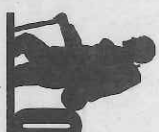


SGP



# Outdoor Briefs

## Photo contest to feature Susquehanna's towns and landscapes

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) invites photographers and nature enthusiasts to enter your stunning town, landscape, or wildlife photos for the 2nd Treasured Towns and Landscapes photo contest, a news release announced. Digital entries are being accepted until Jan. 15 at [www.susquehannagreenaway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenaway.org).

Trish Carothers, Partnership program director, said the group is "looking for photos that tell the stories of the Susquehanna that celebrate the river and its towns as places of timeless value, shared memories and experiences, places to use and enjoy and to treasure always. Photos of people and families being active in the outdoors are highly encouraged."

There are four photo categories. Entries for the "Treasured Towns" category should focus on people enjoying local treasures like historic districts, downtowns, farmer's markets, or riverside parks. The "Treasured Landscapes" category will showcase seasonal views, river scenes, rural areas, trails, vistas and more. Budding photographers under the age of 18 are encouraged to submit their unique perspective for the "Youth Entry" category. New this year, the "Wildlife" category will capture the Susquehanna's birds, mammals, amphibians, and fish in action. Participants are welcome to submit multiple entries. Photos from the following counties are eligible: Bradford, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Indiana, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Wyoming and York.

A traveling gallery of the winning photos will be staged throughout the Susquehanna Greenway corridor in 2012. The winners from the 1st Treasured Towns and Landscapes photo contest will be displayed at the Emma's Food For Life on 11 S. Market St., Selinsgrove, for the month of November.

The Susquehanna Greenway, the release said, 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 the length, the Greenway is one of our state's greatest resources, balancing the need of generations today and tomorrow, conserving the environment for all living things, and creating recreational opportunities for healthy and sustainable communities.

## Take a hike with regional group

The Otrznachson Regional Group of the Sierra Club and the Edward Abbey Hiking Society will hold a number of hikes throughout the region in the fall.

Hikes are open to the public, but hikers should contact the hike leader prior to the event. Participants are advised to bring lunch and water on every hike. Hikes will be held:

## Trout population increasing on

By ELIZABETH REGAN  
[eregan@lockhaven.com](mailto:eregan@lockhaven.com)

Rebecca Dunlap heaved on the 30-pound electrofishing backpack as she gasped, "We look like Ghost Busters!"

Dunlap, biologist and manager of the Eastern Abandoned Mine Program at Trout Unlimited, and Dr. Shawn Rummel, the field and research coordinator ("our resident doctor," Dunlap calls him) were about to electrofish Middle Branch, a tributary to Twomile Run in the lower Kettle Creek watershed.

On the way to Middle Branch, Dunlap called out to Rummel the items they needed for the trip.

"Electroshocker-check! Waterproof camera-check! Waders-check!" Rummel called from the back of her black pickup truck that, not for the first time, would see back roads piled with mud.

Now Dunlap stood in the clear, flowing waters of Middle Branch, her waders providing insulation against the electrical shocks conducted through the water between the two electrodes dangling from her backpack.

If a fish swam between the two electrodes in the water, it would receive an electrical shock and become temporarily stunned and float to the surface.

While looking like a Ghost Buster may be fun, Dunlap and Rummel weren't just playing in the water. They were there to measure the population numbers, health of the fish (by its length and weight), and the reproduction occurring in the stream. They electrofish Middle Branch's entire stream length (about one mile) once a year.

Last year, they only found four trout; the year before, they'd found none. By the end of the mile this year, Dunlap stood sweating, but beaming. They'd caught 26 trout, measuring in size from 2.7 to 5.5 ounces. That's a sixfold increase in just one year.

Those findings are especially significant because Middle Branch had been far more acidic, according to The West Branch Susquehanna Recovery Benchmark Project, declining in acidity by 92 percent. The Middle Branch Passive



Anglers work the spillway, top above, at Little Pine State Park. Some area waterways, including positive developments in trout popu-

Twomile Run and Robins Hollow. The point of the restoration work is to reconnect the trout populations, Rummel said. There are pockets of healthy fish, but the AMD pollution acts as a barrier and isolates them so they aren't intermingling. They should be mating and becoming genetically diverse so that one catastrophe doesn't wipe out the whole population, Rummel said.