



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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Water Withdrawals Put on Hold to Protect Streams

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) today announced that 36 separate water withdrawals approved by SRBC are temporarily suspended due to localized stream flow levels dropping at many locations in the Susquehanna basin, especially in northern Pennsylvania. "Once again, the Commission's stream protection requirements are ahead of the curve and working as intended to protect aquatic resources and downstream water users," said SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz. "As of early this week, 36 individual water withdrawals in 10 Pennsylvania counties have been temporarily suspended by virtue of the Commission's passby flow restrictions. The vast majority of those suspended withdrawals are related to water for natural gas development." To read the full press release [click here](#).

Susquehanna Greenway River Towns Program Revitalizing Our Core Communities



SGP has developed the Susquehanna Greenway River Towns Program to provide technical assistance and strengthen working relationship with river town leaders. An assessment tool serves as a catalyst for looking objectively at the towns resources and how they can be enhanced. Through a facilitated process SGP and community leaders define priority areas for enhancement, prepare conceptual plans for improvement, identify resources, and develop an action plan for implementing river town revitalization projects.

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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

The program has been developed with funding support from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Hamer Center for Community Design at Penn State provided two student interns to help SGP pilot the program this summer in Shickshinny and Montgomery. Additional River Towns will be selected for assistance this fall.

[Read more...](#)

How Did You Celebrate River Month?

June was River Month and SGP helped coordinate two educational river sojourns on the Susquehanna. June 16-19, SGP assisted the Headwaters River Trail Partnership (H RTP) to host the **2011 North Branch Susquehanna Sojourn**



SGP hosted the **West Branch Sojourn** on June 25. This one-day, 10-mile paddle trip introduced over 30 paddlers to the sport and to the river. The day culminated in a dinner celebration for the new National Recreation Trail designation along the West Branch Susquehanna Water Trail. Visit SGP on [Facebook](#) to see photos from this journey. The Susquehanna River Trail Association held the **Island Hopper** sojourn also on June 25 that explored four river islands north of Harrisburg with 50 participants.

The **Children's Miracle Network** charity paddle traveled from Bloomsburg to Danville on June 11 with 75 enthusiastic participants. The **Wyoming Valley RiverFest** took place June 17 – 19, featuring live music, dragon boat races, riverside activities, and was enjoyed by thousands of people. That same weekend the **2nd Annual Bassmaster Fishing Tournament and Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau Family Fun Festival** hosted over 2,000 people for food, crafts, games, informational displays, and fishing! *(Photo of the North Branch Sojourn by Chuck Haupt)*

[Read more...](#)

Family Tackles 400+ River Miles



This summer the Sherwood Family of Newark Valley, NY area has decided to make the length of the Susquehanna River their family road trip.

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](#).



SGP caught up with the Sherwood's as they waited out a thunderstorm on an island south of Sunbury. "We take a family trip every year," said dad Brian from under a dry tarp, "last year we went down to the Gulf for the recovery efforts, and the year before we were out west. We've paddled as a

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

[2nd Annual Art in the Park
Columbia
July 22](#)

[Iron Heritage Festival
Danville
July 23-24](#)

[8th Annual West Branch River
Cleanup
Lock Haven
July 23](#)

[Celebrate Our River Day
Tunkhannock
July 23](#)

[River Day Float Trip
Tunkhannock
July 23](#)

[Lewisburg Appetizer Guided
Recreational Kayak River Trip
Milton
July 23](#)

[Into the Past](#)

Danville
July 23

Birds of Prey
Pequea
July 23

Jerry Haines in Concert
Danville
July 24

Summer Fest at Flinchbaugh's
Orchard & Farm Market
Hellam
July 29-30

Nature and Art Festival
Millersburg
July 29-30

At Home in the Woods: Planning
for the Day
Danville
July 30

North Branch Land Trust 11th
Annual Susquehanna River Trip
Meshoppen to Howland
Preserve
July 30

McKees Adventure Guided
Recreational Kayak River Trip
Port Trevorton to Mahantango
July 30

Mother Nature's Night Life
Mount Wolf
July 30

PA Hunter-Trapper Education
Course
Danville
August 2-6

Kid's Clockwork Toy Workshop
Columbia
August 2-4

Duncannon Borough National
Night Out Against Crime
Duncannon
August 2

family many times before, but this year we just decided to do the whole river." Be sure to look for photos from the Sherwood Family trip on the SGP [Facebook page](#) in the next few weeks!

[Read more...](#)

Sunbury Residents Walk-Off Weight

Over 50 citizens responded to last month's challenge from Sunbury officials and the Sunbury Community Hospital to lose weight through small lifestyle changes during the Sunbury Challenge 4 Health Program. Participants lost a citywide total of 500 pounds in one month by watching what they ate and by adding exercise into their daily routines. The SEDA-COG Community Resource Center (CRC) and SGP were on hand at the program's finale to cheer on the community efforts and talk about the pedestrian and bike improvements to the Northumberland/Sunbury area proposed in the Lake Augusta Gateway Corridor plan. "I think it's such a great idea to have a bikeway along the west side of the river near Route 11," said Sunbury resident Brianne Kula (in photo with fellow participant David Persing). "I row over there and it is so beautiful," said Kula. To view a draft of the Lake Augusta ped/bike draft plan click [here](#).



Connect Your Community to the Outdoors

National Park Service Assistant Program Deadline

National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is a great opportunity to take advantage of the community assistance arm of the National Park Service with technical assistance being provided by RTCA staff to community groups, and local, state and federal agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. The RTCA program helps communities plan, organize partnership and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate. To learn about projects undertaken in Pennsylvania in 2010 [click here](#). For more information on how to apply for technical assistance [click here](#). The application deadline is **August 1**.

Iron Heritage Festival

Danville, July 23-24

What is the Iron Heritage Festival? Danville citizens love their heritage and the stories of how the Danville-Riverside area grew

Paddle Between the Parks
Guided Canoe & Kayak Trip
Milton State Park to Shikellamy
State Park
August 6

Sesquicentennial Celebration
Shickshinny
August 6

2011 Historical Float Trip
Durrell
August 6

2nd Annual Victorian High Tea at
Haldeman Mansion
Bainbridge, PA
August 6

Sunday Brunch at the Park
Shikellamy State Park Marina
August 7

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

and prospered. The Iron Heritage Festival celebrates this rich history and traditions of the community. This festival is a celebration of America's ingenuity and foresight and is of interest for all of our Nation's citizens! In 1999 a few local historians decided to celebrate the iron heritage of Danville, Montour County. The first year a small amount of people met in Danville's 'Canal Park' and celebrated the

Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors





history and the people of the era. From this one (1) day event the Iron Heritage Festival has become one of the largest historic festivals in Central PA.

[Read more...](#)

Celebrate Our River Day

July 23,
Tunkhannock
Join *Celebrate Our River Day* at Riverside Park in Tunkhannock on July 23, 3-8 pm and promote the value of one of our greatest



resources, the Susquehanna River. Included in the day's festivities will be live music, environmental activities for children and adults, a nature walk, a 12-mile kayak/canoe trip on the North Branch Susquehanna River with Endless Mountain Outfitters, food and more. Live music will be provided by Sadie Green Sales Jugband, the bluegrass group Coal Town Rounders, and the George Wesley Band. For more information on the paddle and to register please [click here](#). For more info on the day's events please [click here](#).

Let's Cleanup the West Branch!



Join Clinton County CleanScapes in partnership with Sunken Treasure Scuba Center for the 8th Annual Clinton County West Branch Susquehanna River Cleanup on July 23, 9am-12pm, with complimentary refreshments and lunch from Curt's Smokin Ribs at 12:30pm. Pre-registration for the cleanup is required by July

21st. All registered participants will be provided gloves and bags. To register contact CCC Project Director [Elisabeth Lynch McCoy](#) at 570-726-3511 or [click here](#).



July 29-30, 2011| MYO Park, Millersburg

Need directions?

This FREE annual celebration of nature and the arts features over 50 fun and educational programs on a huge variety of topics, live music and dozens of children's activities. Click [HERE](#) for a schedule of events. Stop by and visit SGP's booth. Volunteers are still needed to help with tabling. If you are interested please contact [Bridget Kane](#) (570) 522-7275.

The Sunbury River Festival

August 18-20



Celebrate the Susquehanna River the third weekend of every August 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 tabling booth. If you are interested please contact [Bridget Kane](#) (570) 522-7275. For more information [click here](#).

Make Sure Your Community is Heard

Pennsylvania's Historic Preservation Plan Forum

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Bureau for Historic Preservation, in partnership with the Lumber Heritage Region, Route 6 Heritage Alliance, and the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum invites all interested parties to attend one of its final regional public forums on July 21 from 1-4 pm at Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, 5660 US Route 6 West, Galeton, PA. The purpose of the forum is to gain public involvement and input into the planning process for the preparation of a new Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for 2012-2017. The primary goal of the planning process is for the public to inform the Pennsylvania's State Historic Preservation Office of what they value in their community in order to determine the preservation priorities of people who live and

work in Pennsylvania. This plan will help the state identify, prioritize and address historic preservation needs over the course of the next five years. For more details and to register to attend, please visit the [BHP website](#).

Covered Bridges Receive New Signs

Columbia County

SGP launched the *Signs Up* project in 2008 to help create a branded identity for the Susquehanna Greenway, and to help residents and visitors find, learn about and enjoy many of the recreational and



heritage assets of the the Greenway. Thanks to a grant from the Columbia County Commissioners Tourism Fund and volunteer assistance from the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA, interpretive signage now tell the story of Fowlersville, Twin, and Rupert Covered Bridges in Columbia County. The interpretive signs are meant to build public awareness and use of the Greenway and contiguous river towns and promote the area's cultural heritage and tourism. Come out and view one of the new signs today! Stay tuned to [SGP's website](#) for information on the official sign dedication events.

National Heritage Bill Introduced

We are pleased to announce that on Tuesday June 7, US Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. introduced bill S.1150, The Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area Act. This bill would designate York and Lancaster Counties as the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area. National recognition can boost visibility and visitation, bring critical technical assistance and support to the region, and further highlight and promote the majestic Susquehanna River. "For centuries, the Susquehanna River, which forms a natural border between York and Lancaster Counties and represents the heart of the proposed National Heritage Area, has been at the center of agricultural, industrial and recreational activity in the Mid-Atlantic United States," said Senator Casey. To see the full press release [click here](#). Express your support for national recognition of our region's rich cultural and natural heritage by contacting your local representative today.



Online Native Plant Database

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, in partnership with and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Image Matters LLC,



unveils the online Native Plant Center for the Chesapeake Bay Region. The online guide allows for the identification and selection of native plant species for habitat restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, an effective method for reducing pollution in the Bay. Users can

search native plants by name, plant type, sun exposure, soil texture and moisture, and even find native plants with the same shape, color, size or other characteristics as some of their favorite non-native plants.

[Read more...](#)

Recognizing Exceptional Service to Our Board

Skip Wieder

There are few people who have volunteered as much time and focused as many resources on the health of the Susquehanna River as Skip Wieder. He has brought leadership and dedication to his five years of service on the Board of Directors for the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. His service and hard work as the Chair of the SGP Development Committee has helped to advance our organizational goals and objectives as well as local projects that are building the Greenway. Skip is stepping down from the SGP Board, but will continue his work to protect and enhance the Susquehanna. We thank Skip for all he has done to advance our Partnership and commend him for his work to focus the resources of many of our colleges and universities on protecting the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna.



Skip is currently the Sr. VP Emeritus for the Geisinger Foundation and serves the Board of several non-profits including Forum for PA's Heartland, Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies and the Chesapeake Conservancy Board of Directors. He graduated with an MS degree from Bucknell University and lives with his wife live in Winfield.

Researcher's on the River



Professor Steven T. Rier

Prof. Steven T. Rier is an Associate Professor of Biology and Ecology at Bloomsburg University. His research encompasses many aspects of stream ecology but mainly focuses on the role that microorganisms, such as algae,



bacteria, and fungi play in regulating stream ecosystem function and how human impacts can alter these dynamics. His lab is currently engaged in several projects that focus on the role that stream microorganisms play in stream nutrient dynamics and ultimately the export of these nutrients to larger rivers and estuaries. He is leading a project to sample 30 streams this summer to

specifically examine how stream algae and bacteria respond to pulses of nutrients associated with runoff and how adjacent land-use modifies these responses.

Read more...

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.

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