Upcoming Events:
Moshannon Group Priorities Meeting Saturday
February 23: 2 to 5 p.m.

Moshannon members will offer their ideas for priority conservation projects such as air quality monitoring hikes in State College or plastic bag ban, and priority administration projects. We will choose projects that our active members want to pursue. Help the executive committee to choose priority projects for 2019.

We will meet at Vice Chair’s home 201 West Aaron Square, Aaronsburg, PA in Penn’s Valley.

Home is at the hilltop in the village; a pumpkin color Brick House with a ramp out front, on right hand (south) side of Route 45.

PARKING is at the barn out back and at red brick UCC Church Parking lot, Behind Church, 2 doors down.

Drinks, Snacks and Facilitation will be provided.

Phone 349-5151

April 12 & 13: Banff Center Mountain Film Festival
at the State Theatre in State College
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Films start at 7 p.m.
Order your tickets soon before they sell out.


March 11 (Mon.) 7 – 9 p.m.
Scientist Elizabeth Crisfield will present details of the Wildlife Action Plan for the northeast at the Municipal Building in State College, 243 South Allen Street, Room 201.

“Our top threats of development, natural systems modification, pollution, invasive species, and wildlife diseases all have well developed conservation actions that are proven to reduce the stress on the ecosystem. But climate change amplifies the negative impact of these threats and makes the go-to actions less certain. In this presentation, we'll speak pragmatically about opportunities for wildlife stewardship under changing climate.”

The Last Straw Campaign:
The Moshannon Group is working on a campaign to limit the use of plastic straws. A straw may seem like a minor contributor to the plastic pollution crisis. Though they are small they have a huge detrimental impact on wildlife. We are asking restaurants that they only supply a straw upon request and to consider using non-plastic straws. We have contacted 200 restaurants in the Centre region and need help with follow up. If you can help, contact Kat Alden (contact information on page 4).

SKIP THE STRAW AND HELP SAVE THE PLANET ONE SIP AT A TIME!
MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR DOUGLAS MASON

It is humbling to accept a term as Chair of Moshannon Group, hoping I can follow faithfully in the steady paths set by Ernest Boyd, Gary Thornbloom and others who proceeded them. It is an honor that members re-elected me to the Executive Committee. Votes had barely been tallied and results just announced, at the beginning of our first meeting of 2019, when that team of dedicated environmentalists nominated, then voted me in to serve as Chair. I was, frankly, caught off guard, but I’m taking the challenge to move outside my comfort zone. I’m stepping up, and that’s what I want you to do, too.

Think about it ... there must be something extra you can contribute. Put up a yard sign or write a letter to the editor of your local paper to express an opinion concerning an environmental issue that concerns you. Join a local protest, even if the weather isn’t cooperating. Consider running for political office if you’re unhappy with one of your leaders, or find someone else who will. Let Moshannon’s Executive Committee know what’s going on in your area and what we can do to help out. We care about all the counties in our region, which is a band of central Pennsylvania stretching from the New York line to the Maryland border. I promise to answer every message I get through cyberspace and return any call you leave on my voicemail. I may make some blunders as I take on the responsibilities of this gig, but know that any mistakes I make will err on the side of Mother Earth. There’s much to be concerned about in 2019 but I haven’t lost faith in humanity’s ability to effect change. I believe in the power of coalitions and will network with other organizations knowing that together we can make a difference. The past year wasn’t a complete downer, There was a lot of serious, intraparty debate going on about issues like a carbon tax on Capital Hill, culminating in bipartisan sponsorship of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Contact your U.S. senators and representative to demand their support of such legislation. And let your congressperson know the House needs a new select committee to draft a Green New Deal. Voters in the 12th District should consider supporting Marc Friedenberg, who demonstrated a strong environmental ethic during his campaign to be the U.S. Representative last year. District 12 has an opportunity to vote for Friedenberg in the Special Election to replace Tom Marino on May 21st.

I am heartened that the youth of the Sunrise Movement are leading the charge on the Green New Deal. Working with students from Penn State EcoAction demonstrated to me that there are many passionate and competent hands out there ready to take the baton and lead us into the future with confidence. Just consider the 21 youth from my great
granddaughter's generation who are suing the federal government for its inaction on climate change.

Let’s not forget to thank our leaders when praise is due. Governor Tom Wolf just issued an executive order that sets the Keystone State on the road to hammering out a program to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Let him know you approve, even though it is not perfect, and nag state legislators until Pennsylvania joins the 20 other states that have already set targets. I was seething at Harrisburg when Senate Bill 652 was introduced last year, which would have made it a felony to assemble and protest at sites of “critical” infrastructure like pipelines. Fortunately, wisdom prevailed in the House, which tabled the offending piece.

I remember wondering what I can do to make a difference when I attended the first Earth Day events at Philadelphia's Belmont Plateau on April 22, 1970. I'm still pondering that question, but with your guidance, I think I'm on the right track. I dedicate my efforts to those around the planet who risk (and sometimes lose) their lives in the battle for a sustainable world. According to Global Witness, 83 environmental martyrs in 2018 made the ultimate sacrifice, most of them members of indigenous communities.

As 2018 came to an end, a 15-year-old student from Sweden caught the world’s attention at the United Nation’s climate summit in Katowice, Poland, with her call for youth to hold adults accountable for the environmental devastation that they created. In a fabulous example of synergy between young activists, Greta’s school strike (she sat in front of Swedish Parliament instead of going to school) was itself inspired by the walkouts initiated by the Parkland School shootings.

Greta Thunberg said to CNN:

“You say you love your children above all else and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes.”

At right: Students from throughout Europe protest in Brussels for action on climate change. One sign reads:

MAKE CLIMATE GREAT AGAIN!

Straws suck! Much of the harm that plastic straws pose is to aquatic life like sea turtles. But other creatures such as birds also suffer from these hollow and unnecessary menaces.

Plastic straws and food packaging are designed for our convenience and account for much of the plastic waste that is choking our oceans and endangering wildlife of all kinds.

Not convenient for our fellow creatures! SKIP THE STRAW!
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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* Indicates Executive Committee Members