



**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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**Driving Tour Explores Middle Susquehanna Region  
Download the Guide Booklet and Audio Tracks!**



The cultural history of the Susquehanna River is centuries long and the impact of the river is longer still when you consider geological time. A new driving tour takes you back through time with a rich narrative history of human settlement and the geological formation the river and surrounding mountains. This tour will guide you on a 95-mile exploration of the Susquehanna Greenway to scenic view points and through charming river towns, where you are encouraged to stop, listen, and learn about the sites you are seeing. Historic, economic, and geographic connections between the Susquehanna River corridor and the Chesapeake Bay are revealed through a guide booklet and audio narration for each of 22 recommended stops. The guide booklet and audio narration can be downloaded at [www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org).

This tour was developed by the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership with funding support from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and in-kind contributions of many local supporters. Read more [here](#).

**FEMA Helps Shickshiny Plan for Greener Future**

Teri MacBride

Researchers on the River



### **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 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**

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 and  
Lower West Branch  
SEDA-COG Community  
Resource Center

Upper West Branch

## **Buyout of Damaged Homes a Relief to Many**



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved buyouts for two dozen flood-prone homes in Shickshinny. "These buyouts are an early Christmas gift for 24 property owners who have been repeatedly flooded over the years. I'm happy and

proud to tell these families that they will no longer have to suffer through repeated flooding and the process of rebuilding their lives," U.S. Rep. Lou Barletta, said in a news release.

In addition to the buyouts FEMA has a team of experts working on the ground in Shickshinny to lead a Long-term Recovery Community Visioning Plan. Dale Freudenberger, Susquehanna Greenway Coordinator for Luzerne County is participating in the Steering Committee for this intensive planning effort that is expected to be completed in 90 days.

"At the planning meeting on December 7 greenways and recreation was high on most everybody's lists of what people envision the Shickshinny area to be in the future," said Freudenberger. "Ideas included using the buyouts to create more greenway along the river and mitigating future losses, turning the greater Shickshinny area into a hub of recreational offerings along the river and mountains that include boat launch areas, riverfront parks, scenic areas, historic and cultural sites, that can be used for fishing, boating, hunting, hiking, biking, camping, and rock climbing. Revitalizing the business district was also high on the list for most folks"

### FEMA's timeline for long-term recovery assistance in Shickshinny:

Nov. and Dec. - Capture the past (thru stories from local residents)

Dec. - Envision the future

Jan. 2012 - Design your town

Jan and Feb. - Create a plan

Mar. thru 10 years - Make it a reality!

*Photo by Don Carey of the Times Leader*

## **Treasured Towns & Landscapes Photo Contest New Flood Photo Category Added - Deadline Extended**

While the river is often a beautiful and inviting resource, it is still part of a natural and dynamic water system. With this in mind we've added a **September 2011 Flood Category** and extended the contest deadline so that you can share your



Pennsylvania Environmental  
Council

perspectives on the unforgettable flooding of 2011. Our thoughts are with all the flood victims during this recovery.



**Upcoming Events**

Natural Ornaments  
Harrisburg  
December 23

Tuesday Rambles  
Tunkhannock  
December 28

New Years Eve 5K  
Bloomsburg  
December 31

12th Night Celebration  
Wrightsville  
January 5

Snowshoeing and XC Skiing  
Lewisburg  
January 14

Tuesday Rambles  
Tunkhannock  
January 17

XC Ski & Snowshoe Clinic  
Wrightsville  
January 21

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**



Do you have family or friends who love to be outside enjoying the towns along the river, fishing, hiking, or bike riding? Let them know to enter their stunning town, landscape, and wildlife photos in our Treasured Towns and Landscapes Photo Contest. Use the "forward to a friend" link at the bottom of this newsletter to help us spread the word. Winners will receive prizes from \$50 to \$200 and have their photos included in a photo gallery that will travel throughout the Greenway. [Click here](#) to see last year's winners, submit your entry, and for official rules and forms.

*Photo by Flickr user mdmarkus66*

**A Year of Devastation & Recovery for the River**

As we approach the new year, we reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of 2011. Without a doubt, the most memorable and destructive event this year was the September flood. We cannot forget that lives and livelihoods were lost, but we find comfort and hope in the good work and recovery efforts that are apparent in many communities, like the planning and visioning workshops taking place in Shickshinny. The flood also left us with resolutions for spring cleaning along the riverbanks, where flood debris impact recreation and enjoyment of public spaces within the greenway.



While marked by the flood, this year witnessed exciting river developments. Trout Unlimited's West Branch Recovery Benchmark Project revealed that water quality and some fish populations have improved for the West Branch and many of its tributaries. 2011 also saw SGP receive National Recreation Trail designation for the West Branch - the final segment of the river to receive this title! We also have a National Historic Connecting Trail application pending for the Susquehanna, which will help to promote sustainable economic development along the river's historic water trails.

We developed a **Susquehanna Greenway River Towns Program** to provide assistance to municipalities that want to envision a greener, more sustainable future for their communities. This program brings together community leaders into a "Green Team" with other stakeholders from Conservation Districts, County Planning Departments, state and federal agencies, and our Greenway Coordinators. Our focus is to make communities more



bike and pedestrian friendly; to create and enhance riverfront parks; to make downtowns greener and more attractive places to live work and play. There are over 70 river towns along the Susquehanna in





Pennsylvania, and we believe that revitalizing these communities is the answer to a more sustainable future for the Susquehanna Watershed and Chesapeake Bay.

Sprawl development is a threat to some of our most cherished natural areas and to the health of river town communities. Through our **Treasured Towns and Landscapes of the Susquehanna Greenway Photo Contest** we are bringing attention to the fact that conserving the farmland and natural areas that we treasure is inextricably linked to having healthy, vibrant river towns that are centers of commerce and human activity.

We look forward to sustaining and strengthening these programs in the new year. Please support our work into 2012, [click here](#) to join today.

Thank You!

Trish Carothers, SGP Program Director

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### Heritage Regions Announce 2012 Mini-Grant Program

Two Heritage Regions along the Susquehanna have recently announced mini-grant programs for 2012. These mini grants are made possible in part by grants from the Community Conservation Partnership Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.



The **Lumber Heritage Region (LHR)**, in partnership with DCNR and the Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team, has funding available to support projects totaling \$30,000 with a maximum award of \$5,000 per application. The grant amount must be matched 100% with funds from other sources. Application deadline is January 31, 2012.

This is an opportunity for non-profit organizations to apply for funding to preserve the heritage of our communities through partnerships that conserve resources, tell the stories and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Information packets and applications are available on their website at [www.lumberheritage.org](http://www.lumberheritage.org)



**Endless Mountains Heritage Region** is interested in receiving "Notices of Intent" for possible grant applications in 2012 through the Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Non-profit organizations and municipal governments sponsoring a project in the Endless

Mountains Region that aligns with the goals and priorities of the DCNR Heritage Areas Program should access the grant information and documents at the EMHR website - [www.endlessmountainsheritage.org](http://www.endlessmountainsheritage.org).

Notices of Intent should be submitted to EMHR no later than January 16, 2012. The Notice of Intent form and instructions are attached. Questions about the program and project eligibility should be directed to Phil Swank by emailing [emhr@epix.net](mailto:emhr@epix.net), or calling (570) 265-1528.

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## *Investing In River Towns*

### **Shade Mountain Winery Family Enterprise Keeps Farmland Productive and Brings Business to River Towns**

If you are looking for a locally produced holiday gift with a little spirit of the season you need look no further than retail locations for Shade Mountain Winery in Bloomsburg and Northumberland, or the main



winery just outside of Middleburg. Karl and Carolyn Zimmerman converted their Snyder County corn and soybean farm into a vineyard in 1989. Since then their four children have joined the family business. Karl and sons, Bill and Ben, spend their days in the vines and vats while Carolyn and daughters, Amy and Jenny, staff the tasting rooms. The winery is housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> Century converted bank barn and has grown to produce 30,000 gallons of wine annually. Shade Mountain Vineyards encompasses over 68 acres of vineyards that are home to a remarkable array of 40 different grape varieties. When the Zimmerman's wanted to expand their sales they decided to open a store in Bloomsburg. "We love the downtown there, it busy and beautiful and we like the college town atmosphere," says Carolyn.

To find store locations or learn more about Shade Mountain Winery go [www.shademountainwinery.com](http://www.shademountainwinery.com)



The Renew Growing Greener Coalition issued the following statement from Executive Director Andrew Heath in response to House Bill 1950 and its associated amendments:

*“As the House debates the finer points of House Bill 1950, the Renew Growing Greener Coalition is encouraged by the provision that dedicates 25 percent of the revenues from the Oil and Gas Lease fund to partially replenish the Environmental Stewardship Fund.*

*“We also recognize and appreciate the inclusion of money for the Environmental Stewardship Fund in amendments proposed by Reps. DiGirolamo, George, Hanna and Quinn. However, we urge the House to pass a final measure that matches or exceeds the funding levels that are contained in the original bill.”*

Growing Greener is a bipartisan program established in 1999 under Governor Tom Ridge and later expanded by Governors Schweiker and Rendell. Since its establishment, Growing Greener has created a legacy of success, preserving more than 107,000 acres of Pennsylvania’s family farmland, conserving more than 42,300 acres of threatened open space, adding 26,000 acres to state parks and forests, capping more than 2,100 abandoned wells and restoring over 16,000 acres of abandoned mine lands. Moreover, Growing Greener has contributed and leveraged billions of dollars to the Pennsylvania economy by helping to boost tourism, create jobs and generate revenue.

Yet despite the program’s accomplishments, funding for Growing Greener projects and grants fell from an average of approximately \$150 million per year for the last six years to \$27.3 million in the current state budget, more than an 80 percent reduction.

The Renew Growing Greener Coalition is the Commonwealth’s largest coalition of conservation, recreation and environmental organizations representing more than 350 organizations and government entities. For more information on the Coalition, visit [www.RenewGrowingGreener.org](http://www.RenewGrowingGreener.org).

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## ***People Making a Difference***

### **David and Melody Buck**

#### **Named Volunteers of the Year by N. Br. Land Trust**

At the December 7<sup>th</sup> Holiday Gathering of the North Branch Land Trust, Melody and David and Zack Kaufer received The Volunteer of the Year award for their continued support of the Land Trust’s mission and commitment of volunteering.



David and Melody are actively involved with the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. David is the Susquehanna North Branch Water Trail manager and Susquehanna Greenway Coordinator. They own Endless Mountains Outfitters, a full service canoe and kayak sales and guiding business, and have helped organize countless river festivals, trips and sojourns.

Congratulations David and Melody! Read more [here](#).

Photo from NBLT



### Meet Our Board Teri MacBride

Teri MacBride is an economic development veteran and a lifelong resident of central Pennsylvania. She is currently a Regional Community Relations Director for PPL Services Corporation. Her role has her actively representing PPL Corporation throughout Lycoming, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, and western Luzerne counties. Prior to PPL, Teri served as Executive Director for Economic Development Marketing at the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. In 2003, Teri's career in international business and economic development took a different turn when she joined the first US Peace Corps Volunteers in Albania. She graduated from American University with a BA in International Studies, and completed a Master of Science degree in Public Administration at Shippensburg University. Teri enjoys photography and packing up her rod for the occasional fly fishing adventure.


### Researchers on the River

#### Brian Mangan, Ph.D., Kings College



A professor of Environmental Science and Biology at King's College, Brian Mangan is studying mercury contamination in the Susquehanna River. Consumption advisories for Susquehanna River fishes have been issued for many years because of contaminants such as mercury and PCBs. Mangan is attempting to discover how mercury is entering the fish by looking at small fish and the organisms on the bottom of the river. His focus last year was on crayfish, and he showed that their mercury burden depended on





where they were in the river decreasing from upstream to downstream locations. He hopes to uncover the major food pathways for mercury through the aquatic food chain and if mercury can travel from the river to nearby forests through the bodies of aquatic insects.

Additionally, Mangan is studying invasive species in the Susquehanna River, including Asian Clams, Zebra Mussels, and the Rusty Crayfish. The Rusty Crayfish, a native of the Ohio River Drainage, has invaded Pennsylvania largely from bait-bucket introductions. His research has shown that Rusty Crayfish are now established at a number of his sampling locations in the Susquehanna between the New York boarder and Harrisburg. Where Rusties occur in the river, the native Allegheny Crayfish is no longer present.

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