



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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In This Issue...

[Help Stop the Largest Proposed Cut to Conservation & Recreation in PA History!](#)

[West Branch Susquehanna Sojourn 2012](#)

[Volunteers Along the Greenway](#)

[PPL Shows Commitment to Greenway](#)

[Native Plants Can Dress Up Wintertime Yards!](#)

[Environmental Grants Available](#)

[Clean Up PA!](#)

Treasured Towns & Landscapes Photo Contest

One Week Left!

Share your shots of river wildlife, scenic views, and river town activities for a chance to win! Be sure to check out the special Flood Category. Use the "forward to a friend" link at the bottom of this newsletter to help us spread the word. Don't forget the kids in your life - there is a Youth Category for photographers under 18. 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 submit your entry before **February 29, 2012**.



Help Stop the Largest Proposed Cut to Conservation & Recreation in PA History!

By: Andy Loza, Executive Director PALTA

Governor Corbett's proposed 2012-13 budget eliminates all conservation, park and recreation funding from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund of which the Susquehanna Greenway is a recipient. The budget goes on to propose that the termination of funding be made permanent. This means a loss of \$30 million for conservation in 2012-13 and far more in the long-run. It would be the biggest cut to conservation funding ever proposed in Pennsylvania. The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund is Pennsylvania's only funding source that directs money specifically to community park and

Preservation Pennsylvania
Announces At Risk List

River Reads

Nominations Sought for
Environmental Excellence

Backyard Landscape
Workshop

River Town Race Series

Greenway Partnership
Progress

Senior Environmental Corps

Wayne Kober

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,

recreation grants and land trust grants. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership simply can't afford to lose it. Please take action.

Governor Corbett's budget is only a proposal. You have the power to stop it from becoming law. Your action is critical to showing legislators that Keystone funds are important to their districts and the Susquehanna Greenway. We must be vocal!

Please call and email your state senator and representative.

- Tell them that Keystone has supported important projects in their district and is vital to making new projects happen.
- Tell them you oppose the Governor's budget proposal to divert community park and land trust grant money from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to general state operations.
- Tell them to tell their legislative leaders and colleagues that the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund must be protected in the budget negotiations.

Please forward this email to colleagues, volunteers, friends, and family. We need many strong voices to fight these cuts! For more information on this effort please [click here](#).



**West Branch
Susquehanna
Sojourn 2012**

Break out the paddles and get your campfire tales organized! Plans are in the works for a 6 day educational canoe/kayak trip along some of the

most remote and lovely sections of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River! Touted by National Geographic as a "Best Adventure Destination for 2012" and recently designated a National Recreation Trail by the National Park Service, the West Branch is a hot destination that you can explore this year! Mark your calendars as we plan to paddle this trip early when the water levels are more predictable: **May 19-24**. The tentative route is Curwensville to Renovo. Participants can paddle one day or as many days as they'd like. Since this section of the river is REMOTE and some days will require 20 miles of paddling, we are advising that only intermediate or advanced paddlers participate. Details and registration will appear at <http://www.susquehannagreenway.org/> as they are available. We need help to plan this great event! [Contact Erin](#) if you are interested in joining the Planning Team or have ideas for sponsorship!

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
Pennsylvania Environmental
Council](#)

Upcoming Events

[Susquehanna River Trail
Association Meeting](#)
Duncannon
February 23

[2012 Keystone Coldwater
Conference](#)
State College
February 24-25

[Hike and Hot Lunch Series](#)
Wrightsville
February 25

[Girl Scout Workshop:
Junior "Eco-Action"](#)
Harrisburg
February 25

[Recovery Community
Presentation](#)
Shickshinny
February 28

[Humdinger Trail Run](#)

Volunteers Along the Greenway

Friends of River Front Park

Take a sunny afternoon to stroll through Danville's River Front Park and you'll be treated to spectacular views of the river as well as the sights, smells, and sounds of a period town garden. "Well, it all just started in 2005 with an idea to see downtown Danville install some flower planters for beautification, and somehow it turned into a whole park revitalization!" chuckles Harriett Perez, one of the Montour County Master Gardeners involved in the serious face lift of Danville's River Front Park. Kay Jones, also a Master Gardener, explained how the project was initiated that year and was awarded funds from a Community Development Block Grant, the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau, as well as support from the Danville Borough. "It was such a cooperative effort with everyone involved and has resulted in new paths, beds, underground wiring, drip irrigation and a water source for a future fountain to replicate the piece that used to be there," explains Jones. Read more [here](#).



PPL Shows Commitment to Greenway



PPL Corporation continues to show its commitment to building a connected Susquehanna corridor of revitalized towns, trails, and parks by renewing their sponsorship with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. Teri MacBride, PPL Corporation's Regional Community Relations Director and SGP Board Member presented a check for \$8,000 to SGP's Membership and Volunteer Coordinator Bridget Kane. Thank you PPL for helping us to build healthy, sustainable communities that embrace the river and surrounding area as unique places to live, work and play! To find out how your business can help to build the Susquehanna Greenway through sponsorship, contact [Bridget Kane](#).

Native Plants Can Dress Up Wintertime Yards!

Is your yard suffering from the wintertime blahs? The Chesapeake Bay Program has compiled a list of native plants that are particularly



Danville
March 3

Small Wonders
Harrisburg
March 3

Composting with Worms
Harrisburg
March 3

Maple Sugaring Open House
Danville
March 4

Maple Sugar Festival
Harrisburg
March 4

Educator Workshop: Project
Learning Tree
Harrisburg
March 6

GardenWise 2012
York
March 10

Volunteer Work Day
Harrisburg
March 10

Birds in Your
Backyard Workshop
Dalton
March 10

If you would like to
have an event included in our
newsletter, please list your
event at our [website](#).

lovely during our coldest season.
The yellows of Witch hazel, or the
blood orange color of Winterberry

will have your yard bursting with
color next winter! Native species are naturally suited to thrive in
our climate, which means easy maintenance, bright colors, and
food and shelter for wildlife – all things that help to keep the
Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay healthy, vibrant
places! See their list of native species [here](#). Since the threat of
snow and ice hasn't quite left, be sure to check out their tips on



**Special Thanks to
Our Major Sponsors**



how to de-ice your sidewalks in a way that is friendly to our waterways and wildlife. Learn which type products to use and how to apply them [here](#).

Photo courtesy of [Flickr](#)

Environmental Grants Available

Two new grant opportunities are available for projects that seek to improve water quality and could be a great fit for a project located within the Greenway! PA American Water's Environmental Grant Program grants up to \$10,000 for environmental activities like watershed cleanups, restoration, buffer, or hazardous waste collection efforts. Projects must be located within a PA American Water service area. Applications are due **March 24**. Learn more [here](#). Water Resources Education Network (WREN) is accepting applications for Watershed Education and Source Water Protection Grants that seek to raise awareness about these issues. Proposals are due **March 23**. Learn more [here](#).

Clean Up PA!



Everyone wants to live, work, and play in a clean and green community! You can help by participating in the 2012 Great American Cleanup of PA from March 1 – May 31. Clean up litter along roads, streams, parks, forests and neighborhoods. Registered events can get **free** cleanup supplies like bags, gloves, and vests that are donated by PennDOT and Keep American Beautiful. Additionally, from April 21-May 7 registered events have access to **free** disposal! To organize or participate in a cleanup event in your community, [click here](#).

Preservation Pennsylvania Announces At Risk List

Mindy Gulden Crawford, Executive Director of Preservation Pennsylvania, our statewide non-profit historic preservation leader, announced the release of the annual Pennsylvania At Risk list. The 2011 list highlights 10 endangered resources, including the two covered bridges of Sullivan County and the Noxen LVRR Depot in Wyoming County. The issue features several flood-damaged resources, as well as other properties that are threatened by demolition, significant deterioration, vandalism, alteration, and/or loss of their historic setting. The At Risk List is available [here](#).



Weis Markets

River Reads

Know a great book about the Susquehanna River? We are looking for your favorite "River Reads" that can be compiled and posted on our website as resources for other folks interested in learning about our special river. Natural history, geography, geology, hardcover, paperback, major publisher, or local booklet – we love it all!

Email the title, author, general subject and a brief description of the book to Erin and get reading!



Photo courtesy of Flickr

Nominations Sought for Environmental Excellence

The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence recognizes any PA business, agency, non-profit, school, individual, or farm that has created, or participated in the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state. Projects must have been completed between August 1, 2010 and July 31, 2011. For information and nomination forms click here.

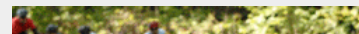
Backyard Landscape Workshop



Penn State Extension is offering a one-day workshop titled "The Woods in Your Backyard" on March 30th at Keystone College, LaPlume, PA and repeated on March 31st at East Stroudsburg University in the Poconos. The program is designed specifically for smaller landscapes. These small lots are a big deal, for the vast majority of Pennsylvania's land-owners have less than 10 acres. This land, wooded or not, can provide benefits. By enhancing wooded areas or creating natural areas on your lot, you can enjoy recreation, natural beauty, wildlife, improved water quality and reduced energy costs. Learn about registration here.

Photo by Jim Crocker

River Town Race Series



Break out of your normal running race rut with the updated River Town Race Series hosted by the Montour Area Recreation Commission. The series gives racers the ultimate season-long, cross-discipline race experience and winners take home some serious cash and even better memories. Races take place in and around the Susquehanna River in rural PA where mud, water, and even fire are all fair game. The races are of varying difficulty, ranging from a relatively flat 5k running race to 75 mile road bike epics. Participate in one or as many of the events as you'd like. To learn more, visit www.rivertownrace.com.



Greenway Partnership Progress



Janie French, Regional Lead for the Susquehanna Greenway in the Upper West Branch has been promoted Director of Water Programs statewide for the PA Environmental Council (PEC). She will be leading PEC's activities to advance stewardship for PA's water resources. Most recently

Janie was director of green infrastructure programs for PEC. With this experience she has been working with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership along the Upper West Branch of the Susquehanna to advance the environmental and economic benefits of rain gardens, complete streets, and trail connections and other types of green infrastructure encouraged through the Susquehanna Greenway River Town Program. Congratulations Janie!

Photo: Janie leads a Greenway River Town Assessment meeting in Clearfield.

Volunteer Spotlight

Senior Environmental Corps

By Von Holquin, OSM/VISTA with Clinton County Conservation District and SGP

The Clearfield County Senior Environment Corps (SEC) is a small but dedicated group of seniors and retirees who gather monthly to discuss important environmental issues that affect the area, like hydraulic fracture drilling and abandoned mine drainage (AMD).

Most of the members of the SEC perform regular water quality



testing on nearby streams and tributaries, and report that data back to the SEC and to Kelly Williams, the Watershed Specialist for the Clearfield County Conservation District. To read more about how SEC is making a difference in local environmental concerns, click [here](#).



Meet Our Board

Wayne Kober

Wayne Kober has close ties to the Susquehanna Greenway, as he co-managed the PA Statewide Greenways Plan which established the framework for the robust greenway planning that is going on across the Commonwealth today. Thanks to this great planning, the concept for the Susquehanna Greenway was established! His personal connection to the river began in 1975 when he moved to the Duncannon area to begin a career as a transportation environmental professional with PennDOT. From Millersburg to Port Deposit, Wayne, his wife, friends, children, and now grandchildren have explored the River on fishing, boating, camping, and bird watching trips. “Over that time my appreciation for the value of the Susquehanna River and its river communities has continued to grow and so has my desire to use my professional background and experience to help protect, enhance and restore them,” says Kober. Read more [here](#).

Photo: Wayne and his wife, Debbie, enjoy the outdoors

Researchers on the River

Prof. Cynthia Venn

Students who work with Cynthia Venn, Professor of Geography and Geosciences at Bloomsburg University understand that getting wet is just part of the job. Together with Christopher Hallen, Professor of Chemistry, the researchers analyze the chemical content of the



Susquehanna River. “Using canoes, or a small motorboat, students take water samples from multiple sites on the river including Danville, Shady Nook, Watsontown, and Milton,” says Venn. “They do really great work, and we haven’t lost a team over the dam at Sunbury yet!” In the field students consider the turbidity (how cloudy the sample appears) and filter the water to test for alkalinity and acidity. Once the life preservers come off

and the lab coats are thrown on, Venn and her students continue their work on campus with specialized equipment. Read more about this research [here](#).

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