

Healthy
Sustainable
Susquehanna
Communities

eConnections

March



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Gages Critical To River Management **State of the Susquehanna Report Released**



Photo: A USGS stream gage in Towanda, PA

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) recently issued a State of the Susquehanna report showing trends in key water resource indicators. SRBC cites the lack of reliable funding for stream gages to be the *greatest threat* to the future of water resources management in the Susquehanna watershed. [Read more here.](#)

The good news: Nutrient and sediment monitoring data indicate the overall health of the Susquehanna River Basin is continuing to improve. Also, of the more than 49,000 miles of rivers and streams in the basin, less than 14 percent are impaired for aquatic life uses. [Read the full report here.](#)

Greenway Mini-Grant: Buffalo Valley Trail

Each month learn about a local project being funded through the Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant Program that is helping to build the Greenway and connect people to the Susquehanna River. The program is funded in part by the PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources.



How do you get cyclists and walkers safely across a river when an old railroad bridge, narrow streets, traffic, and other aspects of the built environment complicate a great idea? Community partners have

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Susquehanna Greenway Partnership



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Your gift will help us protect the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna, revitalize river communities and build connected parks, trails, and public river access points.



Our Mission

banded together in the river town of Lewisburg to solve this issue, which is anything but pedestrian. With a \$5,000 SGP Mini-Grant representatives of the Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority, Bucknell University Civil Engineering students, and Larson Design Group of

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

If you are interested in helping with a local Greenway project, or would like to assist us with an event, photography, office work, etc. visit our website and [click on volunteer](#).

Williamsport are developing a conceptual design for the remaining phase of the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail to extend the trail through town and across the West Branch. [Read more here](#).

Susquehanna Histories



Don't miss this exciting public event that illustrates the lives of early peoples of the Susquehanna.

Susquehannocks and the Susquehanna: The River's Bounty in the Early 1600s" Saturday, March 30, 10:00am at the Susquehanna Room, PA State Museum, Harrisburg. Join Andrew Wyatt, M.A. PA Historical and Museum Commission, for this exclusive talk about this group of Native American. Museum entrance fee is \$5. For more information, [click here](#).

Image: Susquehannock as described by Capt. John Smith from his 1606 explorations of the Chesapeake Bay. See the complete map at the [Library of Congress](#).

Featured Sponsor:



Have fun with every Run, Jump & Throw!

Register youth ages 9 - 14 for a local event in your community.

www.hersheystrackandfield.com

Volunteers Needed!

Get ready for a taste of Outdoor Life! SGP will be participating in the [PA Outdoor Life Expo](#) at the Lycoming Mall in Pennsdale **April 4-7th** and we need a few volunteers to staff our informational table! Can you help?



Join us for a little outreach, people watching, *live animals* (always a crowd favorite), and help us hand out stickers and share information about the River. Volunteer shifts are 2-hours and available all days. Contact Erin for more information at epierce@susquehannagreenway.org or 570-522-7244. Hope you can join us for this wild time!

Susquehanna Greenway Regional Organizations

North Branch
[Endless Mountains Heritage Region](#)

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

Upper West Branch
[Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#)

New Funding for Greenway Projects



How do you build the State's largest greenway? It starts with YOUR local projects!

To assist communities develop projects, SGP hosted the Greenway Grants Workshop in Sunbury last month to highlight a number of funding sources for parks, trails, river access, and green infrastructure projects. Over 50 community leaders learned about opportunities from the DCNR, the

Upcoming Events

To have an event included in our newsletter, please list your event at our [website](#).

Edward Abbey Program

Lewisburg
March 18

Landscaping Conference

Nanticoke
March 19

Susquehanna Summit

Lewisburg
March 20

River Trail Celebration

Duncannon
March 21

Revitalization Meeting

Jersey Shore
March 21

Bird Behavior Program

Camp Hill
March 21

World Water Day

Global
March 22

Audubon Training

Carlisle
March 23

Reptiles of PA Program

Tunkhannock
March 23

Moon Hike & Tasting

Wrightsville
March 23

Woodcarving Fest

Millersville
March 23 – 24

Rec and Park Conference

Hershey

Commonwealth Financing Authority (Act 13 Marcellus impact fee funds), National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Trust, and SGP. To view the event flyer and featured grants, [click here](#).

Looking for other funding sources? Visit www.susquehannagreenway.org/project-funding

\$1 Million for Trails, Paths, and More

Over a million dollars is available for alternative transportation projects in eight Central Pennsylvania counties — Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union.

Through the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), \$1,031,608 is available locally for projects such as trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, overlooks, lighting, and rehabilitating historic transportation facilities. Funds may not be used for routine maintenance. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, April 12**. [Click here to read more](#).



Photo courtesy of [Flickr](#).

Lancaster County Access Improvements Requires Partial Closure of Pequea Boat Launch

PPL Holtwood has begun work to build two new boat ramps, docks, and parking at the Pequea Boat Launch on the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County. “PPL is committed, as part of its operating license for the Holtwood hydroelectric plant, to expanding recreational opportunities for the public along the Susquehanna River,” said John M. Levitski, PPL’s regional community relations director for the Lancaster area. The project is expected to be finished by mid May. For safety, the boat ramp area and parking lot will be closed during construction. Work will be conducted weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, [click here](#).



Photo: The river near Holtwood by Jay Doering.

Keystone Cake And Eat It Too!



March 23 – 27

Marcellus Shale Workshop
La Plume
March 26

Bike Tuning Clinic
Bloomsburg
March 26

Financing Green Infrastructure
Online Webinar
March 27

ADA for Parks and Trails
Online Webinar
March 29

Susquehannocks Presentation
Harrisburg
March 30

Hike & History
Wrightsville
March 30

Falcon Workshop
Harrisburg
April 1

Land Conservation Conference
State College
April 4 – 6

Outdoor Life Expo
Pennsdale
April 4 – 7

PA Watersheds Conference
State College
April 5 – 6

River Dining & Learning
Wrightsville
April 5

Civil War Walk
Wrightsville
April 13

Paddle Trip
Lewisburg
April 14



If you have a favorite local park or trail, there is a good chance that it was made possible thanks to the Keystone Fund!

A shining example of bipartisan support, the Keystone Fund and its dedicated funding source, a 15% share of the State's realty transfer tax, passed in the Senate by a vote of 48 to 0 and in the House by a vote of 196 to 3 ([Act 50 of 1993](#)). It has helped conserve more than 154,000 acres of green space, supported over 1,900 park projects, and funded 570 historic preservation projects!

Join Keystone partners and DCNR Secretary Richard Allan on **Monday, March 18, from 1:30 - 2:30 pm** to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Fund at the State Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg. Festivities will conclude with a Keystone Cake cutting by original Keystone champions responsible for the creation of the program in 1993. SGP will be on-hand to show our support for this fund which enables Greenway communities to develop local projects along the River!



Photos: The Susquehanna Warrior Trail, Luzerne County and Millersburg Riverfront Park, Dauphin County were made possible in part to Keystone Funds.

Free Public Education Series

With topics like stormwater management, opportunities and challenges of shale development, and working with conservation districts, Keystone College Environmental Education Institute's Public Education Series has something for everyone. Each session is free and open to the public at the Keystone College Campus in La Plume, Lackawanna County. For a schedule of upcoming sessions, [click here](#).

"Moose" Marathon



Fun to say and spell, too! Register today for the 1st-ever Chinklacamoose Marathon, to be held **Sunday April 21, 2013**. The route winds along the West Branch through Clearfield County on a tough course utilizing the Clearfield-Grampion Rail Trail, roads, and trails. Run a full or half marathon and compete as an individual or as a team.

Chinklacamoose was the name of the Leni-Lenape or Delaware Indian village located where Clearfield borough now stands. The

To have an event included in our newsletter, please list your event at our [website](#).

event benefits local conservation groups and celebrates the history and connections to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River! [Click here for more info.](#)

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



What's Your Bay Footprint?

Have you ever wondered about your personal connections and impacts downstream and into the Chesapeake? Nitrogen is one of the biggest pollutants in the Bay and there are many choices we can make every day to help reduce our nitrogen impact. Use the Chesapeake Foundation's Bay footprint calculator to add up your impacts. You can see how the small and big decisions you make every day can have a lasting impact!



Photo courtesy of [Flickr](#).

Summer Teen Camp

August 4 - 6

Trout Unlimited's Eastern Abandoned Mine Program will host a youth camp August 4 - 8, 2013 to focus on abandoned mine drainage (AMD), brook trout, and coldwater conservation. Youth ages 14 to 17 are eligible to attend this five-day camp that will be held at Mahaffey Camp and Conference Center along the West Branch Susquehanna River near Mahaffey, Pa. **Applications due by April 1**, for information, [click here](#).



Don't Get "Tick'd," Be Prepared!



Mild winters can mean ticks are on the move earlier than expected. To spread the word on Lyme disease prevention among trail users, the [Endless Mountains Heritage Region](#) recently obtained informational signs to be posted along local trails. "We got the signs from our local Department of Health office in Towanda. They received them from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with some fliers on Lyme disease which we have as well. We gave out eight signs last year to different trail groups," said Executive Director, Phil Swank.



If your outdoor group is interested in something similar, check out the [CDC's website](#) for free downloads, handouts, and signage information. Enjoy spring outings, but stay vigilant for any ticks that try to tag-along!



Susquehanna Summit



The National Wildlife Federation is hosting a Susquehanna Summit at the Best Western Country Cupboard in Lewisburg, PA on **Wednesday, March 20th** from 8:30am to 4pm. The goal is to bring together sportsmen, anglers, conservationists and try to forge a voice for the river in our region. SGP will be a featured panelist and we hope to see you there! For more information and to RSVP, [click here](#).



Conservation Gatherings



A critical mass of conservation conferences will be descending on State College the first week of April!

PA Land Conservation Conference - April 4 - 6, Penn Stater. Featuring awesome field trips, speakers, and topics like "Reading the Forested Landscape," "Making Trail Projects Happen" and "Land & Water Conservation in Gas Shales" For more info, [click here](#).

PA Watersheds ACT Conference - April 5 - 6, Nittany Lion Inn. Celebrate the good work being done by water organizations, learn from each other how best to solve the myriad of challenges facing clean water advocates, hear from experts in advocacy, and build collective solutions to shared challenges. For more info, [click here](#).

Photo of Bald Eagle State Park by Cody Arnold.



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER VALLEY
every turn a treasure



Skip Wieder Honored

Past SGP Board Member, [SRHCES](#) member, and overall river champion, H. W. "Skip" Wieder has received the Adam Smith Leadership Award from Economics Pennsylvania, a group based in Selinsgrove. The award honors an individual who has helped students learn about economics and entrepreneurship.



Past winners include former state representative Merle Phillips and current Senator John Gordner (R-27th, Berwick). The mission of



Bitting Recreation, Inc.

CNB Bank

Geokinetics

Jersey Shore Area
Lioness Club

Jersey Shore Moose
Lodge #214

Norcen Industries, Inc.

Santino's Italian Cuisine

Susquehanna Trailways

Wegmans

Weis Markets

Woodlands Bank

Economics Pennsylvania is to ensure that young people understand economic and financial literacy concepts.

Photo courtesy of Blue Dog Imaging. (L to R) Fritz Heinemann, Honorable John R. Gordner PA State Senator (R-27), H.W. "Skip" Wieder and Andy Russell.

Fishing Gear - Need to Spring Clean?



In an effort to help those in need and reduce items being sent to the landfill, the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited has started a recycling program for fishing equipment and accessories.

Donate your old line, hooks, lures, weights, waders, vests, poles, fly tying materials, and anything related to fishing.

Groups that benefit from the gear include Project Healing Waters and Camp Victory. Items are also used for Chapter programs. Contact Bob Baker rbaker@earthlink.net to arrange your donation, or bring items to any chapter meeting. Way to recycle, Susquehanna Chapter

Investing In River Towns

Susquehanna's Booming Microbreweries



*From "A River of Beer" by Lew Bryson
Reprinted with permission from the author
and the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau*

I've been reporting – and enjoying – the progress of the craft beer revolution in Pennsylvania for almost 20 years, and I've never seen anything like what's going on

along the Susquehanna River right now. From Harrisburg up to Wilkes-Barre, new breweries are popping up all along the river; it is the hottest spot for beer in the state.

You can check out four of them in an easy 24-mile drive, starting in the thriving rivertown of Berwick at Berwick Brewing, running downhill along the river to the Inn at Turkey Hill and Marley's in Bloomsburg, and finishing up at Old Forge Brewing in the middle of the shops and stores of Danville's Mill Street. Of course, you'll have to have a designated driver, because while the food at all four stops is great, the beers shouldn't be missed! [Read the rest of Lew's article here.](#)

Photo courtesy of Flickr.

River Reads

Susquehanna River Birding And Wildlife Trail
by Audubon Pennsylvania

Songbirds are chirping and spring is around the corner. What better way to prepare than a beautifully illustrated guide to our local birding areas and trails? Published in 2005 by Audubon Pennsylvania, this 85-page soft-sided guide includes 218 sites in 39 counties in and around the Susquehanna River watershed, including Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers, the Pennsylvania Wilds area, the Appalachian Mountains, and parts of the Pocono and Appalachian Plateaus. Read more [here](#).



Internship Opportunity

Development Intern - Summer 2013

We are seeking a student intern to assist in researching and implementing a Go Greenway program, assist in corporate outreach activities and promotional programs for the purpose of raising funds for community projects along the Susquehanna Greenway in PA. Learn more, [here](#).



Meet Our Intern: Gabriele Keizer



Like our new look? The credit goes to Gabriele, our spring Communications Intern! Gabi is a senior at Susquehanna University majoring in communications journalism and political science. She serves as an editor for the student paper, *The Crusader*, and as a member of the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. Lucky for SGP, Gabi also has a special affinity for rivers and wanted to get involved! "I was born and raised along the Delaware River and have always enjoyed my time outside in the fresh air." Gabi, welcome to SGP and thank you for helping connect people to the river!

Visit us at www.susquehannagreenway.org