



## 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.

### Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

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## Gov. Corbett Launches Tourism and Heritage Exploration on Susquehanna in the Endless Mountains

By: Phil Swank, Regional Coordinator, SGP & Endless Mountains Heritage Region



Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett visited the Endless Mountains to begin his tour of Pennsylvania's treasured

outdoors on Wednesday, August 10th. With Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau (EMVB) serving as a host for the visit, Governor Corbett paddled the North Branch from Mehoopany to Tunkhannock in Wyoming County. Having lunch with regional leaders in heritage and tourism, the Governor remarked that the North Branch offered some of the most beautiful vistas and opportunities to view wildlife in the state and the nation. He was especially impressed with the Vosburg Neck area and the Howland Preserve, with historical and natural attributes including canal features which remain intact today because of the 1886-construction of the Vosburg Tunnel.

"We were able to talk with the Governor about the opportunities, challenges and impacts associated with the Marcellus Shale natural gas exploration, collection and transmission," said Swank, "while exploring ways the private and public sectors can work collaboratively to preserve, enhance and promote our region's natural and man-made assets." Throughout his remarks,

[Keystone Active Zone](#)

Gov. Corbett referred to the wonderful natural and heritage assets of the Endless Mountains and publicly recognized the

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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 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](#)

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

[Lower Susquehanna  
Susquehanna Gateway Heritage  
Area](#)

#### **Upcoming Events**

[Montour DeLong Community  
Fair](#)  
Washingtonville  
August 15-20

[Young Explorers: Ponds](#)  
Danville  
August 17

[The Sunbury River Festival](#)  
Sunbury  
August 18-20

[Hunter/Fur-Taker Education  
Course](#)

importance of preserving these places and promoting their availability as an easy destination for visitors to the Commonwealth.

[Read more...](#)

### **Covered Bridges New Sign Dedication**

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) will be dedicating three new covered bridge signs on **Wed. August 24 at 10am** starting at the Rupert Bridge in Bloomsburg and continuing on to the Twin Bridges in Fishing Creek Township and Fowlersville Bridge at Briar Creek Park.



Please join us as we celebrate the completion of this exciting local project. Special guests and speakers include Chris Young, Columbia County Commissioner; Dan Knorr, Mayor of Bloomsburg; David "Otto" Kurecian, Executive Director of the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau; George Conn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA; and volunteers Bob and Judy Kuether. To read the full press release [click here](#).

### **New Park Along the Greenway is Dedicated Streater Park, Bloomsburg**

Just over 14 months ago, the SEDA-COG Community Resource Center (CRC) completed a master site plan for a new park in the Columbia County town of Bloomsburg. That plan has now begun to take shape with the dedication of Streater Park, a 55-acre site at the confluence of Fishing Creek and the Susquehanna River.



For now Streater Park includes two soccer fields. However the plan includes football and softball fields, picnic

pavilions and trails that would connect it with Bloomsburg Town Park and the Rupert Covered Bridge. More athletic fields will be built after completion of an engineering study. Trish Carothers, Program Director, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, said, "Streater Park has the potential to become a major destination in

Berwick  
August 18-20

Towanda Riverfest  
Towanda  
August 18-20

Nescopeck Community Days  
Nescopeck  
August 18-20

2nd Annual Jam in the Park:  
Free Concert Series  
Wilkes-Barre  
August 18

Drumming Circles  
Shikellamy State Park  
August 18

Berwick Summer Concert Series  
Berwick  
August 18

Civil War Weekend  
York County  
August 19-21

Bloomsburg Art Fest  
Bloomsburg  
August 19-20

Community Forestry Workshop  
Bloomsburg  
August 19

Gallery Opening: "The Art of  
Dance-The Music of Art"  
Wyalusing  
August 19

Whips Gone Wild Car Show  
Bloomsburg  
August 20

LARA Sprint Triathlon  
Lewisburg  
August 20

Towanda Riverfest Paddle  
Ulster  
August 20

Columbia County. The master plan nicely balances new recreational resources and the Park's heritage and scenic qualities."

[Read more...](#)

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## Greenways and Trails Summit September 11-13, York, PA



Greenway advocates, volunteers, planners, health professionals, government officials, and interested community members are invited to attend the 2011 Greenway and Trails Summit September 11-13 at the Yorktown Hotel in York, PA. Presented by PA Recreation

and Park Society and PA DCNR, the summit includes mobile workshops on developing hiking, biking, paddling trails, and vibrant trail towns. Don't miss the Susquehanna Greenway presentation! Session tracks include Health, Marketing of Trail Towns, Partnerships, and Construction/Maintenance/Management, not to mention plenty of opportunities for networking. For more information and to register [click here](#).

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## Grab Your Cameras and Capture History!

The PA Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has launched the "This is MY HISTORY" photo campaign and invites everyone to contribute snapshots of historic places to illustrate and promote the Preservation Plan for PA. Subjects can include archaeological excavations, historic or rural landscapes, downtown streetscapes, neighborhoods, or re-use of buildings and structures. Alternatively, submit what historic resources you believe have been lost to neglect or slated for demolition. Your photo might be selected to illustrate the new State Plan and help PHMC receive more public input on the comprehensive preservation plan. Photos must be received by October 31. For submission details visit the [PHMC website](#).



Hellbender Half Marathon  
Catawissa  
August 21

McKees Adventure Guided  
Recreational Kayak River Trip  
Port Trevorton to Mahantango  
August 21

Post Office Art Lecture  
Williamsport  
August 21

North Branch Paddle with  
Expedition Chesapeake  
Cooperstown, NY  
August 22-23

Harford Fair  
New Milford  
August 22-27

Little League World Series  
South Williamsport  
August 25-September 4

Pequea in the Early 1900s as a  
Resort Town  
Holtwood  
August 25

Berwick Summer Concert Series  
Berwick  
August 25

Middlecreek Valley Antique  
Association Fall Show  
Snyder County  
August 26-28

2nd Annual Art in the Park  
Columbia  
August 26

Geocaching, Getting in on the  
Fun  
Mount Wolf  
August 27

New Berlin Day  
New Berlin  
August 27

## Local Artist Uses River for Inspiration Brian Keeler, Wyalusing



Brian Keeler has focused on the Susquehanna River as one of his main sources of interest for many years. He derives the primary source of inspiration for his river images from the beautiful

stretch of river in Bradford County, but he has also depicted the river shores in the Wyoming Valley near Wilkes-Barre and throughout the river's course. He values the time on the river as an important part of the picture-making process. Sometimes stopping to paint while driving past a favorite location or in a kayak when he paddles out to paint these studies from direct observation, they all have their own way of contributing to studio paintings.

Keeler founded The Blue Heron Gallery in 2003 in Wyalusing and will be presenting a show this summer and fall titled "The Art of Dance- The Music of Art" **Aug 15 to Dec 15**. The show opens on **Friday, August 19** with a gala opening complete with live swing and jazz music, featuring The Brian Murphy Combo (at 8p.m.), dance performances by several regional troupes, free dance instruction, a poetry reading, great culinary treats and of course the wonderful art. For information call 570-746-4922 or email [wchamber@epix.net](mailto:wchamber@epix.net) or [click here](#). To learn more about Brian Keeler [click here](#).

## Keystone Active Zone Register Online

The award-winning Keystone Active Zone Passport is a FREE program that encourages people of all ages and abilities to get active outside at close-to-home trails, parks, guided walks and outdoor events over the spring and summer. It lists 30 "passport stops" that offer more than 50 opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation within a 10 to 60 minute drive of anywhere in Luzerne County. Participants register on the program's website, visit the stops, track their progress, earn awards and are automatically eligible to win great prizes. It's easy and fun! Workplaces and schools can incorporate this into their wellness programming with the resources on the site's Promotional Toolkit page. The program



Wetland Animals  
Pequea  
August 27

Music in Cameron Park  
Sunbury  
August 27

Riverstock Olympic  
Triathlon-River Towns Race  
Series  
Sunbury  
August 28

Peace of the Susquehanna  
Guided Recreational Kayak  
River Trip  
Montgomery to Watsonstown  
August 28

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

### Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors



continues thru September 30 and it's not too late to register. For more information about the program and to register [click here](#) or call (570) 823-2191x140.

## Help Needed to Beautify the Greenway River Cleanups to be held in September



Illegal dumping of tires and litter is a major problem in many river communities and throughout the state since it raises concerns regarding public health and

safety, property values, and overall quality of life. To combat this issue Clinton County Cleanscapes (CCC) held a litter cleanup event in Jersey Shore on Saturday, August 13. Another event is planned in Lock Haven on Saturday, **September 10**.

Volunteers are needed to paddle, wade, and for land support. Lunch and supplies will be provided! Contact Elisabeth at (570) 726-3511 for more information about these great opportunities to improve the Greenway. Volunteers are also needed for a shoreline cleanup in Marysville on Saturday, **September 17** hosted by Susquehanna River Trails Association (SRTA) and the local chapter of the Sierra Club. Lunch will be provided for volunteers. Register with [Jack Flatley](#) or call 717-921-2838.

## Position Opening for Upper West Branch OSM/VISTA

**Application Deadline August 31**

The Clearfield County Conservation District and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership are now accepting applications for a Watershed Development Coordinator for the Upper West Branch Susquehanna. This is a one-year volunteer position with a monthly living stipend is made possible through Ameri-Corp and the Appalachian Coal Country Team. The ideal candidate will have excellent people skills and an interest in improving river communities and the environment that is impacted by coal mining. Responsibilities





include recruiting and training volunteers, education and outreach. For a complete job description, requirements and information on how to apply [click here](#).

## The Sunbury River Festival August 18-20



Celebrate the Susquehanna River on August 18-20 by bringing your friends and family to the annual Sunbury River Festival. The riverfront area will be packed with plenty of food and craft vendors and live entertainment taking to the stages every hour. There are also games, a Civil War

encampment, the area's largest car cruise-in and new features every year. Come for an hour, come from morning until night ... just be sure and come to the best summer festival in Central Pennsylvania! Volunteers are needed to help with SGP's informational booth. If you are interested please contact [Bridget Kane](#) at (570) 522-7275. For more information [click here](#)

## River Access Improvements on the North Branch

Progress is taking place in the implementation of the Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail Project—Phase II. Water Trail Coordinator David Buck worked with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the PA Fish & Boat



Commission on the design of wayfinding signage (depicted in photo) for installation at public access points on the river. Paddlers will readily identify access points as well as picnic and camping areas.

The staff and volunteers of North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) have completed the river access area restoration at the historic Howland Preserve and the design and fabrication of site signage. NBLT is incorporating the river access with riparian buffer improvements, walking trails, and parking area development with the overall management plan associated with this magnificent site on the oxbow at Vosburg Neck in Wyoming County. Endless Mountains Heritage Region partnered with PA Game Commission on restoration of a river access and site

enhancements at the State Game Lands 237 in Terry Township in Bradford County. Volunteer Gary Stevens (retired game officer) supervised students of Wyalusing Valley High School in re-establishing the river access area on the state game lands, as well as removing invasive plants, constructing benches, and designing and developing a parking area at the Game Lands site as well as a new river access in the Borough of Laceyville.

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### Development of Seneca Trail Underway

An historic iron truss bridge is being restored and made the anchor facility on a bicycle/pedestrian trail in Wyoming County thanks to fundraising by local groups and major gifts provided by Proctor & Gamble Corporation and Chesapeake Energy. With grantwriting and fund management provided by Endless Mountain Heritage Region (EMHR), Eaton Township Supervisors are well on their way to bridge restoration and trail development. Funding from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and PennDOT is in place to fund the engineering studies and bridge reconstruction leading up to trail development and marketing.

The planned six-mile trail will re-connect residents in the Village of Eatonville and incorporate magnificent rural scenery along Bowman's Creek and Miller Mountain near Tunkhannock and the Susquehanna River North Branch. EMHR plans to administer all donations and grant funds and pursue additional resources through the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program to develop trail signage, mapping and marketing products.

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### New Trail Section Created



The Friends of Milton State Park, in partnership with PA DCNR, are continuing their efforts to construct and maintain a network of trails at Milton State Park. In July, a new connector trail was constructed linking the South Trail and the Mid-Trail. The state park is an 82-acre island

on the West Branch Susquehanna River within the Susquehanna Greenway. "The island is a green refuge for those seeking shade, a place to walk and easy access to the river," said Tom Dean, President of the Friends of Milton State Park. Until recently the entire island, outside of the soccer fields and river access, was overrun with Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant that made walking the island impossible. Gradually the 'Friends' have created several miles of trail.

"When most people think of Milton State Park - they immediately think of AYSO Soccer. The Friends, through the development of the new playground and trails are creating reasons for others to visit the park," said Friends volunteer Paul Yost.

"The view from the southern end of the island - is one of my favorite spots on the River," said Brian Auman, a regional coordinator for the Susquehanna Greenway and volunteer with the Friends. "If you haven't hiked the trails - you should come out. The South Trail is especially shady and green - a beautiful walk on even the hottest summer days," said Auman.

To volunteer or donate to Friends of Milton State Park, please contact [Tom Deans](#).

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### **Environmental Education Grant Opportunity Bradford County**

The Bradford County Commissioners have created a new and innovative Environmental Education Grant Program and asked Phil Swank, Endless Mountain Heritage Region, Executive Director, to provide leadership in this initiative administered by the Bradford County Conservation District. Professionals representing state parks, rural electrification, cooperative extension, forest landowners associations, rural development agencies and private industry advise on program management and allocation of funds.

The Bradford County Commissioners spearheaded the education fund in 2010 using revenues derived from landfill tipping fees levied on Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling operations "drill cuttings" that are disposed of at the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority. The program supports local environmental education and stewardship efforts which incorporate strong partnerships, significant numbers of people served, innovation, history of success and sustainability. For more information on this grant opportunity [click here](#).

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### **River Experience Fundraiser September 17**

Does an evening of local brews, food, live music, a silent auction full of local products, and scenic boat rides along the lower Susquehanna River match your definition of a good time? We certainly think so! The Susquehanna Gateway



Heritage Area (SGHA) will be hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual River

Experience Fundraiser on Saturday, September 17 from 5:30 to 8:30pm. The fun-filled event supports SGHA's operations and educational programs throughout York and Columbia counties. The River Experience will be held on the scenic riverfront grounds of the John Wright Store & Restaurant in Wrightsville, PA. For ticket prices and information call Marie at 717-252-0229x4.

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## Job Opportunity on the River



Do you have a passion for heritage preservation, land conservation or outdoor recreation? Put your talents to work for the Susquehanna River! The Susquehanna Gateway

Heritage Area is seeking a full-time Susquehanna River Project Manager to oversee projects associated with PA DCNR's Lower Susquehanna Conservation Landscape Initiative, manage responsibilities associated with the Lower Susquehanna River Water Trail, and coordinate projects with the PPL Lands Initiative, and other regional collaborations. See the position description [here](#).

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## Historic Site Manager Needed

### French Azilum

French Azilum, Inc. seeks an energetic individual to manage the French Azilum Historic Site in central Bradford County. Must be personable, organized, have a positive attitude, and be able to provide tours and multi-task. Knowledge of local history and computer



skills are pluses. Salaried position at \$12,000 per year based on full-time May - October and part-time November - April. [Click here](#) for details on the site and schedules. Call Phil Swank at (570) 265-1528 for more information. Mail letter of interest and resume by September 16th to: French Azilum, Inc., Attn: Search Committee, 469 Queens Road, Towanda, PA 18848.

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## Investing in Our River Towns

### The Turkey Hill Experience

*This article is the first in a series designed to illustrate examples of private individual and business investments in post-industrial river towns that foster more sustainable economic development through green building design, reuse/rehabilitation, or a focus on heritage- or eco-tourism within the Susquehanna Greenway.*



When Turkey Hill Dairy began the search for a suitable location for company exhibit, dining, and retail space twenty years ago, they knew that Lancaster County's undeveloped farmland was out of the question. Citing a strong commitment to both farmland preservation and the desire to see redevelopment in existing urban areas, the company eventually located the exhibit and store in the historic Ashley & Bailey Silk Mill in Columbia, PA. The three-story red brick building was built in 1899 to process imported raw silk, and later housed the Tidy Products sewing company until it closed in the 1970s. While decades of vacancy had left it windowless, blanketed in vines, and sprouting trees from the top floor, developers salvaged much of the original facade. The Experience opened in June and the company estimates over 200,000 visitors this year. While most of the exhibits require admission, there is a public lobby where visitors learn about the history of the Turkey Hill Dairy, Lancaster County agriculture, and the local river towns of Columbia, Marietta, and Wrightsville. For hours of operation and more information visit [The Experience website](#).

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## Susquehanna River Towns Symposium

Save the Date - October 14 & 15



The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and Bucknell University will be hosting an educational symposium focused on community revitalization and greening initiatives for river towns.

Mark your calendar for October 14 and 15 at Bucknell University in Lewisburg. Registration information and full program details will be available shortly at [www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org).

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### Meet Our Board

#### Diane "Dee" Alwine

Diane Alwine is the new Vice Chair of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership's (SGP) Board of Directors. She is the Director of Environmental and Safety Compliance for the Hershey Company and serves as President on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Resource Council. The



Hershey Company feels that quality of life and work-life balance are important for their employees and environmental stewardship is a key element of to their mission.

Dee spent her childhood summers on the Chesapeake Bay, which instilled in her a passion for the outdoors and water related activities, in particular. She enjoys anything that gets her outside, such as, biking, fishing, running/walking and gardening. Alwine says, "The Susquehanna River, its tributaries, towns and countryside have so much to offer – but only if we protect and manage the resources wisely. SGP can and does serve as a convener and link for many local and/or regional organizations throughout the basin that otherwise might not interact with each other, all striving for the common good of the River and the watershed." Dee and her husband live in Elizabethtown and

have two daughters in college who they enjoy watching play sports. Now with their two daughters in college it allows them to spend more time supporting SGP and other environmental and community organizations.

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## Researcher's on the River

### Cynthia Venn & Christopher Hallen



Bloomsburg University Professors Cynthia Venn and Christopher Hallen are teaming up to engage students in river research projects. Venn, an oceanographer/marine chemist, is an Associate Professor of Geography and Geosciences. Hallen is an analytical chemist and Professor of Chemistry

and Biochemistry. Their research team had its beginning when they started team teaching a class in Aqueous Geochemistry almost 12 years ago. The course features field studies including an independent research project for each student or team of students that are then presented at regional Geological Society of America meetings. From these projects has grown an ongoing research partnership that includes abandoned mine drainage studies, studies of water quality at sites that may be impacted by external sources such as Marcellus drilling, and work with the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies yielding chemical data to support several of the organizations geologist and biologists.

[Read more...](#)

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## Like Us on Facebook!



Susquehanna Greenway Partnership has now joined the social network of Facebook. Like us on Facebook to learn about upcoming events, programs and greenway initiatives in your area, volunteer opportunities, and how you can stay connected with Pennsylvania's most important natural asset-the Susquehanna River.

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