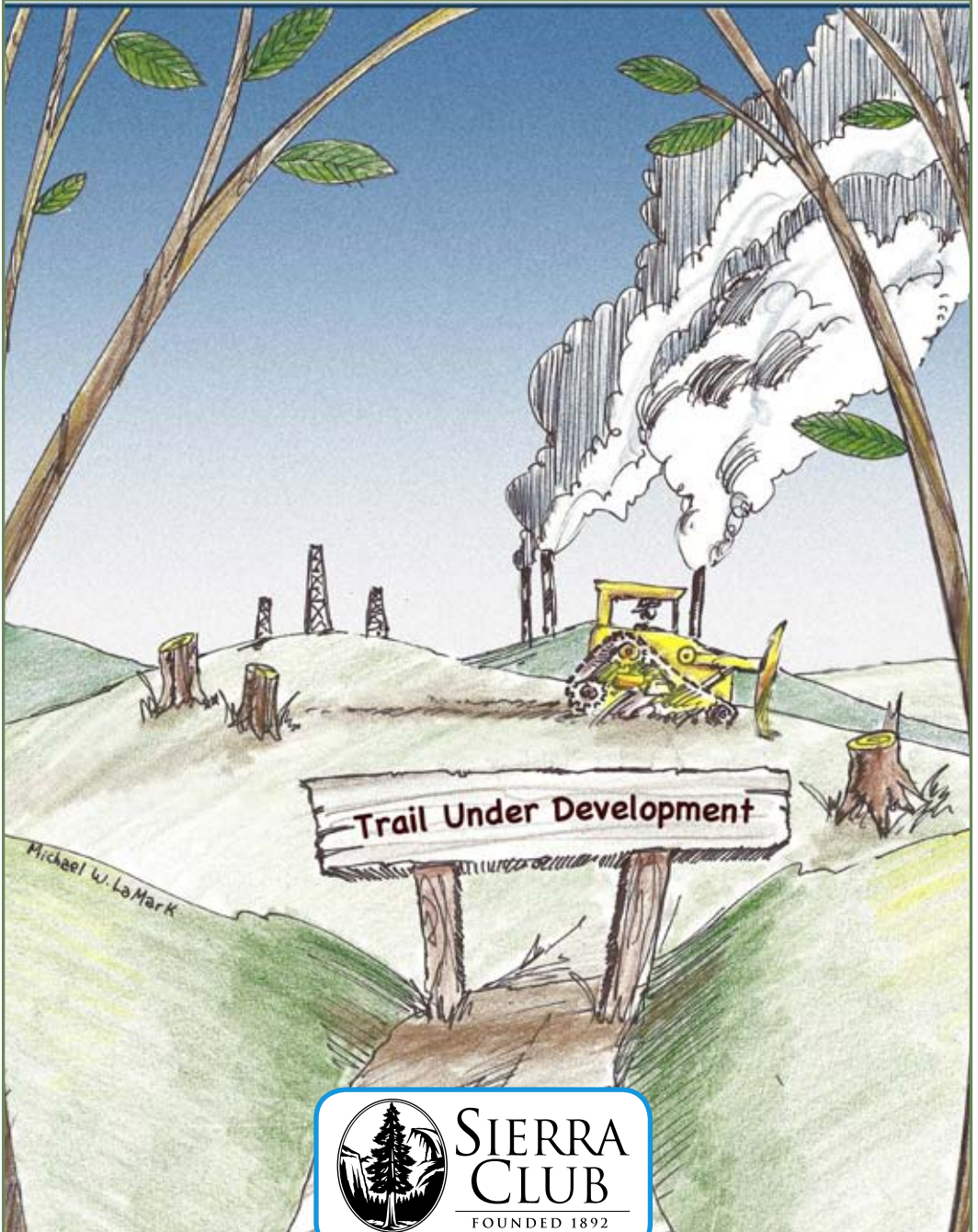


TheSylvanian

Summer 2012

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

Our Wilderness: THREATENED!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

From The Editors

It's summer! In this issue of *The Sylvania* we are focusing on the beauty and adventure that are found in the Pennsylvania forests, mountains, rivers and streams. We want to show – not tell – you about the special places that make our state exceptional and worth preserving for generations to come. Some writers have shared their near-sacred places where they go to renew and recharge. Another writer has taken us into the woods to show us a rare firefly, which gathers with others at mating season and lights in sync.

At the same time, we look at what threatens to destroy our forests and streams. In some cases, we are still contending with our past mistakes, caused by poorly regulated coal mining. In other instances, we are confronting a whole era of new mistakes, in which we are industrializing pristine areas with natural gas wells, compressor stations, and transmission lines. Local governments are yielding to pressure from developers to build where no one has ever built before.

Can this state be saved? With our history of exploitation, we should have learned what happens when industries are given *carte blanche* to do what they want. Oil, coal, timber have all left their legacy of fowled air, water and land. We wish that we could be like the fireflies in the Allegheny National Forest and get in sync to demand with one voice: STOP!



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

WENDI TAYLOR AND PHIL COLEMAN
Co-editors of *The Sylvania*

Next Deadline: September 15

Send articles & photographs to: taylorwj@comcast.net or pcoleman19@tampabay.rr.com.
To mail photos: *Sylvanian*, Sierra Club - PA Chapter, PO Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108



OnTheCover

Mike LaMark took a hike and experienced forest interruptus -- gas rigs where trees had been, dozers scraping away ferns and soil. Mike had hiked for eight miles and was one mile from the point where his sweetheart would offer him a ride home. Your editors might rant and rave in frustration, but Mike sat down and drew the scene. Our cover shows his take on our current situation.

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The Sylvanian, © 2012 Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter. Issued four times per year. This publication is dedicated to serving the Sierra Club Pennsylvania membership, and is a forum for internal policy discussion and debate among those truly concerned with protecting the environment. Opinions expressed herein are the personal opinions of their authors and may or may not reflect Sierra Club policy.

Contributor deadlines are September 15 (Fall issue), December 15 (Winter Issue), March 15 (Spring issue) June 15 (Summer Issue). Anonymous contributions are not accepted.

SIERRA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and To use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy can be found online at <http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp> or by contacting the Harrisburg office.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS AFTER PASSING 2012 - 13 BUDGET: KEYSTONE FUND RESTORED / DEP TAKES MORE HITS

The Pennsylvania General Assembly went right down to the wire, but passed a 2012-13 state budget before the June 30 deadline. Given that Republicans control both the House and the Senate along with Governor's office, there was little doubt that they would meet the deadline. However, the Republican leadership kept the details of the spending plan secret until the last minute, leaving Democrats and the public in the dark until voting commenced.

- The \$27.7 billion budget included restoration of some environmental programs that were cut in the Governor's proposed budget and cut deeper into Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s budget than the Governor proposed. According to the budget, which was signed into law June 30:
- The Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conservation Fund received \$38 million, which Governor Corbett wanted to zero out. This program is funded by a portion of the Real Estate Transfer Tax, which the Governor wanted to permanently divert to the General Fund. The tax remains dedicated to the Keystone Program.
- The Farmland Preservation Program was allocated \$20 million, which the Governor wanted to zero out. This program is funded by cigarette tax revenues, which the Governor wanted to permanently divert to the General Fund. The program will continue to get its funding from the cigarette tax.
- Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants was budgeted \$6 million, which the Governor wanted to zero out.
- DEP's funding was reduced by \$11.8 million, compared to last year's budget, which was \$1.3 million more than the \$10.5 million the Governor wanted to cut. More than half of the cut, or \$6.6 million, is allocated for personnel.
- The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources gets a reduction from last year's budget of \$2.5 million, which is same as the Governor proposed to cut. Like DEP, most of the cuts are in personnel.



Environmental education funding was zeroed out for both the PA Center for Environmental Education (\$368,000) and McKeever Environmental Center (\$213,000).

ETHANE "CRACKER" TAX CREDIT PART OF FINAL BUDGET DEAL

Last minute budget negotiations included finalizing Governor Corbett's proposed tax credit for Shell's ethane cracker (refinery). In April, Shell announced that it was considering building its ethane refinery on an industrial site in Beaver County, after the General Assembly agreed to create a tax-free Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) there as part of the Act 13 natural gas bill, a sweetheart deal signed by Corbett on Valentine's Day. However, the Governor wanted to sweeten the pot even more for Shell by adding a \$1.7 billion tax credit on top of the tax advantages offered by the KOZ, which were capped at \$66 million per year. The tax credit could be sold by Shell to other companies who would use Shell's ethane to produce other products, as a way to utilize natural gas produced in Pennsylvania to refine ethane for use in Pennsylvania. By creating a new demand, this clearly increases the incentives to drill for more natural gas.

The final version of the ethane tax credit eliminated the \$66 million a year cap, and would be available in 2017. Proponents say the lag time is justified, since a new ethane cracker would take several years to construct, once Shell commits to Pennsylvania. Ethane produced by Shell would become the raw material for a number of manufacturing companies, producing such things as plastics, which could be eligible for the tax credits if they establish plants that utilize Shell's ethane.

Passage of the ethane tax credit was considered a "must have" for Governor Corbett during the budget debate. A wide variety of deals were made to ensure passage by June 30. Other issues that Governor Corbett previously said were "must haves" during this budget debate, such as privatization of liquor states, were abandoned in favor of the tax credit.

BILL TO AUTHORIZE LEASING STATE UNIVERSITY LANDS FOR GAS DRILLING PASSES / CORBETT TAKES WITH THE RIGHT HAND, AND GIVES WITH THE LEFT HAND

When Governor Corbett proposed his 2012 - 13 state budget in February, he called for another round of cuts to the state university system. He said that one way the universities could make up the lost revenue would be to lease their natural gas rights to drilling companies. Then, State Senator Don White (R, Indiana) introduced SB 367 to authorize gas leasing on land owned by colleges in the State System of Higher Education (SSHE), as well as other state-owned lands, such as prisons. The bill passed the Senate earlier in the year and the House on June 26. Rep. Vitali (D, Delaware), led the effort in the House to defeat SB 367, but it passed 131 - 68 with bipartisan support and opposition.

The bill allows the colleges where drilling takes place to keep 40 percent of any royalties, with the remainder to be distributed among the State System schools with no mineral deposits.

MISCHIEF BEHIND THE BUDGET WHEELING AND DEALING: PRIVATIZING DEP PERMIT REVIEWS BLOCKED – FOR NOW

With conservative Republicans controlling both Chambers of the General Assembly, as well as the Governor's office, the stage is set for the anti-environmental agenda to be crafted behind closed doors. That was evident with the way they handled the Marcellus Gas drilling legislation, Act 13. The 174-page bill was negotiated behind closed doors by Republicans over 10 weeks during their holiday break last winter. The details of the bill were made public only a day before the votes were held. Democrats and the public were kept in the dark. Of course, when the Governor signed the "Sweet-heart Deal" for the gas drilling industry on Valentine's Day, many legislators still were unaware of the provisions they had voted on.

With all attention focused on the final budget negotiations, the conservative House Republican leadership maneuvered an anti-environmental bill below the radar hoping it would pass unnoticed. HB 1659, sponsored by Representative Jeff Pyle (R, Armstrong), proposed dramatic changes in the way the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) handles environmental permits. It would impose short and arbitrary deadlines for decisions and declare a permit "deemed approved" if DEP could not meet the short deadline. The bill treats all DEP permits the same, regardless of the complexity of the matter. As examples, a sewage treatment plant expansion is not the same as a new garbage landfill; and a gas well is not the same as a wetland encroachment. The bill also would require DEP to develop a plan to "outsource" permit reviews to non-DEP employees, namely



industry consultants that are not accountable to the public. The bill was passed out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee without a hearing.

House leadership tried to run the bill on the floor, without advance notice, while most everyone was focused on the budget debates. Environmental advocates got wind of the stealth effort and mounted a rushed lobbying campaign to block passage. We learned that the Department of Environmental Protection was opposed to the bill, but DEP failed to make their opposition known. Harrisburg Patriot-News wrote a great editorial, which mentioned DEP's opposition, and that helped to turn the tide. We heard that Republican House leadership was losing support for the bill from moderate southeastern Republicans. The House failed to vote on HB 1659 for final passage before they adjourned for the summer. The General Assembly will return in mid-September for a short fall session, before adjourning to campaign for the November General Election.

DRILLING MORATORIUM FOR BUCKS, MONTGOMERY COUNTIES INSERTED LAST MINUTE INTO FISCAL CODE BILL

Bucks County environmental activists and local officials have been up in arms ever since local Republican legislators voted to repeal local government zoning authority over natural gas drilling in February, when Act 13 was adopted. In particular, Senator Chuck McIlhinney, who voted in favor of Act 13, has been in the spotlight, ever since he claimed that Act 13 had no impact on Bucks County. At the same time Governor Corbett was signing Act 13, which overturns local zoning, natural gas drilling company Turn Oil filed a gas drilling permit application to drill in a residential zone in Nockamixon Township, Bucks County. Nockamixon Township for years has had a prohibition on drilling in their residential zones, which Act 13 pre-empts.

When it became clear that McIlhinney was wrong, he then started to claim that he had been lied to by Republican leadership staff, and agreed to work to exempt Bucks County from Act 13. Passage of the fiscal code bill on June 30 included a provision which establishes a regulatory exemption from drilling permits in the "South Newark Basin," which conveniently happens to lie only under Bucks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania. The provision establishes a drilling moratorium until 2018, while the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is mandated to study the potential impacts of drilling.

Opponents of the Bucks County special treatment claim that their parts of the state should also be included in a moratorium while impacts are studied. However, efforts to amend the fiscal code to expand the moratorium were blocked, and the two-county drilling moratorium was included as one of the ornaments on the "Christmas tree" in the final version of the 56-page fiscal code bill, which passed shortly before the June 30 budget deadline.

-- Jeff Schmidt is the Director for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club whose chief function is to lobby on behalf of the Club in Harrisburg.

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InsideTheChapter

Meet our Intern: Nicholas Wierman

by Wendi Taylor

Can you tell us a little bit about your background?

I grew up in Middletown, PA. It's a small and quiet town located just south of the capital and is best known for being the home of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant. I graduated from Middletown Area High School in 2009. Right now, I am gearing up for my senior year at Wilkes University as an Earth and Environmental Science major. At Wilkes, I really enjoy getting involved in all of the extracurricular activities on campus. I currently serve as president of off campus council, as an executive member of Student Government, and as a representative on various councils and cabinets that deal with student affairs.

Why were you interested in interning for the Pennsylvania Sierra Club (PASC)?

I knew about the Sierra Club's national organization and their beyond coal campaign, but it was only this past year that I did some research on the Sierra Club and dug up some information about our state chapter. I applied for an internship with the PASC chapter because I wanted to get a better understanding of how a smaller non-profit environmental organization functions from day to day. Also, the Sierra Club internship has some great opportunities to see the legislative process in action, and for me that was a big incentive to sign on.

What do you do for fun? What are your interests outside of school and work?

When I'm not working on something for class, work, or clubs, you'll most likely find me near a bicycle. Building, fixing, and riding bicycles has been a passion of mine since childhood, and as I get older I learn more and do more with bikes. In addition to mountain biking and cycling, there's hiking, swimming, running, frisbee, and soccer. I also enjoy an occasional science fiction book, and spending quality time with good friends and my family. These are just some of the favorites, but I am the kind of person that's usually up for anything.

Is there anything you want to learn during your time with the Pennsylvania Chapter?

Anything the PA chapter can throw at me, I am willing to learn. I mean, that's what I'm here for, isn't it? I know it's not possible to understand every facet of the club, but I want to learn as much as I can.

Are there environmental issues in Pennsylvania that are of particular interest to you?

Recently, I've taken a more serious interest in the Marcellus Shale gas play and drilling impacts. It's a messy topic, with a lot different opinions, but it's important to have a solid understanding of the key issues. Also, being a student in a city built by coal capitalists, I've seen first hand the acid mine drainage and abandoned mine land reclamation projects. They've always captured my interest.



Nicholas Wierman during a service trip to the Dominican Republic this past March.

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Coleman's Lantern

Rugged Pennsylvania

by Phil Coleman

I live in Florida now. Once a week, I walk over the draw bridge from Treasure Island to Madeira Beach and drop in at any one of four waterside open air cafes where I have a cool drink and a snack. While there, I can enjoy bird life – pelicans, herons, egrets, gulls, grackles resting or scavenging -- boats cruising by, occasional dolphins. I can hear boisterous singing from the bar across the water, and I can watch people wading near a small mangrove island in the mouth of the bay. It is a pleasant way to spend an evening.



The view from the highest point in Treasure Island, FL. Quite a difference from the scenic mountains of Pennsylvania.

After my snack, I walk back home. The bridge part of the walk extends for about one quarter of a mile, rising in the middle to slightly over 40 feet. I walk over, looking at the scenery, the islands in the bay or gazing out into the Gulf of Mexico where sailboats may be playing with the breeze or para-sails may be hanging behind escort boats or fishermen may be drift fishing. If I time it just wrong, the alarm may sound and the bridge may open for a boat going in or out – from Boca Ciega Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, or vice versa. Boats under thirty feet tall can go under the bridge even when it is closed, but a tremendous number of sailboats have 35 foot (or taller) masts. It is fun to stand at the high point of the bridge and look down at a sail boat gliding through. The wooden fenders on each side of the channel are lined with drowsy Pelicans. After the boat passes and the bridge returns to normal, I can walk on home.

Florida offers diversions I couldn't find in Pennsylvania.

But here is an interesting difference. Standing on the bridge, 45 feet above sea level, I am at the highest point in the whole county. (There are, of course, high rise condominiums which are higher, but at road level, this is it.) The county includes coastal islands, but it also extends inland twenty miles, and it doesn't have land above 45 feet. The county landfill called Mt. Trashmore – a grass covered hill that kids flock to once a decade when there is a veneer of snow – is less than 30 feet above sea level. Florida is flat. It has no hills. What a contrast with Pennsylvania! Even Philadelphia is hillier. I remember running in a cross country meet back about 1954. We started beside the Schuylkill River, near the famous Vesper Boat Club and ran uphill the first half of the race. Hundreds of feet up to Fairmont Park.



I also remember running the Summit race in western Pennsylvania, starting at the base of Chestnut Ridge and finishing at the crest, 1,500 feet higher.

In between Philadelphia and Uniontown, there are almost 300 miles of tree-covered hills and ridges delineated by beautiful streams. Places to hike, to boat, to camp, to hunt, to fish. Oak, maple, birch, cherry, hemlock forests where there are more nice trees to sit under than there are people to sit. A park within 25 miles wherever you are. The terrain makes Pennsylvania what it is, a rugged sylvan wonderland.

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Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud receives National Sierra Club Award

by Leon Glicenstein



Dr. Johnsrud accepting her award.

On Friday, May 4, 2012 on behalf of the National Sierra Club and its "No Nukes Activist Team," Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud was recognized for her nearly fifty years of successful nuclear opposition. The Friday ceremony was part of a weekend Strategy Summit of the team, which was attended by approximately eighty people from around the United States and Canada

Diane D'Arrigo of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) began the awards ceremony with a tribute, which included some video clips of Judy's presentations. NIRS is a national organization for which Judy wrote the original proposal and grant, and has served as its board chairperson. D'Arrigo talked a little about her serving as chair of the National Sierra Club's Nuclear Waste Task Force in the 1990s. Other people followed by relating their personal stories about how Judy got them involved as nuclear opponents. They included Kevin Kamps of the national organization Beyond Nuclear, where Judy sits on the board of directors; Robert Alvarez

of the Institute for Policy Studies and Mike Ewall of Energy Justice Network.

Their remarks were heartfelt and showed the breath of works that Judy accomplished, which began with defeating Project Ketch in 1967. Project Ketch was proposed by the Atomic Energy Commission --the forerunner to the present Nuclear Regulatory Commission -- to explode 1,000 atomic bombs, underground beneath Pennsylvania to create storage containments for natural gas. That success led to her creation of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power in 1970, and to their original intervention against the licensing of Three Mile Island, and many more. Judy successfully participated in many other projects outside of Pennsylvania. She is a well-respected hero to the nuclear opponents in the United States and around the world.

The No Nukes Activist Team decided that a plaque was too impersonal, and so they commissioned textile artist Margaret Gregg of Virginia to create a quilt for Judy. Robin Mann, President of National Sierra Club Board, made the presentation to Judy. The text at the bottom of the quilt reads "PROTECTING LIFE FOREVER."

Judy devoted her life to fighting for the end of the era of nuclear power. She worried about what the future of our species would hold with an ever thickening environment of the radiation surrounding us. (The idea of hormesis - that low dose radiation is good for you - has long been disproved even though the industry wants to keep it alive.) She saw first-hand the health problems, not just cancers and leukemia, of the children of Chernobyl and doesn't want that to happen here, or anywhere. She was an expert on the biological and health effects of exposure to radiation, and may have been a victim

of radiation exposure herself. She was an educator who would teach groups, large and small, throughout the United States and abroad, about the problems of nuclear power, radiation in general, food irradiation and nuclear waste, as well as other related subjects. She fought against the release of radioactive materials into our environment or the recycling of radioactive materials, which could find their way into products: everything from children's toys to the coins in our pockets to larger items that could be around us every day and thereby be constantly exposing us to unknown amounts of radiation.



Putting their heads together are (from left to right) Judith Johnsrud, Robin Mann, and Mike Ewall.

To repeat one of Robin Mann's comments at the presentation, who quoted PA Chapter Director Jeff Schmidt:

"Judy was an important member of our PA Chapter's volunteer leadership, right up till her retirement in 2009.... She inspired many people, inside Sierra Club and beyond, to work to halt the dangerous release of radionuclides into the environment. I have no doubt that Judy has been the most important anti-nuclear advocate in Pennsylvania's history." And, as National Sierra Club recognizes, beyond.

At one time Judy put together a partial list of Citizen Nuclear Successes in Pennsylvania – and Judy was involved in all of them:

1. Ketch Plowshare Project defeated
2. The Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor in Meshoppen, PA, defeated
3. Energy Parks defeated (ten candidate sites: 20,000 megawatts, 10 coal plants and 10 nuclear power reactors)
4. Quehanna decommissioned: aircraft engine, Penn State reactor, wood products irradiation
5. The Newbold Island Reactor defeated
6. Fulton 1 & 2 reactors canceled
7. Waltz mill reactor, accident clean-up, decommissioned
8. Quakertown Hatfield food irradiator stopped
9. Apollo fuel fabrication, nuclear laundry stopped with subsequent clean-up
10. Parks Township plutonium fuel fabrication stopped
11. Parks Township radwaste incinerator stopped
12. Parks Township Ordinance enacted
13. Below Regulatory Concern legislation approved by the state
14. Appalachian Compact Low Level Radioactive Waste disposal
15. Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority Incinerator Ash Lagoon Closed
16. Saxton Experimental reactor decommissioned

Leon Glicenstein has been a life-long friend and supporter of Dr. Johnsrud.

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Groups Call for Changes in Governor's Policies

by Sierra Club Communications Office

On May 1st hundreds gathered on the steps of the Pennsylvania State Capitol building to call on Gov. Corbett to invest in Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians. Those who rallied urged the Governor to promote policies that would strengthen Pennsylvania by funding clean energy programs, repairs and improvements of our bridges and rails, and our education system.

Representatives from Sierra Club, the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), NAACP, the PA Council of Churches, and business leaders spoke about the need to kick-start Pennsylvania's economy by taking action on things we need now and in the future. Investing in renewable energy, infrastructure projects and education policies that would create jobs, improve the environment and ensure that Pennsylvania's kids do not fall behind.



Since taking office, the Corbett Administration has slashed previously-successful programs to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency in the state, such as a program that allows state-owned buildings to use more renewable energy. Renewable energy supporters wielded red, white and blue pin-wheels to symbolize a need for continued growth in wind power and other renewable energy jobs in Pennsylvania.

"Prior to this administration, Pennsylvania was nationally, and even internationally renowned as a leader in renewable energy," said Robin Mann, Sierra Club National President and resident of Delaware County. "Now, we are falling behind the rest of the country, resulting in lost jobs, and lost opportunity. This is a 'mayday' alert - we need Governor Corbett and all of our leaders to step up or Pennsylvania will continue to sink." In May, Pennsylvania recorded the second greatest loss of jobs of all the states.

According to a recent study of the Laborers International Union, 42 percent of Pennsylvania's bridges are unsafe or functionally obsolete. In addition, Pennsylvania's crumbling and inadequate rail system is a serious barrier to bringing businesses and jobs to the state.

"Hundreds of thousands of Americans drive over Pennsylvania bridges every year which Federal Highway Administration inspectors have deemed structurally deficient or functionally obsolete," said Abe Amoros, PA Legislative Director LIUNA. "At best, these bridges are inefficient. At worst, they are deadly."

Governor Corbett has a duty to ensure that the children of Pennsylvania are ready for their future by adhering to Pennsylvania's Academic Standards. The academic standards are the benchmark measures that define what students should know. As a society, we must ensure that our schools are keeping up with today's science, technology and our changing environment.

"Our children must have the tools they need to succeed in life," said Dwayne D. Jackson, Sr., First Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Conference of NAACP Branches. "All children -- no matter

their ethnic background, financial circumstance, intellectual ability, or neighborhood environment -- are entitled to a free, public education. Our children deserve the best tools we can provide so they can compete in the market place with other states and other countries.”

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Poetry

Elephant

Demented:

He sways, side to side, marking time.

Wrinkled, a shagbark skin,

ears notched, torn,

one tusk broken.

He shows his age.

When called upon, he lifts a tree,

parades,

trunk to tail,

poses front feet upon a drum.

Called upon or not, he sways,

side to side.

Has spent his zoo-locked life

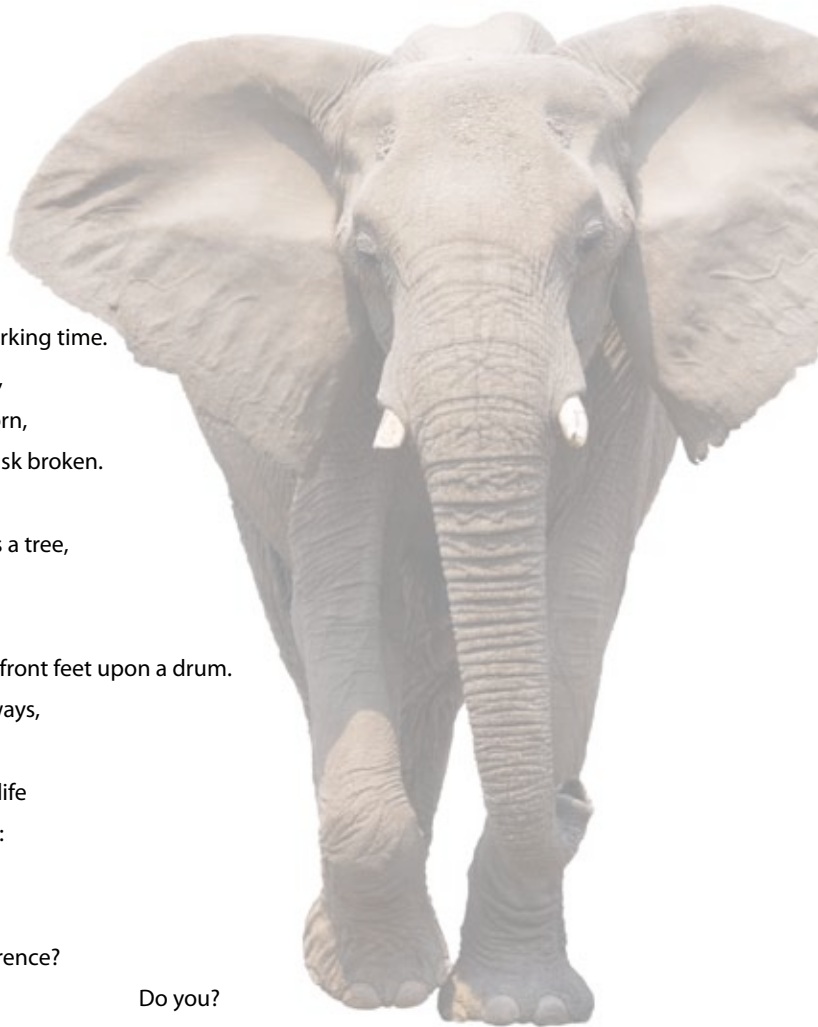
trying to decide:

Left or right.

Does he know

there is no difference?

Do you?



© Ornel Hubbard, Schizoid Tunes, Pigeon Creek Press, 1999

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Our Wilderness Threatened

Wilderness:

Dear to our Hearts, but Near to the Dozer.

We are all guilty. As much as we want wilderness, as much as we want to protect the wild, we also want our comfort and our ease of moving around. To some extent we object to over development and gas drilling in forests, and sprawl infringing on prime farm lands. To some extent we object to pollution from coal fired power plants. To some extent we object to our excessive reliance on cars and trucks and an interstate highway system. But we enjoy our comforts. We enjoy our convenience. We enjoy our cell phones and ipods and all that.

In this issue we look at outings on the Delaware and the Susquehanna. We hike to favorite spots throughout Penn's woods. But we worry about what we are doing to these favorite spots.

Sometimes we protest. Good for us. Sometimes we celebrate our trips into the wonderful Pennsylvania wilds. Good for us. But the dozers are coming and we aren't stopping them. Our theme for this *Sylvanian* lands on this bit of our schizoid lives. We try to be the solution, but we are the problem.

Read on.



Olivia Albritton, 15, puts her personal spin on the destruction of our wilderness.

Our Wilderness Threatened

Pennsylvania Coal Tradition: Echoes of Devastation

by Brian D. Cope

From my back porch on a hillside near Indiana, Pennsylvania, I hear the echo of a coal train whistle, a calming sound that seems as natural around here as the coo of a mourning dove. Yet, there is of course nothing natural about the extraction and burning of coal. The sound reverberating up the valley symbolizes a tradition of colonization that has left a toxic legacy. Growing up in this region in the 1970's, I did not question why some waterways were orange and was captivated by what I called the "cloud machines" when we passed a power plant. "It's just steam" my grandfather told me when I asked him about the huge cooling towers. Little did I know the true costs of coal extraction, the acid mine drainage, the deadened waterways, and the devastation of the atmosphere caused by the SOs in the smudge of black pouring out of the tallest stack. Beyond this, even if you retreat to the most pristine places that are the subject of this issue of *The Sylvanian*, there is no escaping the effects of mercury and particulate matter caused by the burning of coal.

Pennsylvania ranks second to Texas in coal-burning mercury emissions. A potent neurotoxin, this heavy metal falls relatively close to home, settling in waterways where it is digested by fish. To understand how mercury permeates even the most pristine places in Pennsylvania, one needs to look no further than her fishing license, which advises that it may only be safe to consume one fish a week. It has been estimated that one in five women of child-bearing age has high levels of mercury in her system. More perniciously, a western New York study found high mercury levels in earthworms and bird species, meaning that it is working its way into our land-based food chains. Coal-fired plants also emit particulates. According to the Clean Air Task Force, yearly particle emissions from Pennsylvania coal plants cause over 1,300 deaths (We hold the dubious distinction of being ranked 1st in coal fired mortality rates.), 1,000 hospital admissions and 2,000 asthma attacks. You breathe in the particulate matter even when you hike the Quehanna or Appalachian trails.

Fortunately, the Obama EPA has toughened standards on emissions, which with the help of Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign, has led to numerous closures of outdated and dirty plants. But to truly move beyond coal, we must help communities into a post-coal era by providing support and sustainable jobs. Residents of this beautiful region have for too long sacrificed clean water and air for dubious, dangerous, often short-term jobs. As the train whistle fades into dusk, I dream into the future about twenty years hence. I am fishing in a pristine Pennsylvania creek with a grandchild or two, telling them about how ludicrous it was that we once poisoned our air and couldn't eat the fish, and how some amazing people worked against powerful forces to create a better, long-term reality.

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I am Part of the River: What Threatens it, Threatens me

by Diane Staz

When I'm in my kayak, so close to the water and agile with my shallow hull, I feel like I'm part of the river. My heart skips a beat when a smallmouth bass gets spooked and leaps up over the boat—serving as a clear reminder that I am merely an interloper. Nevertheless, surrounded by water and forested islands, for a little while I feel like I've left civilization behind and become another river creature. My favorite spot to experience this renewal is the mighty Susquehanna River.

My husband, Brad, and I live near Duncannon with our two young children. If I'm able to break away from my parenting duties, I'll slide my kayak into the water an hour or so before dusk, paddle upstream along an island and float silently down through a cut. Egrets and herons complain loudly of my passing. Sometimes deer startle on the shoreline, or stand and watch me pass if I am quiet enough. Once, a mink popped up next to my kayak with a mouth full of grass, looking just as surprised to see me as I him. Snapping turtles, beaver and eagles are frequent companions. If I'm craving human conversation, sometimes I say hello to an angler as he quietly casts his line into the river.

There are not as many anglers to greet as in years past. The decimation of the rock bass and decline of the smallmouth bass in recent years have put a noticeable damper on the number of fishermen and women we see out on the waters. My husband grew up on the river and tells me stories of changes he's seen. Brad can remember standing on the shoreline in the 1980's and 1990's and easily counting ten or fifteen fishermen wading in the river within eyesight. Now perhaps we'll see one wader with a rod and reel on our river outings.

There is no explanation for what is happening to the fish. There is speculation that they're suffering from a combination of things, such as pollution from urban storm water and agricultural runoff, increased water temperature, lower dissolved oxygen, pollution from pharmaceutical and personal care products, and other factors. Also a threat is the practice of natural gas extraction known as "fracking." If not from the wastewater being dumped directly into rivers, a practice that has been discontinued, there is a threat from several other aspects of the natural gas boom: sedimentation coming from thousands of clearings for well pads, roads and pipelines; recurrent contamination of surface and groundwater from spills or faulty well casings; and the sheer volume of water needed by the natural gas industry.

Though too late for the rock bass, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat (PAFB) Commission has been concerned about the decline in the smallmouth bass population and began collecting data in 2005. They're alarmed enough about what they've found that last August they submitted a petition to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to declare a 98-mile span of the river (from Sunbury to the Holtwood Dam) an impaired water body. The listing would put the river under some federal criteria for keeping track of pollutants into the river and identifying the causes of fish diseases. The DEP denied the request, and in his letter to the PAFB commission, DEP Secretary Michael Krancer wrote, "since we do not know what the stressor to the fish is at this point, there is nothing to appropriately or with factual report impair the river for." Notably, twenty-two former DEP officials support putting the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers on the list, insisting that there does not need to be a clear cause for the river to be declared impaired.

The news about the river is not all negative. Eagles have returned after being reintroduced in the 1980's. We know of two nest sites in just the few miles stretch of the river that we frequent, and we see them flying overhead daily. Populations of mink, otters and beavers are doing well, as are herons and egrets. The

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Susquehanna River Basin Commission has data that shows water quality improvements, making the fishes' decline all the more puzzling.

In an opinion piece published on June 4, 2012 in the *Scranton Times Tribune*, representatives from American Rivers, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future made their case for the need for declaring the river impaired, declaring that "designating the river as impaired is critical in that it triggers required action by the state to develop a recovery plan." The health of the Susquehanna River's waters is of grave concern, if not for the fishing industry, which has provided millions of dollars annually in revenue, but for those millions who rely on the Susquehanna for drinking water.

Brook Lenker, a volunteer with the Susquehanna River Trail Association

and former director of watershed stewardship for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, notes that aside from pushing DEP to reverse its decision regarding declaring the river impaired, "individuals can help by reducing lawn cover, reducing use of fertilizers and lawn chemicals, planting native plants, establishing dense buffers of trees to filter pollutants washing off the land and by using rain barrels and other strategies to conserve water and reduce runoff. Even other practices like driving your car less can reduce atmospheric nitrate deposition in waterways and reduce carbon emissions that aggravate global warming."



Brad DiPaolo with his three-month old son, Oliver, paddling down the river.

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Hermit Thrush and Marcellus Shale

by Patrick McShea

Can a hymn-like bird song serve as a call for better regulation of Pennsylvania's booming shale gas industry?

The thought occurred to me on a late July evening after a unique forum at the Oakland studios of WQED. As I drove across a rutted patch of Fifth Avenue, the backseat contents shifted, engaging a recording of forest bird calls. Flute-like hermit thrush notes provided a sound track completely at odds with the urban surroundings.

More appropriate settings for the song that renowned naturalist John Burroughs termed "the finest sound in nature" lay miles to the east and north amid the upper reaches of hemlock-shaded hillsides flanking Laurel Ridge, and all across the vast hardwood forests of north central Pennsylvania's high plateau. Here the hermit thrush population has been steadily increasing for five decades, a trend attributable to expanding and maturing forest cover.

Current shale gas development practices, however, threaten to dramatically reduce the populations of hermit thrushes and many other species because of forest fragmentation. The term denotes the process whereby blocks of wooded property are converted to other uses or, more subtly, split into increasingly smaller parcels by roads, pipelines or power lines.

This alteration of forest patterns is routinely listed among the issues related to Marcellus Shale development but seldom discussed. In hopes of remedying that, I brought a stuffed hermit thrush to the WQED forum.



MARCELLUS AS THEATER

My access to a stuffed bird is attributable to my work as an educator at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Since the spring of 2011, I have been part of a small team testing activities to help museum visitors understand forest fragmentation as a side effect of the natural gas rush.

Gas development in our region involves not just the clearing of wooded acreage for well pads and water storage facilities, but also the building of access roads to and through remote sites, and the cutting and long-term maintenance of hundreds of miles of broad corridors for gas gathering and transmission pipelines.

The planner of the WQED forum, however, hoped to increase public engagement with a wide range of opportunities and challenges that come with the growth of the shale gas industry. Titled "Managing Marcellus: A Deliberate Theater Event," the gathering was organized by WQED Multimedia, the Unseam'd Shakespeare Company, Carnegie Mellon University's Program for Deliberate Democracy,

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the Coro Center for Civic Leadership, Pop City Media and Colcom Foundation. The setting was WQED's largest studio, where 10 circular tables faced a plain, camera-flanked stage.

For the 60 participants selected by lottery from email applicants, the evening's agenda required active participation. After a lively theatrical performance featuring characters holding different views about the effects of gas extraction, moderators at each table guided participants in formulating a relevant question for a three-member resource panel.

The appearance of the stuffed hermit thrush was limited to this session. After briefly presenting the 6-inch-long bird for inspection as a feathered face of forest fragmentation, I asked my table-mates to imagine themselves amid a fern-scented Laurel Highlands hollow as I played the recording of the thrush's song.

Later, when the rough road again triggered the song in my backseat, I recalled the request of someone at my table who thought the thrush should star in a more imaginative dramatic production: "Tell that bird's story. More people should think about the full impact of Marcellus Shale."

THAT BIRD'S STORY

In the life of a forest, separate parts do not equal a whole.

Consider a mating pair of hermit thrushes.

The patch of hemlock-shaded rhododendron on the forested ridge seemed in order to the male on the day he returned to Pennsylvania in mid-April. The brown-backed and speckled-bellied bird claimed this tiny portion of forested high ground by singing -- with persistence. Within 10 days he had attracted a female to the thicket.

Both birds had been away from Pennsylvania since late fall, spending the coldest winter weeks in forested parts of eastern Tennessee. Like all migratory birds, their well-being depends upon a proper habitat in two geographically separate places, as well as re-fueling sites between them.

During the birds' southern sojourn, energy-related development had made their nesting territory the most vulnerable link in their Appalachian support network. A miles-long, razor-straight corridor the width of a highway had been cut and cleared across the ridge to hold a pipeline transporting natural gas from a dozen new deep wells due north. Although construction had ended before the birds migrated north, and the edge of the corridor was 40 forested yards from the rotted oak stump the female chose to build her nest against, the changed landscape dramatically lowered the chances that the pair would successfully reproduce.

Raccoons, opossums, crows and other egg-eating wildlife are attracted to a mix of forest and clearing, and they were raiding the nests of thrushes and other birds in a narrow zone along both sides of the pipeline corridor. The loosely woven plant fiber nest of the thrush escaped detection by all of these marauders, but it was discovered by another secretive prowler, a female brown-headed cowbird.

One damp spring dawn, during one of the female thrush's rare feeding forays, the cowbird slipped quietly onto the nest, used her beak to puncture and remove one of three warm eggs, and laid a replacement. This took all of 90 seconds, but for the pair of thrushes it made futile all of their efforts -- the hundreds of miles of migration and the days of nest-building.

The alien egg was accepted without question by the female thrush, and owing to a schedule fine-tuned over thousands of generations, hatched two days before its step-siblings.

The thrush parents instinctively concentrated their feeding efforts on the precocious cowbird nestling, nurturing the alien to flight while their own genetic offspring perished. Nearby, the same scenario played-out in scarlet tanager and black-throated blue warbler nests, negating their efforts to breed after they had migrated north from even greater distances -- from Brazil and Jamaica.

The cowbird's behavior becomes easier to understand when the species is called by its other name, "buffalo bird," in recognition of its historic Great Plains range and propensity to shadow wandering bison. On the vast short-grass prairie, the cowbird's forced foster care was a survival strategy that did not dramatically reduce the populations of host species. Significant numbers of victimized birds out West recognized and removed alien eggs.

Over the past two centuries, the cowbird's range has expanded eastward as forests were felled to expand agriculture and fuel industry. In Pennsylvania, cowbirds and other predators are wreaking ever more havoc on the hermit thrush and other deep forest birds within fragmented woodlands.

Without effective strategies to minimize the breaking apart of Pennsylvania's forests, a defining and stunningly beautiful sound of Appalachia might someday be silenced.

Patrick McShea is an educator at Carnegie Museum of Natural History (mcsheap@carnegiemnh.org). You can hear a recorded hermit thrush at www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/hermit_thrushlid. This article is being published with permission from Patrick McShea

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Susquehanna Stone

By Steve Heim, Lancaster County

It's really not a wild place, this slow and swift section of the wide Susquehanna River. This place is just north of Route 30 between Wrightsville in York County and Columbia in Lancaster County. Chickies Rock Park, which overlooks the river at that spot, is on Route 441 north of Columbia. The York side is spattered with mansions and cottages. The Lancaster side is ruled by the railroad, measuring the miles with wood and steel. The highway bridge slashing the skyline between them thumps and hums with machines on the move. Downriver, the deep water smells of oil and gasoline from the power craft that can only go in fast circles, hemmed in by the rocks upstream and the dam to the south.

But here in the rocky stretch north of the towns and bridges, the river is too shallow for speed, too quick and tricky for cruising. Huge stones stand in the current; sun splashed, water washed, bird stained, pockmarked by the smaller swirling stones that slowly carve craters in their faces. In the summer when the waterline is low, only paddled boats can wind through this maze of rock and river, startling herons and scattering ducks.

Paddling against the current, you pick your way through the deeper, slower channels. You don't beat the river, you only take what she allows, stopping to rest in the eddies and harbors. You keep watch for the bald eagles and peregrine falcons, which soar among the ever-present gulls. You hear the flopping splash of sunbathing turtles that have decided you're getting too close. You see their heads poke

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out of the water, watching you like children spying on the playground lady. You see a buzzard hungrily eyeing some ducklings and maybe you risk altering the course of history by tossing some pebbles to scare him off. Or that's why you were put here to begin with and whatever time you have left will mean little.

No matter. You're here now, marveling at the curvature of the stone in the sheer cliff face of Chickies Rock, wondering at the titanic forces that pushed this mass of minerals elliptically skyward. You're here now, where the Susquehannock Indians navigated long ago, feasting on the fish and fowl still rampant in the river. You're here now, slipping into the water to escape the summer heat, bracing against the current with only your head above the surface just like the watchful turtles. And you wonder what else other than hydrogen and oxygen is flowing through your pores. The profiteers upstream won't say; the potions they pump into the groundwater are magical and secret and would never hurt you. Surely you don't think they would ever trade the green grass for the green of cash.

You stand in the river like those turtles, hoping that your shell will be enough to protect you. And you hope that the water will wash all of the bad things away.



Susquehanna River at Sundown

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Bear Knob

by Gary Thornbloom

Foxy Hollow, Bear Rocks, Ganderstep Knob, Grindstone Gap, Wallace Run, Rock Cabin Run, Lick Run, and Bear Knob – these are some of the named locations on the Bear Knob U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle. The waterfalls is one of the many unnamed locations.

It is fortunate that approximately 9,000 acres of State Game Lands 103 encompasses this area, and guarantees public access. This map includes many more acres that are part of the Moshannon State Forest.

Each season offers its unique invitation to be outside. If the snow is too deep to conveniently hike, then cross country skiing on the Rock Run or Allegheny Front trails is the way to go. Deep snow? Then there is the freedom of snowshoeing throughout the landscape without the limitations of a trail.

Approximately nine miles of the Allegheny Front Trail arc through Bear Knob. These miles include: Ralph's Majestic Vista, dropping in and out of hollows along the Allegheny Front, a beautiful vista of a small mountain stream, rock outcroppings, the historical connection of tram roads, beaver dams, a heron rookery (in the past). And then there is the more intimate figure eight that forms the Rock Run Trail system – the valley, ridge, headwaters and woodland trails.

The trails were not necessary for me to hunt, fish, hike and backpack throughout that landscape. However the trails make it more accessible, but it is easy enough to simply follow a hollow, stream, or set of tracks to explore off trail.

Wallace Run is my favorite for off going, off trail. One winter I followed small paw prints to where fox had frequented a deer carcass. Upstream from the bottom of Grindstone Gap I followed raccoon tracks that ended at a deer carcass bobbing in the stream and stretched part way onto the ice. Old and new tracks indicated that the carcass was undoubtedly being revisited.

A short distance downstream, stone steps ascend the mountainside. The steps were built in the 1930's by unemployed men who were in their 40's and 50's, from the cities. The members lived in what was locally known as the "Bum Camp." These men worked on roads, trails and streams in a program similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps. The steps provided easier access to the pool in the stream that the men had built for swimming.



Gary exploring off trail at the top of Birch Hollow

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Other sections of Wallace Run contain traces of dinky logging rails, remains of hunting camps, bridge stonework, and other traces of the human past. Broken, as well as unfinished, grindstones can be found nearby.

Birch Lick Run is the first hollow downstream and on the winter day I visited I could see evidence of a lot of deer activity: tracks, droppings, buck rubs and deer beds. Well worn troughs in the snow led to porcupine dens, and to one porcupine, in rock outcroppings near the top of the hollow.

Not all of the sign is written in the snow. The dark scars of bear claw imprints stand out in the silver bark of a beech tree.

Natural and human history are written everywhere in Wallace Run. On a windless day the silence of the hollows is broken only by the sound of water flowing over rocks. The landscape is there to be read by anyone taking the time to get out and into it. The story is similar in many places throughout Penns Woods – traces of past human impacts slowly reclaimed by nature wherever we allow it.

*Stan Kotala with bear claw marks
on a beech tree.*



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“In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.”

— John Muir

Waterfalls and Solitude

by Gary Thornbloom

Heberly Run and Sullivan Run have waterfalls that rival those of nearby Ricketts Glen. The only thing missing is crowds of people. You will have to work hard to get to them, and hikers should think it over before attempting this demanding hike. In fact this hike is not for everyone!

The easiest way to do this hike is to go with hikers who have done it before. Recently I hiked it with a group of photographers - Ray, Joe, Lori, Tim, and Bill - who keep in touch via the Pennsylvania Waterfalls Facebook page. Most of them had hiked together visiting other waterfalls, and while several had hiked part of our proposed route, no one had hiked the entire 10-mile loop.

Equipped with several GPS units, maps, compass and a strong desire to explore, we started the hike at 7 a.m. and finished by 4 p.m. This was reasonable considering time for some minimal photography - the full sunshine, beautiful day provided terrible light for photographing waterfalls - and a lot of off trail bushwhacking.

This hike is entirely on State Game Lands 13 in Sullivan County. State Game Lands are managed for all wildlife, both game and non-game animals. State Game Lands are purchased entirely by hunters' dollars, no public tax dollars purchase or maintain these lands. Most of the year these lands are empty of hunters. People with a variety of outdoor interests are welcome to enjoy the lands, and that is what our group of photographers recently did.

We began the hike by following a gravel road - Grassy Hollow Road - up the mountainside, steeply up the mountainside. We dropped into Heberly Run to see Big Falls and Twin Falls. And then climbed back out, continuing up the mountain each time. The road will take you to Lewis Falls so you could get there without leaving the road.

To continue our loop we crossed Heberly Run - here it was possible to jump from rock to rock, later this would not be the case. We soon followed Quinn Run continuing up the steady grade of an old

tram road. Quinn Run gave way to Shady Run and still we climbed. The stream flashed white below us, but no one opted for the steep descent necessary to check out the numerous small waterfalls and chutes.

After ascending 1400 feet in almost four miles we then had to cross the plateau that separated Heberly Run and Sullivan Run. The sometimes trail skirted two swamps. We lost the trail and wandered into a beautiful hemlock grove, quite a change from the thicket of mostly beech trees that we had been moving through. We used a GPS unit to bushwhack 500-plus feet and were soon back on the trail.

After a steady descent to Sullivan Run,

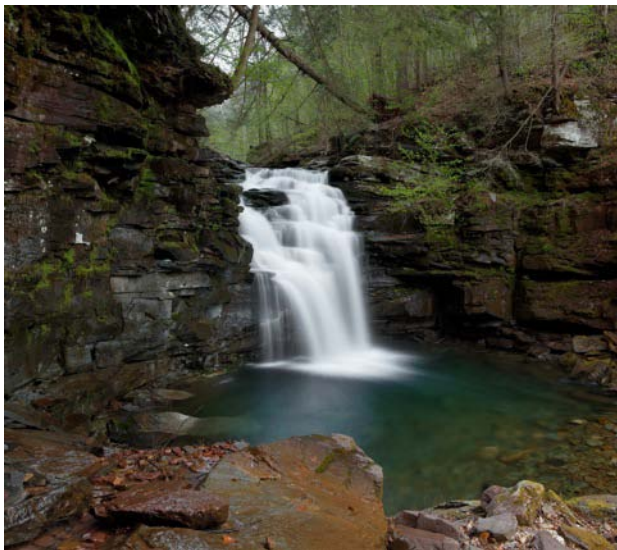


PHOTO BY TIM DEVINE

Big Falls on Heberly Run

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the challenge intensified as we began more streamwhacking than bushwhacking. We walked next to the stream where we could, and up to knee deep in the stream when the banks became too steep. And then, we crawled above the stream across a moss-covered ledge beneath overhanging rock when that became the “easiest” choice. Ray, the trip leader, had no problem walking in, out, and down the stream. This was the “easiest” way to see the ten or more waterfalls on Sullivan Branch. Named falls, unnamed falls, and now named - Atticus - falls.



PHOTO BY GARY THORNBLOOM

Two hikers in the group crossing Sullivan Run.

Along the stream we continued to see red trillium blooming, as well as white, lavender, and deep purple violets. Earlier we had seen extensive patches of *Dicentra Canadensis*, or squirrel corn.

Hobblebush, its low horizontal branches ready to trip you, was scattered along the edge of the stream. It has clusters of white flowers typical of some viburnums: large showy infertile flowers irregularly scattered on the edges of a tight cluster of smaller fertile flowers. The flowers rise above, and are surrounded by heart shaped leaves.

Beech thickets, an occasional hemlock giant, hemlock glades, large birch - yellow and black, and some huge cherry trees -- were the most notable trees on this hike.

But it was the waterfalls and the shared adventure that made this hike special. As in Ricketts Glen, you will find water in motion over and around boulders, water through chutes, water in cascades, water scouring potholes and plunge pools at the foot of waterfalls. You can find both bridal veil falls and wedding cake falls.



PHOTO BY BILL MERTENS

Shanty Falls on Heberly Run

Bridal veil falls has a hard cap rock that extends across the top. Softer shale beneath the cap is eroded away, and results in a veil across the face with a plunge pool at the bottom. Wedding cake falls has a layered look as the stream drops over a series of steps.

Shared adventure, exploring, and simply enjoying the day with a group of hikers who are both informed and have a shared passion, in this case for waterfalls and photography, is an excellent way to enjoy Pennsylvania's forests.

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Coal Mining Still Threatens our Public Lands

by Krissy Kasserman

We weren't really out for a stroll, but we pretended we were. We followed a faint trail, probably a deer path. The trilliums were about done this late spring, but violets and forget-me-nots peeped out of the foliage. A chickadee sang somewhere behind us. It was a pleasant day. Then we came to our target. Ahead the trees were gone. Abruptly, we were at a scraped rocky field, just beginning to become a coal mine.

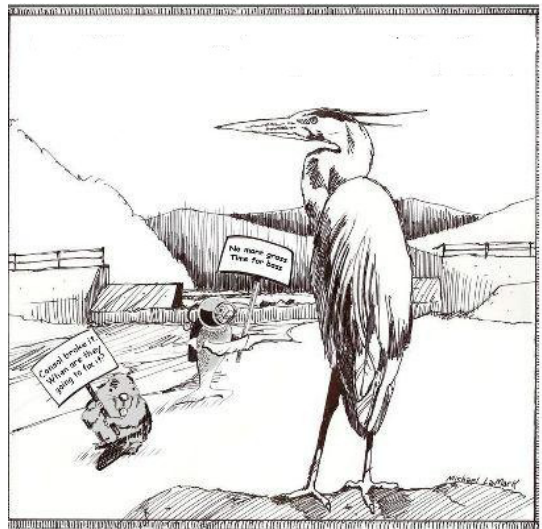
Contrary to what some think, surface mining continues in Pennsylvania. Frequently, the places best for mining are bits of forest land. When the laws are enforced, damage done today doesn't compare to the damage of the past. We don't have abuses as bad as West Virginia mountain top removal. But damage is still done, and enforcement is sometimes lax. And sometimes public lands are impacted.

Public lands provide substantial social, economic, environmental and health benefits. They create opportunities for free or low cost recreation and exercise. They afford a gathering place for communities. They attract visitors who provide a substantial economic boost to surrounding areas. They make open space and forest cover available for wildlife at a time when both are disappearing, and they trap carbon in living organisms which helps to mitigate global climate change. These open spaces increase property values for those living adjacent to them or nearby. The presence of natural amenities serves as a major draw in many rural areas, and both residents and businesses are more likely to relocate to areas with public lands.

Unfortunately, some of Pennsylvania's public lands have been significantly disrupted by the coal industry. Coal extraction has had substantial impacts on both the ecological balance and on recreational activities in public lands in several areas of Pennsylvania. In addition, many places still bear the scars of irresponsible and underregulated mining practices from the past 150 years. Scars remain from both surface and underground mining.

A LAKE DESTROYED

Ryerson Station State Park is Greene County's only state park. In one of the more egregious examples of the detrimental impacts of coal on our public lands system, in July of 2005, subsidence resulting from longwall coal mining damaged the structure of the park's Duke Lake dam, and the lake had to be drained. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) found that Consol Energy's Bailey mine was responsible and DEP and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) initiated proceedings against Consol to replace the dam. Consol has appealed this order, and appears to be using delaying tactics and its deep pockets to avoid responsibility for replacing the dam. Discovery continues in the case, with



Mining destroyed the dam, but no one will replace it. Heron says Hmph! Drawing by Michael LaMark

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oral argument expected this summer. Presently, Ryerson Station State Park is still without its signature feature, Duke Lake.

THREAT TO THE YOUGHIOGHENY

Amerikohl Mining's proposed Curry Mine, to be located on private land adjacent to the Youghiogheny River, Ohio State Park, the Great Allegheny Passage, and State Gamelands #51, would be completely surrounded by public lands in an otherwise pristine section of the Youghiogheny River gorge. The company's proposal was permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection, but was denied a necessary special exception from the Fayette County Zoning Hearing Board. It had concerns about water supply, disruptions to recreational activities, and the effect it would have on the unique ecology of the area. While Amerikohl has appealed the denial of the zoning special exception to the Fayette County Court of Common Pleas and then to Commonwealth Court, both courts upheld the earlier denial. While this represents a significant victory for public lands, Ohio State Park, and users of the recreational amenities nearby, it also illustrates the threats that exist to even our most pristine areas. As easily accessible coal supplies are exhausted, it seems nowhere is safe. While this proposal is on private land, the fact that it would be completely surrounded by public land would make some impacts to our public lands system inevitable.

ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE

Finally, drainage from abandoned mines continues to affect public lands. Within Pennsylvania over 4,000 miles of stream have been contaminated by drainage from abandoned or improperly reclaimed coal mines. These streams, when they flow through public lands, not only degrade the landscape but also disrupt recreational opportunities, including fishing and swimming. Several years ago it was discovered that Purco Coal, a southwestern Pennsylvania coal company, had illegally piped a discharge from one of their coal mines onto state gamelands in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. This discharge destroyed Jonathan Run, an exceptional value stream. After discovery of the piped discharge many years later, the company was forced to build a treatment system to attempt to treat the discharge. Shortly after completion of the system, Purco declared bankruptcy thus leaving the taxpayers with the financial burden of the treatment system. Many streams that flow through our public lands are polluted with abandoned mine drainage. Too often taxpayers of the Commonwealth have become responsible for the clean-up.

These three examples illustrate the impact that coal has had and continues to have on the public lands system in Pennsylvania. Coupled with the significant impacts we are expecting as a result of Marcellus shale drilling on public lands, our entire public lands system is at risk. If, as Maurice Goddard envisioned, our public parks and forest systems are to be available to Pennsylvanians for recreation, study, and rejuvenation, they must be protected from the ongoing assaults of the extractive industries. The inherent value of these lands, the economies of surrounding communities, our own health and well-being depend on it.

Krissy Kasserman works with Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, Mountain Watershed Association and is Mining Chair for the Pennsylvania Chapter and the Allegheny Group.

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Taking the Public Out of Public Land

Appeals Court Decision Threatens Allegheny National Forest

by Ryan Talbott

A 2011 decision by the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals regarding oil and gas drilling in the Allegheny National Forest held that the Forest Service has almost no authority to protect the Allegheny from oil and gas drilling since it does not own the mineral rights under most of the forest.

Commenting on the decision in a Pittsburgh Post Gazette Op Ed, “Stand Up for States Rights,” David C. Fredley, a former Forest Service employee -- who is now a paid consultant for both the Forest Service and the oil and gas industry -- said that the Forest Service attempted to “usurp private property rights” when it proposed reasonable regulation of oil and gas drilling on the Allegheny National Forest. Mr. Fredley epitomizes the “revolving door” syndrome corroding our democratic institutions. When former agency officials, whose job it was to regulate to protect our public forests, leave their government jobs to work in the very industries they were previously regulating, it raises significant concerns about their time in government and whose interest they were serving – the public’s interest or private corporate interests that profit from exploiting resources on, or in this case, below public land.

Beyond this obvious conflict of interest, Mr. Fredley’s assertion that the Forest Service attempted to “usurp private property rights” when it proposed reasonable regulation of oil and gas drilling on the Allegheny National Forest is completely false. Rather, the Forest Service only required that an environmental analysis accompanied by public comment precede drilling operations. This “informed decision-making” would serve the public interest by ensuring that other multiple-uses on the Allegheny, such as recreation, clean watersheds, and wildlife habitat, are better protected from the impacts caused by oil and gas drilling. This can be accomplished while respecting the rights of those who own oil and gas beneath the Allegheny.

Mr. Fredley, however, appears less concerned with the public interest than he is with the interest of those profiting from rampant oil and gas drilling on Pennsylvania’s only national forest. Over the last several years, there has been a substantial increase in the number of new oil and gas wells drilled on the Allegheny. These new wells require new roads and supporting infrastructure – pipelines, storage tanks, compressor stations, and wastewater disposal pits. In other words, forested areas are rapidly industrialized and consequently lose value for other forest uses – how many people want to go camping in the middle of an oil field? As the Forest Service itself stated in 2003, “the value of the land to provide recreation opportunities is diminished in intensively developed oil fields...the inherent character of the landscape is converted to an industrial atmosphere in the midst of the forest.”

Understandably, Mr. Fredley and the oil and gas industry do not want the public to have an opportunity to voice its concerns about proposals to drill more oil and gas wells on the Allegheny – especially now as Marcellus Shale gas drilling spreads across the state, causing even more impacts that will be felt for generations. Allowing the public to have a say in how public land is managed would interfere with the oil and gas industry’s desire to essentially treat the Allegheny, a national forest that belongs to all Americans, as its own private fiefdom. The industry does not want the long-term cumulative effects of oil and gas drilling on the Allegheny National Forest examined and disclosed to the public – and the Third Circuit’s decision practically ensures that no such examination or disclosure will ever occur.

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Quite frankly, the Third Circuit’s decision stands in stark contrast to its own previous decisions regarding the right of the Forest Service to manage the Allegheny National Forest. For example, when the Allegheny Defense Project sued the Forest Service in 2001 to stop an 8,000-acre timber sale, the Third Circuit deferred to the agency’s judgment and upheld the timber sale. The result? The timber industry got its timber from the public’s land.

One would expect that when non-environmental plaintiffs sue the Forest Service, as is the case in the most recent decision where the oil and gas industry filed the lawsuit, the same standard of deference to the agency would apply. The Third Circuit, however, said in this case that it owed no deference to the Forest Service’s decision to regulate oil and gas drilling. The result? The oil and gas industry gets its oil and gas without any Forest Service regulation.

Essentially, the Third Circuit has created two separate standards for reviewing Forest Service decisions. When environmental plaintiffs sue the Forest Service to protect the environment, those plaintiffs will have a considerable burden to overcome. When industry plaintiffs sue the Forest Service because the agency was actually trying to protect the environment, those plaintiffs will have a much lower burden. The result in both situations benefits industry, not the environment.

Ryan Talbott is the executive director of the Allegheny Defense Project and attends Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, OR. rtalbott@alleghenydefense.org

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Answers to Crossword Puzzle

(from page 47)

Across

- 5. BEAR KNOB
- 10. HEBERLY RUN
- 11. WHITE DEER
- 12. ROUSTABOUT
- 14. NICHOLAS
- 15. SUSQUEHANNA
- 16. ELEPHANT

Down

- 1. ZAHNISER
- 2. DELAWARE
- 3. CHICKIESROCK
- 4. MERCURY
- 6. OHIO PYLE
- 7. JOHNSRUD
- 8. SYNCHRONOUS
- 9. KASSERMAN
- 13. THRUSH

My Cathedral

By Jake Patton

Those of my family are not a church-going people, and so we have always looked to the woods and streams of our native Pennsylvania to provide us with that sense of tranquility. All the things that comfort many others on many Sundays – community, tradition, perspective, spirituality – these are the comforts that we draw from Penn’s Woods.

There is a particular place, nestled in the high reaches of White Deer Creek in Union County, that has always been dearer to me than any others – my cathedral. Here, at the age of ten, I learned to fly-fish (a sport which will try the patience but heal the soul), and it is here that I return whenever the demands of life allow it. For a stretch of about two miles, I can describe for you every bend and twist and rock and tree.

In this place the stream takes a long slow bend beneath the shade of a leaning pine, and the path widens out into a plain of ferns. The patchy light of a setting sun dances through the broad leaves of the opposite bank, and the ripple of the water quiets the noises in my head. This bend is the place I seek more than any others. I come here to think, to reflect, to mourn, to rejoice. This is my sanctuary, where all peace and faith can be restored.

And it was just two years ago, on a promising May evening, that my faith and patience were tested.

We had spent a long winter away, and I was anxious to see the place. Stately oaks and tall, broad hemlocks greeted me like old friends. I don’t remember if the fishing was any good – I was so eager to get to my bend in the stream that I only made half-hearted efforts at the spots below. Finally I ducked under the old fallen oak before the bend, and when I raised my head, I beheld a scene that hit me like a punch in the stomach.

On the mountainside of the opposite bank, the scars and ruin of logging equipment reached from the top of the ridge road to just a hundred yards or so above the stream. I guess you could say that it was selectively cut - there were a scattering of taller hemlocks and haggard hardwoods, many with roots exposed, which had survived the holocaust of saws and Caterpillars, although each bore the graffiti of orange plastic ribbons and spray-painted white X’s. Dead brush lay in piles at the feet of the survivors, between a labyrinth of rutted logging trails made through the exposed clay. Some healthy trees, whose only crime had been to be in the way, had been torn up by the roots and driven over. It may be termed selective logging, but there was no selective conservation here, there was only selective ignorance of anything standing that could not make a profit. Anything left living was accidental; anything killed was the price of business.

I shielded my eyes from the sun stabbing down through the naked hole in the trees, and then I noticed a pair of brown trickles leaking into deepest part of the stream’s arc, like two insidious fingers poking through the windows of our cathedral. A rusty plume of red clay had already begun to spread through the patient currents of the water.

In the middle of at least a hundred square miles of unadulterated forest, someone had chosen this little patch of a few acres to demolish. Just a few hundred yards upstream or down, they could’ve chosen a stand of trees on flat ground, farther from the water, so that at least the acid of the clay soil would not be flushed down the mountainside and into the creek. They could’ve chosen ground that would be easier for equipment to maneuver, and closer to the road, so that collateral damage could be kept to a

Our Wilderness Threatened

minimum. They could've done a lot of things, but instead they picked the most difficult place to harvest with the maximum amount of impact. And they desecrated my sanctuary.

Now, I come from a long line of farm stock, so I fully appreciate the necessity of working the land and harvesting that which nature gives us. If logging isn't done in one place, it will be done in another, and if my sanctuary is preserved, another will surely be ruined by economic necessity. That sanctuary may belong to you, or it may belong only to the plants and the animals – but each tree that is felled belongs to someone. And yet I write with pencil and paper, and I live in a house of two-by-fours. This is not a diatribe, or a call to end all logging everywhere forever.

This is a plea for common sense.

I'm sure that whoever logged that tract of beautiful woods did so within the rights of an owner, and within the regulations of the state. It could be that the quality of lumber in that spot was superior to others. Perhaps the money from the sale of that lumber was badly needed – maybe it even saved someone from real economic hardship. I don't claim to know the motivations of the tragedy's author; I only know the result.

The result was that a patch of ground was laid bare in such a way as to threaten not only the immediate environment, but also the stream ecosystem itself (and don't forget the fishing!). All this for a sum of money that could have easily been had from any number of similar stands in just a few hundred yards in practically any direction, where the impact could be localized. A few more parts per million running to the Susquehanna – that was the result.

I'm sure that the owner, the regulator, and the logger all had the best of intentions (and even if I'm not sure of it, I'm willing to give them the benefit of the doubt). We can (and will) work to improve regulations, harvesting practices, and landowner education. But as we endeavor to do so, let us remember that no regulation and no practice should defy the rules of common sense.

For now, I return to the bend from time to time. I watch nature patiently overcome the wreckage of man, and I smile to myself as I sit in a cathedral with no stained glass.

Jake Patton resides in suburban Harrisburg and worked briefly in the Sierra Club's chapter lobby office.

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Synchronous Fireflies on the Allegheny!

An Unfinished Tale of Beauty and the Beast...

By Cathy Pedler

In June 2011 the Allegheny Defense Project met near the confluence of Salmon Creek and “The Branch” (a tributary of Salmon Creek) in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) for our spring outing. We returned on June 21 to document a nighttime event of unbelievable beauty.

We made camp Friday evening, June 17, beside the Branch close to the North Country Scenic Trail where it crosses Forest Road 127. It was a great evening. We shared food, including some awesome Mary Belitskus chocolate cake, as complete darkness fell with only the light of our campfire near the gurgling water of the branch.



Fireflies light the sky over the Allegheny

PHOTO BY CAREN QUINN



PHOTO BY THERESA DARLING

“The Branch”

Something suddenly caught our attention across the creek. “What is that?!” We all began to watch the fireflies. They were beautiful, appearing blue-white at times, and resembling a massive Christmas light show that twinkled in rhythm and then shut down in complete darkness for a few seconds before it all began again. None of us had ever seen anything like it. Synchronous fireflies are rare, and their synchronous displays occur only a few places on earth. The insects that create these displays are populations of a specific species, *Photinus Carolinus*. They produce synchronous light displays once a year in late June and early July when they are mating.

We contacted specialists on the subject who gave us some tips for documenting the fireflies. We returned on June 21 to bring additional witnesses and to photograph the event. During the summer of 2011 we worked with researcher Lynn Faust to develop a proposal for documenting the species on the Allegheny. Our proposed study outlined field survey work during the next mating display (June 2012) and DNA testing to determine if the fireflies are *Photinus Carolinus* or a sister species. We submitted the proposal to the ANF Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) where it was

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PHOTO BY CAREN QUINN



Beautiful view of synchronous fireflies over the Allegheny.

initially refused to allow Royal Dutch Shell (RDS) the use of aquifer water for hydraulic fracturing of Marcellus Shale gas wells), I discovered from the testimony that RDS was planning two new Marcellus Shale gas wells on the Allegheny. RDS already had drilled two wells on the ANF, one only a few thousand feet behind the homestead of Allegheny Defense Project board president and member Bill and Mary Belitskus. I opened my ANF forest map on the wooden courtroom bench to find the warrants and well locations the witness described for the new wells. I nearly jumped from the bench in rage, one well was on a proposed wilderness area, and the other was in the newly discovered synchronous firefly habitat. The shale gas well on the firefly habitat was a Joint Venture between PGE and RDS.

When court was adjourned, I waited for Mayer, PIOGA leader and RAC member, and pointed to the spot on the map where the firefly habitat was, the spot where the RAC proposal had outlined the field survey for the insect. “How did you decide to put your joint venture well right here?!” I asked pushing the map toward him with my finger on the firefly habitat. Mayer growled, “You’ll never know because that information is PRIVATE!” He quickly left the court room.

It is now June 16, 2012. As I write this article researchers are studying the fireflies, which are putting on this year’s mating display, and our attorneys and the PIOGA’s attorneys are preparing for a July 2, 2012, hearing in the ongoing litigation. Stay tuned.

Relaxing over morning coffee



PHOTO BY JULIA OCHALEK

approved for funding (barely, due to the oil and gas and timber industry members on the RAC).

In November 2011, shortly after the approval of the firefly study proposal, I found myself sitting in Federal Court, across the isle from Craig Mayer, one of the leaders of the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association (PIOGA) who also is counsel for Pennsylvania General Energy (PGE). Mayer is also an Allegheny RAC member and was fully aware of the firefly discovery and our proposed study. As I sat listening to industry witnesses in the federal contempt hearing against the Forest Service (because the Forest Service

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Industrialization of Pennsylvania's State Forests

by Gary Thornbloom

The Bureau of Forestry's mission is to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth's forests and to conserve native wild plants. The bureau will accomplish this mission by:

Managing state forests under sound ecosystem management, to retain their wild character and maintain biological diversity while providing pure water, opportunities for low-density recreation, habitats for forest plants and animals, sustained yields of quality timber, and environmentally sound utilization of mineral resources. - PA Bureau of Forestry's description of its mission

Intensive industrial development of state forests is incompatible with this mission.

Consider the case Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) makes by using 65,000 acres of the Tioga State Forest to demonstrate the impact of 54 Marcellus gas wells.

DCNR characterizes state forestland in three ways: Primitive, Semi-Primitive and Semi-Developed. Primitive is described as non- motorized recreation with peace, solitude, remote, back country experience being typical. Semi-Primitive includes a moderate probability of solitude, with only limited timber and gas activities. Typically those activities are limited in scope and in duration. In the Semi-Developed acres you are likely to encounter other recreationists, motorized recreation and timber and gas activities, again typically limited in scope and duration.

In image #1 there are 10,179 Primitive acres. This is where the core forest habitat would be. This is forest that is at the heart of the mission of the Bureau of Forestry (BOF). The 21,825 Semi-Primitive acres would further this mission most of the time. The 32,493 Semi-Developed acres follow roads and allow for motorized access, as well as vectors for invasive species. The blue triangles are the 54 gas well pads that would be necessary to get the Marcellus gas from under this forestland.



Image #2 graphically illustrates the impact of the well pads and associated roads to the forest. At 2,008 acres, the Primitive is virtually eliminated. 16,478 acres of Semi-

Our Wilderness Threatened

Primitive remain. The forest least essential to the BOF mission is now 46,037 acres.

This model illustrates the impacts to part of one state forest, but it illustrates what the impacts will be to industrialization wherever it occurs in our state forests.

Note that the DCNR image does not include the pipelines that would link the well pads and the larger pipelines that would take the gas to market. Compressor stations and other infrastructure are also not included. Destruction of the forest's wild character would be even greater than what DCNR has projected.



Semi-Developed space is at worst an intrusion into the forest, and at best a small buffer to what is left as the heart of the forest. Semi-Developed forestland, once it has been industrialized, is no longer capable of supporting the heart of the BOF mission. It is more Orwellian than a stretch to call industrialized land Semi-Developed.

Industrialization of our state forests exceeds multiple-use. Industrialization - it does not matter whether the industry is gas, oil, or wind - is a misuse of state forestland that destroys the wild character, the heart and the core of the forest.

Pennsylvania state forests make up one of the largest wildland areas in the east. State forests are 2.2 million acres of land that provide habitat for plants and wildlife, a landscape for recreation, and restoration of the human spirit. That is how most Pennsylvanians enjoy and would describe this forestland. Industrialization destroys it.

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A Case for Sensible Regulation

by Ryan Talbott of the Allegheny Defense Project

Allegheny National Forest has suffered from a long history of oil and gas industries' abuse of the land. The industries have argued time and again that their ownership of the mineral rights permits them to abuse the surface – land, forest, and water – without restraint. So it was with some sense of victory that environmentalists celebrated a settlement agreement with the Forest Service, in 2009. Acceding to three conservation groups -- Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, Allegheny Defense Project, and Sierra Club -- the Forest Service agreed to undertake "appropriate" environmental analysis of proposed drilling.

However, the industry went to court and obtained an injunction against implementing the agreement. In other words, the industry can continue to do as it pleases. The industry continues its exploration and drilling operations. Dust and mud are unabated. Pollution is so bad that the State of New York, just across the border, has filed suit seeking a halt to operations and payment for damages.

Environmentalists are relying in part on the provisions of the federal Weeks Act of 1911, of which one of the primary purposes was to allow the Forest Service to regulate to protect these lands and reduce sediment pollution in our streams and rivers.

A hearing scheduled for July 2nd may help resolve the issue. Environmentalists want the agreement reinstated, but the industry wants a permanent injunction against regulation. But don't expect a speedy resolution. Even when they move in the right direction, courts move slowly. The possibilities for added appeals loom.

For an update, and for detailed analysis of the history and legal aspects of the issue, contact the Allegheny Defense Project. For more information and to read the Weeks Act's legislative history, visit Allegheny Defense Project's website: <https://alleghenydefenseproject.wikispaces.com/Litigation>

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The Wilderness Act Nears its 50th Birthday

by Dave Sublette



Put 2014 on your calendar for a birthday celebration. The Wilderness Act will turn 50 on September 3, 2014, and celebrations around the country will mark this American cultural and environmental achievement. Already, Sierra Club, other wilderness groups, and the four federal wilderness managing agencies are organizing to get ready for the anniversary.

Signed into law in 1964, The Wilderness Act, composed originally by Pennsylvania native Howard Zahniser, established our National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness designation is the strongest and most permanent protection from development that our laws offer for wild federal public lands. Wilderness areas include wild places in National Parks, National Forests, wildlife refuges and western lands of the Bureau of Land Management. In Pennsylvania, the Allegheny National Forest currently has only about 2 percent of its area is designated as wilderness, which is far below the national average of roughly 18 percent.

We need lots of volunteers to help, so if you care about wild places, please be part of the action. If you can help in organizing or conducting anniversary celebration events in Pennsylvania or have ideas about ways we can promote and publicize wilderness during 2014, please contact David Sublette at davidsublette@aol.com. We will keep you posted in the Chapter newsletter and on the Chapter website as plans develop for the 2014 celebration.

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The Magic of Training

by Nicholas Wierman

It's no secret that Marcellus Shale gas drilling is rapidly developing in Pennsylvania. I attribute this to Pennsylvania's mentality of "Jobs are important. Let's drill now, ask questions later, and deal with the fallout that ensues." It's as if we take a near polar opposite of approach of the State of New York that said, "Wait a minute. You want to do what? Let's do some homework before you go drilling those holes."

But with the Marcellus Shale industry booming, one would think that the job sector would be flourishing with new careers for both skilled and unskilled workers in Pennsylvania. However, the gas industry has been hit time and time again with concerns about skilled labor positions going to out-of-state employees, particularly those with experience from the Barnett Shale Gas Play in Texas. Meanwhile, the majority of the unskilled labor jobs have been going to hard-working Pennsylvanians. It takes some 400 workers to open a new gas rig, and about half of them are people with training that is less than a four-year degree.

Unfortunately, a job isn't just a job, and these jobs are the worst ones imaginable. In 2011, careercast.com ranked oil and gas roustabout jobs number one on the list of worst jobs in the U.S. In 2012, it made the list again at number four, only to be surpassed by loggers, dairy farmers, and enlisted military personnel. A roustabout is a job title given to the general laborers that work at an oil or gas rig doing anything and everything on sites from installing pipelines to digging drainage pits. In a roustabout position, the days are long, the work is backbreaking, stress is high, the pay is low, building a career is difficult, and there is always the chance of getting injured (or worse). Despite the labor being unskilled, that doesn't mean that the work doesn't require training. In 2008, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration awarded a near \$5 million grant as part of their Community-Based Job Training Grant Program to the Pennsylvania College of Technology and Westmoreland County Community College. These institutions partnered with a few other community colleges and the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association (PIOGA) to form ShaleNET. ShaleNET operates as a network for recruiting, training, and placing workers in gas industry jobs. ShaleNET outlines which training classes develop the necessary employability skills for positions as roustabouts, floorhands, production technicians, certified drivers, and welding assistants. There are currently ten institutions in Pennsylvania that offer such programs through the ShaleNET initiative to those interested in a low level job in the gas industry. Many of the institutions, like Penn Tech, offer customized courses to meet the requirements of the hiring gas companies.

The grant is estimated to keep the ShaleNET program running for three years. It will be up to the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration as to whether or not they want to continue to provide training for the worst job in America.

Nicholas Wierman worked as an intern in the Chapter Lobby Office this spring.

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Sprawl in Pennsylvania:

Saying Goodbye to Our Land

by Don Miles

Chances are if you live outside a Pennsylvania inner city you moved there because you liked having farms and open spaces nearby. Say goodbye to them if land use trends continue.

“Sprawl” is the uncontrolled outward expansion of land development. Sprawl’s key characteristics are

- low-density residential and one-story commercial development,
- development that requires primary use of automobiles rather than public transportation,
- homogeneous segregation of land uses into separate zones, and
- lack of significant open spaces, farmlands, and public parks.

You might not think first of Pennsylvania when you hear the word “sprawl. Consider this: in the 300 years from William Penn’s settlement to 1982, all land development here used three million acres. We have sprawled over one million more acres in just the past 20 years. We now lose over 100,000 acres of land per year in Pennsylvania to sprawl. In fact, although Pennsylvania ranks 48th nationally in population growth, we rank 5th in the rate we convert open spaces into sprawl. The far suburbs of Philadelphia and the fast-growing Lehigh Valley and Poconos lead the charge of the bulldozers.

Pennsylvania’s sprawl spree can be traced to one primary factor: it largely is the result of Pennsylvania having one of the worst land use statutes in the country, our “Municipalities Planning Code.” Pennsylvania requires detailed municipal comprehensive plans that set out the smart growth path of the community, but unlike nearby urbanized states like New Jersey and Maryland, Pennsylvania does not require a municipality’s zoning and subdivision regulations to follow its comprehensive plan. Result: developer-pressured regulations that ignore smart growth policies in favor of sprawling subdivisions and strip-malls.

Pennsylvania’s sprawl doesn’t just diminish the enjoyment of its residents, it:

- destroys wetlands, forests, other wildlands, and wildlife habitat,
- removes farmlands from our communities, precluding local food purchases and encouraging fuel-gobbling, long-distance transport of farm produce,
- adds to climate-change and petroleum-dependence by increasing the miles driven by residents who cannot walk to nearby stores, offices, and parks,
- increases storm-water runoff that overburdens streams and causes erosion, water pollution and stream-life degradation,
- overburdens drinking water supplies that causes depletion of streamflows and aquifers,
- overburdens sanitary sewer systems producing inflows into storm-water sewer systems, which during heavy rains overflow sewage treatment plants, dumping untreated sewage into rivers, and
- imposes heavy financial burdens on formerly-rural townships, who must now build new roads, schools, and public safety facilities.

It doesn’t have to continue. Pennsylvania could enact effective anti-sprawl land use legislation that requires communities to have smart growth oriented comprehensive plans that requires them to conform their zoning and land use regulations to that comprehensive plan. We could also require regional land

use planning that promotes land development encouraging mixed-use development allowing walking to stores and offices. And we could eliminate some of our redundant 2,500 municipal entities and 500 school districts which fragment sensible land use planning in Penn's Woods.

All it takes is enough people getting mad at waving goodbye to their farms and wild places. Are you mad yet?

Donald Miles is the Pennsylvania Chapter Land Use Committee chair and Lehigh Valley Group chair.

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Call for At-Large Delegates

by Jack Miller

Each year the statewide membership of the Sierra Club elects three members to the Chapter Executive Committee for two-year terms. These members, with representatives from each Group, comprise this governing body of the Pennsylvania Chapter. Nominations are now being sought for these three important At-Large delegate positions.

Interested members may submit the names of members (including yourself) to the Nominating Committee that you believe to have a broad interest in, and knowledge of, the activities of the Club throughout the state and whom you think would be qualified to represent you well.

Nominee names and contact information should be submitted to the Nominating Committee for consideration at the address hereunder **no later than August 15, 2012.**

In addition, members that are not officially nominated by the Nominating Committee can be added to the election ballot for At-large delegate through a simple, written petition process. A valid petition consists of the name, address and membership number of the petition candidate, along with a statement that the candidate has given approval for the petition and intends to serve if elected. A telephone number and e-mail address of the candidate are also requested. Members signing petitions must print their membership name and membership address, and date and sign the petition legibly. The telephone number, e-mail address and membership number of members signing the petition are also requested in order to verify current membership. Both members of a joint membership may sign. A minimum of fifteen (15) valid signatures is required on a petition. Because some signers may have unknowingly let their membership lapse, a greater number of signatures is recommended.

Petition candidate statements and completed petitions must be received by the Nominating Committee **no later than August 31, 2012.**

Members who wish to be considered for other positions, such as committee chairs, Executive Committee officers or committee members, should inform the Nominating Committee of their willingness to serve. Further, the Nominating Committee will gladly accept recommendations for various posts from the membership.

Ballot candidates for At-large Delegates should prepare a written statement highlighting their qualifications to serve as a delegate, which will appear in the fall edition of *The Sylvania*. Statements are limited to 200 words and should be e-mailed to the Nominating Committee by September 1, 2012.

Petitions and petitioners' statements should be mailed to the Nominating Committee by the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial overnight delivery service at the following address, which must be used in full:

Chapter Nominating Committee

Jack Miller, 130 Delong Road, Middleburg PA 17842-8182, jmiller1018@yahoo.com

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ExploreEnjoyPennsylvania

Canoeing and Kayaking on the Upper Delaware River

by Dave Byman

For more than 20 years, members of the Northeastern Group have enjoyed a mid-summer outing on the upper Delaware River. Early Saturday morning, we arrive at Barb Yeaman's farm on the Pennsylvania shore of the river, approximately four miles north of the Narrowsburg, NY bridge. Most of us are repeat trippers, but we have a few first timers along. So we give them a briefing on the canoe/kayak trip, before the dozen or so of us car caravan to a canoe livery, which ferries boats that our members bring and livery rental boats, as needed, further upriver.

Typically we choose to begin our river trip ten miles upriver from the livery take out.

Our group of kayaks and canoes start out at a leisurely pace. As we paddle downstream, we enjoy the beauty of the Delaware and, always, keep our eyes open for bald eagles. The Delaware is just over 100 feet wide, flowing gently. We string out along the river, some paddling harder than others, but we try to keep everyone in sight of the group. The day grows warm, but the water lets us keep as cool as we want to be.

The river banks are forested, but occasional homes with river docks appear on both sides. Someone sights an eagle perched on a high bare branch and calls out and points. Interested only in fish, the eagle ignores him. We stop for a relaxed lunch on the river shore, enjoying sandwiches, fruit, or simple snacks.

We continue our float, seeing occasional fishermen along the way, some fishing from shore, others floating with the gentle current. Occasionally, we will pass a canoe or kayak stopped for a break. One or two kayaks will pass us. The river isn't crowded, but we are not alone.

In late afternoon, we arrive at the livery and then return to the Yeaman farm. Some of the boaters will head for home, but most of us set up tents, and have a potluck dinner. Cold soup, baked beans, potato salad and sandwich material give us a plenty spread. We talk as it grows dark – some politics, some environmental issues, with light hearted chat sprinkled in. Then we turn in and go to sleep just above the Delaware. We can hear the gentle whisper of the river throughout the night.

In the morning, we have a potluck breakfast. Then, depending on the weather, some of us will go a mile back up to Milanville and tube down the river to the farm before we head home.



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2012 July Outing at Ohiopyle State Park

July 13-15



WE WANT YOU, WE NEED YOU!

Friday and Saturday Evening: Organized group tenting with your Chapter friends! Saturday and Sunday: Chapter ExCom meeting (Saturday), outings for friends and family, cookout and potluck dinner, followed by a speaker, then campfire and socializing, plus a variety of Sierra Club-led hikes and outings on Sunday!

TOP 10 ACTIVITIES AT OHIOPYLE

(provided by DCNR)

- View Ohiopyle Falls and stroll through the borough of Ohiopyle.
- Explore rare plants and fossils on Ferncliff Peninsula.
- See the deepest gorge in Pennsylvania from Baughman Rocks.
- Brave the river with a trip on the Middle or Lower 'Yough.'
- Have a picnic with a view at Tharp Knob.
- Spend the night under the stars at the Campground.
- Start your backpacking trip on Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail.
- Bike the Great Allegheny Passage to a nearby trail town.
- Ride the sledding hill when the snow falls. (not an option for us, but still fun!)
- View the falling waters at Cucumber.

MORE INTERESTING ACTIVITIES

- Only 4.5 miles to Fallingwater, the iconic home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, America's most famous architect! Tickets for tours are available online at <https://tickets.fallingwater.org/>

- Only 3 miles to Kentuck Knob, another Frank Lloyd Wright home with a beautiful sculpture garden. Guided tours are available. Reserve tickets for tours using the above link.
- Natural Waterslide
- Fort Necessity National Battlefield only 8 miles away!

Check out <http://www.discoverohiopyle.com/> for more information!

ACCOMMODATIONS OTHER THAN CAMPING

- Stone House Inn <http://www.stonehouseinn.com/>
1-800-274-7138 or (724)-329-8876
- Ohiopyle Lodge <http://www.ohiopylelodge.com/>
1-800-419-7599
- Benner's Meadow Run Cabins <http://www.bennersmeadowrun.com/rentals.shtml> (724) 329-4097
- There are also camping cottages in Ohiopyle State Park. Reserve early! <http://www.pa.reserveworld.com/>
1-888-PA-PARKS (727-2757)

Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater



Frank Lloyd Wright's Kentuck Knob



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Attention food lovers!

Do you have a favorite vegetarian recipe you're willing to share for our first ever Pennsylvania Sierra Club Cookbook?

We're looking for all kinds of original recipes (main courses, soups, appetizers, sides, drinks/smoothies, and desserts)! We're also looking for "campfire" recipes or your favorite trail mix combinations!

Email the recipe to pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org with your name, city, and zip code and your permission to use it with the subject heading "2012 Cookbook".

*** By submitting a recipe, your name will be entered in a drawing to win a free copy of our cookbook after it's published! Your name will be entered once for each recipe submitted.

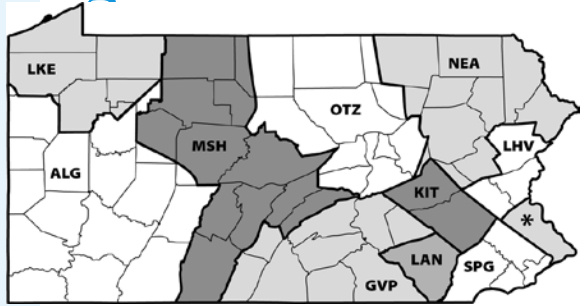
Thank you!

Meetings & Outings

For up-to-date information, start times, meeting points, & directions, please see your Group's website or newsletter, or contact the Sierra Club members listed below.

Groups may plan events & outings after *The Sylvania* goes to press & those listed here may change. Participants on outings must sign a liability waiver, available from www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or from the Outings Department at 415-977-5528.

Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling & assumes no liability.



Chapter Executive Committee

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/>

MEETINGS

The Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) meets between four and six times a year in locations near the middle of the state. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 14, 2012

Ohiopyle State Park, Ohiopyle, PA

Saturday, September 15, 2012

Sierra Club Legislative Lobby Office
101 South Second Street, Suite 4
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Allegheny Group

www.alleghenysc.org

MEETINGS

The Allegheny Group meets the 2nd Monday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the Sierra Club Office, 425 North Craig St., Pittsburgh, PA

For more information, see the Web site:
www.alleghenysc.org

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Interested in leading outings? Contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@windstream.net

Governor Pinchot Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot

MEETINGS

The Governor Pinchot group meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the East Shore Library, at 4501 Ethel Street, behind the Colonial Park Mall in suburban Harrisburg. For the meeting location, please check with Jack Flatley at 717-921-2708 or email at riverman17018@comcast.net

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For information on Governor Pinchot Group activities, see pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot.

For more info contact John at 717-737-7675 or lenahan.john@mac.com

Kittatinny Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks

MEETINGS

Kittatinny Executive Committee meets monthly. All members welcome. For more info, contact Jim Keller at 484-769-0537 or keller.james.m@gmail.com

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For up-to-date listings of activities, see pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks/calendar.htm.

Lancaster Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lancaster

MEETINGS

Business meetings of the Lancaster Group of the Sierra Club are held on the third Wednesday of every month

(except July and December) as follows:

June 20, August 15, September 19, October 17, and November 21.

All meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m. They are held in Lancaster Country Day School, 725 Hamilton Rd., Lancaster. Parking is available in the school's parking lot.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

The Sierra Club - Lancaster Group has scheduled several outings or events, to which all people are invited.

Saturday, July 7, 10 a.m. - Family Hike in Landis Woods Park near Neffsville, just off Route 501.

Wednesday, August 15, 7:30 p.m. - Presentation on plans for the proposed Lancaster Urban Forest Center.

Saturday, August 18, 9 a.m. - Hike through the proposed Lancaster Urban Forest Center at Dorwart/Farmingdale Park, off Good Drive, Lancaster.

Saturday, September 15, 10 a.m. - Bike Ride on Conewago Recreation & Lebanon Valley Rail Trail.

Monday, September 24, 6:30 p.m. - Book Discussion: I Love Dirt by Jennifer Ward (at the Manheim Township Public Library).

Saturday, October 27, 10 a.m. - Fall Foliage Hike at Susquehannock State Park in southern Lancaster County.

Sunday, December 2 - 2 p.m. - Book Discussion: Earth by Bill McKibben (at Aaron's Books, 35 E. Main St., Lititz).

Visit the website www.lancastersierraclub.org for more details about these events, as well as others that are in the planning stages, or contact Jennifer Ericson at jericson@ezsolution.com or 717-892-2026.

Lake Erie Group

MEETINGS

Business meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month at the Asbury Wood Education Center, on Asbury Road in Erie, starting at 6:30 pm to 8 p.m.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For information on Lake Erie Group outings and activities, contact Chuck Benson at bensonville@aol.com

Lehigh Valley Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv

MEETINGS

The Lehigh Valley Group Executive Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (except July) in Room 638, Fowler Family Center, Northampton Community College, Third and Buchanan Streets, (south) Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015. All members are welcome. This meeting is where we do our organizational planning and discuss environmental issues.

For updated information, please visit our Website:

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv/>

For more information about Lehigh Valley Group, contact:

Donald Miles, Lehigh Valley Group chair, at donmiles@rcn.com or 610-730-2514 or Matt MacConnell, vice-chair, at mattmacconnell@gmail.com or 610-657-2707.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

If you'd like to join us for outdoor fun, please consider joining our outings MeetUp: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Lehigh-Valley-Group/>

Moshannon Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon

MEETINGS

Moshannon Group meetings are on the first Tuesday of month at 7 p.m. at Clear Water Conservancy, State College. All members & guests welcome. For more info, contact Gary Thornbloom at 814-353-3466 via bearknob@verizon.net.

OUTINGS

All outings open to general public & members. All levels of ability and interest are encouraged to participate.

Moshannon Group's outings are listed at:

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/outings.html>

Northeastern Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/northeastern

MEETINGS

Members are always welcomed and encouraged to join us each month for our executive committee meetings, where we plan activities & group priorities. Meetings held on first Tuesday of each month, usually at 7 p.m. and meeting

sites vary. For more information, contact Jen Lavery at JenLavery@aol.com.

OUTINGS

For more information, please visit the website.

Otzinachson Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every other month. For more information, please visit the website.

OUTINGS

Sunday, July 22 -- RB Winter State Park, Union County: 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike a variety of trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at the park at the breast of the dam along Rt 192 at 8:30. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134.

Sunday, July 29 -- Conestoga Trail, Lancaster County: 11.8 miles, very strenuous. We will hike from the east side of the Norman Wood Bridge to Pequea Creek Campground through the River Hills on the east side of the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County. Outstanding vistas overlooking the Susquehanna River. This is a fast-paced preview hike offered to participants in the Susquehanna Super Hike (September 8), but all are welcome. Meet at K-Mart parking lot on Rt. 15 in Shamokin Dam at 6:30 am or Clarks Ferry Truck Stop along Rt. 322 in Duncannon at 7:15 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Paul Shaw 717-215-8339; pshaw@ptd.net.

Saturday, August 4 -- Cherry Run Gamelands Loop, Clinton County: 10 miles, moderate. This circuit hike in SGL 295 south of Lamar will take us into the heart of the syncline. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Lewisburg Big Lots off Rte. 15, or at the I-80 Lamar exit McDonalds at 10:00. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence, 570-925-5285; cathyed@nationi.net

Saturday, August 11 -- Loyalsock Trail, Sullivan County 6.5 miles, easy to moderate. We will hike the LT from Sones Pond to the end of the LT on Route 220 via the Haystacks. Meet 8:30 am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

Sunday, August 19 -- Golden Eagle Trail, Lycoming County 9 miles, moderate to strenuous. One of the best hikes in PA with excellent views. Meet at 8:00 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Avenue between Market and

Hastings Streets (Rt. 15) in South Williamsport or at the trail parking lot along Rt. 414 at 8:50 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine, 570-220-4707.

For more information contact:

Paul Shaw, Outings Chair
155 Mowery Lane
Sunbury PA 17801
717-215-8339
pshaw@ptd.net

Southeastern Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern

MEETINGS

Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Whole Foods Community Room, 20th & Callowhill Sts, Philadelphia. To confirm the meeting date and location, contact 215-820-7872.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Please visit the website for updated outing information. For more information on any event, contact Bill Brainerd at 610-325-3127 or billbrainerd@gmail.com.

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Chapter Directory

SIERRA CLUB PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OFFICE

P.O. Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108

(717) 232-0101, pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org

Chapter Director: Jeff Schmidt jeff.schmidt@sierraclub.org

Administrative Assistant: Lindsay Delp lindsay.delp@sierraclub.org

PA FIELD PROGRAM

PITTSBURGH OFFICE (412) 802-6161

Regional Representative: Rachel Martin

Associate Representative: Randy Francisco

CHAPTER LEADERS

OFFICERS

Chair: Wendi Taylor (717) 612-9409, taylorwj@comcast.net

Vice Chair: Jack Miller (570) 837-6546, jmiller1018@yahoo.com

Secretary: Bill Brainerd (610) 325-3127, billbrainerd@gmail.com

Treasurer: James Keller (484) 769-0537, keller.james.m@gmail.com

Legal Chair: Alexander Bomstein (215) 981-4002, bomsteina@pepperlaw.com

Beyond Natural Gas - PA Campaign: Deborah J. Nardone (814) 308-9767, deb.nardone@sierraclub.org

Beyond Coal - PA Campaign: Tom Schuster (814) 467-2614, tom.schuster@sierraclub.org

COUNCIL

Delegate: Nancy Parks (814) 349-5151, nfparks2@verizon.net

Alternate: Arthur Clark (717) 774-3015, fsck100@gmail.com

CONSERVATION

Chair: Thomas Au (717) 234-7445, thomxau@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Patti Fenstermacher (610) 767-4774, pfenstermacher@verizon.net

POLITICAL

Chair: Dennis Winters (215) 790-1894, dennis.winters@verizon.net

POLITICAL ACTION FUND

Chair: David Byman (570) 963-2586, dxbl4@psu.edu

Treasurer: Tom Anderson (717) 432-4177, tandkindillsburg@aol.com

OUTINGS

Chair: Vacant

COMPUTER

Chair: Dan Schreffler (570) 343-4056, computer.chair@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

WEBMASTER

Dan Schreffler (570) 343-4056, webmaster@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

SIERRA STUDENT COALITION

Vacant

GROUP LEADERS

ALLEGHENY GROUP (ALG)

Chair: Barbara Grover (412) 521-9526; bdgrover1@verizon.net

GOVERNOR PINCHOT (GVP)

Chair: Robin Broderick (717) 221-8590, rbroderick1@email.com

KITTATINNY (KIT)

Chair: Kathy Stoica (610) 916-2928, katstoica@yahoo.com

LAKE ERIE (LKE)

Chair: Chuck Benson (814) 868-9476, bensoville@aol.com

LANCASTER

Chair: Jennifer Ericson (717) 892-2026, jericson@ezsolution.com

LEHIGH VALLEY (LHV)

Chair: Donald Miles (610) 865-3844, donmiles@rcn.com

MOSHANNON (MSH)

Chair: Gary Thornbloom (814) 353-3466, bearknob@verizon.net

NORTHEASTERN (NEA)

Chair: Doug Heller (570) 241-8244, dheller2@yahoo.com

OTZINACHSON (OTZ)

Chair: Jack Miller (570) 837-6546, jmiller1018@yahoo.com

CONSERVATION ISSUES

AIR QUALITY

Chair: Nancy Parks(814) 349-5151, nfparks2@verizon.net

COMMITTEE ON RADIATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair: Open

ENERGY

Co-Chair: Justina Wasicek.....(717) 234-7445, jmwasicek@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Wayne Kenton waynekenton@comcast.net

GLOBAL WARMING/CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair: Dennis Winters.....(215) 790-1894, dennis.winters@verizon.net

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Chair: Peter Wray.....(412) 244-9907, pjwray@verizon.net

LAND USE

Chair: Don Miles(610) 730-2514, donmiles@rcn.com

MINING

Chair: Krissy Kasserman.....(814) 445-6258, yrk@mtwatershed.com

POWER TRANSMISSION LINES

Co-Chair: Nicole Faraguna.....(570) 758-2803, ndfhome@tds.net

Co-Chair: Donald Miles.....(610) 865-3844, donmiles@rcn.com

PUBLIC LANDS

Chair: Vacant

Co-chair: Cathy Pedler

Co-chair: Gary Thornbloom

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Chair: Sheila Gallagher.....(610) 923-6431, gallag.her@live.com

TRANSPORTATION

Vacant

SOLID WASTE

Chair: Al Wurth.....(610) 866-9846, ahw1@lehigh.edu

WATER QUALITY

Co-Chair: Barbara Benson.....(610) 282-3611, barbarabenson@bensonsails.com

Co-Chair: Thomas Au.....(717) 234-7445, thomxau@gmail.com

WILDERNESS

Chair: Dave Sublette.....(814) 825-0450, davidsublette@aol.com

FIELD STAFF PITTSBURGH

Randy Francisco(412) 802-6161

Rachel Martin.....(412) 802-6161

FIELD STAFF PHILADELPHIA

William Kramer(215) 253-5890



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Since it was first listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the grizzly bear has made a strong recover, but there is still more work to be done. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

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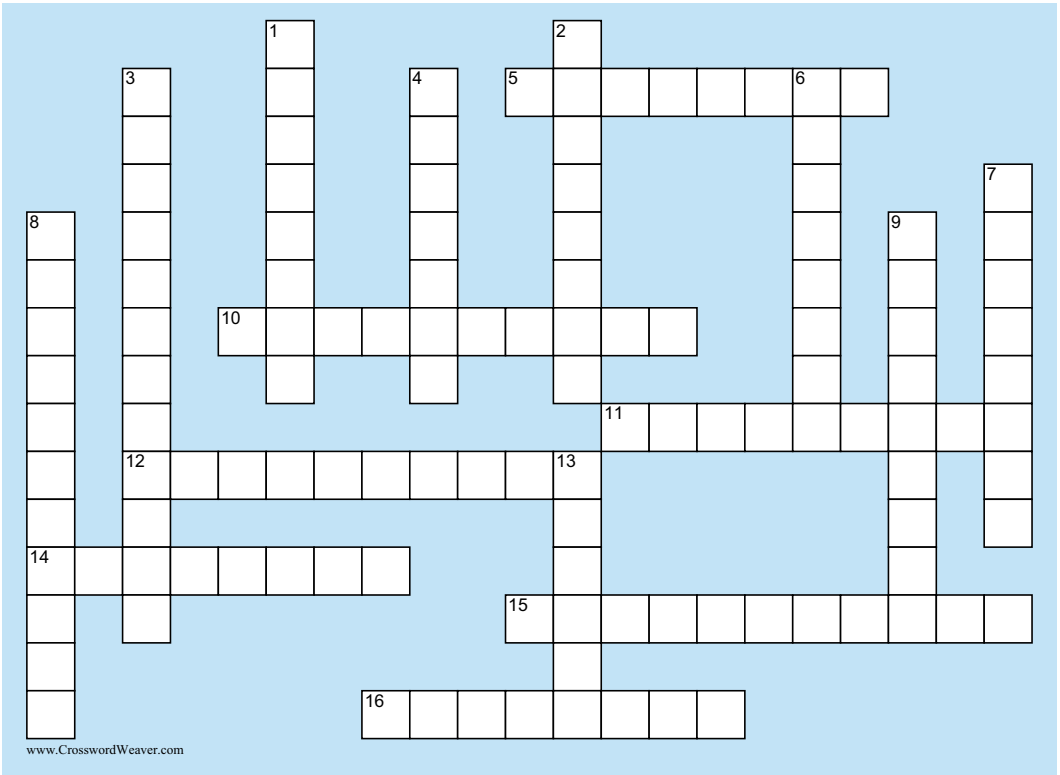
Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

SummerCrossword



Across

- 5 A quadrangle map in Moshannon State Forest
- 10 A stream worth the walk
- 11 A favorite creek in Union County
- 12 Oil field worker
- 14 First name of our intern (Wierman)
- 15 River that may be impaired
- 16 Sways side to side

Down

- 1 He authored the Wilderness Act
- 2 Nice place for a canoe trip in Northeastern Pennsylvania
- 3 A promontory along the Susquehanna
- 4 Metal emitted from power plants
- 6 Location of annual retreat
- 7 Honored Club Leader
- 8 A special kind of firefly
- 9 Chapter mining chair
- 13 Songbird threatened by shale gas drilling

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Answers can be found on Page 28