

Whats New ...

WREN Awards 26 Grants

The Spring 2005 WREN grant applications were reviewed and 26 were selected for funding -- 14 in the Source Water Protection category and 12 to do Watershed Education for Pollution Prevention. For a listing of projects see pp 2-3.

DEP Funds Source Water Protection Projects

Six projects were awarded funding totaling \$489,000 for local source water protection activities according to a recent DEP release. Almost half of that amount, \$200,000, went to Stroudsburg Municipal Authority, in Monroe County, which uses both ground and surface water sources. Other projects funded were: in Allegheny County, Etna Borough - \$38,237 and Shaler Township - \$36,700; in Berks County, Kutztown Borough - \$78,690; in Lancaster County, Akron Borough - \$47,870; and in York County, Red Lion Municipal Authority - \$87,508. Additional grant awards from the 2004 applications will be announced in the next few months. For more information on the Source Water Protection grants program, contact John van Zant at DEP, jvanzant@state.pa.us.

WREN has a new URL

<http://wren.palwv.org>

**(But the old one still works
<http://pa.lwv.org/wren/>)**

WATERSHED ACADEMY FOCUSES ON STORMWATER

A collaboration between the PA Dept of Environmental Protection and the PA Environmental Council has led to a series of workshops on "Better Stormwater Management Through Site Design." The workshops feature speakers from Cahill Associates who will lead attendees through the process of designing and reviewing projects that incorporate best management practices that will protect water quality and quantity.

As municipalities and developers face the requirements of NPDES Phase II, which stem from the Clean Water Act and address nonpoint source pollution control both during and post construction, site design becomes paramount in controlling pollution. By looking at

the constraints of the site, and designing around those constraints, development can be planned so as to minimize its impact on surrounding water resources.

A workshop will be held in Williamsport, PA at the College of Technology on June 9. A second workshop is planned for Lancaster October 18-19. Additional workshops are planned for the spring of 2006. To learn more about the workshops, or to schedule one in your community, contact Erin Albright at PEC, ealbright@pecpa.org

A similar workshop will be held in November in Meadville sponsored by the French Creek Project with funding from a WREN 2005-2006 grant.

Meadville Area Water Authority Receives Governor's Award

Congratulations to the Meadville Area Water Authority (MAWA) on receipt of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for their educational programs.

MAWA's education and outreach program was designed to provide source water protection and conservation education to all of its customers by reaching out to all 6th grade students in its service area. MAWA received a WREN grant in 2003 which they used to sponsor a poster contest for sixth graders; winning artwork was featured on placemats and booklets about drinking water. They also provided educational resources to the public library and area schools.

The Authority received a second WREN grant in the most recent round. They plan to expand the current educational program to other groups and grade levels as well as the general public. Additional resources will be purchased and a coloring book developed to create awareness of good source water protection activities around the home.

MAWA is a public-private partnership that provides water service and fire protection to a population of 16,000 (5,400 customers). The water system is managed by American Water. For more information, contact Project Leader Yvonne Shaffer, yshafer@amwater.com

2005-2006 WREN FUNDED PROJECTS

Source Water Protection Projects

(funding provided by the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection thru the State Revolving Fund for Drinking Water as provided by the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996)

Ashland Area Municipal Authority, Schuylkill County; \$1600 to erect spill response signs along two major highways (Route 61 and Interstate 81) that pass through the watershed and distribute a brochure and newsletter about actions system users can take to protect the community's source water.. *Steve Ulceski, 570-875-2411, ashland@sunlink.net*

Claysville Donegal Joint Municipal Authority, Washington County; \$2950 to introduce source water protection education to area elementary students using a Talking About PA (TAP) Water Kit and coloring books and produce and distribute brochures to residents served by the Authority. *Peggy Hickman, 724-663-7770, cdjma@cobweb.net*

Dillsburg Area Authority, York County; \$2500 to design brochures about the importance of protecting the high quality groundwater which is used by the Authority for the community water system. *Sheldon K. Williams, 717-502-0431, skvdaa@adelphia.net*

East Greenville Borough Water Authority, Montgomery, Lehigh, Berks counties; \$4000 to introduce source water protection education to area elementary students using a Talking About PA (TAP) Water Kit, curriculum guides and a poster contest. The partnership will also produce a display board and brochure highlighting the authority's existing SWP efforts and ways the community can get involved with future efforts. *Jim Fry, 215-679-5194, egb@netcarrier.com*

Land Conservancy of Adams Co., Inc., Adams, Franklin, Cumberland counties; \$4250 to design and produce bill inserts, bookmarks, restaurant placemats, and a display to raise awareness of the importance of preventing contamination of the 7 groundwater wells and one surface water intake which comprise the Gettysburg Municipal Authority's public drinking water supply. The partnership will also install signs identifying the locations of the source water areas.. *Sidney E. Kuhn, 717-334-2828, skuhn@adamscounty.us*

Meadville Area Water Authority, Crawford County; \$4215 to develop a coloring book about good source water protection practices in the home, develop an on-site tour of the water treatment plant, including the use of educational models, produce a brochure identifying the source water protection area and provide educational materials to the public library and schools about SWP. *Yvonne Shaffer, 814-724-6057, yshaffer@amwater.com*

Octoraro Watershed Association, Lancaster, Chester and Cecil, MD counties; \$5000 to design, print and distribute a calendar which will provide information about agricultural best management practices which, when implemented, can prevent contamination of the source waters which provide the Chester Water Authority's drinking water supply. *Patrick Fusano, 717-529-2132, owa1@epix.net*

Pennsylvania Rural Water Education Foundation, Statewide; \$5000 to develop a Source Water Protection Activity workbook aimed at elementary to middle school age children covering both surface and groundwater. Once created, the Activity Workbook will be placed on CD_ROM and made available to communities embarking on SWP plan development. *Don Muir, 814-353-9302, dmuir@prwa.com*

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Montgomery, Bucks, Berks, Lehigh counties; \$5000 to hold Source Water Protection workshops emphasizing the source of local water supplies, challenges of maintaining a high quality supply, and the ways contaminants can be prevented from entering the water supply. Workshops will demonstrate ways citizens can use personal action to protect their drinking water. *Crystal Gilchrist, 610-287-9383, cgilchrist@perkiomenwatershed.org*

Roamingwood Sewer & Water Association, Wayne County; \$5000 to hold teacher and volunteer workshops, purchase groundwater simulators and EnviroScape models for the Association's speaker program, and produce large posters explaining the interaction between the water cycle and land use activities. The partnership will also distribute handouts and reference material to students and hold Triple E Award ceremony for teachers and students recognizing their efforts to educate about SWP. *Kevin Dunn, 570-698-4034, ownkvn@aol.com*

Stream Restoration Inc., Multiple (Western PA & Northern WV) counties; \$5000 to arrange for presentations, watershed related posters and displays, guided narration, and networking during the Ohio River Watershed Celebration River Cruise to educate about the importance of protecting Pittsburgh's and the region's source water. *Margaret Dunn, 724-776-0161, sri@streamrestorationinc.org*

Union City Municipal Authority, Erie County; \$2525 to design brochures, purchase models and establish an on-going water quality monitoring program in the area school to persuade students and parents to adopt behaviors that will prevent contamination of the community's water supply. *Marsha Tomcho, 814-392-5531, water@surferie.net*

Upper Dublin Environmental Protection Agency Board, Montgomery County; \$2960 to purchase a groundwater simulator for classroom instruction, hold a pamphlet design contest for senior high school students and select the three pamphlets which best describe the actions homeowners and businesses can take to protect the community's sources of drinking water. *Stanley Ropski, 215-643-8212, sjropski@aol.com*

Washington Twp. Supervisors, Westmoreland County; \$5000 to continue to produce newsletters, posters, brochures, and presentations for citizens of the Beaver Run Reservoir emphasizing the need to eliminate discharge points that lead to pollution of sources of the community's drinking water supply. *John Turack, 724-727-3515, jturack@washingtontownship.com*

Watershed Education Projects

(funding provided by PA Dept. of Environmental Protection Nonpoint Source Management Program thru Section 319 of the Clean Water Act)

Bedford Co. Conservation District, Bedford County; \$4705 to use newsletters, resources from the Master Well Owner Network, watershed and groundwater models, and table top displays to illustrate to citizens of the Six Mile Run and Bloody Run watersheds the negative impacts of nonpoint source pollution such as abandoned mine drainage and failing septic systems. Through a watershed festival and storm drain stenciling, the partnership will educate property owners about actions they can take to protect their water resources *Guy Stottlemeyer, 814-623-8099, gmstottlemeyer@earthlink.net*

Borough of Media, Delaware County; \$4000 to create and distribute customized educational packets aimed at homeowners, local officials, developers, realtors, and nurseries and how each can reduce nonpoint source pollution in Ridley Creek using tree and plant management techniques to control the amount and quality of stormwater runoff *Jeffrey Smith, 610-566-5210, asmith@dca.net*

Bradford Co. Conservation District, Bradford County; \$3500 to hold workshops and provide incentives to encourage homeowners to adopt proper on-lot septic system management practices which will result in decreased nonpoint source pollution in the Susquehanna River of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. *Mike Lovegreen, 570-265-5539, mike.lovegreen@pa.nacdnet.net*

Bucktail Watershed Association, Cameron County; \$4160 to design and distribute newspaper inserts, brochures, placemats and public service announcements focused on reducing nonpoint source pollution in the Sinnemahoning Creek with proper management of the forested areas and control of sedimentation from roads located in the First Fork and the Driftwood Branch of the creek. *Ken Straub, 814-486-0387, ken.straub@ntcac.org*

Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, Union, Centre counties; \$4500 to upgrade their website, produce and distribute newsletters, hold public events for residents of the watershed, and encourage creek property owners to plant riparian buffers so that nonpoint source pollution in the Buffalo Creek from erosion, agriculture and stormwater runoff can be reduced. *Allan Grundstrom, 570-524-0966, algrund@bucknell.edu*

Dublin Township Supervisors, Fulton County; \$4000 to assemble and distribute informational materials and provide a workshop and economic incentive to encourage homeowners to adopt proper on-lot septic system management practices which will result in decreased nonpoint source pollution in the Aughwick Creek. *Scott Alexander, 717-485-3547, scott_fccd@pa.net*

French Creek Project (PA Environmental Council), Erie, Crawford, Mercer & Venango counties; \$4871 to hold a "Better Stormwater Management Through Site Design" Workshop based on PA Dept of Environmental Protection's Stormwater Manual. The workshop, aimed especially at municipal officials, will use a Stormwater BMP demonstration site developed by the partnership. Armed with resources to adequately review and critique proposed land development projects within the watershed, nonpoint source pollution from stormwater within the French Creek watershed can be reduced. *Mark Gorman, 814-332-2946, mgorman@pecpa.org*

Huntingdon Co. Conservation District, Huntingdon & Centre counties; \$1395 to produce bookcovers for area school students in and surrounding the Spruce Creek watershed and hold a workshop designed to equip municipal officials with tools, including ordinance changes, to deal with nonpoint source pollution resulting from land development, agricultural enterprises and in-stream flow reductions from groundwater withdrawal from the high quality trout stream. *Andy Patterson, 814-627-1627, hccd@papower.net*

Lehigh County Conservation District, Lehigh County; \$5000 to organize the many recommendations from completed watershed assessments, community audits, comprehensive plans, and ordinance reviews into a format for use by decision makers in efforts to create public policies that will reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Leibert Creek Watershed. *Rebecca Hayden, 610-391-9583, rhayden@lehighconservation.org*

Pocono Environmental Education Center, Pike County; \$4500 to erect signage at the Center illustrating how best management practices to control stormwater will reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Delaware River. The partnership will also hold a workshop on best management practices for stormwater. *Erich Schramm, 570-828-2319, eschramm@peec.org*

Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation & Development Council, 10 counties in Northeast PA; \$5000 to publish and distribute a stormwater management handbook, develop a website, and host workshops focusing on best management practices aimed at local officials whose efforts include reducing nonpoint source pollution in streams and rivers located in the 10 county region. *Irvil Kear, 570-282-8732, icpmik@infionline.net*

Venango Conservation District, Venango County; \$4500 to hold stormdrain stenciling events and distribute doorhangers to show homeowners and the business community how adopting new behaviors can reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering the Oil Creek and the Allegheny River. *Lance A. Boves, 814-676-2832, lboves@conline.net*

WATER PLANNING PRIORITIES - WHAT ARE YOURS?

The Regional Water Resources committees established under Act 220, which was passed in 2002 and requires the development and periodic updating of a State Water Plan, have been meeting quarterly since October 2003. In the committees' first public outreach effort, hearings were held around the state this month to discuss "Regional Priorities" - issues they believe should be addressed for their region in the State Water Plan. Comments on the Draft Priorities will be accepted until June 30, 2005. At the August meetings each Regional Committee will select the provisions to be recommended as part of their regional plan component of the State Water Plan. Once the Regional Plan Components are drafted there will be another set of regional public meetings and hearings to solicit input on the drafts, possibly in early 2006.

An Act 220 State Water Plan Home Page on the DEP website, www.dep.state.pa.us keyword "Water Resources", contains summaries of the meetings held by the Statewide and Regional Committees and much background information about the State Water Plan process. Visit to learn the regional priorities proposed for your region and dates for the next meetings.

Resources ...

WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM - A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

Thinking of developing a guide to caring for local resources for your residents? Don't re-invent the wheel, start with this digital file, and modify it to fit your area. Developed first in Indiana, this 20 page guide was adapted to PA by the Fulton and Bedford counties conservation districts and the PA Chesapeake Bay Program Education Office. Available on the WREN website, <http://wren.palwv.org>, in the Library.

PATH TO PROTECTION - TEN STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

(The Trust for Public Lands, 2005, 23 pp) summarizes successful strategies from five source water protection demonstration projects funded by EPA. Available at http://www.tpl.org/download_path_2_protection.cfm

Conferences ...

June 8-10 Harrisburg, PA
***A Susquehanna Symposium:
Riverfront Communities - Flowing
With Potential***
Susquehanna River Basin Commission
and others.
Contact: sobleski@srbc.net

June 14-15 Bordentown, NJ
***The Practice of Restoring Native
Ecosystems*** Sponsored by the National
Arbor Day Foundation
For info www.arborday.org/RNEseminar

June 16-18 Johnstown, PA
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
***Mid-Atlantic Highlands Biodiversity:
Making the Connection in Your
Community*** For info, [http://
www.naturalbiodiversity.org/
conference.htm](http://www.naturalbiodiversity.org/conference.htm)

July 19-22 Williamsburg, VA
***Managing Watersheds for Human and
Natural Impacts: Engineering,
Ecological, and Economic Challenges***
American Society of Civil Engineers For
info, [http://www.asce.org/conferences/
watershedmanagement2005/](http://www.asce.org/conferences/watershedmanagement2005/)

July 27 Pittsburgh, PA
***4th Annual Ohio River Watershed
Celebration*** aboard the Gateway
Clipper Fleet's The Majestic. *Spon-
sored by the Slippery Rock Watershed
Coalition*
Contact: Margaret Dunn, 724-776-0161

LAND USE CURRICULUM FROM STATE PARKS

The Bureau of State Parks, part of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, has developed a land use curriculum for students in grades 6-12. **Pennsylvania Land Choices** helps teachers gain an understanding about land use and provides student activities that address land use laws, community planning tools, and the impacts of land use decisions on natural resources and public lands. The content and skills provided by the program address state and national academic standards.

Teacher training workshops are being offered by the Bureau of State Parks. To schedule a workshop, contact your local state park.

For more information contact Estelle Ruppert, PA Land Choices Coordinator, 717-772-1807, eruppert@state.pa.us. Or visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/
education](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/education) .

Visit
[http://wren.palwv.org/
products/](http://wren.palwv.org/products/)
**Brochures, placemats, signs
and more from local projects
for you to borrow and make
your own.**

June 9-10
Allenberry, PA
***WREN Orientation &
Wrap-Up Meeting***
sherenehess@yourinter.net

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The WREN project provides funding for local groups engaged in water education projects and communications links between groups and individuals interested in improving local policy making for water resource protection. Local and statewide activities that focus on water resource education will be highlighted in each issue of **Water Policy News**.

Articles about water education activities are solicited from the readers of Water Policy News. Send newsletter items to Editor: Edith Stevens, RR 1, Box 1550, Cresco, PA 18326, estevens@ptd.net.

To receive this free newsletter or inquire about the resources available from the WREN Project, visit <http://wren.palwv.org>, or call the LWVPA at 1-800-692-7281 or write them at 226 Forster St., Harrisburg, PA 17102. Please send address changes to the LWVPA office.

LWVPA-CEF
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Harrisburg, PA 17102-3220

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