

Susquehanna Greenway eConnections

March 2011



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.

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Time for Spring Cleaning and Getting Outdoors

Spring is just a week away and groups along the Susquehanna Greenway are gearing up for clean-up events, river festivals, sojourns, hikes and other fun events. This is a great time of year to get outside and volunteer for events and projects in your area. Volunteering along the Susquehanna Greenway is a great way to meet new friends, while conserving the environment and creating healthy and successful communities.



It is because of volunteers like you that we are able to accomplish our mission and be the leading champion for the Susquehanna River. There are many exciting opportunities available where your help is needed. Please go to our [website](#), or click [here](#) to volunteer with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership today!

Sincerely,

Trish Carothers, Program Director

Promoting the Region's River Towns

The small towns that hug the shores of the Susquehanna not only add character to the region, they help define that character. Their connection to the River defines much of their history. Once they were the center of river-based commerce as logs flowed southward from northern counties, and goods moved in and out of Pennsylvania on the canal paralleling the river. In more recent years those living in river towns have discovered new opportunities for outdoor recreation and experiencing nature.

The Susquehanna Greenway River Towns initiative seeks to revitalize these small towns, generate tourism, and create business activity,



[Email Us](#)**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

[Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Conference](#)
Ligonier

through a focus on the communities' river-based assets.

A major element of the initiative begins this spring with three workshops to help community leaders and the public stimulate local tourism and economic development.

- **Sustainable Economics for River Towns** on April 27
- **Treasured Towns & Landscapes** on May 25
- **Community Building for River Towns** on June 28

Workshop agendas and registration information will be announced on SGP's [website](#); e-mail [Amy Davis](#) or [Becky Digan](#).

[Read more...](#)

Protect Critical Funding for Clean Water in PA

This week the U.S. Senate will be considering HR 1, the continuing resolution budget bill, passed early by the U.S. House of Representatives. HR 1 contains some troubling unintended consequences that will occur if the language of House Amendment 136 is allowed to remain. This amendment, numbered 467 in the Congressional Record, intends to stop implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL (total maximum daily load) by prohibiting all federal funds from being used for this purpose. However, many existing programs that are relied upon by farmers and local governments throughout the watershed to improve water quality both locally and downstream would be cut out of the federal budget.

These existing programs include EPA's Non-Point Source ("Section 319") Program, Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grants, and Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and USDA's many conservation programs administered through NRCS and FSA, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Money from these programs supports the implementation of best management practices on farms, upgrades to wastewater treatment plants, and local technical assistance providers in our county conservation districts. These programs have been key to the significant nutrient and sediment reductions that have already been achieved, and are critical if we are to meet our water quality goals for Chesapeake Bay, with or without a TMDL.

In the midst of debate on the TMDL itself, these important existing programs should not get lost in the process. [Contact your Senator](#) today and tell them you want funding for clean water!

Planting Trees=A Profit

The **Conservation Reserve**



March 17-19

Testing the Waters Lecture
Bloomsburg
March 17

Pennsylvania Recreation and
Park Society Annual Conference
King of Prussia
March 19-23

PATU Coldwater Conservation
Corps Training Session
Lucinda
March 19

PATU Advanced Rivers
Conservation Camp
Boiling Springs
March 20-23

WNEP PA Outdoor Life Expo
Pennsdale
March 24-27

Emerging Contaminant Forum
March 24

CINATURA Film Festival
Millersburg
March 25-27

Backyard Butterflies
Honesdale
March 26

Shickshinny Warrior Trail
Race/Fun Run
Shickshinny
April 2

National Brownfields Conference
Philadelphia
April 3-5

PA Environmental Council Laurel
Highlands Summit
Latrobe
April 4

Joseph Priestley Open House
Northumberland
April 13

Rocks and Mining History along
the Lower Susquehanna River
Wrightsville
April 13

Enhancement Program

(CREP) is a voluntary conservation program, designed to improve water quality, benefit wildlife through habitat development, and reward participants for doing their part to help the environment. You do not need to be a farmer to enroll and even very small streams are eligible. Any producer or landowner can enroll in CREP. Non-forested land along waterways and highly erodible land (HEL) are target areas for CREP enrollment.

Stream health is dependent on many factors in the water and along the banks. Water quality and temperature play an important role in determining what can live in a stream. The trees, shrubs, and plants that grow in this area along the stream, known as a riparian corridor, serve a dual purpose. This vegetation helps control water chemistry and temperature, and provides abundant habitat for wildlife. Establishment of wetlands and grasslands also play a role in water quality and wildlife habitat. CREP has a list of conservation practices that have been created to meet both environmental needs and the desired request of the landowner. These practices can be discussed with a CREP planner, who visits the property where CREP will be implemented. Continuous enrollment in CREP is available for a limited time, so don't wait until the last minute to take advantage of this opportunity to cash in on conservation!

To learn more call (800) 941-CREP, or click [here](#).

Help Save Service in America

Congress is engaged in a heated debate over fiscal priorities and deficit reduction strategies. The House of Representatives recently passed their version of a fiscal year 2011 budget bill - H.R. 1 - that zeroes out the Corporation for National and Community Service. This bill jeopardizes jobs, economic investment and service in communities all across the country. Here in Pennsylvania college educated VISTA volunteers are working hard to help remediate the devastating impacts of Acid Mine Drainage, improve water quality and revitalize communities.

The House vote is just one step in the legislative process. The Senate and the President will have opportunities to shape and influence the final spending package, but there's not a lot of time. Congress may pass a few short-term stop-gap measures to prevent a government shutdown. But in the next week, budget negotiators will agree to a compromise and pass a final spending package. There will be winners and there will be losers as an agreement is reached.

We need to save service in America. Cutting funding that encourages volunteerism, community revitalization, and that provides excellent professional learning opportunities for recent college graduates that might otherwise be unemployed, is not a smart savings strategy.

Call your Senator today and ask them to protect and fund the

Earth Day Along the Susquehanna
 Wilkes-Barre
 April 15

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

Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors



Corporation for National and Community Service.

[Read more...](#)

Welcome Our New OSM/VISTA



Erin Pierce is excited to spend the next year in service to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership as an Office of Surface Mining/VISTA volunteer. She grew up in the Ridge and Valley region of Central Pennsylvania and attended The Pennsylvania State University to study Geography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Her love for the natural world took her abroad to New Zealand where she completed courses in Hydrology and Climatology at Victoria University of Wellington.

She also put her passion for geographic education to work as an intern for The National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. Erin recently received her M.A. in Geography from Ohio University. She conducted research on the Smart Growth history of Baltimore County, MD as part of the Long-Term Ecological Research – Baltimore Ecosystem Study (LTER-BES). Erin is currently conducting light repairs to a single rowing shell and is eager to learn to scull on the Susquehanna River this spring.

Volunteers Needed to Start Local Stream Cleanups

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is organizing **Project Clean Stream**, to take place Saturday, April 2, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at more than 165 stream cleanup sites across the Chesapeake Bay area. The Alliance increasingly partners with environmental non-profit organizations, City Recreation & Parks Departments, and larger corporations in an attempt to expand the cleanup effort each year. Project Clean Stream is coordinated to connect individuals with their local watershed association and to help us make our local streams, wooded areas, and shorelines safer, cleaner, and more beautiful.

The Alliance is looking for volunteers to become Site Captain's and help organize a cleanup site. They will gladly work with you to find a cleanup site and organize volunteers. This year, they are also able to offer a stipend of \$75 per cleanup site that you register (minimum of 2 cleanup sites).

To volunteer or start a stream cleanup near you, contact [Dan Ellis](#) at (443) 949-0575. Additional information is also available [here](#).

[Read more...](#)



Spring Festivities Need Volunteers

Plans for 2011 festivals and events are underway and volunteers are needed to help make these events a success. Please find a list below of some organizational meetings and events in your area.

- The **Tunkhannock Celebrate our River Day** (July 23)- Organizational meeting on March 11 at 10 a.m. at the Dietrich Theatre.
- **Wyoming Valley RiverFest** (June 17-19)-Organizational meeting on March 16 at 3 p.m. in the Barre Room at Genetti's.
- **WNEP PA Outdoor Life Expo**-Volunteers needed from March 24-27 at the Lycoming Mall in Pennsdale.
- **Earth Day Along the Susquehanna River**-Volunteers needed on April 15 at the Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks Nesbitt and Kirby Park Natural Areas.

If you are having a river festival, please let us know so that we can help support your event. Contact [Bridget Kane](#), SGP Communications & Outreach Coordinator, for more information, if you are interested in volunteering at a booth or participating in an organizational meeting.

River Sojourn Plans Underway for 2011



Local leaders are getting prepared for 2011 sojourns on rivers across the state. Sojourns are paddling trips on the state's rivers, and anyone can participate, regardless of experience or ability.

Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)

organizes and supports a statewide series of sojourns each year, with funding from PA Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (DCNR), PA Fish & Boat Commission, and the American Canoe Association (ACA).

The educational sojourns are one to multi-day paddling trips that include camping and entertainment and run from May through September. Week-long sojourns costs \$30,000 – \$40,000 for the lead organizations to put on, cost participants from \$20 to \$75 per day, often with meals, transfers, and camping included. Trained safety personnel accompany the Sojourns and many have boats for rent through local liveries.

For more information and the Sojourn schedule for 2011 please click [here](#).

Conservation Grant Program Open

Grant assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) helps communities and organizations plan, acquire, and develop recreation, park, and trail facilities and conserve open space. The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation administers the **Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)** which combines several state and federal funding sources into one grant program.

In 2011, the focus will be on projects that create or enhance the Commonwealth's recreation and conservation infrastructure—supporting sustainable communities, economic development, healthy lifestyles and creating jobs. Specific priorities include: Park and recreational facilities that demonstrate green principles and connect children to healthy recreation and the outdoors; trails; river access projects and projects identified by regional partnerships including Conservation Landscapes Initiatives, Statewide Significant Greenways and Heritage Areas.

The application deadline is April 20, 2011. All grant information, project guidance documents, program policies and application instructions are available [online](#).

Researcher's on the River

Matthew McTammany, PhD

Matt McTammany, PhD is an Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Bucknell University. On July 1, 2009, Prof. McTammany established automated water quality monitoring stations, sondes, on the West Branch of the Susquehanna in Milton and the North Branch in Danville to obtain information in real-time for scientists and the public. Data from these instruments are being collected every 15 minutes and uploaded to the web. The entire data set from these stations is available for the public to explore and investigate by clicking "All Data" on the applet in "Data Feed" on this [website](#).



Last year, Prof. McTammany was part of a team from Bucknell University collaborating with the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies (SRHCES) in developing its *State of the Susquehanna River* report, which came out last fall. Part of his contribution to this project is a study of long-term biological data from sites around the Susquehanna River. They have been analyzing data from 1990-2010 for 11 river locations across the basin to assess how different habitats or locations within the river respond differently to or have different oxygen patterns in response to biological processes, such as photosynthesis and respiration. These patterns can then be related to water quality and management efforts in the watershed.

[Read more...](#)

Renew Growing Greener
Still Needs Your Help



Growing Greener has done more than preserve Pennsylvania's land, water and air. It has contributed billions of dollars to the Pennsylvania economy in jobs, taxes, tourism, and other revenue. Renewing and expanding funding for Growing Greener is an essential investment in the state's long-term prosperity.

Unless our elected officials act, Growing Greener funds will be practically depleted in just over a year. Growing Greener has been hugely successful, directing critical investments to every county in the state. Even with a comprehensive history of success, there is still work that needs to be completed across the Commonwealth.

To ensure that our communities can continue their work, contact your State Representative and State Senator and [click here](#) to find out more about how to fund Growing Greener.

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

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