

Healthy
Sustainable
Susquehanna
Communities

eConnections

October



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Susquehanna Greenway
Partnership

Vote Nov 3 to Protect Your Environmental Rights Our Environmental Rights and the Supreme Court

On November 3rd voters will fill three vacancies on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. With three of the Court's seven seats on the ballot in 2015, the outcome of this historic election could impact future decisions, including whether the Court will uphold your environmental rights.

In 2013, the Supreme Court, in the case Robinson Township v. Pennsylvania, decided for the first time in its history that the Environmental Rights provision of the state constitution imposes a duty upon municipalities to protect residents from environmental dangers and provides citizens with the ability to enforce those rights in court. This landmark ruling is essential in protecting our water, air, and public lands from environmental dangers.

Franklin L. Kury, who grew up in coal country, was the author and chief sponsor of the legislation, which became Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the so-called Environmental Bill of Rights. In 1971 the legislation passed both the Pennsylvania House and Senate unanimously, and by voters with a 4 to 1 margin.

According to Kury, "November 3, 2015 is your opportunity to vote again in support of upholding your environmental rights. Research the candidates running for the Supreme Court and ask them if they have read the Robinson Township case and [if] they agree with opinion." [Learn about the candidates.](#)

Two of Kury's grandfathers were deep anthracite coal miners, one died of black lung. Kury grew up playing on the piles of mine tailings and gained experience with the damage wrought by coal companies as a young lawyer practicing in Sunbury. Influenced by these experiences, Kury pledged to clean up mine damage with a platform based on "Clean Streams and Clean Politics" when he became a candidate for the PA House of Representatives in 1966.



Get Involved, Volunteer!

Contact Us



Thanks! Your gift helps revitalize river towns; connect parks, trails, and river access areas; and protect clean water.



Our Vision

The connected walking, biking, and water trails, unique river towns, and conserved lands of the Susquehanna Greenway improve the quality of life for the people who share it. The Susquehanna Greenway enhances the economic vitality of the communities that foster it, and preserves the natural resources of the River itself. The Greenway helps to protect our water quality, encourages healthy lifestyles, and inspires stewardship and civic pride in places where people love to live, work, play and visit.

Upcoming Events

To see more events, or list your event, visit our [Calendar of Events](#).

Pumpkin House
Tunkhannock
Oct. 23 - 25

Monster Dash 5k
Muncy
Oct. 24

Winery Open House
Liverpool
Oct. 24

Flat 'N Fast Race
Lewisburg
Oct. 24



I was fortunate to meet Franklin L. Kury earlier this year at the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy annual meeting, and to get him to autograph my copy of his book, *Clean Politics, Clean Streams*. I highly recommend this book (it is our River Reads feature later in this issue), and

ask that you join me in honoring Kury's hard work to protect our environmental rights by getting out on November 3 and voting.

Sincerely,

Trish Carothers, Executive Director

From Left: Merrill W. Linn Land & Water Conservancy President, Susan Warner-Mills; SGP Exec Director, Trish Carothers; Franklin Kury; Union County Commissioner, John Showers

Mini-Grant Spotlight: New River Signage in Shickshinny



Creary Park serves as Shickshinny's gateway to the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. Now, thanks to the hard work of community members this gem of greenspace, recreation area, and public river access features educational signage for residents and visitors to learn more about the river and watershed.

Thanks to a \$1,200 mini-grant awarded by the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Creary Park now hosts a Susquehanna Greenway Orientation Panel which highlights the watershed, connection to the Chesapeake Bay, and history of the Susquehannock Indians.

Shickshinny Forward, the Borough of Shickshinny, and the Business Association of the Greater Shickshinny Area partnered to make this local project possible. The sign was fabricated in PA by Pannier Graphics and generously installed in-kind by Wandell Construction of Benton, PA.

The mini-grant program was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, The Keystone Fund under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (DCNR).

The project used the Susquehanna Greenway Sign Design Guidelines available for many projects along the Susquehanna River and Greenway.

Fall Train Rides
Williamsport
Oct. 24

Civil War Lecture
Harrisburg
Oct. 24

Nature @ Night
Tunkhannock
Oct. 24

Pumpkin Express Train
Williamsport
Oct. 25

Outdoor Photo Workshop
Bloomsburg
Oct. 25

Full Moon Hike
Harrisburg
Oct. 27

PEC Awards Dinner
Wilkes-Barre
Oct. 29

River Trail Assn. Meeting
Duncannon
Oct. 29

Brewsburg
Bloomsburg
Oct. 31

5 Mile Race
South Williamsport
Oct. 31

Heritage Day
Northumberland
Nov. 1

DCNR Grant Workshop
Camp Hill
Nov. 2

Tourism Conference
Carlisle
Nov. 4

Bicycle Clinic
Williamsport
Nov. 5

Stroll Through Arts
Lewisburg
Nov. 6 - 7

5k Run
Danville
Nov. 7

The Search for Native Brookies

*By Rachel Kester, Project
Coordinator with Trout
Unlimited's Eastern Abandoned
Mines Program*

On a recent September day, I spent the afternoon out on a tiny, unnamed tributary to Clearfield Creek in central Pennsylvania with Clearfield County Watershed Specialist, Kelly Williams. Kelly and I can often be found together traversing Clearfield County streams, pulling water samples and planning for abandoned mine drainage (AMD) restoration projects.



With over 50 percent of AMD-impaired waters in the West Branch Susquehanna River basin found in Clearfield County, there is no shortage of orange, lifeless streams to assess and restore. On this day, however, we were on a different kind of mission: We were on the hunt for native brookies.

[Find out what Rachel and Kelly discover here!](#)

News from the West: Make Your Mark On The Park



Calling all visionaries! Lewisburg - a Susquehanna Greenway River Town - is looking to re-design its downtown parks and Bull Run Greenway.

The River Town Team, Lewisburg Neighborhoods Corporation, and Borough would like the help of local residents in this process.

Join the Community Design Workshop on **November 10, 2015** at 6pm a Larison Hall, St. George Street, Bucknell

University, or join earlier at 5:30pm for a pre-meeting park walk. The walk meets at Town Tavern, 600 Market Street, Lewisburg.

The workshop will address issues of: stream restoration, event and performance space, landscaping & green design, trails and alternative transportation, space / place making, and recreation for all ages and abilities. For more information, contact elmstreet@dejazzd.com. [Read more about the project and workshop.](#)

A conceptual design for Lewisburg's Bull Run Greenway and downtown park system, courtesy of the Lewisburg Neighborhoods Corporation.

Marathon
Harrisburg
Nov. 8

Bull Run Design Workshop
Lewisburg
Nov. 10

Bird Walk
Harrisburg
Nov. 11

Stories of the Susquehanna
Wrightsville
Nov. 11

To see more events, or list your event, visit our [Calendar of Events](#).

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:
**Susquehanna Greenway
Partnership**

Get started

amazonsmile

News from the North: New Trail Opens Near Danville



By Kassia Janesch

On October, 1, 2015, the snip of over-sized scissors on a dark blue ribbon sparked loud cheers that perfectly captured the excitement surrounding opening the first 0.4 miles of the North Branch Canal Trail. Already a decade in the works,

the trail will eventually cover 12 miles, linking Danville and Bloomsburg together.

See photos from the ribbon cutting on our [Facebook Page](#).

The first segment of the trail became a reality thanks to many organizations working together to improve the area, including the [Montour Area Recreation Commission \(MARC\)](#), the [Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau](#), [Susquehanna Greenway Partnership](#), [SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority](#), [PA DCNR](#), the Commissions of Montour and Columbia Counties, and many others.

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) and MARC were awarded \$146,000 in grant funding from the Williams Transco Pipeline Atlantic Sunrise Project / Conservation Fund Environmental Stewardship Program to support the construction of the trail between Danville and Catawissa, as well as planning for the Catawissa to Bloomsburg portion of the trail.

Trish Carothers, Executive Director of SGP, stated that “Fortunately, what you see here in this community is starting to happen in other places. It takes patience, commitment, and passion – and it’s worth it. It’s the people that have this passion that really drive these projects, and give these communities what they deserve.”

If you’re in the area, be sure to check out the North Branch Canal Trail. To learn more about the project, visit MARC’s website: <http://montourec.com>

Featured Sponsor



PPL Electric Utilities provides electric delivery service to more than 1.4 million homes and businesses in Pennsylvania and ranks among the best utility companies in the country for customer service and reliability. With 2,300 employees, PPL Electric Utilities is a major employer in the communities it serves. It is a subsidiary of PPL

Middle Susquehanna News: Check Out the Bicycle Library in Harrisburg



A new kind of lending library has been unveiled in Harrisburg with the recent kickoff to the city's Bicycle Library program.

Housed at the Downtown Improvement District offices in conjunction with the Bicycle Recycle program, members of the public can check out one of five bicycles to tour around the city. The bikes are free and include a helmet and lock. [Learn](#)

[more here](#).

Harrisburg joins the ranks of other bike-friendly Susquehanna River communities that have public bicycle share programs; for example,

Corporation (NYSE: PPL). For more information visit www.ppelectric.com.

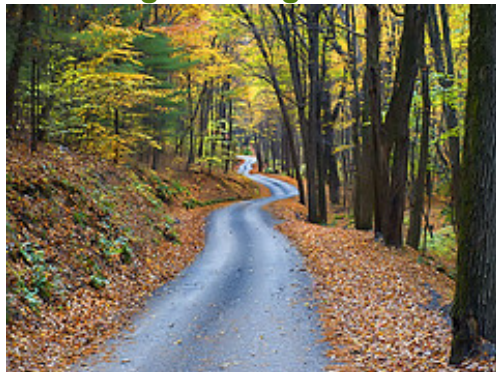
Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

To learn about Business Partnership Opportunities, [contact Bridget Kane](#), Membership & Volunteer Coordinator.



Williamsport and Wilkes-Barre have established bike share programs housed at their Genetti Hotel locations. Pedal on!

Lower Susquehanna News: Fall Foliage Driving Guides



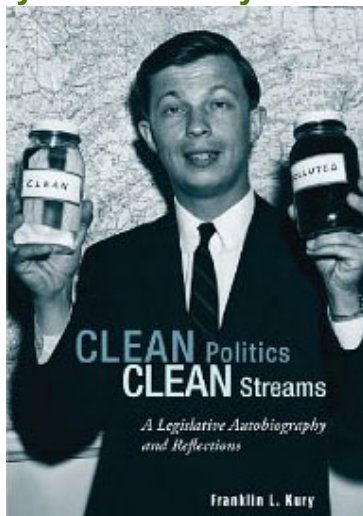
Grab your camera and hit the road to enjoy the peak fall foliage across York and Lancaster counties! The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area brings you two driving routes to guide you along the river and through some spectacular scenery.

As you travel the roads along the Lower Susquehanna, SGHA's river auto tours provide a variety of

sightseeing opportunities at the heart of this area, including natural areas, structures, and communities that have been here for generations. [Download and print the guides here](#). See more driving and walking guides at [our website](#).

Photo by Carol Kalinowski

River Reads Clean Politics, Clean Streams by Franklin Kury



Review by Kassia Janesch

Who said politics is boring? In *Clean Politics, Clean Streams*, Franklin L. Kury tells his personal stories from his time serving in the PA House of Representatives and the PA Senate. His insights and recollections of his experiences, like the passing of the environmental amendment to the Pennsylvania constitution, can almost be read as a "how to" for successful environmental campaigns.

The autobiography is still relevant today, especially along our Susquehanna Greenway, as it touches upon issues like storm water management and flood plain legislation.

Though Kury covers vast amount of history, he concludes his work with a look to the future. [Read more here](#), and see a list of recommended River Reads [at our website](#).

Investing In River Towns The Arts Find A Home In Williamsport

Each month our e-newsletter features a local business or organization that is



*opening or expanding in an established
Susquehanna River town - helping to preserve
our greenspace and invest in our towns.*
By Kassia Janesch

Cliff and Veruschka Stevens, the owners of CultureSpots LLC, and Veru Designs, operate their unique businesses in an equally unique space. Their web-based platform for interpretive tours and Veruschka's jewelry design company are located in the Pajama Factory, in Williamsport, PA.



When Cliff and Veruschka Stevens started their businesses, they knew they would be able to live and work from any location. The city that captured their hearts was Williamsport, Pennsylvania, a river town along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. [Read more and see photos](#) of their unique work/living space loft in the renovated Pajama Factory.

Cliff and Veruschka Stevens in their artist loft apartment at the renovated and reimagined Pajama Factory in Williamsport, PA.

Researchers Along the River River Symposium To Gather Scientists & Public



Climate change, invasive species, land use history, using the watershed as a classroom, and new approaches to conservation - Scientists are about to unleash these fascinating topics and more during the 10th Annual Susquehanna River Symposium **November 13 - 14, 2015** at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA.

This year's theme is "The River, Its Landscapes, and Our Lives." The symposium brings together researchers, managers, consultants, and the public to discuss ongoing scientific research and innovative projects, to share ideas, and to increase awareness of watershed health, management and sustainability issues facing the Susquehanna today. Dr. James Levitt, Director of the Harvard Forest Conservation Program, is the keynote speaker on Friday evening. For more information, [click here](#).

Breezy View Overlook of the Susquehanna River, photo by Todd Smith.

Resources for River Towns: Step It Up! Increasing Safe Walking Opportunities

The doctor's orders are loud and clear: Walk more! The US Surgeon General, our nation's top physician, has released the Step It Up program to promote walking and walkable



Bitting Recreation, Inc.

Bonner Sports & RV

CNB Bank

Fairfield Auto Group

Jersey Shore Moose Lodge #214

Lundy Warehousing

Lycoming Mall

Norcen Industries, Inc.

Oakes Insurance, Inc.

Overhead Door Company of
Lycoming Co.

Service 1st Federal Credit Union

South Avis Realty

Wegmans

Woodlands Bank

communities.

Find ways your community can increase walkability by providing safe, clean, accessible places to walk, or learn how to create a community walking campaign at the [Step It Up website](#).

Looking for other resources to plan your Greenway projects? Check out our [Planning Webpage](#).

Walkers enjoy the riverside trail in Berwick's Test Track Park.



Fund Your Greenway Project: Grant Spotlight: Coldwater Conservation Grants



While PA has over 86,000 miles of streams, only 30% are considered high-quality coldwater fisheries. Of that, less than 2% are designated as highly productive waters that contain naturally reproducing wild trout.

To foster protection and improvement of these streams and their watersheds the [Coldwater Heritage Partnership](#) is providing both Planning (\$5,000 limit) and Implementation (\$7,000 limit) grants. Eligible grantees include watershed associations, land trusts, Trout Unlimited chapters, conservancies, sportsmen groups, educational institutions and conservation districts. Applications are due **December 18, 2015**. [Learn more](#).

See this and many other grant resources for your local projects at our [Susquehanna Greenway Project Funding webpage](#). As always, [let us know](#) if you'd like our letter of support for your Greenway project. Building the Susquehanna Greenway and citizen stewards one local project at a time!

Photo by Judy Simmons.

Faces of the Greenway Welcome New Staff!

You might have noticed some new faces around our Lewisburg offices and at outreach events and community meetings. Welcome our new staff!

Kassia Janesch, Education and Outreach Program Assistant: Kassia is a recent graduate from Penn State who studied English and an Environmental Inquiry minor with a focus on interactions between the environment and society. She grew up in both State College and right along the Susquehanna River in Lewisburg,



PA. Kassia joined AmeriCorps and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership for a year of service. In this capacity she staffs our SGP Policy and Water Trails committees and helps with events, river sojourns, and creates content for our newsletter, website and database. She enjoys reading, yoga, and traveling. Kassia can be reached at 570-522-7229 or at kjanesch@susquehannagreenway.org.



Scarlett Littman, River Towns Program

Assistant: Scarlett recently began serving at the SGP through the AmeriCorps program. She graduated from Texas State University in May 2015 with a B.S. in Geography- Resource and Environmental Studies and a minor in Anthropology. At SGP, Scarlett helps communities enrolled in our River Town Program to foster new park, trail, and community connections to the river. She recently relocated to Central Pennsylvania where she enjoys outdoor recreation, gardening, and spending time with her dogs. Scarlett can be reached at slittman@susquehannagreenway.org.

Support Your Greenway



Linking over 500 miles of parks, trails, conserved areas, and river towns is no small task and we cannot do it without local partners and help from people like you. Here are different ways you can get involved:

Membership: Consider making a tax-deductible donation to show your love for the Susquehanna! [Click here to become a member](#) of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership or give the gift of membership to that special someone. Thank you!

Volunteer/Internships: Whether you're interested in volunteering in our Lewisburg office, or you'd like to hear about different volunteer opportunities (river clean-ups, photography, event volunteers, etc.) needed throughout the year along the river, we'd love to get to know you!

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a donation to:
Susquehanna Greenway
Partnership

Get started

amazonsmile

AmazonSmile: When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership! Same prices, same products, same service.

<https://smile.amazon.com>. Thank you!

Photo by [AlexanderY/Flickr](#)

Banner photos from left: Swati Verma, Chuck Musitano, Lindesy Shoop, and Diane Peresie.