



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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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.



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Join Us, Help Build the Greenway Give the Gift of Membership



We hope that during this season of giving thanks, you'll think of the significant role that the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership plays in creating places where people are connected to the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna. Through our parks and trails, we can live active, healthy lives. At SGP we value our connections with our partners and members and would not be able to create **Pennsylvania's largest greenway** without your continued support.

We'd like to thank our members for their support, as you truly are the backbone of this organization. Your financial support allows us to continue to conserve and enhance natural resources, revitalize river towns, improve connectivity, improve river access, and share our natural and cultural assets in our river communities. Thank you!

Do you know somebody in your circle of friends and colleagues that might like to join us in our mission too? If so, please pass along our name, or forward this email and tell them why you choose to support our work.

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Our Mission

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is a leading

Looking for a unique and local holiday gift? Consider a gift of membership for anyone who loves the Susquehanna River and their community, by clicking the button below. We'll send them a notice of your generosity.

There are also many who receive this e-newsletter that are not yet members of SGP. If you like what we do and feel like making a difference with your dollars, please consider joining us at this time. Many thanks!



All monetary and in-kind contributions to Susquehanna Greenway Partnership are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent allowed by law.

Photo by JT Foster

Greenway Mini-Grant: Montgomery

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.



Students from Penn College assisted the borough of Montgomery by planting shade trees at gateway locations around town, including sycamore trees at the public river access. "They held their lab course outside, used machinery, wore hard hats. It was a pretty neat day at school for them," says Alice Trowbridge, Greenway Coordinator. See photos and read more [here](#).

Photo courtesy of Becky Sanguedolce.

DCNR Announces Funding for Greenway Projects Funded Along Every Branch

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced 198 grants totalling \$26.5million for recreation and conservation projects across the state.

We are pleased to share that the Susquehanna Greenway corridor will see the impact from this investment through many funded project partners. SGP received \$165,000 from the Environmental



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](#).

Featured Sponsor:



PPL Corporation of Allentown, through its affiliated companies, owns or controls about 19,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the United States, sells energy in key U.S. markets, and delivers electricity and natural gas to about 10 million customers in the United States and the United Kingdom.

www.pplweb.com

Susquehanna Greenway Regional Organizations

North Branch
Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Middle Susquehanna and
Lower West Branch

Stewardship Fund to continue our work revitalizing and connecting river towns, enhancing education, and coordinating water trail management.

Other partners working along the Greenway include the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, the Lancaster County Conservancy, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers, and the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation. Many Greenway counties also received funding for recreational, trail, or park projects that will help to build the Susquehanna Greenway. This includes some funding for the development of new public river access in Jersey Shore. SGP has been assisting Jersey Shore with fundraising and project development through our River Town program. Read about this project [here](#).

To see how state funding will impact the Susquehanna Greenway near you, [click here](#).

PA Water Trails - Economic Drivers



Visitors to four Pennsylvania water trails during the summer of 2012 generated almost three-quarters of a million dollars in economic activity and supported 11 full-time jobs.

The survey, conducted by ICF International on behalf of the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, gathered data from 352 interviews of water trail visitors from July to September on four of the state's 21 water trails: the Schuylkill, Susquehanna – North Branch, Juniata, and Three Rivers. Read more [here](#).

Photo by Chuck Haupt

Share your Susquehanna Photo



What do you love about our River? Quiet vistas, rock formations, fishing with buddies, skipping stones with the kids, river town events, or parks? It's certainly hard to decide!

Share your favorites in our 3rd Annual [Photo Contest](#). Upload your photos by February 1, 2013 for a chance to win cash prizes. Kids have their own special category!

Photo courtesy of [Flickr](#)

SEDA-COG Community
Resource Center

Upper West Branch
Pennsylvania Environmental
Council

Upcoming Events

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

Winter Salad Workshop
Wrightsville
December 22

Kids Winter Discovery
Harrisburg
December 27

New Years 5k
Bloomsburg
December 31

Bird Count Event
Lycoming County
December 31

Kids Smores & Skating
Lewisburg
January 5

Hike & History
Wrightsville
January 12

Fire & Ice Cyclocross
Danville
January 12

Tall Timbers Program
Harrisburg
January 15

American Chestnut Program
Camp Hill
January 17

River Dining & Learning Event
Wrightsville
January 18

River Town In National Spotlight

Columbia, PA is making it known that this River Town takes outdoor activities, recreation, and healthy living seriously. Located south of Harrisburg along the Susquehanna River, Columbia was recently honored by the [National League of Cities](#) for its efforts to improve borough parks, promote fresh foods offered at its public market, and improve food choices in schools.

Read more about Columbia's River Park and trail plans [here](#).



Public Access for West Branch

A bid totaling \$343,850 was awarded last month by DCNR to a HRI Inc., a State College construction company for construction of a new public river access launch for kayak and canoes on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. HRI Inc. will be overseeing construction in the Sproul State Forest District, Grugan Township, Clinton County.

The launch will increase public access and public safety. It will be located along the 20 mile stretch of river between Hyner View State Park and Lock Haven. A spring 2013 construction start is anticipated.



Conservation Summit Rescheduled



Hurricane Sandy forced the postponement of the Conservation Landscape Summit, originally planned for Oct. 29-30. The summit has been rescheduled for Jan. 14-15, 2013 in Harrisburg. The goal of the summit is to build understanding of and enthusiasm for packaging conservation, recreation

and economic development interests in large landscapes that have significant natural resources, i.e. parks, forests, trails and land protection. If you did not register for the original date, you may register for the new January date [here](#). Hope to see you there!

Breezy View near Columbia, Pa by Todd Smith.

How's My Waterway?



Can you answer this question about your favorite vacation lake, or the river where you walk with your dog? Are streams in your community polluted, and what's being done about it if they are?

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

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



Most people don't know – and are surprised to learn – that the answers have been publicly available for years. The EPA has just released a new web-tool called, *How's My Waterway?* to help people understand the condition of their local waterbodies. Using the tool, you can see if your local waterway was checked for pollution, what was found, what steps you can take, and what is being done. Read more and access the tool [here](#).

River Town Race Series Opens Bids

The Montour Area Recreation Commission is now seeking bidders for the 2013 River Towns Race Series (RTRS) Event Management contract.

This group of races takes place throughout Central PA and combine running, biking, and river paddling. All bids must be submitted by 7pm on Monday, January 14, 2013. The 2013 RTRS schedule includes great events like the Humdinger Trail Run, River Towns Marathon, and MonTour Bike Race that together attract thousands of participants to the region. Learn more [here](#).



Photo courtesy of MARC.

Funding for Clean Water Projects

The Cora L. Brooks Foundation provides grants to watershed associations, environmental education programs and other 501(c)(3) organizations that work on solving clean water issues in the watersheds of the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. Grant awards range from \$1,000-\$15,000. The deadline to request a grant application checklist is **Dec. 19, 2012**. Find this and other grants to get your community garden growing, start a river clean-up or other project at our [Fund page](#).



Photo by Angela Haines.

Is Your Community Park Green and Great?



Do you have a park in your community that you think deserves to be recognized for outstanding "green" practices like managing stormwater, using recycled materials, or connecting people to nature?



Bitting Recreation, Inc.

Now you have the opportunity to nominate the park for the annual DCNR/PRPS Green Parks Award. Submission deadline is **December 28, 2012**. To review the criteria and application, [click here](#) and scroll down to Other Awards.

Soaring on the Susquehanna



The Lower Susquehanna is currently playing host to a large number of migrating Bald Eagles! 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. Read more at this [article](#) from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* then grab your binoculars and get going!

Photo by Steve Pensyl.

Creating Walkable Communities

New Book Provides Small-Town Guidance



We often hear how big cities like Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and Portland, Oregon—have taken measures to enhance their livability through walking and biking improvements that improve connectivity. “But,” Jeff Speck laments in his new book, *Walkable City*, “these locations are the exceptions. In the small and mid-sized cities where most Americans spend their lives, the daily decisions of local officials are still, more often than not,

making their lives worse.” Speck describes how making walkability happen is relatively easy and cheap; seeing exactly what needs to be done is the trick. In this new book, Speck shows how simple decisions have cascading effects, and how we can all make the right choices for our communities. Find the book at your local library, or online from a major retailer.

Photo courtesy of Flickr.

Honoring A Friend of the River

John Skotedis (1951 - 2012)



The Susquehanna River community lost a dear friend this month with the passing of John Skotedis. Many knew John through his position as head coach of Bucknell Crew from 1986-1992 and his contributions to the development of a community rowing

Geokinetics

Jersey Shore Area
Lioness Club

Santino's Italian Cuisine

Susquehanna Trailways

Weis Markets

Woodlands Bank



program, the Central Pennsylvania Rowing Association (CPRA). Many more have shared a meal at his riverside restaurants - Tedd's Landing, Tedd's On the Hill, and Skeeter's BBQ.

"The land from which we row actually belonged to John," said a statement from the CPRA Board. "He allowed the club and the schools to use that land because he wanted to share his love of the river and rowing with as many people as possible. He started teaching his wait-staff to row in the late 1990s and that group of adult rowers eventually became the club that we enjoy today. In many ways he really is the Father of Rowing on Lake Augusta. He will be missed."

In lieu of flowers, the family would welcome donations to three organizations: American Cancer Society, T&D's Cats, and/or the Central Pennsylvania Rowing Association. [Read more here.](#)

Investing In River Towns

Creative Reuse in Bloomsburg



Video production in the ballroom, arts on the grand staircase, movies in the bar, and bowling the basement – The Moose Exchange in downtown Bloomsburg is a bustling hub for community activities on any given day. The Exchange is just two years old but took a decade in the making. The unique name is descriptive of the building's history, as well as its give-and-take vision that involved many

people, ideas, and the foresight of one local intent on saving and restoring a unique old building in this river town community. [Read more here.](#)

Photo courtesy of Moose Exchange.

River Reads

American Shad in the Susquehanna River Basin by Richard Gerstell

It's hard to imagine a time when the Susquehanna River was choked with fish during the perilous spring migration of the mature American shad, the largest herring in North America. This native fish used to travel from the salty ocean to the Chesapeake Bay estuary and into the freshwater of the Susquehanna River to spawn in huge numbers and supported one of the largest fisheries along the coast. Richard Gerstell illustrates this incredible species and their perilous



decline due to dam construction, and plans for recovery in this book. Read more and find a preview [here](#).

Photo courtesy of [Flickr](#).

Meet Our Intern: Lindsey McLeod



We are pleased to welcome Lindsey McLeod to our team. Lindsey is a senior at Bucknell University, where she is majoring in Political Science and Sociology with a concentration in Legal Studies and a minor in Spanish (whew!). Lindsey gained a love of nature from New England beaches the mountains in Vermont. While abroad in Argentina, Lindsey discovered a passion for the non-profit sector, as she worked as an

intern for Amnesty International. Lindsey is our current Corporate Campaign and Administrative Intern and is excited about the opportunity to combine her passion for non-profit work with her love for the environment and its resources. Welcome Lindsey and thank you for all your hard work!

Visit us at www.susquehannagreenway.org