

Healthy  
Sustainable  
Susquehanna  
Communities

# eConnections

February



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## **New Chesapeake Bay Agreement Released Call for Public Feedback**

Chesapeake Bay Program partners are seeking public input on a new agreement that will guide the next chapter of restoration across the watershed.

The [draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) outlines a new plan for collaboration across the Bay's political boundaries and clarifies the Bay Program's vision and values.

With *more than 17 million people* living in the region, the Bay Program values stakeholder input: individual citizens, private businesses, watershed groups and local governments are key partners in the attainment of restoration goals. A public comment period will run until **March 17, 2014**.

Interested parties can offer input in the following ways:

- Submitting an online comment at [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net)
- Submitting an email to [agreement@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:agreement@chesapeakebay.net)



## Susquehanna Greenway Partnership



[Our Website](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Contact Us](#)



Your gift will help us protect the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna, revitalize river communities and build connected parks, trails, and public river access points.



### 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

If you are interested in helping with a local Greenway project, or would like to assist us with an event, photography, office work, etc. visit our website and [click on](#)

## Sojourns: Save the Dates! Educational Paddle Trips To Explore the River



What is a Sojourn? Consider the Susquehanna River sojourns as a mini-summer camp, for adults and youth alike. They are group-oriented journeys that emphasize environmental and cultural education, sharing stories and experiences, and enjoying and

caring for the river. These professionally guided events are a great way to visit a section of the Susquehanna that you've never paddled before! - Even experienced paddlers are surprised to discover the unique opportunities for reflection and community that this kind of group river journey offers.

Be sure to SAVE THE DATES!

- **May 9 - 11, 2014:** Endless Mountain Heritage Sojourn from Sayre, PA to Sugar Run, PA on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. Information will be available through the [Endless Mountains Heritage Region](#).
- **June 27 - 29, 2014:** Mini-North Branch Sojourn from Shickshinny, PA to Northumberland, PA. Information will be available through [Endless Mountain Outfitters](#).
- **August 13 - 17, 2014:** West Branch Sojourn from Renovo, PA to Jersey Shore, PA. Information will be available this spring on the [Susquehanna Greenway website](#).

Registration links and more information will be posted on our website and [Facebook Page](#), when available. Looking for other river activities? Check out our [Calendar of Events](#).

*Photo by Chuck Haupt*

## Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant: Better, Safer Trails in Dauphin County

*Each month learn about a local project being funded through the Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant Program that is helping to build the Greenway and connect people to the Susquehanna River. The program is funded in part by the PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources.*



The Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art is nestled within 500+ acres of forested lands near Millersburg. Thanks to funding support from a Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant, visitors can now enjoy improved trails as they explore the very outdoors that inspired Ned Smith to create his legacy of wildlife artwork.

[volunteer.](#)

## Upcoming Events

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

### [Backyard Bird Count](#)

Your backyard!  
Feb. 14-17

### [Berry Mnt. Hike](#)

Perry County  
Feb. 14

### [Outdoor Show](#)

Williamsport  
Feb. 15

### [X-Country Ski Clinic](#)

Sullivan County  
Feb. 16

### [Kidsburg Stories & Art](#)

Danville  
Feb. 17

### [Fly Tying Class](#)

Williamsport  
Feb. 18

### [Kayak Pool Session](#)

Bloomsburg  
Feb. 18

### [Conservation Grant](#)

#### [Workshop](#)

Nanticoke  
Feb. 19

### [Conservation Grant](#)

#### [Workshop](#)

Boalsburg  
Feb. 20

### [Fascinating Fauna](#)

Camp Hill  
Feb. 20

### [Bounce for Kidsburg](#)

The Center completed new trail grading and other enhancements to protect the trails from erosion and the Wiconisco Creek from sediment pollution. According to Steve Quigley, Executive Director of the Center, the trail improvements have already proven effective. "As soon as the work had completed we experienced two heavy rains. Normally we would see real damage to the trails after one of these storms. The newly improved grading and resurfacing work held up perfectly," says Quigley. The Center plans to extend the same design principles from this project to the rest of the trails throughout the 500 acre property.

[See project photos and read more here.](#) To learn more about the Center, visit [www.nedmsmithcenter.org](http://www.nedmsmithcenter.org).

## News from the North: Cleaner Water Coming Soon

Every day the Old Forge Borehole releases over 60 million gallons of highly acidic water laden with dissolved metals into the Lackawanna River. This abandoned mine drainage (AMD) enters the Lackawanna River which runs into the North Branch of the Susquehanna River near Duryea. Often labeled the largest, single polluter to the Chesapeake Bay, there is a new effort for water treatment and remediation! Thanks to a new public and private partnership construction for a treatment site is slated for 2015. [Watch the project video.](#)



## News from the West: Solution for Trailhead Troubles



The Susquehanna River Walk and Timber Trail is a scenic 4-mile loop trail built on top of the levee system in Williamsport and South Williamsport. It's also something else: Popular. Which makes finding a parking spot sometimes difficult for those who don't live withing walking or biking distance. Recently, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and Lycoming County officials announced a new trailhead with 90 parking spots will be developed this spring in Williamsport at Hepburn Street. The project will increase accessibility to the trail and also construct a safer crossing. Visit the trail and [learn more here.](#)

Bloomsburg  
Feb. 22-23

[Conservation Grant  
Workshop](#)

Wexford  
Feb. 25

[Sense of Place](#)

Lewisburg  
Feb. 25

[Fly Tying Class](#)

Williamsport  
Feb. 25

[Conservation Grant  
Workshop](#)

Clarion  
Feb. 26

[Caving](#)

Bloomsburg  
March 1

[Sense of Place](#)

Lewisburg  
March 1

[Humdinger Trail Runs](#)

Danville  
March 1

[PA Wildlife Presentation](#)

Lewisburg  
March 3

[Reptiles & Amphibians](#)

Tunkhannock  
March 8

[Birds of the Susq. River](#)

Millersburg  
March 9

[Maple Sugaring](#)

Danville  
March 9

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

## Middle Susquehanna News: North Branch Canal Trail Update & Logo Competition

The North Branch Canal Trail project is an amazing opportunity to create a pedestrian and bicycle trail in the Middle Susquehanna region. More than a simple place to walk and bike, the trail will link communities, increase recreational options, provide economic and environmental



benefits and connect people to the culture, nature, and beauty of the Susquehanna River. The trail is a demonstration project of the larger Susquehanna Greenway because it embodies the ideals and benefits that a greenway can provide at the local and regional scale.



**Trail Update:** The Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) will be hosting a public presentation and project update on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00pm in the Danville Borough building, located at 239 Mill Street in Danville. [Learn more about the meeting here.](#)

signage and trail publicity. **Submissions due March 5th.** [Learn more about the contest.](#)

**Logo Contest:** MARC invites kids and adults alike to enter designs for the North Branch Canal Trail logo contest! The winning logo will be featured on trail



## Lower Susquehanna News:

### Feds Approve Land Transfer

PPL Holtwood's plan to transfer up to 1,260 additional acres of land to the Lancaster County Conservancy for preservation and public use has moved one step closer to reality. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved PPL Holtwood's request to transfer ownership of the land. The land is located along the lower Susquehanna River both upstream and downstream of PPL's Holtwood hydroelectric plant. "This decision paves the way for preservation of this beautiful stretch of land for generations to come," said Dennis Murphy, vice president and chief operating officer of PPL Generation's Eastern Fossil and Hydro group. PPL Holtwood previously transferred more than 320 acres to the Lancaster County Conservancy, a move that did not require prior FERC approval. [Read more here.](#)

**Featured Sponsor:**



PPL Corporation (NYSE: PPL), with annual revenue of more than \$12 billion, is one of the largest companies in the U.S. utility sector. The PPL family of companies delivers electricity and natural gas to about 10 million customers in the United States and the United Kingdom, owns more than 18,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the United States and sells energy in key U.S. markets. More information is available at [www.pplweb.com](http://www.pplweb.com).

**New State Funding for Transportation  
A Win for Greenways!**

This past November saw a major win for greenway projects when Governor Tom Corbett signed House Bill 1060-The Comprehensive Transportation Funding Package into law. By the fifth year, the package provides **\$2.3 to \$2.4 billion** in new revenue for roads and bridges, mass transit, and multi-modal transportation (biking, trails, pedestrian facilities). As an active member of the [Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition](#), we advocated for the funding and its greenway-friendly provisions.



Several provisions in the package offer Susquehanna Greenway project partners opportunities to use state funding to help connect people with natural and cultural resources, and promote a sustainable and healthy environment along the Susquehanna! The package sets the stage for working towards an interconnected system of bicycle, pedestrian, and boat access areas and for improved water quality in the river and its tributaries. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)

**Special Thanks to  
Our Sponsors**





## Photo Contest & Gallery Wrap Up

February marked the closing of our 4th Annual Photo Contest and the final month for our [Traveling Photo Contest Gallery](#). The images have spent the last year on display in river towns including Towanda, Tunkhannock, Clearfield, Williamsport, Danville and Harrisburg.



clean. Thank you!

### Gallery at Rockville Room:

Thank you to all who attended our Gallery Reception at [The Rockville Room](#) restaurant in Harrisburg in December. Over \$250 was raised to benefit Greenway programs that revitalize river towns, get people active outside, and keep our river

**Gallery at the Capitol:** About 100 friends, members and supporters joined us at the Gallery Reception at the PA Capitol Building in January. We had a blast sharing river stories, project ideas, speaking with our legislators and meeting new folks. We would particularly like to thank [Starr Hill Winery](#) of Curwensville for providing delicious local wines, the [Harrisburg Area Riverboat Society](#) for donating the dining cruise raffle prize, and Hershey's for providing chocolate treats! [See reception photos on Facebook.](#)



**Photo Contest:** Thank you for sharing your Greenway images and stories in our annual [Photo Contest](#). We received *hundreds* of entries in our 3rd annual contest! Winners will be announced in spring 2014 and the winning images will be framed for next year's Traveling Gallery. Contest categories included River Towns, Treasured Landscapes, People & the River, and a Youth Entry category for photographers under 18 years old, sponsored by [Hershey's Track and Field Games](#). To learn about becoming a photo contest sponsor, contact [Bridget](#).

*Images: (top) A full house at The Rockville Room! (bottom). SGP Intern, Connor Kealey, chats with photo contest winner, Amy Spangler, at the Capitol Reception.*



[Bitting Recreation, Inc.](#)

[CNB Bank](#)

[Jersey Shore Area  
Lioness Club](#)

Jersey Shore Moose  
Lodge #214

[Lycoming Mall](#)

[Lundy Warehousing](#)

[Norcen Industries, Inc.](#)

## Exploring Our Water Trails:

### 444 Club Opens

The Susquehanna River 444 Club would like to recognize anyone who has paddled the entire 444 miles of the Susquehanna River Water Trail from Cooperstown, NY, to Havre de Grace, MD, by inviting you to become a member of the 444 Club! [Read more here.](#)



The policy is to operate on an honor system, assuming that those who apply for 444 Club membership have paddled the entire Susquehanna River Water Trails between Cooperstown and Havre de Grace either as a thru-paddler within the year, or in sections over time. Issues of sequence, speed, length of time, or boat type (Remember the [Marks Family](#) who paddled the 444 on stand-up paddle boards? That counts!) are not considered. Do you know a 444-er? Please share this great news and start planning your trip!

*Photo: Bill Gibson, Lower North Branch Water Trail Committee member and long-time friend to the River receives his 444 Club Membership. Congrats Bill!*

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## Get Outdoors PA SGP Joins New Initiative



We are very excited to announce our partnership with Get Outdoors PA - an initiative of PA DCNR, Fish & Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, PA Land Trust Assn. and PA Rec. and Park Society to promote quality outdoor programming to the public. Does your river town organization or community group host outdoor programs, festivals, or activities? Learn how Get Outdoors PA can help you initiate or improve outdoor programming and outreach and connect with other program providers! Become a leader in community recreation, visit: [GetOutdoorsPA.org](http://GetOutdoorsPA.org)

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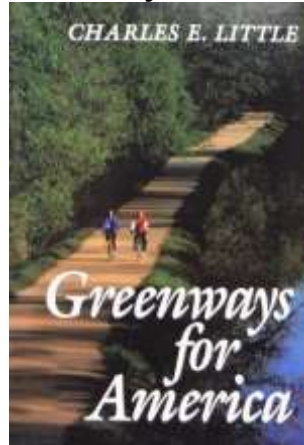
[Oakes Insurance, Inc.](#)

South Avis Realty

[Wegmans](#)

[Woodlands Bank](#)

## River Reads: ***Greenways for America* by Charles E. Little**



Often called the father of American greenways, Charles Little wrote one of the first comprehensive books on the topic. He describes the characteristics of greenways, or linear open spaces; shows how they restore contact with nature; and offers advice on planning, engineering, and politics. You'll enjoy overviews of the many different greenways across the nation, including the Platte River Greenway in Denver, CO and the Hudson River Valley Greenway in NY. This one is a staple on our Susquehanna Greenway office bookshelf! [See all our River Reads](#)

[here.](#)

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## Meet Our Intern: Connor Kealey

This semester we welcome Connor to our team. A senior at Susquehanna University majoring in Public Relations with a minor in Theatre Performance, Connor is assisting our staff with event planning and publicity to help attract tourism to our river towns and get people active and moving outside! "While at school, I've been able to enjoy many experiences in the communities surrounding the river.

Working with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is a wonderful chance to give back to these places," says Kealey. No stranger to jumping in with both feet, Connor spent a year abroad in Cape Town, South Africa where he studied, taught drama, and worked in marketing for a travel company. After graduating, Connor would like to attend graduate school or travel abroad again. Welcome Connor!





## Support the Greenway This Valentine's Day!



Creating over 500 miles of connected parks, trails, conserved areas, and revitalized river towns is no small task and we cannot do it without local partners and contributions from people like you who care about the future of the Susquehanna Greenway  
Here are some different ways you can get involved:

**AmazonSmile:** Do you shop online through Amazon.com? Now Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to the Susquehanna Greenway! Simply visit AmazonSmile and designate the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership as your charitable organization, then shop as you normally would - Same prices, same products, same service! You can learn more here: <https://smile.amazon.com>. 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! Check out our [volunteer needs or sign up](#) to learn about volunteer opportunities with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and our many different community partners.

**Membership:** We hope you will consider [making a tax-deductible donation](#) to show your love for the Susquehanna and her Greenway. Your contributions help us to be a stronger champion for the River, create an environment that is attractive to business, and advocate for protection of our water, farmlands, and forests. [Click here](#) to become a member of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership or give the gift of membership for that special someone. Thank you!

*Photo courtesy of [Flickr](#)*

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**Banner photos (L to R): Ice carving by Gabi Keizer; Thistle by Mike Philippe; Skiing by Geoff Goodenow; Snowy field by Cody Arnold.**

Visit us at [www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org)