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Susquehanna Greenway  
Partnership

Susquehanna  
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Dear Greenway Friends,

As we celebrate the holiday season, we reflect on the foundation of the Susquehanna Greenway—you—our energetic members, tireless partners, steadfast volunteers and friends. Thank you for your continued support for connected parks, trails, revitalized river towns, as well as your commitment to the Susquehanna Greenway.

We are so excited that riverfront trail and park projects that were once just a dream are taking shape and making communities along the Susquehanna healthier and more attractive places to live, work and visit. None of this would have happened if it weren't for years of patience and persistence by local leaders, river communities, and our hardworking partners, and many of you who want to make a difference.

Thank you and have a safe and happy holiday!



Susquehanna Greenway Partnership staff, from left: Zach Pyle, Barbara Bogle, Trish Carothers, Erin Pierce, Bridget Kane, and Mike Grasso.

**Revitalizing River Towns:  
Public Forum for a Connected Future**

Contact Us



Thanks! Your gift helps revitalize river towns; connect parks, trails, and river access areas; and protect clean water.



Our Vision

The Susquehanna Greenway with its connected walking, biking, and water trails, unique river towns, and natural land improves the quality of life for the people who live near it, enhances the economic vitality of the communities that foster it, and preserves the natural resources of the Susquehanna River itself. It protects our water quality, encourages active lifestyles, and inspires stewardship and civic pride in places where people love to live, work, play and visit.

Upcoming Events

To see more events, or list your event, visit our Calendar of Events.

Christmas Bird Count  
Various Locations  
Dec. 25

Christmas Bird Count  
Howard  
Dec. 25

Holiday Hike  
Howard  
Dec. 26

New Year's 5k  
Bloomsburg  
Dec. 31

New Year's Celebration  
Sunbury  
Dec. 31

First Day Hike  
Luzerne County  
Jan. 1

Snowshoe & Xcountry Ski  
Luzerne County  
Most days in Jan.



On November 6, 2014, Lewisburg residents attended a public meeting to discuss ideas and projects to make the community more connected to the Susquehanna River. The meeting was hosted by the Lewisburg Neighborhoods Corporation (LNC) and SGP.

Over 60 people attended the meeting and discussed the natural environment, built environment, community life, and the downtown environment. By the end of the evening, the group had identified a handful of priority projects that include connecting the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, creating a new use for the abandoned river bridge, improving the riverfront park, and creating a safer, more walkable and bikeable community.

The next step will be for the Lewisburg River Town Team to prioritize these projects and move forward with planning and implementation. Thank you LNC and all participants for an inspiring and invigorating evening planning local projects along the Greenway!



**Don't Be a Grinch, Get Green!**  
**Tips for Environmentally Friendly Holidays**



According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of household garbage can increase up to 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day – from four million to five million tons!

You can take some simple steps to ensure your festivities don't negatively impact the environment: Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper, newspaper, or old maps (Our staffer Erin's personal favorite). Donate older toys to a local charity. If gifting yourself the latest tech, make sure to recycle your old electronics. Many national chain stores have take-back bins for small electronics, or you can search for recycling options near you: <http://search.earth911.com>

Learn more simple steps to an environmentally friendly holiday.

Photo by Silvia Sala.

**News from the North:**  
**Riverfront Trail Planned in Bradford County**

Athens and Sayre are the first communities to greet the Susquehanna River as it enters Bradford County. Their relationship with the river is strong and about to get stronger and more connected!

Sayre Borough, Athens Borough, and the Valley Joint Sewer Authority have partnered to plan and construct a trail along the Susquehanna River. The Diahoga Trail, as it will be known, would link many key parks and encourage outdoor recreation.



Snowshoeing  
Harrisburg  
Jan. 10

Moonlight Xcountry Ski  
Hughesville  
Jan. 17

Frozen Snot Run  
McElhattan  
Jan. 24

Recreation Grant Webinar  
Online Webinar  
Jan. 28

Trail Workshop  
Muncy  
Jan. 31



The trail would safely link Downtown Teaoga Square (Athens), Valley Playland (Athens), Sayre Riverfront park (including the public river access), and part of the Destiny Kinal Trail. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Partners include: Futurescapes; Susquehanna Greenway Partnership; Bradford County Conservation District; Endless Mountains Heritage Region; Todd

Babcock, PLS; Civil and Environmental Consultants; NTRPDC; Athens Borough; Sayre Borough; Athens Township Parks and Recreation; and the Valley Joint Sewer Authority.

Trail logo courtesy of Futurescapes.

To see more events, or list your event, visit our [Calendar of Events](#).

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## Middle Susquehanna News: Peaceful Perch Along Warrior Trail

This past November, the Wyoming Valley Striders Running Club donated and installed a memorial bench along the Susquehanna Warrior Trail in Luzerne County in honor of area runner Jen Stec, who loved trail running.



The memorial bench was installed next to the Susquehanna Warrior Trail in the area of the Union Township Boat Launch near the Susquehanna River.

Members of the Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council and Northwest Area High School staff assisted in the installation of the memorial bench. An official dedication ceremony will be held at a later date. Learn more about the [Susquehanna Warrior Trial here.](#)

Photo courtesy of Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council.

## Featured Sponsor:

## News from the West: Arts on the River in Lock Haven

As a Susquehanna Greenway River Town, Lock Haven's local River Town Team is exploring new ways to connect visitors, families and children to the Susquehanna River and Greenway.



The local group plans to host Arts on the River, a new event, for fall 2015. The two-day community celebration of artistic talent will showcase local artists, utilize the popular Riverwalk levee trail, and celebrate river heritage.

The River Town Team members include Downtown Manager Natasha Gorham, Downtown Lock Haven Inc. Board members, City Council Vice President Steve Stevenson, Chamber/Tourism Director Pete Lopes and Lock Haven City Planner Leonora Hannagan. Partner organizations for the event



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include the museums, the Clinton County Arts Council, Lock Haven University, Lock Haven Outfitters and Avenue 209 Coffee House. To learn more, [click here](#).

Lock Haven's free summer concert series attracts many to the river. Photo by Vicki Smedley.



## Lower Susquehanna News: Eagles Flock to River

The Lower Susquehanna typically plays host to a number of migrating Bald Eagles until mid January. Follow the Susquehanna River 10 miles south into Maryland near the Conowingo Dam, and you'll likely spot an eagle plus an intrepid photographer or two. The abundance of fish and the shallow nature

of the river create the perfect migratory stopover for the birds. Just last week 35 eagles were reportedly spotted according to the [Conowingo Bald Eagle Facebook Page](#). Learn more from [this great visitor's guide](#) then grab your binoculars and get going!

Photo by Jonathan Bautz.

### Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

To learn about Business Partnership Opportunities, [contact Bridget Kane](#), Membership & Volunteer Coordinator.



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## River Island Workday Reflection SGP's Mike Grasso Goes Paddling

If you've ever camped on the public islands in the Middle Susquehanna Region, you need to thank our partner, the Susquehanna River Trail Association (SRTA), for the unique experience (And if you have NOT, add it to

your 2015 bucket list!).

This all volunteer group creates and maintains the campsites on many of the river islands for public enjoyment. Our AmeriCorps Volunteer and Volunteer Steward Coordinator, Mike Grasso, joined SRTA on the river last month during one of their volunteer workdays.

"It was very windy and paddling against the wind wasn't easy, but even wet and cold, we still enjoyed ourselves," reports Grasso. "We visited three of the more popular campsites to collect the log books, make note of any needed improvements around camp. Reading through the log books was interesting, and illustrates just how popular the campsites are with visitors, locals, scout groups, and families." The group encourages campers to practice "Leave No Trace" ethics during their stay. "I can't wait until summer to take my friends out to this section of the water trail. The only thing we plan to leave is our own story in the log books!" says Grasso.

To learn about future volunteer workdays and visiting the islands, [click here](#).

Mike enjoys a unique view from a public river island campsite.

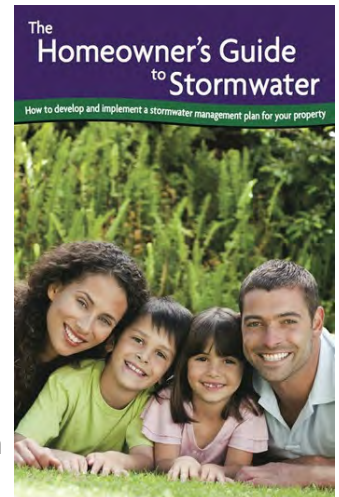




## Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater: Protect Clean Water in Your Backyard!

Winter is a great time to start thinking about your spring home improvement projects. The new Homeowners Guide to Stormwater will get you on the right track to protect clean water.

This printed guide, online videos, and online mapping activity will help you better understand stormwater, why stormwater runoff can be a problem, and what you can do about it. Find out how much stormwater runoff is generated on your property and how it flows across and leaves your property. Finally, this guide will help you create your own stormwater management plan and select simple stormwater solutions to be implemented on your property. Request your copy by contacting Kristen Kyler at [klk343@psu.edu](mailto:klk343@psu.edu).



## Researchers Along the River Video Highlights Dam Impacts

In a new video from the Chesapeake Bay Program, Bruce Michael, Director of Resource Assessment at Maryland Department of Natural Resources, visits the Conowingo Dam on the lower Susquehanna River to describe the hydroelectric plant's evolving impact on the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



The Conowingo Hydroelectric Generating Station, or Conowingo Dam, is one of three dams on the lower Susquehanna River. While the reservoir behind the dam has long captured sediment—and the nutrients that are often attached—flowing downstream, reducing the amount of sand, silt, nitrogen and phosphorous entering the Chesapeake Bay, recent studies have drawn attention to its changing effectiveness as a “pollution gate.” Check out the video and learn about its impact on the river and bay.



Pennsylvania Organization  
for Watersheds & Rivers



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## Fund Your Greenway Project: Grant Spotlight: Community Watershed Education

Are families and children in your community unaware of threats to clean drinking water and unsure of what they

can do to protect this resource?

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through its [WREN Project](#) (Water Resources Education Network) has



funding opening January 2015 to help launch or strengthen community partnerships that raise awareness and educate citizens about ways to keep Pennsylvania water resources clean and healthy. [Learn more here.](#)

The Watershed Education grant awards up to \$5,000 to help foster local

community partnerships that raise awareness, implement demonstration projects and encourage behavior change that will reduce polluted runoff. A Source Water Protection grant awards up to \$8,000 to foster collaboratives that will educate local officials and residents about ways to protect public drinking water resources.

See this and many other grant resources for your local projects at our [Susquehanna Greenway Project Funding webpage](#). As always, [let us know](#) if you'd like our letter of support for your Greenway project. Building the Susquehanna Greenway and citizen stewards one local project at a time!

Photo by [Erkan Guzal](#).

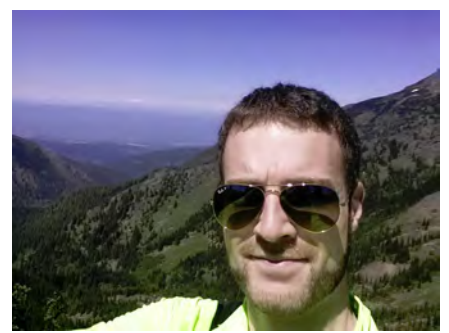
## Faces of the Greenway New Path for Jon Beam



The Montour Area Recreation Commission has announced the hiring of Jon Beam as MARC's new Assistant Director, effective January 5, 2015. Beam will begin the beloved maple sugar programming at the Montour Preserve and work on other educational and outdoor recreation project in Montour County and the surrounding region. Beam joined the SGP Board of Directors in 2013 and assisted in our strategic planning process, as well as our outreach and education programs. Thank you for your service Jon and congratulations!

[Meet Trace Seaton](#)

We've recently welcomed Trace Seaton as a new volunteer to our Lewisburg, PA offices! Trace is no newbie to the outdoors, as he is originally from Portland, OR where he grew up hiking, mountain biking, camping and paddling. Transplanted to PA after finishing his Masters of Sport Administration and Leadership at Seattle University, in Seattle WA, Trace was excited to learn about the Susquehanna Greenway. "I



wanted to volunteer and get involved to learn more about my new community, meeting new people, and make a positive impact in the field of conservation and recreation," says Seaton. "Volunteering for just a few hours each week and keeping my skills fresh is important to me while I searching for my next career in recreation, athletics, sports or fitness." Thank you Trace for all your hard work helping us keep our database in shipshape and sharing our message of healthy, outdoor recreation along the Susquehanna Greenway!

## Build Your Greenway

Creating over 500 miles of connected parks, trails, conserved areas, and revitalized river towns is no small task and we cannot do it without local partners and help from people like you. Here are different ways you can get involved:

Membership: Consider making a tax-deductible donation to show your love for the Susquehanna! [Click here to become a member](#) of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership or give the gift of membership to that special someone. Thank you!

Volunteer/Internships: Whether you're interested in volunteering in our Lewisburg office, or you'd like to hear about different volunteer opportunities (river clean-ups, photography, event volunteers, etc.) needed throughout the year along the river, we'd love to get to know you!

AmazonSmile: When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership! Same prices, same

products, same service.

<https://smile.amazon.com>. Thank you!



Banner photos, from left: Winter barn by Jesse Kline; Jogger in Muncy by Sabrina Barner; Redtail Hawk by Mike Phillippe; Columbia/Wrightsville Bridge.

Please visit our website at [www.SusquehannaGreenway.org](http://www.SusquehannaGreenway.org).

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