



Healthy, Sustainable Susquehanna Communities

Nearly 500 miles in length, the Susquehanna Greenway is one of our greatest regional resources. It is a corridor of parks, trails, river access points, and conserved areas, connecting people to the natural and cultural treasures of the Susquehanna River and its West Branch. The Susquehanna Greenway conserves the environment for all living things and balances the needs of generations today and tomorrow.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

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Treasured Towns & Landscapes Photo Contest Winners Announced

Wow, are our judges had a difficult decision choosing winners for our *2nd Annual Treasured Towns & Landscapes Photo Contest!* We received over **300 entries** for the Town, Landscape, Wildlife, Flood, and Youth categories. See the winning photos [here](#).

These images will tour the Greenway in as a traveling gallery, so be sure to see them at a stop near you! Join us as we kick-off the tour on **Friday, May 4** during First Friday events at the Pajama Factory in Williamsport. Come enjoy the free art, music, activities, and fabulous Photo Contest images!



Don't put your cameras away just yet, the *3rd Annual Treasured Towns & Landscapes Photo Contest* will open in May! Stay tuned to the SGP website, newsletter and facebook for updates.

Photo by Erika Bruckner, 3rd Place - Treasured Towns

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Paddle The River

There are all kinds of opportunities to explore the Susquehanna River this Spring, here are just a few in May:

North Branch Sojourn: May 18 - 20,

Sayre, PA to Wyalusing, PA. The Endless Mountains Heritage Sojourn is a 3-day, 42 mile guided canoe and kayak trip in

Researchers on the River
Liz Garland Deardorff



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

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

Bradford County. The agenda includes learning opportunities and evening programs of cultural and historic programs. More information available here.

West Branch Sojourn: May 19 - 24, Curwensville, PA to Renovo, PA. Join us for an exciting trip through some of the most remote and lovely sections of the Upper West Branch of the Susquehanna River during our 6-day educational trip. Paddle the entire trip, or a few days...it's up to you! Full registration includes meals, camping, insurance, river guides, t-shirt, shuttles, scheduled programs and entertainment! Download the registration packet here, and get it to us by May 4.

To learn about more paddling opportunities along the Susquehanna, visit our Calendar of Events.

To learn about paddling opportunities across the state, click here.

Photo by Cody Goddard

Take Action to Save Keystone Conservation Funding



Governor Corbett's proposed 2012-13 budget eliminates all **conservation, park, and recreation funding** from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. It is the biggest cut to conservation funding *ever* proposed in Pennsylvania.

Photo: The Riverwalk in Williamsport was made possible with support from the Keystone Fund

Keystone Funding helps to make park, trail, and conservation projects possible around the state and within the Susquehanna Greenway. To see how the Keystone Fund helped to create recreational opportunities in your stretch of the Greenway, see the list of projects funded in each county.

Your politicians need to hear that you value these community resources! Please reach out to your legislators. Old-fashioned letters and face-to-face meetings deliver the best results. Calls are next best.

Act Now - Send a Letter!

- Find your legislator's contact information
- Print and send them a standard letter of support

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Upcoming Events

Riverbank Cleanup Falls
April 21-22

Hyner Trail Challenge
Hyner
April 21

Bigler's Rocks Events
Grampion
April 21

Lower River Sweep
Maryland
April 21

Boating Safety Course
Danville
April 21

Spring Bird Walk
Mount Wolf
April 21

RiverWalk Cleanup
Williamsport
April 22

Youth Hike and Photography
Lewisburg
April 22

Climate Refugees Film
Lewisburg
April 24

PennFuture Event
Bloomsburg
April 25

River Trail Meeting
Duncannon

- Or create a personal letter of support by identifying Keystone projects in your county that you treasure! See this [project list](#) (.pdf) or descriptions of [featured projects](#)

After you send your snail-mail or make your call, tell us about it on our [Facebook](#) page and we'll send you a digital thumbs up for making our day! Thank you for advocating for our recreational resources.

Help Needed for River Cleanups



The Susquehanna's riverbanks are in need of a good spring cleaning! Last year's flood has left portions of the banks along the river and her tributaries looking less than stellar. Numerous volunteer groups have planned cleanup events within the Greenway and need volunteer

help. There are many events planned to coincide with Earth Day, including the **April 21 & 22 Wyoming County Riverbank Cleanup**. Learn about this event and others like it at our website, [click here](#).

Events Celebrate Greenways

The Merrill Linn Conservancy is hosting a series of fun, family events in Union County on weekends in April as well as Arbor Day. Now in its 9th year, this Earth Month Celebration explores critical environmental issues that affect the sustainability and well being of our communities. This year's theme: Greenways Connect Communities. Events include guided walks, a birds of prey demonstration, bike rides, tree plantings, and more! To download a .pdf schedule of events, [click here](#).



Volunteer Spotlight

Team Tackles Flood Recovery



Eleven National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members conducted flood cleanup work in Susquehanna River communities that were impacted by the September

April 26



flood. The Susquehanna

Cleanup Days

Muncy
April 27

Tree Planting

Lewisburg
April 27

Spring Bird Walk

Millersburg
April 28

Cherry Blossom Fest

Wilkes-Barre
April 28 - 29

Wetlands Festival

Harrisburg
April 28

Kayak Demo Day

Sugar Run
April 28

Buffalo Creek Paddle

Lewisburg
April 29

Mill Hall Outdoor Show

Mill Hall
April 30 - May 4

River Towns Marathons

Danville
May 5

Photography Walk

Harrisburg
May 5

West Branch Cleanup

Lewisburg
May 5

Buffalo Creek Paddle

Lewisburg

May 5

Photo Workshop

Harrisburg

May 5

Garden Faire

Harrisburg

May 6

Kayak Demo Weekend

Wrightsville

May 12 - 13

Migrating Bird Paddle Trip

Laceyville

May 12

Fishing Education Day

Berwick

May 12

North Branch Heritage Sojourn

Sayre to Wyalusing

May 18 - 20

Mon-Tour Bike Race

Danville

May 19

West Branch Sojourn

Curwensville to Renovo

May 19 - 24

If you would like to have an event included in our newsletter, please list your event at our [website](#).

**Special Thanks to
Our Sponsors**



Greenway Partnership applied for and was granted this team from [ACCT](#).

The volunteers worked in Shickshinny, Berwick, Bloomsburg, and Falls from March 12 - April 4 before moving to other parts of Appalachia. In our area their work focused on cleaning public parks, trails, and areas that were affected by the flood.

They spent two days assisting the Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council with litter and debris removal from the walking and biking trail near Shickshinny. They also used shovels to scrape away flood mud that coated much of the trail.

"What an extremely great bunch of young men and women," exclaimed Warrior Trail Council member Lance Kittelson. "They worked so hard all day long and we really accomplished more than we thought we could with their help. We cleared over 1,000 ft of dried mud off the trail, picked up litter, cleared brush, and they assisted in recovering historical remnants of the old bank building for the local historical society."

In Falls, the team disinfected the playground, and cleaned about two miles of riverbank. Working with local outfitter Susquehanna Kayak & Canoe the volunteers cleaned up some of the river islands.

"Working in Falls was great," said team leader Patrick Skoviara. "Local students from EIHAB Human Services were a huge help along one of the streambanks and paddling to clean the islands was different perspective of the damage."



Thank you to ACCT for granting us this volunteer team and to the following partners: Columbia-Montour Boy Scout Council, EIHAB Human Services, Inc, Boroughs of Shickshinny, Berwick, Bloomsburg, and Exeter Township, D&L Heritage Area, Susquehanna Kayak & Canoe, Deitrich Theatre, and Bloomsburg school teachers, First United Methodist Church, Ardee's Foodrinkery and Exeter Township Senior Center for providing meals.

Read about the team's work in Berwick and see the WNEP video coverage of their work [here](#).

Volunteers Green Muncy

If you haven't noticed, the town of Muncy along the West Branch is looking pretty green these days. Thanks to the intrepid volunteer work of the Borough's Shade





Tree Commission over 300 trees have been installed and 29 more





are set to be planted this spring. Read more about their projects [here](#).

[Weis Markets](#)

[Woodlands Bank](#)

New Boat Ramps!

PPL Holtwood has begun work to build two new boat ramps and docks and expand the parking area at the Pequea Boat Launch on the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County. “PPL is committed, as part of its operating license for the Holtwood hydroelectric plant, to expanding recreational opportunities for the public along the Susquehanna River,” said John M. Levitski, PPL’s regional community relations director for the Lancaster area. “This work will improve recreational facilities at Holtwood in time for the summer boating season,” he said. The project is expected to be finished by the middle of May. More information is available at www.pplweb.com.

Water Conservation Contest



Since 1973 American Rivers has helped protect and restore more than 150,000 miles of rivers. American Rivers has teamed up with Plow & Hearth in a contest to promote water conservation. The *WaterColors* contest, runs through **September 30, 2012**. To enter, submit your artistic expression inspired by water and colors. Submissions can be anything ranging from poems to a rain barrel painted with your favorite colorful river scene – anything that captures the spirit of

WaterColors. Entries will be judged on aesthetic impact, incorporation of color and water and originality. To learn more, check out the contest website [here](#).

New Rail-Trail!

Manor Township along the Lower Susquehanna River in Lancaster County is developing a 6-mile riverside rail-trail thanks to a great partnership with Norfolk Southern and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources! Learn more about this project at the [Rails to Trails Conservancy blog](#).



Photo courtesy of Manor Township

West Branch Restoration Symposium





Registration for the 6th West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium, hosted by Trout Unlimited and the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition, is still open! The Symposium will take place at the Ramada Conference Center in

State College on **April 27 - 28, 2012**. Various state agencies, universities, non-profits, and other conservation organizations will offer a variety of presentations about new uses for AMD, innovative ideas for treatment, and much more. To register, [click here](#).

Nominate Preservation Heros

Know of an amazing preservation story near you? Preservation PA is seeking applications for Pennsylvania's Historic Preservation Awards which recognize significant contributions in the field of historic preservation made by both individuals and organizations. The deadline for application submission is



Monday, May 21, 2012. Visit www.preservationpa.org to download the brochure and application.

Blankets for Flood Victims

Thanks to 55 Bucknell University students, children and families who lost many of their belongings to the September 2011 flood will be able to curl up and find some comfort in homemade fleece blankets they can call their own.



As part of the university's Martin Luther King Jr. service

opportunities, student volunteers assembled the no-sew blankets. "We made 21 blankets," said Lynn Pierson, Assistant Director for Community Service. "It's something the students can do together and it benefits someone in need." The blankets were distributed to flood victims through the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Learn how to help flood victims in your area, contact your local chapter of the Red Cross [here](#).

River Reads

Watershed: The Journal of the Susquehanna



Has your love for our mighty river inspired you to jot down a poem, snap a camera shutter, or dash off a story? Consider submitting your nonfiction articles, short fiction, personal essays, poetry, and photography for publication in *Watershed: The Journal of the Susquehanna*. *Watershed* is an interdisciplinary annual print and online journal. The journal's mission is to promote cultural and environmental awareness of the Susquehanna River region, which includes over 27,500 square miles in New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. To access online content from past editions, to order the printed journal, and learn more about submission guidelines, [click here](#).



Photo courtesy of [Flickr](#)

Lecture To Explore River Art

The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area will host nationally renowned artist and curator Rob Evans on **May 9**. Evans will present a lecture on the touring exhibit he organized in 2005 titled "Visions of the Susquehanna: 250 Years of Paintings by American Masters." Evans will talk about the influence of the Susquehanna on his own evolution as an artist as well as the long legacy of prominent artists who have painted this majestic river through the centuries. In addition he will give a behind the scenes account of the process of researching, organizing and pulling together the first major survey of paintings of the Susquehanna River in more than 25 years. To purchase a ticket, [click here](#).

Researchers on the River

Prof. Jonathan Niles

The PA Fish and Boat Commission, the agency charged with protecting and enhancing our state's aquatic resources, has found a helping hand in Susquehanna University biology students, and their professor, Dr. Jonathan Niles. With over 45,000 waterways waiting to be documented for wild trout populations (~4,500 streams have been documented) the Commission has quite an overwhelming task. Collaborating with Dr. Niles and other local colleges, universities, and conservation groups has helped the Commission, provided valuable research experiences for students, and has resulted in successfully protecting fragile streams from development.



“The wild trout stream designation is important since it affords these waterways and wetlands the highest protection from development by the state Department of Environmental Protection,” says Niles. “They consider this information when issuing permits and this is particularly important when we think about development pressures that the state is currently facing – development from urbanization and natural gas extraction.” Read more about this research [here](#).



Meet Our Board

Liz Garland Deardorff

Liz has been tackling whitewater boating for over 35 years, and takes her passion for rivers to the office. As the Director of American Rivers' Clean Water Program in Pennsylvania she strengthens policies and practices

that help communities achieve clean water goals. “American Rivers lives by the motto, *Rivers Connect Us*, and we fight for healthy rivers across the nation so that communities can thrive,” says Liz. Read more about Liz's interest in connecting communities to the Susquehanna [here](#).

Photo by Jeff Macklin

Please visit our website at www.susquehannagreenway.org
[Support Our Cause](#)