



## 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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## Minimizing Future Flooding With Green Infrastructure



There is no doubt that the flooding along the Susquehanna River from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee was the worst in decades. The chocolate-colored flood waters were full of top soil, debris, sewage, and pollutants that contaminated drinking water and everything else in their path. At least 10 people lost their lives in the flood, an irreplaceable loss. The thousands of people who sustained damage to their homes or businesses, or saw them swept away altogether, will face

difficult decisions and hardships as they recover.

We know that it is the nature of a river to rise and fall, to seek its own path, and to flood occasionally. Advanced systems of flood walls and levees can redirect floodwaters, but we know that we can never completely eliminate flooding. So, as a community of people along the Susquehanna, how can we work *with* the nature of the river to better prevent and minimize damaging floods? We believe that incorporating green infrastructure, like greenways, natural swales, and riparian areas into every community can greatly help to reduce flood damage. Here's how...

[Read more...](#)

*Photo credit: Flickr user mdmarkus66*

## Post-Flooding Information and Resources

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### **Our Mission**

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is a leading champion for the Susquehanna

Flooding from Tropical Storm Lee has impacted many communities in areas of central and eastern Pennsylvania and left countless families and businesses facing destruction of historic magnitude. If you or someone you know has been impacted by the devastating flooding, [click here](#) for information to help you safely start recovering from this tragedy.

The Wilkes University Small Business Development Center is available to assist small business owners affected by the recent flood. If you need business help in your recovery effort or just have questions, contact their office at 570-408-4340.

For more information on FEMA assistance [click here](#).  
For more information on PEMA assistance [click here](#).

## **Susquehanna Greenway Volunteer Stewardship Program**

At our July annual meeting the SGP Board of Directors voted to initiate a new volunteer program to assist with Susquehanna Greenway projects. Recent flooding on the river highlights the great need to have a trained corps of volunteers at the ready to assist with clean-up and rebuilding activities. However, these volunteers would also be engaged year-round in planning, building and maintaining parks, land trails and water trails in their communities. This critical and timely program will not be possible without the generosity of sponsors. If you know of a company with a commitment to employee volunteering, or that wishes to sponsor our volunteer program please contact [Erin Pierce](#) at (570) 522-7244. If you are an individual that would like to volunteer, [click here](#) to sign-up to volunteer on our website.



## **Share Your Flood Photos**



Tropical storm events and associated heavy rain caused extensive flooding along the Susquehanna River in September 2011. What did you experience along your stretch of the river? Share your photos on our [Flickr group](#).

The group is a place to share images like flooding on the Susquehanna River or tributaries, impacted river towns, parks, marinas, and trails, as well as images of volunteers and clean-up

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 and Lower West Branch  
[SEDA-COG Community Resource Center](#)

Upper West Branch  
[Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#)

Lower Susquehanna  
[Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area](#)

### **Upcoming Events**

[Meeting of the Art Waters](#)  
Wilkes-Barre  
September 15-18

[2nd Annual Jam in the Park:](#)  
[Free Concert Series](#)  
Wilkes-Barre  
September 15

work days! SGP may feature some of these photos in our future publications and on our website. To make your photo eligible use

7th Annual Central PA Vintage  
Iron Club Fall Festival  
Laurelton  
September 16-18

Steampunk Horologia Festival  
Columbia  
September 16-17

The PA Heritage Festival  
Troy  
September 17-18

Wandering Wildwood with Phil  
Lloyd  
Harrisburg  
September 17

River Shoreline Cleanup  
Marysville  
September 17

Fall Craft Festival  
Bloomsburg  
September 17

Milton Harvest 5K  
Run-Rivertown Race Series  
Milton  
September 17

Birds of Late Summer  
Danville  
September 17

Tag a Monarch  
Mount Wolf  
September 17

The 3rd Annual River  
Experience  
Wrightsville  
September 17

2nd Annual Tavern Dinner  
Bainbridge  
September 17

Beaver Community Fair  
Beaver Springs  
September 18-24

Fort Hunter Day

the creative commons license on the photo, and let us know you posted by [emailing us](#). Thank you and our thoughts are with you during this recovery.

*Photo credit: Flickr user waitscm*

## 2011 Susquehanna River Symposium Focus on River Towns-October 14 & 15

How are towns along the river responding to modern social, economic, and environmental challenges? Come to the annual Susquehanna River Symposium **October 14 – 15**



and learn about successful programs and efforts to meet these challenges. The symposium will focus on River Towns in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and will be hosted by Bucknell University's Nature and Human Communities Initiative. The event will bring together community, university, business, and government leaders to explore opportunities for collaboration. The symposium begins at 1pm on Friday, October 14 with presentations by SGP on the *Susquehanna Greenway River Town Program and Creating Healthier Communities through the Built Environment*. A panel discussion will follow on *Investing in River Town Revitalization and Economic Development*.

For a complete agenda [click here](#). Contact [Brandn Green](#) for registration information.

## Introducing SGP's New Regional Coordinator Janie French with Pennsylvania Environmental Council



Janie French is the Director of Green Infrastructure Programs for Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) and is now serving as SGP's Regional Coordinator for the Upper West Branch Susquehanna River. Janie will be providing technical assistance on incorporating green infrastructure in River Towns, through green streets, stormwater solutions, and other projects.

Harrisburg  
September 18

4th Annual Bluegrass by the  
River Music Festival  
Montgomery  
September 18

Mt. Bethel Cemetery Tour  
Columbia  
September 18

Lycoming County Historical  
Society Program  
Williamsport  
September 18

Lancaster County Clean Water  
Consortium  
Lancaster  
September 20

Monarchs Are Migrating!  
Harrisburg  
September 20

Audubon Society Program  
Lewisburg  
September 21

Museum Day  
Wrightsville  
September 24

Rumble on The River Fishing  
Tournament  
Wilkes-Barre  
September 24

Selinsgrove Market Street  
Festival  
Selinsgrove  
September 24

Watershed Cleanup  
Mount Wolf  
September 24

Girl Scout Workshop: Junior  
"Finding Your Way"  
Harrisburg  
September 24



All the amenities associated with the River were a big part of Janie's childhood. She says, "I have a natural gravitation to want to promote the Greenway and the River in a positive way, especially the West Branch. The Susquehanna Greenway is such an important component to maintaining the quality of the river itself, recreational values and critically important areas". Janie is a life-long resident of Clearfield County where she and her husband Dick and dog Jasper live. She also has a son and daughter and enjoys many outdoor activities, such as, biking and walking on the trails along the river, camping and fishing.

"Both PEC and SGP are committed to river town revitalization and environmental conservation," said Trish Carothers, SGP Program Director. "Janie has a wealth of knowledge and experience on green infrastructure and we are pleased to be working collaboratively with PEC and Janie to assist Upper West Branch communities".

Janie may be reached at [jfrench@pecpa.org](mailto:jfrench@pecpa.org) or (412) 481-9400. To learn more about PEC [click here](#).

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## Please Join Us in Creating Pennsylvania's Largest Greenway

Do you enjoy boating, fishing, walking, biking, river town community life or just being on and around the Susquehanna River? By joining the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) you will be helping to create an interconnected corridor along the Susquehanna of trails, parks, river access points, greenways, and river communities. We believe the Susquehanna River is Pennsylvania's most important natural asset and want to connect people with their natural environment, provide new opportunities for recreation, and trails that link residential areas with schools, libraries, downtowns and the river front.



Please consider a donation to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and help us create healthy, sustainable Susquehanna communities. [Click here](#) to donate online or mail your gift to *Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 201 Furnace Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837*.

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## Celebrate EMHR at Annual Dinner

Columbia QRS Chicken & Ribs  
Fundraiser  
Columbia  
September 24

Lewisburg Appetizer Guided  
Recreational Kayak River Trip  
Milton  
September 24

8th Annual Pig Iron Fest  
Marietta  
September 25

Walk for Wildwood  
Harrisburg  
September 25

Marvelous Wild Mushrooms of  
PA  
Berwick  
September 25

PA Hunter-Trapper Education  
Independent Study Course  
Holtwood  
September 28

2nd Annual Jam in the Park:  
Free Concert Series  
Wilkes-Barre  
September 29

Oktoberfest  
Mifflinburg  
September 30-October 1

Annual Heritage Days  
Turbotville  
October 1-2

PA Apple n' Cheese Festival  
Canton  
October 1-2

Jazz Festival  
Harrisburg  
October 1-2

Historic Wrightsville, Inc.  
Wrightsville  
October 1

## October 19-Montrose



The Endless Mountains Heritage Region, a Regional Lead Organization for the Susquehanna Greenway, will hold their annual meeting Wednesday, October 19 in Montrose, PA. All are invited to attend this dinner event which will celebrate the new Historic District designation for Montrose, discuss agricultural transitions and sustainability in our communities. Seamus McGraw, Wyoming County native and author of *The End of Country*, will discuss the regional impacts of the natural gas industry. Registration information is available [here](#).

## Walkable Communities Success Stories

### Williamsport Plan Unveiled-October 7

Never has the unveiling of a bike and pedestrian plan been so much fun! Have your bikes and bike helmets handy on Friday, October 7, when the SEDA-COG Community Resource Center (CRC) unveils the *Walkable/Bikeable*



*Communities Plan* for Williamsport at the Genetti Hotel during First Friday activities! The event includes groundbreaking for Williamsport Regional Medical Center's Pathway to Health, a presentation of the new fish sculpture by local artist Mike Patterson, dedication of South Williamsport's River Walk Trail extension, and much more!

The purpose of the project is to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between major destinations in the Williamsport area. The plan identifies impediments to bike/pedestrian travel around the city and proposes safe solutions. Following the unveiling event, there will be a 4.5 mile bike tour of key areas of interest. River Valley Transit will provide a shuttle for those who are unable to bike.

To view the complete schedule for this event [click here](#) and for all of October's First Friday events [click here](#). This *Walkable Communities* project is supported by the Appalachian Regional Commission, City of Williamsport and Lycoming County Planning and Community Development. Partners have included

23rd Annual Bridge Bust  
Columbia & Wrightsville  
October 1

Migration Bird Walk  
Harrisburg  
October 1

Rohrbach's Pumpkin Festival  
Catawissa  
October 1

Covered Bridges Bike Tour  
Bloomsburg  
October 2

Pennsylvania Indian Festival  
Harrisburg  
October 2

Goldenrods, Asters and Other  
Fall Surprises Plant Walk  
Harrisburg  
October 2

Peace of the Susquehanna  
Guided Recreational Kayak  
River Trip  
Montgomery and Watsontown  
October 2

Educator Workshop: Forestry  
for Educators  
Harrisburg  
October 5

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**



SEDA-COG, PennDOT, Williamsport City Council, Williamsport Bicycle Club, Newberry Elm Street program, the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, and River Valley Transit.

[Read more...](#)

## Go Green on Your Bike October 1-Endless Mountains



What better way to get out and experience the autumn beauty of northeast PA than on your bike?! Join the Countryside Conservancy on Saturday, October 1, for their second annual Go Green Bike Tour. Routes will include mountain, road and hybrid bike options that will cover portions of Lackawanna, Susquehanna & Wyoming counties in the Endless Mountains. There is even a hiking category for non-bikers! Early registration is open until September 26 for \$25. Registrants receive a detailed map of their chosen ride, live music, hot

food, t-shirts for the first 100 registrants, great raffle items, water bottles for the first 50 registrants, beautiful views and the knowledge that you're supporting your local non-profit land trust! See their [website](#) for details and registration information.

## Paddle with Expedition Chesapeake September 28-Harrisburg

What is the Animal Planet star, Jeff Corwin, doing paddling around the Susquehanna River? Corwin is part of the Expedition Chesapeake project that is currently filming an educational documentary on the critical 64,000 square mile watershed. As the Susquehanna River is the largest tributary of the bay, it is to play a major role in the large-format





3-D movie. The program is hosting a number of guided paddle trips in different sections of the river to share the message of the film. The next day trip is scheduled for Wednesday, September





28 in Harrisburg and is open to the public. The final trip will be October 5-6 and end in Havre de Grace, MD. To register email [Kelly Silvis](mailto:Kelly.Silvis).

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## Exploring Our Water Trails

By: Morgan Sherwood



*The Sherwood Family spent this past summer paddling the 444 miles of the Susquehanna River from Cooperstown, NY to the Chesapeake Bay. Educators with a passion for the outdoor classroom, parents Brian and Michelle Sherwood loaded their four children into two canoes*

*and set off. Eldest daughter Morgan, age 13, captured this special family voyage in her daily journal. What follows is Morgan's account:*

Morning after morning, we had a breakfast of pop-tarts and granola bars before packing up and setting off on another adventurous day on the Susquehanna River.

[Read more...](#)

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## New Signs Interpret Columbia Co. Covered Bridges

On August 24 three signs that tell the stories of covered bridges in Columbia County were dedicated. A group traveled to each bridge starting at the Rupert Bridge in Bloomsburg and continuing on to the Twin Bridges in Fishing Creek Township and Fowlersville Bridge at Briar



Creek Park. Special guests and speakers included Chris Young and David Kovach, Columbia County Commissioners; Carol Mas, Town of Bloomsburg; David "Otto" Kurecian, Executive Director of the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau; and members of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA. The signs are part of the Susquehanna Greenway sign program and were funded by the Columbia County Commissioners Tourism Fund. To read the full press release [click here](#).

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## SGP Wins at Sunbury River Festival



SGP took home first place in the Decorated Chair Contest at the Sunbury River Festival thanks to the amazing talents of Diane Hollis, a SGP volunteer and artist from Hughesville. The festival was a three day celebration of the river and included vendors, exhibits, fireworks, contests, and other community events intended to connect people to the town and the wonderful resource that is the Susquehanna River. Diane spent over 35 hours creating a chair that represented the SGP and our mission of sustainable

economic development, recreation, and environmental stewardship throughout the greenway. Thank you Diane, we love our amazing SGP volunteers!

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### Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium Educational Series

Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 8, Dec 2

Join Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium for one of its upcoming educational seminars addressing a variety of stormwater initiatives. Session #2: Implementation of MS4s Throughout the County will be held on September 20 from 7:30-11:30am at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster. Other sessions in the series are listed below.

- October 18-Stormwater BMPs and Infrastructure
- November 8-Sustainable Stormwater Financing
- December 2-Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council Conference

For more information and to register for an upcoming series please [click here](#).

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### Berwick Riverfest Postponed New Dates: October 15-16

Due to the recent flooding the Berwick Riverfest scheduled for this weekend has been rescheduled for October 15-16, 9am-5pm



and includes the culmination of the 225th anniversary celebration of the Borough of Berwick. The event includes APBA sanctioned boat racing, a car show, a firemen's tournament, a beer festival, carnival rides, food, a concert, a battle of the bands, crafts, vendors, local organizations, presentations, fireworks on Saturday night and an entire weekend of celebration and fun. For more info [click here](#). To volunteer at SGP's informational booth contact [Bridget Kane](#) at (570) 522-7275.

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### **RESCHEDULED: Greenways and Trails Summit** October 23-25, York, PA



Greenway advocates, volunteers, planners, health professionals, government officials, and interested community members are invited to attend the 2011 Greenway and Trails Summit October 23-25 at the Yorktown Hotel in York, PA. Presented by PA Recreation and Park

Society and PA DCNR, the summit includes mobile workshops on developing hiking, biking, paddling trails, and vibrant trail towns. Don't miss the Susquehanna Greenway presentation! Session tracks include Health, Marketing of Trail Towns, Partnerships, and Construction/Maintenance/Management, not to mention plenty of opportunities for networking. For more information and to register [click here](#).

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### **Investing in Our River Towns**

#### **The Hotel Edison-Sunbury**

Two years ago Meghan Beck's and Brad Niemiec's experience in commercial real estate management led them to The Hotel Edison, which they saw as a good investment opportunity despite its state of disrepair. The couple took over management of the restaurant,



bar, hotel rooms and apartments and are now in the process of purchasing the property. The hotel was the first to be illuminated by Thomas Edison's three-wire electrical system and its success has been vital to downtown Sunbury. The dining room, bar, banquet area and the third and fourth floor halls have been renovated and there is current work being done on the second floor hall, as well as, updates to infrastructure such as cables and plumbing. They purchased the building next door to expand

the hotel and have requested permission from the city to display one of Edison's original dynamos, an electric generator.

Beck stressed the importance of reaching out to the community for their knowledge of the property and involvement as the Hotel Edison is revitalized. Beck mentioned that, "We have a local organization called Sunbury's Revitalization Inc. (SRI). It is organizations like this and the local government offices that are essential for investors to connect with when starting a new business. You have to be engaged in the community you invest in."

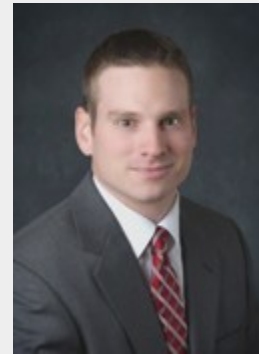
To learn more visit their [website](#).

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## Recognizing Exceptional Service to Our Board

### Jesse Ergott

After five years of service on the SGP Board of Directors Jesse Ergott's term has come to an end. Jesse served on the SGP Board of Directors because he was driven by his respect for the river and the feeling that the SGP was uniquely positioned to help people and communities close to the Susquehanna recognize what a tremendous resource we all have in the river. "I wanted to be a part of telling that story," Jesse says, "It has been part of the landscape of my life as long as I can remember, and I think that many people who live, work and raise their families near the Susquehanna would say that they feel connected to the river just like I do. I've always seen the concept of the "Susquehanna Greenway" as a way to facilitate and expand people's connections to the river, which in turn will help us take care of it in a way that will make sure it is still able to be enjoyed by our children."



Jesse lives in Tunkhannock with his wife Sara and two children where he loves to fish and kayak-preferably at the same time. He hopes to one day paddle the entire length of the river. Jesse is the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Housing Services of Lackawanna County and also serves on the Boards of National Neighbor Works Association and NEPA Area Health Education Center. SGP thanks him for his leadership and dedication in advancing SGP's organizational goals and objectives over the last five years.

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## Researcher's on the River

### Andrew Gavin



Andrew Gavin is Manager of the Monitoring and Protection Program at



the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission). His major work responsibility is directing the Commission's efforts in developing and implementing projects related to water quality monitoring and protection in the basin. One of those projects is the Susquehanna Basin Early Warning System (EWS). The current EWS

enhances protections for public drinking water supplies serving about 700,000 people, providing a monitoring network that helps minimize the impact from contaminant spills and provides data for improving day-to-day treatment operations, further ensuring a continuous and safe supply of drinking water. Furthermore, with heightened national security concerns, SRBC's EWS has become an important tool for participating water suppliers and emergency management officials.

Mr. Gavin also oversees work on the Susquehanna Large River Project that develops protocols to track biological and water quality data for large river systems and monitor the health of the waterway. In the future, integrating aspects of both the EWS and the Large River Project will improve monitoring for protection of drinking water and gauge river health.

To learn more about Andy Gavin and the Commission's work [click here](#).



The Renew Growing Greener Coalition is calling upon Pennsylvania lawmakers to protect the state's economy by protecting its environment and restoring funding for the state's Growing Greener program.

"Growing Greener has done more than preserve Pennsylvania's land, water and air," said Andrew Heath, Executive Director of the Renew Growing Greener Coalition. "It has contributed billions of dollars to the Pennsylvania economy by helping to boost tourism, create jobs and generate revenue."

The Coalition is urging lawmakers to allocate a portion of any severance tax or impact fee on natural gas drilling to help fund the bipartisan Growing Greener program, which was 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 33,700 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, and restoring over 16,000 acres of abandoned mine lands.

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 Governor's proposed budget. This is an 82 percent cut.

"Now is the time we should be investing in our environment and our communities, not taking money away," said Heath. "Not only are our natural resources at risk, our economy is at risk."

To learn more about the Renew Growing Greener Coalition [click here](#).

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### 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.

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