

What's New ...

Fall SWP Workshops Planned

WREN's Julie Kollar will be presenting another series of Source Water Protection workshops this Fall, in partnership with PA Rural Water Association, at the following locations:

Nov 1 **Hawley, PA**
PPL Environmental Learning Center
Hosted by Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Nov 3 **Gettysburg, PA**
Adams County Agricultural & Natural Resources Center

Hosted by Land Conservancy of Adams County

Workshops will run from 1:15 - 4:45 PM; They are free, open to the public, and are especially useful for municipal officials. They are also approved by DEP for 3.5 Contact Hours for eligible water system operators. Workshops will be presented later in November in Indiana and Delaware counties. For more info, visit www.drinkingwaterwise.org.

New DEP SWP Program in '06

In place of Source Water Protection grants in 2006, DEP is developing a new assistance program which they hope will allow them to help more water suppliers interested in doing source water protection. That program should be announced in 6 to 9 months. However, any source water protection grant application already in the review process (submitted in the 2005 grant round or before) will be reviewed and awarded under the original grant guidelines.

For more info, contact John vanZant, 717-772-4048 or jvanzant@state.pa.us.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION EDUCATOR HIRED

In what may be a "first" in Pennsylvania, the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority has hired a "Source Water Protection Educator." Theresa Merli, who also serves as President of the Brodhead Watershed Association, started the job in September.

"That title is a mouthful, for sure," Merli said. "But the work is truly exciting. It's about educating the public about water in the Brodhead Watershed. Where that tap water we take for granted comes from, how easily it can be contaminated – and how it can be protected – this is where I'll start."

The Brodhead Creek Regional Authority is responsible for supplying water to 25,000 people in the borough of Stroudsburg, and surrounding areas. The Authority draws water from the Brodhead Creek to supply its customers, and everything that happens upstream – from accidental spills and industrial discharges to stormwater runoff and faulty septic systems – can quickly compromise the creek's quality.

Merli's job (a part-time, five-year position funded by a Source Water Protection grant from the Department of Environmental Protection) is to convey as widely and forcefully as possible the message that ground water and surface water are important, limited, and fragile, and it's everyone's job to protect them.

Until recently, the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA), was known as Stroudsburg Municipal Authority. The name change, Brown said, was intended to make clearer the connection between the Brodhead watershed and the water that comes out of the taps in thousands of

homes. "Up in the mountain towns, what people do there affects the quality of the water that we have to work with here, 10 or more miles downstream," Brown said. "That's why we're excited about this new position and Theresa's role – she will be someone people can look to for help, advice, and techniques for protecting water. Pure clean water is something we can all agree is important."

Merli will work with schools, municipal officials and zoning officers, industry, realtors, builders, new homeowners, homeowner associations, and other "stakeholders" to help them understand how actions they take can help – or harm – the environment and water supplies. "The idea is to offer help, be a resource, for folks everywhere in the watershed on anything and everything to do with ground water and surface water," she said. For more information, you can reach Merli at the water authority 570-421-3232.

Many other water suppliers do plenty of education, carried out by staff members with a different title. For example Liesel Smull at Lehigh County Authority has the title of Public Relations Coordinator but also coordinates the very successful Hydromania water festival each year. And at the Meadville Area Water Authority, Office Manager Yvonne Shaffer has developed an award winning education program for 6th graders, "by accident." Yvonne gives presentations at local schools complete with hands-on activities and models of the water distribution system, built by workers at the Authority.

Groundwater model

Groundwater models are popular teaching tools. Roamingwood Sewer and Water Association is working with this model's developer, Dr. Richard Passero, to build models that reflect actual geologic conditions in their area. For information, contact Kevin Dunn, 570-698-4034, ownkvn@aol.com

Water meter model

Curb stop model

Meadville Area Water Authority workers built a water meter model (top) and a "curb stop" model for Yvonne Shaffer to use when she makes presentations at schools. For info, 814-724-6057, ysbaffer@amvwater.com

Northern York display

WREN has funded a number of displays used by local groups at community events. Here the Northern York Water Resources Protection Project gives information on protecting drinking water sources.

GROWING GREENER BOND ISSUE LEGISLATION SIGNED

In July, Governor Rendell signed a bill (HB 3, now Act 45 of 2005) to distribute the \$625 million bond issue approved by the voters in May. The money will be borrowed over six years and will be split between agencies:

\$250 million to Department of Environmental Protection for mine cleanups, watershed protection, energy projects and brownfield remediation;

\$217.5 million to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for improvements to state parks and forests and open space conservation;

\$80 million to the Agriculture Department for farmland preservation;

\$50 million to Dept of Community and Economic Development for downtown redevelopment projects;

\$27.5 million to PA Fish and Boat Commission for improvement to its facilities;

\$20 million to the Game Commission for improvement to its facilities.

Of the money earmarked for the four departments, \$80 million is reserved for projects designated by counties -- county allocations will range from \$1 million to \$2.7 million depending on their population.

MUNICIPALITIES CAN FUND WATERSHED ASSOCIATIONS

Three bills signed into law on July 5, and effective September 5, make it possible for municipalities to appropriate funds to watershed associations. Acts 11, 13 and 14 of 2005 amend the 2nd class township, borough and 1st class township codes respectively to make the funding possible. The only restriction on the funding is that it cannot be used to litigate against the municipality.

NUTRIENT TRADING POLICY PUBLISHED

Governor Rendell has introduced a nutrient and sediment-trading policy designed to help farmers, communities and industry meet and exceed state and federal water quality goals. Trading has long been a staple of state and federal air quality programs — Pennsylvania is among the first to apply this strategy to water quality.

The trading policy and specifics of how the program will work (Appendix A) were published on the Oct 1 PA Bulletin (www.pabulletin.com). Publication of the documents starts a 45 day comment period.

PA has started to include nutrient limits in point source discharges (NPDES permits) in order to meet the state's obligations to reduce nutrient loading to the Chesapeake Bay. Nutrient trading should help the state implement its Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy of reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus reaching the Bay. Several streams within Pennsylvania's portion of the Bay basin suffer from elevated nitrate levels threatening drinking water supplies.

Resources ...

COMMUNITY-BASED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK - Lessons from the National Estuary Program

(US EPA, EPA-842-B-05-003, 2005, 112 pp)
Information for all watershed managers on successful techniques learned from the National Estuary Programs. The NEPs have succeeded because they focus on the watershed, use science to inform decision-making, emphasize collaborative problem solving, and involve the public. Available from National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) at 513-489-8190 or 800-490-9198 or email:

ncepimal@one.net. Or, download at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/nepprimer/documents/NEPPrimer.pdf>

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO DAM REMOVAL MONITORING AND RESTORATION

(PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers, 2005, 36 pp). Available on-line at <http://www.pawatersheds.org/damguide.asp> or request a hard copy by email to info@pawatersheds.org

DAYLIGHTING BURIED

STREAMS (Rocky Mountain Institute, 2000, 64 pp, \$12)
To "daylight" is to expose formerly culverted or buried streams. This report reviews daylighting benefits, challenges, and costs, and includes case studies of several dozen projects. Available from the Bookstore at www.rmi.org.

BETTER MODELS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA — IDEAS FOR CREATING MORE LIVABLE AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

(Conservation Fund, 2005, 144 pp) information on six principles for better development; a helpful tool for local government officials as they plan their communities' future. Available for \$15 from

www.conservationfund.org or download at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/2005/BetterModels.pdf>

METHODS TO DEVELOP RESTORATION PLANS FOR SMALL URBAN WATERSHEDS

(Center for Watershed Protection, 2005)
Manual 2 of the 11-manual Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series contains detailed guidance on how to put together an effective plan to restore urban subwatersheds. Available from CWP Publications Store, USRM section, www.cwp.org
·Pre-order your hard copy for \$40
·Download the PDF file copy for \$35
·Order the Manual 2 Bundle containing both the file and hard copy - \$50.
Questions? Contact Jessica Brooks at jeb@cwp.org/410.461.8323.

VALUING DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER TECHNOLOGIES: A CATALOG OF BENEFITS, COSTS, AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES (Rocky Mountain Institute, W04-21, 2004, 215 pp) (PDF-2.1MB)
This report was prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It reviews the full range of benefits and costs of decentralized wastewater systems relative to conventional centralized systems, and discusses techniques for valuation of the economic benefits of decentralized systems

CASE STUDIES OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND COMMUNITY DECISION MAKING FOR DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER SYSTEMS (Rocky Mountain Institute, W04-20, 2004, pp) (PDF-2.5MB)

This report was developed with the National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development Project. It examines how communities consider and value the benefits and costs of onsite, cluster, and centralized wastewater system options in monetary or other terms, and examines the driving issues, motivations, thought processes, and decision-making methods of stakeholders relative to choices of wastewater system scale.

Rocky Mountain Institute pubs can be downloaded from the Library - water at www.rmi.org

On The Web ...

www.stormwater.ucf.edu

"Managed Stormwater is Good Water"

University of Central Florida's stormwater website. Check out the Stormwater Education Toolkit; it contains thousands of educational products organized by target audience.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CD-ROM available free from the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA), in partnership with the American Public Works Association (APWA), hosted a webcast in April 2005 called "Environmental Management Systems: A Powerful Tool to Help Local Government Managers and Public Works Directors Minimize Environmental Liability, Increase Efficiency, and Improve Financial Health." The webcast demonstrated how local governments have successfully implemented environmental management systems (EMS) and highlighted the benefits that were achieved. A multimedia CD-ROM recording of that webcast is now available. Visit: <http://lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=925>

The March/April 2005 issue of *Stormwater Magazine* features an article on porous pavement.

http://www.stormh2o.com/sw_0503_advances.html

The May/June issue features an article on municipal use of stormwater runoff

http://www.stormh2o.com/sw_0505_municipal.html

<http://www.pawatersheds.org/funding.asp>

PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) has an excellent grants page on its website.

Conferences ...

October 5 Wrightsville, PA
Oct. 6 Towanda, PA

Susquehanna River Basin Streamside Cleanup Training Academy

Sponsored by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Visit: <http://srbc.net/sc-training.htm>

October 9-11 Bethlehem, PA

Preserving the Past, Planning the Future - PA Planning Association Annual Conference.

Visit:

www.planningpa.org

October 11-13 Villanova, PA

2005 PA Stormwater Management Symposium

Visit: <http://www3.villanova.edu/VUSP/>

Visit: <http://www3.villanova.edu/VUSP/>

October 17-20 State College, PA

GIS for Local Government

Sponsored by PSU and PRWA

Visit: <http://lal.cas.psu.edu/>

October 19 Manheim, PA

Better Stormwater Management Through Site Design

Sponsored by PA DEP and PA Environmental Council

Info: ealbright@pecpa.org

October 18-20 Chicago, IL

4th National Conference on Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Pollution Education Programs

Cosponsored by Chicago Botanic Garden & U.S. EPA. Visit: www.chicagobotanic.org/aquatics/nonpoint

Visit: www.chicagobotanic.org/aquatics/nonpoint

October 18-19 State College, PA

16th Annual Conference of the PA Lake Management Society

Visit: <http://www.palakes.org/calendar.htm>

October 24 Harrisburg, PA

Sewage Facilities and Land Use: Collaborating for a Sustainable Future

Sponsored by Environmental Law Institute and others

Contact Sarah Wu, 202.939.3822, email:

wu@eli.org or visit: <http://www2.eli.org/research/pennplan/index.htm>

Oct 29-Nov 2 Washington, DC

The Water Quality Event - 2005 Water Environment Foundation conference

Visit: <http://www.weftec.org/>

November 2-4 Nebraska City, NE

Coming Together for Groundwater: Science, Technology and Practice -- Annual Groundwater Foundation Conference

Visit: www.groundwaterfoundation.org/pe/conference/conference.html

November 4-5 Canaan Valley, WV

Region 3 Volunteer Monitoring Conference -- Citizen Scientists Involved in the Watershed

Visit: www.wvca.us/workshops/vmc/

November 7-10 Seattle, WA

AWRA Annual Conference

Visit: www.awra.org/meetings/Seattle2005/index.html

November 15-17 Lansdowne, VA

Stormwater Institute

developed specifically for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community stormwater professional.

Visit: www.cwp.org

March 24-26, 2006 Ligonier, PA

PA Alliance For Environmental Education Annual Conference

Visit: www.pace.net

**It's not too soon
to think about
your 2006 WREN grant
application!**

Visit www.palww.org/wren

Water Policy News is published three times a year by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund for the Water Resources Education Network (WREN) Project. Funds for **Water Policy News** and the WREN Project are provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

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.palww.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
226 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102-3220

Address Service Requested

Pennsylvania Water Resources Education Network
<http://wren.palww.org/> & www.drinkingwaterwise.org

Water POLICY NEWS

October 2005

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 420
Harrisburg, PA