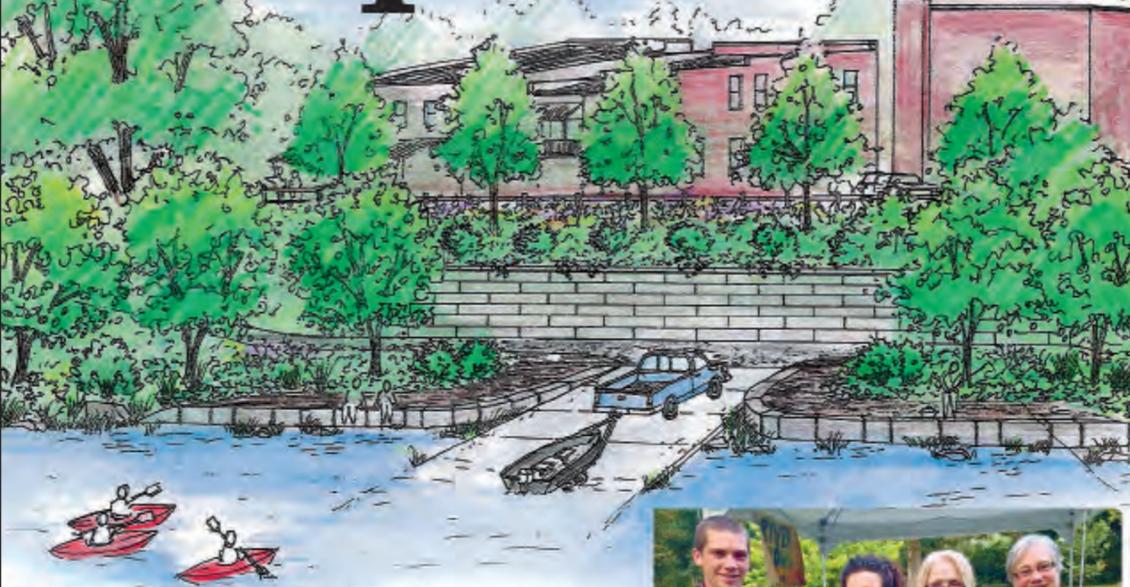


# Celebrating the Susquehanna



## River Town designation helps communities work together

By **CHERYL R. CLARKE**  
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**E**ach year, more and more communities join the list of Pennsylvania River Towns, a program of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership that spotlights locales actively connected to the Susquehanna River.

Getting the designation means the towns are “doing something good, and we want to acknowledge that and market them as towns that other towns should be working toward,” said Zachary Pyle, River Towns program coordinator for the Lewisburg-based partnership.

“When they get the designation, they get technical assistance from our organization to help new projects move forward,” Pyle said.

To date, eight towns are on the list and the partnership is working with 20 more.

“We try to act as a partner, to hear what they want to do, get grant funding for them, help them fund raise and give them the tools to really take charge and move forward,” he added.

The eight River Towns and their dates of inclusion are:

- Sayre, Nov. 31, 2014
- Athens, Oct. 31, 2014
- Lewisburg, Sept. 25, 2014
- Lock Haven, Aug. 24, 2014
- Montgomery, Jan. 16, 2013
- Jersey Shore, Sept. 19, 2012
- Shickshinny, March 29, 2011
- Laceyville, Dec. 9, 2008

(See RIVER TOWN, Page B-5)



## Farm equipment developed at PSU is example of ag sciences entrepreneurship

By **JEFF MULHOLLEM**  
Special to the Sun-Gazette

**UNIVERSITY PARK** — A piece of agricultural machinery developed by researchers in Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences is starting to achieve commercial success, the latest example of potentially profitable technology transfer spurred by the college’s Entrepreneurship and Innovation initiative.

The Penn State Interseeder was the brainchild of agronomists grappling with how to persuade farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to plant cover crops. Cover crops can significantly reduce erosion and take up excess nutrients — playing a major role in reducing the amount of agricultural pollution reaching streams, rivers and, ultimately, the bay.

However, farmers’ adoption of cover crops has been limited by difficulties in fitting them into crop rotations in a profitable and reliable way. By 2010, it was obvious that something needed to be done to help more farmers plant more cover crops in the Chesapeake drainage, according to Greg Roth, professor of agronomy.

That’s where the Penn State Interseeder comes in. “Pennsylvania’s interest and commitment to cover crops, our concentration on no-till crop production, and a desire to expand cover cropping into regions with shorter growing seasons make the state an ideal proving ground,” Roth said.

“With the heavy use of crops such as corn and soybeans, there is not much time to sow cover crops, so

(See AG, Page B-5)



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK MANSELL, PENN STATE NEWS

The Penn State Interseeder was the brainchild of agronomists grappling with how to persuade farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to plant cover crops.

## Teen girl opts to study gas engines, welding

“It’s just what I like to do”

By **LAKESHIA KNARR**  
The Express

**MILL HALL** — Chesney Weaver, 16, of Loganton, is the daughter of Arlene and Edward Weaver. She is currently in 11th grade and is studying small gas engines and welding in the Career and Technical Education program at Central Mountain High School.

Chesney’s older sister, Emily, also participated in the agricultural mechanics program, which is how she first learned of it being offered. Chesney began taking the courses when she was in 10th grade.

“I enjoy that they’re hands on classes and the fact that the skills you learn are useful,” she said.

Weaver was not worried about enrolling in the classes, even if she was the only girl in them, she said.

“It’s always been easier for me to talk to guys than other girls,” she explained. “I’ve never really been into anything like cosmetology ... I was raised around

(See TEEN, Page B-3)

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“There’s no reason you need to not do something you want to do because it’s not typically something for you. If I like to do it, then who cares what anyone else thinks.”

Chesney Weaver

## Crime rate still high in county, Bradford district attorney says

By **JAMES LOEWENSTEIN**  
The Daily Review

**TOWANDA (AP)** — The incidence of crime in Bradford County, as measured by the number of cases prosecuted by the county district attorney’s office, still is far above what it was a decade ago, the district attorney said.

“Our caseload and inmate numbers (the number of Bradford County jail inmates) have not significantly dropped” in the last few years, Bradford County District Attorney Dan Barrett said.

From 2011 to 2014, the number of new criminal cases filed each year with the Bradford County Prothonotary’s Office was about 40 percent higher than was the case in 2005 to 2007, he said.

While there was a “slight” decline in the number of new criminal cases filed

### AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **CRIME GROWTH:** The number of new cases filed from 2011 to 2014 was 40 percent higher than the number filed from 2005 to 2007.
- ▶ **THEN:** About 700 new cases were filed from 2005 to 2007.
- ▶ **NOW:** In just 2014, 954 new cases were filed.

in 2014, the number of such cases filed with the prothonotary’s office still is “way above” the levels seen less than 10 years ago, Barrett said.

Documents related to criminal cases

(See BRADFORD, Page B-3)

## Andre the Clydesdale named grand champ at Farm Show



PHOTO COURTESY OF PSD PHOTO/KEN SIEMS PHOTOGRAPHY

Olivia Morse placed third in the ladies cart class at the Draft Horse Show held during the 99th PA Farm Show. Her grandfather, Tom Young, owns the horse, Andre, which was named the Grand Champion Clydesdale stallion.

# River Town designation helps communities work together

(From Page B-1)

## JERSEY SHORE

In this borough, "we went through the whole process. They are putting in a several hundred thousand dollar river access project and we helped them get the funding for it," Pyle said. "Now we are helping them get interpretive signage for it."

"We require communities to have a river town theme, we get a group together and try to get a diverse group from elected officials to historic society meetings and recreation board members to talk about the projects and how to plan for them," he said.

The idea is to try to get the group to operate on its own and then the River Towns Program is called in as a technical adviser.

"The other benefit is it helps build community where residents feel they can help get things done, and there ends up being more opportunities for residents to enjoy the outdoors, to be on trails, get in parks and get on the river," he added.

Throughout history, Jersey Shore always has been known as the "Gateway to the Pine Creek Valley," said borough Mayor Dennis Buttorff.

"Since the town has been designated as a 'River Town,' we been named as the hub for many trails such as the Pine Creek Rail Trail," he said.

The impact of the designation has prompted some people to look into what the town can do to aid others traveling to a small town, he said, namely providing a place for them to gather supplies and equipment to travel the river and other trails.

"Mother Nature has built this small town in a primary spot for many healthy activities that brings the people back to the original purpose of using the rivers as a mean of traveling," Buttorff said.

Many historical events have happened along the river, such as the signing of a treaty that happened the same date of the first Independence Day, July 4, 1776, he said.

## Community growth

According to Pyle, more than 70 towns that are somehow connected or adjacent to the river have been identified.

"We tend to stick with the communities right on the river, even though the actual corridor is between 1 and 3 miles wide," he said.

The process starts with a community forum for people to identify what they would like to see in the town.

## LEWISBURG

Such a public forum recently was held at the Lewisburg Senior Center for the community to talk about their priority projects moving forward and to help identify funding for the projects.

"We had maps of Lewisburg and we gave each participant a sticky dot. They would put them on a map to show what they thought needed to be improved," Pyle said.

The residents showed that they "really value their open and green space" such as parks and rail trail opportunities.

Items in need of improvement included pedestrian and bike safety.

"There's a lot of issues with Route 15 being congested, and downtown areas need to be improved for walking and biking," he added.

The main project that was identified is the town's Soldiers Memorial Park. People want to see it used more. Additional access to the Susquehanna River also was emphasized.

Some attendees suggested adding a zip line course or pedestrian walkway on an old rail line bridge that is owned by the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority.

The authority is working on stabilizing the rail line, which is no longer used, Pyle added.

If the project is of value for the community, it will match whatever funding is received through grants with local funds, "but it is by no means a requirement," he said.

"Grant money funds a planning study or project,

which is probably the next step for Lewisburg. If they do get that peer-to-peer grant, they will probably be looking at pedestrian or bike safety and something with the old rail bridge," Pyle said.

The \$10,000 grant requires a \$1,000 local match.

According to Lewisburg Neighborhood Corp. Executive Director and Rivertown team champion Samantha Pearson, the designation "helps us coalesce a constituency in Lewisburg, to plan an improvement and maintenance to the river."

"In theory, we can now apply for funding sources," she said, adding the designation will affect how the community addresses the river and associated issues such as flood plain insurance.

"But we also want to celebrate it (the river)," she added.

The designation also should attract more people from outlying areas to be a part of the progress.

"This is a way of broadening the intent of things. You don't have to be a resident of the borough to participate," Pearson said.

Grant funding, available through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is a competitive grant, and the community must apply for it.

"Jersey Shore picked a project that turned out to be expensive," Pyle said, referring to the river access project. "It can be something as simple as holding an annual event."

One such simple event organized by Lewisburg was a "Picnic in the Park." One day a week during the warm weather months people met for a picnic lunch. Food vendors set up onsite too.

"Their leader for the River Town process also organized days to clean up the river property around Lewisburg," Pyle said.

## ATHENS and SAYRE

These two Bradford County cities received their designations as River Towns late in 2014.

They both are along the border with New York

state and essentially are the first communities along the Susquehanna River at its northernmost point, said Linda Politi, vice chairwoman

of FutureScapes, an organization that formed following devastating flooding from Hurricane Irene in 2011.

"FEMA came in and helped us establish a local group for long-term recovery," she said. "We identified about 14 projects we wanted to do and one was a trail project along the Susquehanna River."

That resulted in a \$241,000 grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that will be used to put in a walking and biking trail between Athens and Sayre, Politi said.

"While we were doing that, someone put us in touch with Susquehanna Greenway. We got in touch with Trish Carothers and have been working with Zach Pyle and Alice Trowbridge," she added. "They helped us with advice on our grants."

To be a part of a connection of towns along the river throughout the state "is a great honor," Politi said.

"With our designation, we will be holding a community meeting in January to see what people want to do to bring people to the river and we will be organizing several activities along the river," she added.

"We are extremely grateful to them (the partnership) and excited to be involved. It is a great connection when Athens and Sayre are working together. We've had great support from both boroughs," Politi said.

## LOCK HAVEN

In this city, the River Town project committee is doing a survey to see how Lock Haven University students use the downtown and what could better con-

nect the university to that community, according to Pyle.

"They are starting out small and moving to a larger survey on how the residents use downtown," he said.

## Looking ahead

This year may be the right time for some of the other communities along the river to move forward and achieve the designa-

tion.

"We are currently underway with Danville and Selinsgrove to get them designated but have not completed the process yet," Pyle said.

The partnership website contains a map illustrating various features of communities in the River Towns spheres.

It can be accessed at <http://susquehannagreenway.org/explore-susquehanna-greenway>.

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## Ag sciences entrepreneurship produces seeder

(From Page B-1)

many farmers have not been able to introduce cover crops into their rotations. But knowing the benefits that cover crops provide, we were determined to find a way to change that."

Roth teamed with Chris Houser, Penn State Extension educator; William Curran, professor of weed science; and Corey Dillon, a Penn State farm operations technician and graduate student, to try a different approach. They developed a piece of equipment that could plant cover crop seeds between rows of corn — and at the same time even spray a post-emergent herbicide and apply fertilizer to help establish the cover crop, in

essence performing three operations in one pass.

This article originally

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