA vision, concerns, issues and purpose posted online.
- <> Contact: Jane Heller at info@yorkcountyconservationalliance.org or 717-845-3797, or mail to YCCA - 543 Dupont Ave, York, Pa. 17403

York County Conservation District – www.yorkccd.org

- July 10 – District Board of Directors meeting, 7:00 pm, at ANNEX
- <> Contact Mark Kimmel, District Manager, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402. Phone: 717-840-7430. E-mail Yorkccd@yorkccd.org. Office hours: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM weekdays.

York County Planning Commission – www.ycpc.org

- July 1 – Next Meeting of Planning Commission, 7:30 pm, York County Administrative Center, City of York, PA
- <> Contact: 717-771-9870 or e-mail planner@ycpc.org

York County PSU Cooperative Extension – <http://york.extension.psu.edu/>

- <> Contact Jeff Myers, Director, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402-9041. Phone: 717-840-7408. Office Hours: 8:00 to 4:30. County Email: YorkExt@psu.edu.

York County Environment Corps – www.watershedalliance.org

- <> Contact: Gary Bartell. Ph: 751-2412.



WATERSHED EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The 15th Annual Secchi Dip-In June 28 - July 20, 2008

This is an invitation to participate again in this year's Secchi Dip-In, which starts next Friday. This is the 15th year of the Dip-In, and the three week event in June and July continues to demonstrate that volunteers such as you can collect quality data. The Dip-In is a network of volunteer programs and volunteers, that, together with all the other Dip-In participants, gathering and providing continent-wide (and world-wide) information. Please visit the Dip-In Website at <http://dipin.kent.edu>.

DEP SECRETARY LAUDS HOME DEPOT'S NATIONWIDE CFL RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty applauded The Home Depot's leadership for announcing today that it will recycle energy-efficient, compact fluorescent light bulbs for free at all of its nearly 2,000 stores. McGinty said having a large, market-leading business like The Home Depot engage on this issue will help spur the wider use of the bulbs, more commonly called CFLs. Read more...

<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/news/cwp/view.asp?Q=538268&A=3>

CAC Elects 2008-09 Officers and EQB Representatives

At its June 17 meeting, the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) to DEP held elections for officers and Environmental Quality Board (EQB) representatives for the coming year. Richard Manfredi of Perkasio, Bucks County, and Joyce Hatala of Fleetville, Lackawanna County, were elected chair and vice chair, respectively. Manfredi, principal in Manfredi, LLC, a public affairs company, has served on the council since 2002. He currently serves on the Water Committee and represents council on the EQB. Hatala operates Joyce Hatala Associates, which specializes in environmental grant writing and projects. She has been on council since 2005 and serves on the Environmental Standards, Integrated Projects and Water committees. The following members were elected to serve on the EQB: Jolene Chinchilli (Elizabethtown, Lancaster County), Walter Heine (Newville, Cumberland County), Bernie Hoffnar (Six Mile Run, Bedford County), Richard Manfredi (Perkasio, Bucks County) and Dave Strong (Brockway, Jefferson County). EQB alternates are Cynthia Carrow (Sewickley, Allegheny County), Gail Conner (Newtown Square, Delaware County), Pat Lupo (Erie, Erie County), Bruce Tetkoskie (Lavelle, Schuylkill County) and Margaret Urban. Officers and EQB representatives serve one-year terms. CACI is a nonpartisan group of 18 citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Secretary of DEP also serves as a member. The council is legislatively charged with reviewing all environmental laws of the Commonwealth, studying the work of DEP and making recommendations for improvement of all of the above. For more information, visit council's website at www.depweb.state.pa.us/cac.

Green Communities Newsletter – May 2008

Green Affordable Housing, the Green Communities Developers Summit, and information on Federal Grant Funds for Green Affordable Developments are all topics of discussion in the May 2008 Green Communities newsletter from Enterprise. Green Communities, an Enterprise program, is the first national green building program developed for affordable housing. Enterprise's vision through Green Communities is to fundamentally transform the way we think about, design and build affordable homes. The Green Communities e-newsletter is published monthly. Read the current issue, browse the archives, or sign up for free electronic delivery at the resource link below.

Resource: http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/news/newsletters/archives/may_2008_news.asp

Center for Watershed Protection launches its new website

Last week, some regular visitors to the Center for Watershed Protection's website were surprised to see it completely transformed with a new look, a new structure, and new resources. After a long planning process, the Center has created a more resource-rich site that intends to serve two equal purposes: provide a solid understanding of what the Center does and what it's about, and to provide guidance and research resources from the Center and other organizations to watershed professionals. Some highlights of the new website:

- Collaborative projects, such as watershed plans and stormwater manuals, can be accessed from the Center site
- All file downloads are now free, including all 150 short research articles that make up the exhaustive 800+ page book, The Practice of Watershed Protection
- Resources from other organizations can be accessed by topic in the Resource Library

Visit the new website at www.cwp.org, and share with the Center your thoughts at center@cwp.org.



WATERSHED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program Accepting Applications – Aug 1

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting applications for Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) across the United States. This program currently offers technical support for local conservation projects in 290 communities nationwide. These collaborative projects vary widely, with preference given to those that include an NPS area, provide physical connections among resources, focus on conservation and outdoor recreation or partner with a health organization. Non-profit organizations, community groups, tribes and state or local government agencies are eligible to apply. Selected projects typically run for one year with an opportunity for a second year of additional assistance. Short-term help is also available. Final project selection is usually completed in early November. The deadline to submit RTCA applications is August 1. For more information or to apply, go to www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/contactus/cu_apply.html.

DEP Accepting Applications for \$500 Hybrid Vehicle Rebates

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for a \$500 rebate on the purchase or lease of hybrid vehicles under its Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate Program. The program, authorized through the Alternative Fuel Incentive Act provides \$500 rebates to assist with the incremental costs of purchasing or leasing a new hybrid electric vehicle. The total of both the EPA city miles per gallon (MPG) and the EPA highway MPG must meet or exceed 55 MPG to achieve the fuel efficiency requirements. The hybrid vehicle must also have a carbon footprint of less than 7.0 tons/year of CO₂ as posted on the federal Fuel Economy website. A list of eligible vehicles may be obtained from the Department's website. To qualify for the \$500 rebate, the hybrid electric vehicle must be registered in Pennsylvania and primarily operated within the Commonwealth. The rebates will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funds are available.

A total of \$1.5 million is available for allocation under the program. Rebate request forms and required documentation must be postmarked no later than 6 months after the vehicle is purchased or leased. Rebate forms, along with additional information about the program, are available on the Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage at

<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/enintech/cwp/view.asp?a=1412&O=502288> or by contacting the Hybrid Electric Vehicle Program at 866-294-3854 or 717-214-3492 or by sending email to: epafiginfo@state.pa.us.



WATERSHED PLANNING & POLICY

Acts of Man

The report in The Washington Post suggesting that man-made interventions in the 100-year floodplain – development, farming, wetlands disruption – was to blame for the catastrophic flooding losses in Iowa got a few of us thinking here at the Lincoln Institute whether this matter had been examined before. Sure enough, publications director Ann Leroyer recalled a 1996 policy focus report entitled [On Borrowed Land: Public Policies for Floodplains](#). The impetus was a review of what happened in the Great Flood of 1993 along the Upper Mississippi and its tributaries. "Although governments may not yet be able to manage the weather, they can improve the management of floodplains to reduce damages caused by flooding," the report says. "Rather than spend national tax dollars on flood control structures and post-disaster aid, the federal government should provide continuously updated information about changing flood risks and land uses across whole watersheds." If it's not one thing after another, it's the same thing over and over again. Read more... <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/18/AR2008061803371.html?hpid=topnews>

Pennsylvania's Phosphate Detergent Ban will Rivers and Streams and the Chesapeake Bay will Benefit

Governor Rendell signed into law Senate Bill 1017, the Phosphorus Detergent Act. Phosphorus pollution is a significant problem polluting over 2,600 of our local streams and the Bay. Pennsylvania now joins several other states across the country who have already adopted or introduced similar bills. This legislation expands the Phosphate Detergent Ban for the first time since the act was passed in 1989. In 1989, Pennsylvania and most other states, banned the use of phosphorus in laundry detergents. But the law allowed automatic dishwashing detergents to have up to 8.7 percent phosphorus by weight. This is about the same as the phosphorus content in Miracle-Gro®, a common houseplant fertilizer. At that time, automatic dishwashers were not common, and alternatives to phosphorus in dishwasher detergents were not economical, so legislators focused on laundry detergents. Most phosphorus pollution comes from stormwater runoff from agricultural fields or urban/suburban development. However, sewage treatment plants still represent a significant source of phosphorus pollution that enters into our waters. Research has indicated that a significant percentage of the phosphorus entering a wastewater treatment plant comes from sources like automatic dishwashing detergents. Advances in detergent formulation since the 1970s have rendered the use of phosphorus-based automatic dishwasher detergent obsolete. In fact, today numerous manufacturers create high performance automatic dishwashing detergents that work without using any phosphates in their formulas. This law enables every household to become part of the solution to reducing pollution going into Pennsylvania's waterways. Environmental groups, wastewater plant operators, farmers, county conservation districts, and builders are working together to support fair share efforts to reduce pollution and sediment runoff and we welcome leadership from the state and federal governments to help with these efforts.

PENNSYLVANIA SENATE PASSES BROWNFIELDS LEGISLATION

The Pennsylvania Senate passed Senate Bill 1062, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act introduced by state Senator Rob Wonderling (R-24th). The measure creates a program for reimbursing developers for up to 75 percent of the costs associated with the remediation of brownfields sites including sites impacted by mining activity. Remediation must be completed in accordance with Pennsylvania's award-winning Land Recycling Program (Act 2) or a cleanup plan that has been approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection. SB 1062 offers a new source of brownfields funding while being revenue-neutral with regard to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania budget. Reimbursement to the developer is contingent on completion of the remediation, performance of the project, and generation of new tax revenue.

Landmark Bill Requires Sewage Treatment Plants to Notify Americans in the Event of a Sewage Spill

For far too long, Americans have been kept in the dark about the steady stream of untreated sewage that pollutes our rivers and lakes. Today, thanks to Congressman Tim Bishop (D-NY) and Congressman Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), that could change. Lawmakers in the House of Representatives passed a landmark bill requiring sewage treatment plants to notify Americans in the event of a sewage spill. The Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act (H.R. 2452) received widespread support on both sides of the aisle, passing the House unanimously. The legislation enjoys broad support from more than 150 groups including numerous public health groups. The bill requires sewage treatment plant operators to monitor their systems and notify the public when an overflow has the potential to affect public health. Currently, the public is only occasionally notified of sewage spills. By requiring public notification, H.R. 2452 will protect millions of Americans from exposure to untreated sewage spills that could make them sick. This first line of defense is critical, as 860 billion gallons of raw and partially treated sewage are dumped into our rivers, lakes and coastal waters every year. The bacteria, viruses and parasites found in untreated sewage can cause severe symptoms including gastrointestinal problems, infections and fever, as well as heart, liver or kidney failure, arthritis and even cancer. Public notification will help Americans continue to safely enjoy the rivers they love by avoiding contaminated areas until the threat has passed. Contact: Mike Bento, American Rivers, (202) 291-3117

Inventing Water's Future

In April 1993, contaminated tap water killed more than 100 people and made over 400,000 others seriously ill in Milwaukee, Wis. The culprit was an obscure parasite called cryptosporidium, which had developed a resistance to chlorine the city used to treat drinking water. Cryptosporidium is one of several waterborne parasites that have emerged in recent decades from America's aging public-water infrastructure. Although deadly waterborne parasites like cryptosporidium pose rare but potentially catastrophic threats to drinking water supplies, the vast majority of the threats to the country's drinking water supplies are less lethal but far more common. Those threats, which range from heavy-metal contaminants and algal blooms to acidity and plain-vanilla water shortages, are spawning a growing number of next-generation water purification technologies. Read more.. http://www.forbes.com/2008/06/19/new-water-technology-tech-water08-cx_wp_0619waterstartups.html?feed=rss_news

Center for Infrastructure Equity

The PolicyLink Center for Infrastructure Equity advocates for fair and inclusive policies and provides community and grassroots leaders, advocates, and public officials with the tools, training, and consultation needed to ensure that public investments in infrastructure create economic opportunity and health in all communities. The center has evolved out of several years of action-oriented research and partnerships by PolicyLink with state and local organizations, and is poised to continue that work while also addressing key new federal infrastructure policy opportunities. From canals and railroads to the interstate highway system to today's vital broadband lines, the economy has thrived on smart,

targeted public investments. The quality of schools, parks, streets, mass transit, utilities, and other public investments largely determine the quality of life in a neighborhood, a city, and a region. When this infrastructure is running smoothly, few people take note. But when a crisis hits, the failures can be catastrophic. Public officials and community and business leaders are struggling to develop viable strategies to replace aging infrastructure or expand systems to meet the demands of a growing population. Hundreds of billions of dollars must be invested in the next decade. The choices will determine how we live in our communities, how we get around, and what kind of work we do. The stakes are incredibly high. Smart, targeted, and equitable public infrastructure investments can generate enormous community benefits – jobs, business opportunities, access to public transportation, and quality affordable housing. PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity. Read more about PolicyLink's Center for Infrastructure Equity at the resource link below.

Resource: <http://www.policylink.org/InfrastructureEquity/>



WATERSHED RESTORATION & PROTECTION

Surprising Findings for Amphibians, Turtles and Marine Species

Scientists were surprised with findings of a recent study that reveals many animal species believed to persist in small contained areas actually need broad, landscape level conservation to survive. With more species at risk of extinction today than any other time in human history, the findings of the study published in the debut issue of Conservation Letters provides new insight into how to improve protection for many species worldwide. Scientists from organizations including Conservation International (CI) and BirdLife International identified appropriate scales of conservation efforts for 4,239 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians included on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Many freshwater species, such as frogs and other amphibians, are threatened by environmental changes to watersheds or river basins impacted by pollution, deforestation or dams. The study found that 20 percent of threatened amphibians, and no less than 40 percent of threatened freshwater turtles, depend on broad-scale conservation action to address changes in freshwater processes. The establishment of protected areas to safeguard key biodiversity areas has been long considered the most effective means to protect threatened species. The study reinforces this assumption, showing that the protection of key sites must remain the foundation for all conservation efforts. However, it also showed that considerably more threatened species need urgent conservation action at the landscape or seascape level than previously believed. Fully one in five threatened vertebrates require urgent conservation action at the landscape or seascape scale. Overall, the study provides strong new evidence supporting the integration of multiple scales of conservation, including protected areas as well as landscape and seascape level conservation strategies. Source: www.conservation.org.

Nanoparticles Have Negative Impact On Mussels

ScienceDaily (Jun. 16, 2008) — Nanoparticles are now a part of many common household products. Aside from their use in electronics and bio-imagery, nanoparticles can be found in sunscreen, DVD players, cleaning products, textiles, fuel, paints, tires, ink cartridges and even certain foods. Nanoparticles are made of toxic metals such as cadmium, which is almost as toxic as mercury. Many studies have shown the negative effects of cadmium on the immune system of different animal species. At the lowest concentration tested, or 1.6 milligrams of nanoparticles per liter, the researchers found a reduction in cell phagocytosis. Simply put, mussels experienced a decreased ability to ingest and digest foreign particles and their immune system wasn't functioning as well. Cadmium accumulation was also found in other tissues such as gills and reproductive systems. Researchers also found a reduction in metal toxicity in the gills. Researchers maintain we should be concerned regarding the potential bioaccumulation in birds and aquatic mammals that feed off mussels. Results of his study were published in the November 2007 issue of *Aquatic Toxicology*.

Prions Are Not Degraded By Conventional Sewage Treatment Processes

ScienceDaily (June 23, 2008) — Scientists in Wisconsin are reporting that typical wastewater treatment processes do not degrade prions. Prions, rogue proteins that cause incurable brain infections such as Mad Cow disease and its human equivalent, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, are difficult to inactivate, resisting extreme heat, chemical disinfectants, and irradiation. Until now, scientists did not know whether prions entering sewers and septic tanks from slaughterhouses, meatpacking facilities, or private game dressing, could survive and pass through conventional sewage treatment plants. Joel Pedersen and colleagues used laboratory experiments with simulated wastewater treatment to show that prions can be recovered from wastewater sludge after 20 days, remaining in the "biosolids," a byproduct of sewage treatment sometimes used to fertilize farm fields. Although emphasizing that prions have never been reported in wastewater treatment plant water or biosolids, the researchers note that existing tests are not sufficiently sensitive to detect the extremely low levels of prions possible in those materials. Their report appears in a paper scheduled for the July 1 issue of the *American Chemical Society's Environmental Science & Technology*.

New Way To Control Water Pollution? Mats Designed To Capture And Stabilize Pollution In Rivers

ScienceDaily (June 20, 2008) — In a mud flat at the edge of the Cocheco River, just outside downtown Dover, scientists from the University of New Hampshire's Contaminated Sediments Center are testing an innovative way to treat polluted sediment in coastal waterways. Rather than dredging up the problem, or burying it under several feet of sand, they've created a patch – black geotextile mats designed to cap and stabilize pollution in place. Over the next two years, UNH associate professor Kevin Gardner, research assistant professor Jeffrey Melton, and a team of UNH students will monitor these mats to evaluate the effectiveness of this new approach. The mats are six feet square and one inch thick. They consist of a mixture of reactive materials sandwiched between two layers of geotextile fabric, creating a sort of quilt that traps pollutants but allows water to flow through. The reactive "filling" of this quilt contains three different substances that bind and stabilize different pollutants. One such substance – a UNH-patented technology based on a natural form of phosphorus – treats toxic heavy metals associated with industrial pollution such as lead, copper, zinc and cadmium. The mats present an alternative approach to remediating contaminated sediment; more common responses include dredging or capping sediment beneath several feet of sand. But dredging is expensive, disrupts habitats and poses the problem of how to move - and where to put - all that toxic sediment. Sand caps have questionable long-term effectiveness and can hinder boat traffic and impact aquatic life. In 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported there were 3,221 fish consumption advisories in state waters. The project is funded by the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET), a partnership of UNH and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and NH Sea Grant. Moving forward,

researchers from the Contaminated Sediments Center, part of UNH's Environmental Research Group, plan to test new sampling technologies that measure the scope and potential threat of contamination in sediment. In addition, they're always on the lookout for new test sites.

"Man-made" Water has different Chemistry

As population growth, food production and the regional effects of climate change place greater stress on the Earth's natural water supply, "man-made" water – created by removing salt from seawater and brackish groundwater through reverse osmosis desalination – will become an increasingly important resource for millions of humans, especially those in arid regions such as the Middle East, the western United States, northern Africa and central Asia. But the introduction of this life-giving water will bring changes to the environment. Water that's been desalted through reverse osmosis contains a unique composition which will induce changes in the chemistry and ecology of aquifers and natural water systems it enters. A new study by Avner Vengosh and colleagues in France and Israel provides tools to identify and trace this man-made water as it mixes with natural water supplies and, over time, replaces natural waters in areas entirely dependent on desalination. The study, published this month in the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Science and Technology*, details for the first time the isotope geochemistry – or chemical fingerprints – of the elements boron, lithium, strontium, oxygen and hydrogen found in reverse osmosis-desalted seawater and brackish groundwater.

Atlantic States Fisheries Commission Hearing on Shad Management Plan – Jul 1

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has scheduled a public hearing on July 1 at 6 p.m. at the Fish and Boat Commission headquarters in Harrisburg to provide an update on the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring and to seek public comment on how the plan should be changed. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend and provide public comments. Comments will be used to develop a draft amendment to the plan, which will then be available for the public to review. The ASMFC is hosting the meeting, but PFBC staff will be on hand to answer state-specific questions. Federal and state fisheries scientists are developing an update to the plan following a 2007 stock assessment which indicated that American shad are at all-time lows and do not appear to be recovering. A public information document is available on the ASMFC website that provides a broad overview of the factors affecting American shad. The PFBC headquarters is located at 1601 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, near the state Farm Show complex. <http://www.asmfc.org/breakingNews.htm>

Workshop on Geosynthetic BMPs for Stormwater Management - Aug 14

On August 14, 2008, The Berks, Lebanon, Lancaster and Schuylkill County Conservation Districts, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Lehigh Valley and Central PA Sections of ASCE and ACF Environmental will hold a one-day workshop in Myerstown (Lebanon County). Topics include: Sediment Control: Perimeter Controls, Inlet Protection, Filter Bags and Tubes, Polyacrylamide (PAM), Erosion Control Blankets. Erosion Prevention: Hydraulic applications, Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRMs), Scour Prevention, Transition Mats, Articulating Concrete Blocks (ACBs). Run-off Management: Underground Storage, Pre-treatment, Liners, Pervious Parking and Vehicle Access Treatments. Site Stabilization: Cellular Confinement (Load Support, Slope Protection, Earth Retention), MSE Green Walls, Earth Anchors, Geocomposite Drainage Systems, Geofoam, Geotextiles. Registration is \$20 for conservation district personnel. Registration includes lunch, snacks, and workshop materials. Link: <http://www.pacd.org/fp/Geo08.pdf>. Contact: Warren Cohn, wcohn@acfenvironmental.com

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WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

Non-Profit and Transit Groups Promote Options to Driving Alone in Central PA

Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania and its transit partners encouraged the region's more than 800,000 commuters to "Dump the Pump" and save gasoline – and money – by using options such as transit, carpools, vanpools and telecommuting. PA Commuter Services website offers: a calculator to show commuters how much they are spending; links to the region's transit agencies (RRTA, Capital Area Transit, COLT and rabbittransit); an online, confidential ride-matching database linking commuters to carpool and vanpool partners; information about Commuter Services' free emergency ride home reimbursement program; and tips for employers and commuters to encourage use of options other than driving alone. To help promote "Dump the Pump," Commuter Services has commissioned billboard placements during June along the region's major highways to help get the word out to commuters – especially those who are still commuting alone in their personal vehicle – and their employers, directing people to the PA Commuter Services website at <http://www.pacommuterservices.com/>

EPA Proposes Standards for Water-Efficient Homes

The EPA is proposing standards that new homes must meet to be certified and labeled as "WaterSense" homes. Read more... http://www.watertrust.org/news_article.asp?nID=198

Water Efficiently for Smart Irrigation Month!

Did you know that one-third of the water Americans use daily is used to irrigate lawns, water gardens, and maintain landscaping? More alarming, up to fifty percent of that water goes to waste due to overwatering, runoff, and evaporation. With a few simple steps, we can significantly reduce the amount of water we use and waste on our lawns and gardens without compromising their health or appearance. July is Smart Irrigation Month, and EPA is encouraging homeowners across the country to take a closer look at their outdoor water use. There are several simple steps you can take to save water and money such as planting native plants, properly applying mulch, avoiding watering driveways and sidewalks, utilizing micro-irrigation (such as soaker hoses), and in-ground sprinkler systems. For more information on watering efficiently, and information on WaterSense irrigation partners, visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/sim/index.htm>.

