



Healthy, Sustainable Susquehanna Communities

Nearly 500 miles in length, the Susquehanna Greenway is one of our greatest regional resources. It is a corridor of parks, trails, river access points, and conserved areas, connecting people to the natural and cultural treasures of the Susquehanna River and its West Branch. The Susquehanna Greenway conserves the environment for all living things and balances the needs of generations today and tomorrow.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

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Greenway Debuts New Look!

It is a new year, and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership has a new online look! Find parks and trails, learn about the Susquehanna River Water Trails, download walking and driving tours,

and let the new Calendar help you fill your weekends with fun events and programs taking place throughout the Greenway. What are you waiting for? Check it out at www.susquehannagreenway.org.

Treasured Towns & Landscapes Photo Contest

Deadline Approaching!

How do you like to enjoy the Susquehanna River or her river towns? Show us by sharing your photos in our *Treasured Towns & Landscapes* Photo Contest.

Use the "forward to a friend" link at the bottom of this newsletter to help us spread the word. Don't forget the kids in your life - there is a special Youth Category for photographers under 18.



Winners will receive prizes from \$50 to \$200 and have their photos included in a photo gallery that will travel throughout the Greenway. [Click here](#) to submit your entry before **February 29, 2012**.

New Home for Endless
Mountain Heritage Region

DCNR Offers Free Grant
Workshops

Cathy Curran Meyers
Researchers on the River



Our Mission

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is a leading champion for the Susquehanna River Watershed, Pennsylvania's most important natural resource and the largest tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. We work to advance for public and private efforts to connect people with our natural and cultural resources, and promote a sustainable and healthy environment.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers who want to make a difference. If you are interested in helping with a local Greenway project, or would like to assist SGP with an event, photography, office work, grant research, social networking, then go to our website and click on volunteer.

**Susquehanna Greenway
Regional Organizations**

North Branch
Endless Mountains Heritage
Region



**National Geographic
Highlights West Branch**

National Geographic Adventure has named the West Branch of the Susquehanna River Water Trail one of the "Best

Adventure Destinations for 2012." The West Branch trail flows 228 miles through remote and scenic mature hardwood forests, beside rolling agricultural fields, and past many historic river towns. Just last year the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership was successful in receiving National Recreation Trail designation for this special stretch of water. Want to get on the water? Learn more about the Susquehanna River Water Trails at our website, or enjoy reading more about canoe camping along the scenic West Branch with this article by PennPaddler.

Photo by Cody Goddard

Investing In River Towns



**Marietta ArtHouse
Gallery Inspires
Creativity, Community,
and Commerce**

"Local artists are coming out of the woodwork, its amazing!" says Linda Mylin Ross, Exhibit Coordinator with the Marietta

ArtHouse. The ArtHouse opened in 2010 under the guidance of Claire Lavin, Executive Director, to promote art through gallery exhibitions, art classes and community arts projects. Located in a beautifully restored Victorian home in downtown Marietta, the ArtHouse is quickly becoming a hub for community activities and draws interest from locals and tourists alike.

"The ArtHouse plays an important role in this community. We serve a number of local artists who own homes in Marietta, regional artists from other river towns, and we see a substantial number of tourists," reports Ross. "Often they come to visit Marietta and take in the historic architecture, or they are in the area for the Northwest River Rail-Trail, Chickies Rock Overlook, or other local attraction and they will stop in to see what we're all about."

With regards to the location Ross says, "We love being located in this river town, we are ideally located between Harrisburg and

Middle Susquehanna and
Lower West Branch
SEDA-COG Community
Resource Center

Upper West Branch
Pennsylvania Environmental
Council

Lancaster and it's not your typical suburb. The community values the outdoors and gardening and these themes are often apparent in their artwork." To learn more about the Marietta ArtHouse, view

Upcoming Events

Tuesday Rambles
Tunkhannock
January 17

Future of our Forests Lecture
Harrisburg
January 17

Girl Scout Workshop
Harrisburg
January 21

Winter Tree Walk
Danville
January 21

XC Ski & Snowshoe Clinic
Wrightsville
January 21

Preschool Storytime
Harrisburg
January 25

Girl Scout Skysearch
Harrisburg
January 27

Dog Hike
Wrightsville
January 28

Outdoor Knife Workshop
Danville
January 28

Kittatinny Ridge Lecture
Harrisburg
January 31

9th Annual Ice Festival
Lewisburg
February 3-5

Canals of the 1840s
Wrightsville
February 3

Boating Safety Course
York Haven
February 4

Polar Bear Plunge
Lewisburg
February 5

Black Hole Creek Meeting
Montgomery
February 7

Saving a Songbird Lecture
Harrisburg
February 7

If you would like to have an event included in our newsletter, please list your event at our [website](#).

Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors



the exhibit schedule, artist shop, and upcoming events, visit their website at www.mariettaarthouse.com and follow them on [Facebook](#).

Photo courtesy of Marietta ArtHouse

Duncannon Installs New Greenway Signs

This past New Year's Eve, before the local countdown to the new year with the traditional sled drop, Duncannon revelers checked out newly installed Susquehanna Greenway River Town and Orientation panels.

The signs provide information on the natural and cultural resources in the area, as well as information about the Susquehanna Greenway and the river's connection to the Chesapeake Bay. The signs were made possible by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

View the new panels from the parking lot of the Old Sled Works building where Lightning Guider sleds used to be manufactured. Appalachian Trail panels and signs for the Pittsburg-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway will join the Greenway panels this spring. Read more on our [website](#).



Photo by Mary "TrailAngelMary" Parry

Rocks Re-Open to Climbers

Start planning your spring climbing trip along the Lower Susquehanna! The Access Fund has just announced that after more than a decade in limbo, the crags at Safe Harbor have been partially re-opened to climbing. With the recent relocation of the high-tension power lines, both Amtrak and Conestoga Township have agreed to allow climbing to resume along the rail trail in Conestoga Township. The cliffs along this section of the old low-grade railway comprise what climbers refer to as Safe Harbor "South". The cliffs upstream of the dam - Safe Harbor "North" - remain closed, pending Manor Township's acquisition of the abandoned low-grade line. To learn more, get involved, or download a mini climbing guide, visit safeharborclimbing.com.

Do You Know A River Hero?

Nominations Sought Locally and Nationally



Do you know any volunteers, professionals, or watershed groups that



Weis Markets



have gone above and beyond for the restoration of the West Branch? Nominate them a prestigious “orange rock award” from the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition and the PA Council of Trout Unlimited. Email their name, contact information, and brief description of why you believe they deserve the honor to Rebecca Holler at rholler@tu.org by **February 29**. Voting will take place via electronic survey and recipients will be honored at the 2012

West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium in State College on April 27-28.

On the national scene the River Network is looking for River Hero nominations by **February 3**. The honor is open to any individual who has successfully worked with a river or watershed conservation organization to improve a river and its watershed. To read more and access the nomination form, visit their website.

New Heritage Video

Stories of the Land is a new informational film that showcases the rich heritage of Lancaster and York Counties. Learn about the Susquehannock Indians, the underground railroad, Civil War events, as well as farming and manufacturing traditions that are still apparent in the area today. With a soundtrack by the Lancaster and York Symphony Orchestras and beautiful aerial flyovers of the Susquehanna River, this video illustrates the special stories of the Lower Susquehanna region. Enjoy the 15 minute video here.



Scientists Collaborate for River Research



Did you know that the Middle and Upper Susquehanna River Watersheds have their very own interdisciplinary team of scientists conducting research along the waterway?

The Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental studies (SRHCES) exists to promote collaboration in research, provide environmental education, improve water quality, and address other

environmental concerns related to the Susquehanna River Watershed. The organization includes college/university faculty from seven area institutions of higher education, representatives

from government agencies, and community organizations. The group wants to attract more resources to solve environmental problems in their study area which stretches from Lock Haven to Sunbury, and north to the New York border. Since 2004 the scientists have been collaborating on projects, providing critical hands-on research experience for students, and attracting new funding. To read about their recent activities that include forest spider research, and water quality monitoring near natural gas drilling sites check out the [2011 Annual Report](#).

New Home for Endless Mountain Heritage Region

It may be historic, but “The Old Red House” in Towanda is new to the folks at the [Endless Mountains Heritage Region](#)



(EMHR). The house is the new office and home base for their work as Water Trail Manager for the North Branch Water Trail, Greenway Coordinator, and their everyday duties of furthering the protection and promotion of the region’s natural, scenic, recreational and heritage resources. Located at 2 Jefferson Street, The Old Red House is a contributing structure to the Towanda Historic District, overlooks the Susquehanna River, and is next to the much-loved River Walk trail system. Happy housewarming to EMHR!

Photo courtesey of EMHR

DCNR Offers Free Grant Workshops



Looking to fund a local park, trail, recreation or conservation project in your area? Consider the Community Conservation Partnership Grants

Program (C2P2) and sign up for a grant workshop!

DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation is offering workshops in February and March across the Commonwealth to prepare applicants to meet the C2P2 requirements. The 2012 C2P2 grant program **opened January 11** and will close on April 4, 2012. These training opportunities will assist community leaders, consultants, board members, and park and recreation professionals interested in learning about resources available to plan, acquire and construct public recreation and conservation areas in their communities. All workshops are free and run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. [On-line registration](#) is required.





Clearfield County Commissioners passed a resolution early this month to encourage state officials to renew funding for the Growing Greener program.

Growing Greener is a bipartisan program that was established in 1999 under Governor Tom Ridge and later expanded by Governors Schweiker and Rendell. Since its establishment, Growing Greener has created a legacy of success, preserving more than 107,000 acres of Pennsylvania's family farmland, conserving more than 42,300 acres of threatened open space, adding 26,000 acres to state parks and forests, capping more than 2,100 abandoned wells and restoring over 16,000 acres of abandoned mine lands. Statewide, 33 of 67 counties in Pennsylvania have passed such resolutions, representing over 7.5 million Pennsylvanians.

Has your county or township voiced support for Renew Growing Greener? Find out at the [Renew Growing Greener website](#). You can also read more about the Clearfield County resolution [here](#).



Meet Our Board Cathy Curran Meyers

For Cathy Curran Meyers, Director of the Bucknell University Environmental Center, the Susquehanna River is the dominant natural feature in our region and has shaped our identity, history, economy, and even our aesthetic sensibilities. However, she sees significant changes to our modern relationship with the river. "The river has become less and less visible and accessible to people as development along the river's edge keeps us at a distance." Cathy thinks it takes a conscious effort to create opportunities for people to reconnect with the river and experience its power and beauty, and the Susquehanna Greenway fits this bill. "The Susquehanna Greenway invites people to come to the river, for recreation, for contemplation, for sport, for family fun, or just because it is there." Moreover, Cathy believes that, "greenways make it possible for people to take walks and bike rides, canoe and kayak trips, without major planning or expense."

Read more about Cathy and her time as Deputy Secretary for Water Management with the PA Department of Environmental Protection at our website.

Photo: Cathy and her husband, David, enjoy the outdoors

Researchers on the River

Carlos Ludica, Ph.D., Susquehanna University



When Dr. Ludica snaps on his rubber gloves he is ready for work, be it at the biology lab, crawling through a cave, or even discovering interesting road-side specimens. This Associate Professor of Biology at Susquehanna University studies the birds, reptiles and mammals

that live along the Susquehanna River and his work is part of the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies. Some of his research involves monitoring the food sources of small animals in the watershed, which means analyzing the stomach contents of foxes, minks, coyotes, and soon bobcats will be added to his list.

As opportunistic as the animals he studies, Dr. Ludica admits that he carries gloves and plastic bags in his car “just in case” happens upon a roadside specimen in good condition. Dr. Ludica vividly describes seeing a mink perish on a road near Lewisburg, activating his hazard lights, and leaving his car to race a fellow witness to the collect the mink. “He was a farmer on a tractor, and I was on foot. We both headed to the mink, but I got there first,” says Ludica with a smile. By studying the feeding ecology of minks, Dr. Ludica and his students can consider the roles different prey play on the survivorship of these important riverine carnivores. Their fat tissue also harbors mercury and studying these levels can reveal information about mercury levels in the water. Read more about the important ecological role bats play along our river and Dr. Ludica’s bat research [here](#).

Photo courtesey of Carlos Ludica

Please visit our website at <http://www.susquehannagreenway.org/>
[Click here to donate to our cause](#)