



Susquehanna *Healthy, Sustainable Susquehanna Communities*



The Susquehanna Greenway is a planned corridor of interconnected trails, parks, river access points, and conserved areas, linking people to the natural and cultural treasures of the Susquehanna River and its West Branch. Nearly 500 miles in length, it is one of our state's greatest resources -- balancing the needs of generations today and tomorrow, conserving the environment for all living things, and creating healthy, sustainable communities.

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Treasured Towns and Landscapes Photo Contest Winners



Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) held its first ever Photo Contest in 2010. There were two categories. **Treasured Towns** was meant to capture people enjoying what river towns have to offer: walking through a historic district, shopping downtown or at a farmers market, having a picnic or reading a book in park, riding a bike to school, attending a festival and more. **Treasured Landscapes** focused on the varied landscapes and ecological treasures of the Susquehanna River Corridor. Over 150 entries were received. Winning photos were chosen based on the composition, technical quality, and how the photo related to the Susquehanna Greenway mission.

And the winners are...

Grand Prize: Craig Douglas Gephart
Towns Category

1st-Geri Schnure

2nd-Diane Peresie

3rd-Dagny Leininger

Landscapes Category

1st-Ellen Crandall

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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 advocate 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

2nd-Amy Spangler

3rd-Henry Hewitt

Honorable Mention: Cody Arnold and Al Holliday

Children's Category: Alexa Spaventa

To view all the winning photographs and to see where our traveling photo gallery will be at a location near you click [here](#).

Grab your camera and get outside because SGP plans to make this an annual event. Guidelines and prizes for the 2011 Photo Contest will be announced in May.

Sojourn on the Susquehanna 2011

Paddling a different segment of the Susquehanna each year, sojourners in canoes and kayaks explore the river, her banks, and the nearby towns and villages. They participate along with local residents in river-related service projects and programs while learning about the heritage of the region. The Sojourn is a unique and powerful tool for promoting environmental stewardship and inspiring conservation of our natural resources. Some sojourns are designed as paddle and camping trip, others are one-day events. Here are a few of the upcoming sojourns in your area.



New York - Pennsylvania North Branch Sojourn - This 4-day event will be held near the North Branch's headwaters, beginning Friday, **June 17**, in Bainbridge, NY, and ending Sunday, **June 19**, in Great Bend, PA - a total of 47 river miles. The complete schedule for the week and registration information are available [here](#), or contact Erin Heard at (607) 346-2727 for further details. Registration deadline is **May 26th**.

[Read more...](#)

West Branch Sojourn and River Celebration - On June 25 the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership will host an educational sojourn and celebration on the West Branch. Paddlers will travel the River from Jersey Shore to Williamsport ending at Haywood's on the Water we will celebration of River Month with a cookout and entertainment. More information will be coming soon. Keep checking [SGP's website](#) for updates.

Susquehanna River Trail Association (SRTA) will be hosting the traditional, family-oriented, **Island Hopper** trip on the Main Steam of the Susquehanna on Saturday, **June 25**. As in the

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](#).

past, there will be four guided groups stopping at island sites,

Susquehanna Greenway Regional Organizations

North Branch
[Endless Mountains Heritage
Region](#)

Middle Susquehanna
[SEDA-COG Community
Resource Center](#)

Lower Susquehanna
[Susquehanna Gateway Heritage
Area](#)

Upcoming Events

[Celebrate Luzerne County's
Great Trails and Greenways](#)
Wilkes-Barre
April 19

[The Lenape Indians of PA](#)
Clifford Twp
April 21

[Robbins Trail Run 5K &
10K-River Towns Race Series](#)
Danville
April 23

[Annual Penn's Creek Cleanup](#)
Weikert
April 23

[Guided Wildflower Walk](#)
Holtwood
April 23

[Earth Day at Bilger's Rocks](#)
Grampian
April 23

[Pennsylvania Historical and
Museum Commission](#)

Preservation Plan Forum &
Roundtable
Scranton
April 26

Wild & Scenic Film Festival
Camp Hill
April 26

A Value Change For Survival: An
Iroquois View on Caring For The
Earth
Lewisburg
April 26

Sustainable Economics for River
Towns Workshop
Danville
April 27

Arbor Day Woodmobile
Berwick
April 28

Nuclear Plant Safety
Berwick
April 28

Lewisburg Arts Festival
Lewisburg
April 29-May 14

Young Explorers: Towering
Trees
Danville
April 29

DACC Triathlon-River Towns
Race Series
Danville
April 30

Northeastern Pennsylvania
Global Warming Conference
Shawnee
May 1

Nature Photo Workshop
Danville
May 1

River Road Holiday
Lewisburg

where both adults and youth will have planned activities. Lunch will be served at one site. For more information please visit [SRTA's website.](#)

River Towns Facing New EPA Regulations

By: Marel Raub, Chair, SGP Policy Committee

In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a "TMDL" or Total Maximum Daily Load for Chesapeake Bay as required by a federal court order. The Bay's TMDL consists of specific numeric limits for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment for each of the Bay's major tributaries by state. Pennsylvania's portion of the Susquehanna River basin is the single largest geographic area to receive an allocation. The Bay watershed is 64,000 square miles in size, covering portions of six states and the District of Columbia.

Along with EPA's development of the TMDL, each state and the District of Columbia developed a "Watershed Implementation Plan" (WIP) for their jurisdiction. With much attention focused on the Bay, it is easy to forget that the health of local waters directly impacts our own local quality of life and economic development opportunities. While water quality regulations driven by the Bay may be challenging for River Towns, new opportunities are emerging for land conservation, public access, and implementation of best management practices on farms, forests and other land that would not be possible without new Bay-related sources of support. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership looks forward to working with our local and regional partners to help leverage these opportunities with local projects and priorities.

[Read more...](#)

Shickshinny Designated a Susquehanna Greenway River Town



In recognition of its efforts to improve trails, a community riverfront park and river access, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) officially designated Shickshinny a Susquehanna Greenway River Town and presented them with a Susquehanna Greenway

River Town sign. Mayor Beverly Moore, State Rep. Karen Boback, and representatives from SGP and Shickshinny gathered on March 29th for the sign presentation.

May 1

Wildflowers in Bloom
Berwick
May 1

Peace of the Susquehanna
Guided Recreational Kayak
River Trip
Montgomery to Watsonstown
May 1

Back Mountain Community
Partnership Rain Barrel
Workshop
Dallas
May 3

River Towns Marathon & Half
Marathon
Danville
May 7

Owl be Back: Restoring Barn
Owls to Central PA
Danville
May 7

Buffalo Creek Guided Canoe &
Kayak Trip
Buffalo Creek
May 7

The Sunken Town of Peach
Bottom
Wrightsville
May 11

If you would like to
have an event included in our
newsletter, please send event
and contact information to:
info@susquehannagreenway.org

**Special Thanks to
Our Major Sponsors**

“We are a small town and this really is a big deal,” Mayor Beverly Moore said. “We started with the Susquehanna Warrior Trail and now have plans to put in a boat launch, playground, parking lot and campsite.” Moore, who said she has been mayor for 14 years, said the idea of pursuing the designation came after the success of hosting the Susquehanna Sojourn canoe trips. The borough had to meet criteria including being located on the Susquehanna River, promoting canoeing and kayaking, holding events involving recreational amenities such as the Susquehanna Warrior trail, Moore said. She said Shickshinny has well-lit parking, easy access, police patrols and other amenities that create a safe environment for use of the river.

For more information about how your town can become a Susquehanna Greenway River Town click [here](#). For full press associated with these articles read the [Citizen’s Voice](#) and [The Times Leader](#).

Governor's Excellence Award Honors SGP Board Chair

On Friday, April 15, Jerry Walls, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) Board Chair was honored with the Governor’s Local Government



Excellence Award. He received an Individual Award for Leadership and Service to Local Government in the multi-county regions served by the SGP (22 counties), SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority (8 counties), PA WILDS Planning Team (12 counties), Service on the Governor’s Greenways Partnership Commission, as well as the Statewide Advisory Committees for the DCNR State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Walls pushed for creation of a regional entity to protect the Susquehanna River and its tributaries and the forested resources in the drainage basin since 1975 and was finally able to help organize the SGP and determined which type of legal entity can best acquire trail right-of-way, perform the long-distance trail design, development, and operation/maintenance. “When DCNR and PennDOT formed the Governor’s Greenways Partnership Commission and Governor Schweiker issued the Greenways Action Plan Executive Order in 2001 that elevated the importance of such advocacy. The lesson learned was keep working for big ideas



and strike when the time is right! We chartered the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership that year – 2001,” stated Walls.

[Read more...](#)

Marvin Meeter, Township Supervisor, Wyalusing Township also Honored

For 34 years, Marvin Meeter has provided leadership and guidance to Wyalusing Township in Bradford County as a township supervisor. He has worked behind the scenes diligently and thoughtfully to improve services for the residents of this small, rural community. Mr. Meeter is the President of the Bradford County Association of Township Officials and serves on numerous boards and committees. He is also treasurer for the Eastern Bradford County Council of Governments; serves on the Bradford County Economic Development Advisory Board; is president of the Wyalusing Industrial Development Corporation, and is a member of the Greater Wyalusing Valley Chamber of Commerce. He is also a past director and founding board member of Wyalusing Area Ambulance Inc. Mr. Meeter currently serves as president of the Bradford County Township Supervisors Association and also shares his local government experience statewide as a member of the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

Over the years, Mr. Meeter has been instrumental in helping the township develop a comprehensive plan and adopt zoning with little controversy. He has taken on a leadership role as the Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling has moved into the region by serving on the Chesapeake Energy Bradford County Citizens Advisory Panel. For his dedicated service, Marvin Meeter receives the 2011 Governor’s Award for Local Government Excellence.

[Read more...](#)

Students Learn About Acid Mine Drainage Clearfield County



On a snowy morning this past March SGP’s Erin Pierce assisted Trout Unlimited with acid mine drainage (AMD) and water quality education and outreach initiatives. Together, the team taught 30 Clearfield County high school students about the long history of the area’s resource extraction and the resulting environmental and economic consequences of AMD. Erin led groups of students on a tour Trout Run, a tributary of the West Branch

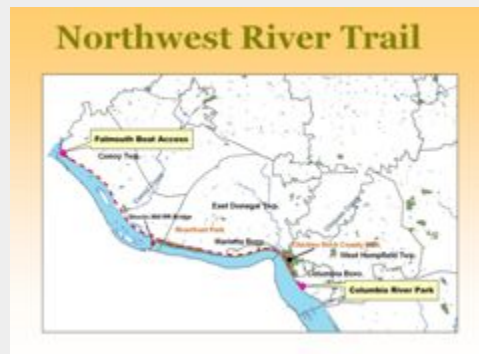


where they saw an active AMD remediation system managed by the PA Department of Environment Protection and performed hands-on water quality tests.

When asked what they had learned that day, some of the students voiced the need for clean water to produce viable local economies for recreation, sport fishing and outfitting services. Others dug deeper in to the issue and made the economic connection that water quality can impact land values and school taxes. Standing over the neon orange water rushing down the mountain, a few high school students expressed concern that the current extractive natural gas industry could leave a similar legacy of environmental and economic consequences. The day produced not only great conversation, but the potential for a new generation of water quality advocates.

Northwest Lancaster County River Trail

Developed from a master plan in March 2003, the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail is a multi-purpose, public recreation trail that is planned to run approximately fourteen miles, spanning five municipalities at the northwestern edge of Lancaster County.



The trail follows the route of the historic Pennsylvania Mainline Canal and uses some of the original towpath that remains along the corridor. Ample opportunities exist to interpret the numerous industrial archaeological remains such as abandoned canal locks; the iron furnaces at Chickies Rock; and the old quarry operation at Millmeyer. The trail also connects the historic river towns and villages of Columbia, Marietta, and Bainbridge.

Lancaster County and the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority also own sections of the trail. The current condition or readiness of the trail varies throughout the corridor, but there are 2.4 miles of developed trail for hiking or biking located between the Decatur Street trailhead in Marietta borough, west to the pavilion in East Donegal Township's Riverfront Park. This 8 foot wide, paved section of trail will be extended another 1.2 miles this spring to the Shocks Mill railroad bridge in Conoy township. Also planned for late 2011 or early 2012 is a 3-mile section of trail from Shocks Mill bridge to the village of Bainbridge.

We invite you to explore this wonderful new asset. For more information about the project, maps or directions to the trailheads, please see the [informational document](#) prepared by the Lancaster County Planning Commission.

Water Trail Stimulates Local Economy

Harvard Study: Maine Island Trail

The Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) recently released results from an economic impact study conducted over the last six months by two Harvard University graduate students. The study concludes that activity by visitors to the Trail contributes over \$1.75 million per year in spending to the Maine economy. Spending by out-of-state visitors is particularly high, independently generating more in tax revenues than the State invests in the Trail each year. An extensive article in the [Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram](#) details how the study was conducted and presents an overview of the results.

If you are interested in reading the complete study or if you have any questions please contact [Doug Welch](#), Executive Director MITA, directly at 207-761-8225.

Bucknell Announces New Marcellus Shale Database

The Bucknell University Marcellus Shale Initiative (MSI) announces a new educational resource: the **MSI Publications Database**, a web-based clearinghouse that references and summarizes primarily print-based publications on the Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction and related topics.

The Marcellus Shale, a geologic formation containing natural gas spanning NY, PA, WV, OH, and VA, is undergoing rapid development as a major US energy source. The use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing to release the gas qualifies the extraction to be termed “unconventional.” The Bucknell University MSI, directed by Carl S. Kirby, Professor of Geology, was created in 2010 to support Marcellus Shale-related research in the physical sciences, social sciences and humanities at Bucknell.

The [MSI Publications Database](#) covers primarily print-based publications as these are the most reputable sources of information to date. The database contains links to publications as well as short summaries of each publication. The database also explains the differences among publication types and how to access and retrieve copyrighted publications. As the database grows, it will also include more references to publications that are not directly related to the Marcellus Shale; such publications

might feature other unconventional gas extraction such as the Barnett Shale, hydraulic fracturing, potential health issues, or address socioeconomic changes in energy boom towns.

[Read more...](#)

Bilger's Rocks Celebrates Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful & Earth Day



If you enjoy taking walks in the woods, geology, rock climbing, earth science, ecology, history, or wildlife, then this is the place for you! Imagine the fun of exploring these huge moss-covered sandstone blocks...over 300 million years in the making. Located 12 miles west of Clearfield, this 286 acre park offers trails through this 'rock-city', as well as areas with statewide recognition for owl habitat. This unique landscape is truly one of nature's wonders. Thanks to the stewardship efforts of the Bilger's Rocks Association it is not only being cared for – but is open to the public.

To experience 'the Rocks' up close and personal, you can take part in the stewardship activities on **April 23 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** This will include tree planting, creek clean up, trail work, and installation of birding signs. (Tools, gloves and equipment are provided.) There will also be educational demonstrations throughout the day, with a free picnic dinner provided to volunteers. Free on-site tenting is also available to volunteers, with access to power and water. For more information visit their [website](#).

Lesson from the Land Penn State Webinar Series

Penn State Cooperative Extension announces a new webinar series titled "Lessons from the Land" that began on March 23, sponsored by Extension's Pennsylvania Discovery Watershed program and Water Extension Team. The Lessons from the Land webinar series has been developed to communicate specific examples of Pennsylvania successes in improving water quality through a variety of watershed initiatives and approaches.

The objective, according to Extension State Program Leader for Natural Resources, Kristen Saacke Blunk, is "to improve our ability to share some of the extraordinary successes and innovations that Pennsylvanians from all walks have implemented to improve the state's local watersheds." Diane Oleson, co-leader of the Penn State Discovery Watershed Program added "the **Lessons from the Land** webinar series is a

great complement to our new **Watershed Winds** newsletter – both are advancing stories about watershed initiatives, successes and opportunities for Pennsylvanians.”

For more information on this webinar series click [here](#).

[Read more...](#)

Flowers on the Water Ceremony



Water touches everything. Water is the basis of all life. Water is endangered in quality and quantity, all around the world. To honor water's life-giving and to bring those of us reliant on the Susquehanna together, Reverend Patricia Dai-En

Bennage, abbess of Mt. Equity Zendo in Pennsdale, PA is inviting people to participate in the Flowers on the Water Ceremony on Sunday **May 15, 2011**.

This is not a site-specific event – multiple events will be occurring simultaneously throughout the watershed, from dawn to noon. For the greatest participation, congregations and communities of every sort who care about the river will gather at their location any time on Sunday morning, to each offer two flowers to the river. One flower is given in gratitude, and one in commitment to protect our common resource. The pledge can be simple or serious, according to each person's heart. For some, it may be turning off the tap when not in use; for others participation in watershed groups, or in education.

Abbess Dai-En will be conducting a ceremony in the Zen tradition in nearby Lewisburg. “For our part, Mount Equity Zendo will be planning a ceremony on the Susquehanna River to acknowledge, one, our deep gratitude to the river for giving life to this area and, two, to promise to protect the river now and into the distant future. Inspired by the Thai monks who have begun the practice of ordaining trees, Abbess Dai-En is planning a ceremony at the river to recognize our deep interconnectedness”, she stated.

Visit the Flowers on the Water Facebook page to send news of your location and group, and share photos and videos or click [here](#) for more resources or email [Nancy Cleaver](#).

[Read more...](#)

Talented Young Adults are Choosing to Live Downtown

Since 2000, two-thirds of the nation's 51 largest cities have seen on average a 26 percent increase in the number of young, college-educated adults choosing to live within three miles of the urban center — compared to an average increase of 13 percent in the rest of the metropolitan area. In *Young and Restless 2011*, a new report by Impresa and CEOs for Cities, researchers utilized 2010 Census data to examine the migration of young individuals (between the ages of 25 to 34 year olds). College-educated, young adults were found to be 94 percent more likely than their less educated counterparts to live in close-in urban neighborhoods — up from 61 percent in 2000. In five metropolitan areas (Boston, Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Washington), almost two-thirds of young adults who live in urban centers have at least a four-year degree. Even metropolitan areas experiencing overall population declines (e.g., Cleveland - 17 percent decline; and Detroit - 25 percent decline) saw significant increase in the number of young, college educated adults relocating to their urban centers (e.g., Cleveland - 49 percent increase; and Detroit - 59 percent increase).

Renew Growing Greener Gaining Your Help Still Needed



Growing Greener has transformed Pennsylvania by empowering communities to protect working farms and special places, clean up rivers and streams, create and improve parks and trails, and revitalize cities and towns. After a decade of success, the funding sources that support Growing Greener are nearly gone. So far, 17 counties, 19 townships, and 12 boroughs and over 200 other organizations have adopted resolutions calling for the renewal of Growing Greener. But, we still need your help to establish a sustainable revenue stream for local planning and project development.

To ensure that our communities can continue their work, contact your State Representative and State Senator and [click here](#) to find out more about how to fund Growing Greener and a template of the resolution.

Expedition Chesapeake an Interactive Experience

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg recently launched *Expedition Chesapeake*, a multi-media educational and entertainment experience anchored by a large format film.

“We are in the heart of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and this initiative cuts to our core mission – to educate citizens, especially students, about the world around us. Our goal is to educate and inspire the 17 million residents of this watershed so we can all become better stewards of this national treasure,” said Dr. Michael Hanes, President and CEO of Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. “We are proud of the work we have done in preparation for this launch and look forward to working with our many partners as we continue to develop this project. We’ve attracted an enormous wealth of talent and expertise which will result in the creation of a world-class product.”

The project will result in four related products: the 42-minute large format film, a made-for-television documentary series, a hands-on, traveling 4D science exhibit, and a set of online learning experiences designed to engage students throughout the six states in the watershed.

[Read more...](#)

Meet Our Board

Susan Browning

Susan Browning serves on the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) Board of Directors because of the connection between environmental health and healthy people. "I support SGP because of its commitment to support environmental stewardship in harmony with economic prosperity. All of these concepts are interrelated and the SGP understands that," states Browning.



Susan is the Director of Community Health & Benefit for Susquehanna Health. She has over 15 years experience in community health and has been responsible for the planning and administration of numerous & varied outreach programs. She is a former Board member of Our Towns 2010 in Lycoming County.

Susan was born and raised in north central Pennsylvania and she believes the greenway is a vital, distinctive resources that can be a lynch pin for growth, improving community connectiveness and improving the health of the region and its people. Leveraging the greenway in this manner will allow the wonderful memories she has to be renewed in today's generations'. She enjoys hiking, fishing and scuba diving.

Walkable Community Success Stories

Williamsport Walk Through



On April 7 partners from SEDA-COG, PennDOT, Williamsport City Council, Williamsport Bicycle Club, Newberry Elm Street program, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and River Valley Transit joined together for a

Walkable/Bikeable Communities Walk Through to address connectivity between smaller neighborhoods and downtown, and safety and parking issues with the River Walk. The project is being supported by the Appalachian Regional Commission, City of Williamsport and Lycoming County Planning and Community Development.

A mapping analysis of the area was done to assess safety issues and opportunities and to identify priority sites. The group looked at the pedestrian overpass on Commerce Drive, a possible greenway along Miller Run, a Basin Street River Walk access, Hepburn Street River Walk access, linking Newberry to Lycoming Creek Greenway and a Lycoming College gateway.

A conceptual bike/pedestrian plan for the greater area will illustrate key strategic areas of focus to improve overall neighborhood connectivity, the tourist experience through signage, and potential resources to move the plan forward.

For more information on how to make your community safe for walking and biking contact Amy Davis at SEDA-COG, tel. 570-524-4491. If your community has a Walkable Communities success story please send it to Bridget Kane, Communications & Outreach Coordinator.

Researcher's on the River

Professor Jack R. Holt

Jack R. Holt is a Professor of Biology at Susquehanna University where he has been teaching since 1981. He specializes in phycology, a branch of botany that studies algae. Prof. Holt is very interested in the communities of algae that grow in moving water, and what they can tell us about that water. In the tributaries of the



Susquehanna, almost all of the submerged surfaces have algal communities. They are more restricted in the river, especially in the lower main branches and below the confluence, because light penetration is limited. Still, the algal communities that

develop on artificial substrates can inform us by integrating the environmental conditions of the water in which they have been growing.

Read more...

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