

What's New ...

SCHOOLS AS PARTNERS FOR WATER QUALITY SOLUTIONS

Educational institutions often own large parcels of land with expansive parking lots and can impact hundreds or thousand of acres within a watershed. Also, many school districts are undergoing constant growth, with the accompanying increases in impervious surface area.

Schools should have a vested interest in demonstrating community leadership by installing water quality solutions and involving students in real-world outdoor learning opportunities. When schools enact beneficial practices, major water quality improvements and continuing community education may result. Also, local school demonstration projects provide great opportunities for local officials to see on-the-ground projects under local conditions

Pennsylvania educational institutions represent a terrific "incubator" for putting water quality ideas into action. Universities have led successful implementation projects on campuses including Ursinus and Villanova University. Penn State, at its State College campus, has installed a variety of BMPs including raingardens and pervious paving.

Enlisting your local schools or college as a partner in your educational project will multiply benefits. For examples of schools as BMP incubators, contact juliek@voicenet.com.

Lake Elementary Students Celebrate National Drinking Water Week, May 8-13



Western Wayne Lake Elementary School 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades participated in a 'Water in Poetry' event sponsored by the Roamingwood Sewer and Water Association. The top three at each grade level were awarded a \$100, \$75 or \$50 savings bond. All the students and teachers participating received a Triple E certificate for their 'Extra Environmental Efforts'. Congratulations to the students of Lake Elementary for a job well done!

Wadeable Streams Assessment Completed

EPA has released its Wadeable Streams Assessment (WSA), the first consistent evaluation of the streams that feed rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. "Wadeable streams" are those which are shallow enough to be adequately sampled without a boat. They are essential natural resources that have been under-sampled in the past.

Conducted between 2000 and 2004, the study was based on sampling at 1,392 sites selected to represent the condition of all streams that share similar ecological characteristics in various regions.

The survey found that stream conditions vary widely across the

diverse ecological regions of the country, and that streams in the West were in the best condition. The most widespread stressors observed are nitrogen, phosphorus, and streambed sediments, which smother aquatic habitat and degrade conditions for fish. Nitrogen and phosphorus are nutrients that can increase the growth of algae, decrease levels of dissolved oxygen and cloud the water.

The draft Wadeable Streams Assessment report is available for public review and comment. Comment deadline is June 30. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/owow/streamsurvey/> for more information.

2006-2007 WREN FUNDED PROJECTS

Source Water Protection (SWP) Projects

(funding provided by the PA Dept of Environmental Protection by virtue of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, section 1452 - State Revolving Loan Fund for Drinking Water SWP)

Altoona City Authority, Blair Co, \$5000, will partner with Blair County Conservation District to present a Blair County Water Festival in May 2007, visit elementary schools and participate in Altoona Curve Baseball School Kids' Days with an educational display promoting source water protection awareness and water conservation in the Juniata River watershed. Tobias Nagle, acalab1@atlanticbbs.net.

Ashland Area Municipal Authority, Schuylkill Co, \$5000, will install two Spill Response signs on I-81 in a Mahanoy Creek watershed area that contains source waters for five water systems and hold a meeting with local emergency response departments on accident clean-up in the source water area. Steve Ulceski, ulceski@verizon.net.

Bedford Borough Water Authority, Bedford Co, Somerset Co, \$1200, will implement parts of their Source Water Protection Plan through installation of 6 Water Supply Area signs and distribution of Source Water Protection brochures to residents of the Raystown Branch Juniata River Watershed. John Montgomery, jlm1975@earthlink.net.

Berks County Conservation District, Berks Co, \$4800, will develop a calendar that each month will highlight a different Best Management Practice installed at a Berks County farm, business or water supplier in the Maiden Creek and other watersheds in the County. With illustrations and pictures about protecting drinking water supplies, the calendar, along with the District's website, will be a tool for agricultural organizations and government agencies to educate citizens about source water protection. Lyn O'Hare, cohare@countyofberks.com.

Canton Borough Authority, Bradford Co, \$1450, will install Water Supply signs for their wellhead protection area and purchase educational materials (TAPWater kit) for use by area schools in the Towanda Creek watershed. Lester Hilfiger, cantonba@frontiernet.net.

Clymer Borough Municipal Authority, Indiana Co, \$1550, will educate students in the Two Lick Creek watershed using a TAPWater kit, sponsor a placemat design contest, and develop a public outreach program that includes a community event display and distribution of the winning placemats to area restaurants. Jan Gallo, cbma1@verizon.net.

Johnsonburg Municipal Authority, Elk, McKean Co, \$2000, will begin implementing the education component of their Source Water Protection Plan with installation of five Water Supply Area signs and printing and distributing Source Water Protection brochures in the Upper Clarion River watershed. James DeAngelo, jmawater@ncentral.com.

Mountain Watershed Association, Inc., Westmoreland, Fayette Co, \$5000, will expand their use of the national "Trips for Kids" program to introduce children to mountain biking while they learn about things they can do to protect the Indian Creek watershed and the sources that provide their drinking water. Beverly Braverman, mtwatershed@lhct.net, mwa@helicon.net.

Riegelsville Borough, Bucks Co, \$2800, will conduct an education and outreach program to implement their Source Water Protection Plan for groundwater in the Riegelsville area including placemats, brochures, a display and information on the borough website. Tammy Macaluso, riegelsville@verizon.net.

Roamingwood Sewer & Water Association, Wayne Co, \$4226, will design and administer two 32-hour workshops along with Lacawac Sanctuary for teachers in the Wallenpaupack Creek watershed based on the TAPWater kit and program. Workshop objectives include equipping teachers with tools and resources for shaping groundwater protection lessons in their schools. Kevin Dunn, Janice Poppich, ownkvn@aol.com.

Southeast Project Grass, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill Co, \$4950, will develop a 12-month Grazing and Pasture Management Planner illustrating Best Management Practices of pasture management that have been shown to be effective at lowering risks of pollution to drinking water supplies. With dates for implementing BMPs included along with pictures, this project will provide source water protection education in Delaware and Susquehanna watersheds. Dan Ludwig, dan.ludwig@pa.usda.gov.

Stewartstown Borough, York Co, \$1450, will implement portions of their Source Water Protection Plan with a storm drain-marking program that includes door hangers to provide additional information on drinking water protection in the Borough and Hopewell Township in York County. Robert Hunt, swdept@stewartstown.org.

Terre Hill Borough, Lancaster Co, \$5000, will implement a wellhead protection program with Blue Ball Water Authority for groundwater in Terre Hill and East Earl Township area through a school education program and a public outreach program using a TAPWater kit and groundwater flow model to train teachers. The project will also sponsor a placemat/poster contest, install six Water Supply Area signs, design an educational brochure, and distribute the winning placemats to area restaurants. Robert Rissler, pwsbob@terrehillboro.com.

Union City Municipal Authority, Erie Co, \$4036, will use educational tools such as TAPWater Kit and EnviroScape Model to educate attendees at The Gathering at French Creek about protecting the drinking water supplies in the French Creek and Laurel Run watersheds. The project will also host a children's poster contest and design and distribute an educational brochure to residents. Marsha Tomcho, water@surferie.net.

Volant Borough, Lawrence Co, \$1950, will implement part of their Wellhead Protection Program through a professionally designed display describing the local groundwater supply and the Neshannock Creek Watershed and how people can help protect water supplies in the area. The display will be placed near public restrooms in a community park where tourist traffic is high. Jeff Staul, jhstaul@hotmail.com.

Watershed Protection Projects

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

Alliance for a Sustainable Future, Montgomery Co, \$5000, will work with three municipalities to install stream crossing signs, distribute education and free tree assessments to stream-side property owners, and arrange for community wide education about what homeowners and businesses can do to keep nonpoint source pollution out of creeks and open waters in the Wissahickon Valley watershed. Susan Curry, susc Curry@comcast.net.

Clearfield County Conservation District, Clearfield Co, \$1680, will orchestrate a "Conservation Celebration" which will include a run-bike-canoe triathlon and a festival promoting outdoor activities to educate Clearfield County citizens about the role they can play in protecting and restoring local streams and rivers, including the west branch of the Susquehanna. Rachel Kester, rkesterccd@atlanticbbn.net.

Dauphin County Conservation District, Dauphin Co, \$5000, will equip municipal officials in the county with the tools and knowledge to make decisions related to development and stormwater management which will prevent nonpoint source pollution from reaching the county's rivers and streams. Andrew McAllister, amcallisterdccd@pa.net.

Erie County Conservation District, Erie Co, \$5000, will build an outdoor "micro-watershed" demonstrating all the major causes of nonpoint source pollution such as agricultural operations and failing septic systems and how citizens and officials can work together to prevent pollution from entering Mill Creek. Brian Zeppenfeld, bzeppenfeld@adelphia.net.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, Cambria, Somerset Co, \$5000, will implement portions of the Paint Creek Restoration Plan by using the monitoring data collected by the Water Monitoring Committee in initiatives to educate citizens in the community about abandoned mine drainage and how data can be used to evaluate and prioritize Paint Creek watershed cleanup projects. Melissa Reckner, mreckner@kcstreamteam.org.

Lower Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association, Susquehanna, Wyoming Co, \$2170, will show how development and changing land uses in the Tunkhannock Creek watershed can cause nonpoint source pollution in local waters. Using photographs, data, and presentations, the project will educate how citizens and officials can work

together on practices and policies that can be implemented to reduce pollution in the watershed. Robert Daniels, rbobio@epix.net.

Luzerne Conservation District, Luzerne Co, \$5000, will hold workshops to demonstrate how homeowners can reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay Watershed by maintaining "backyard conservation" measures such as rainbarrels and alternate methods of landscaping, including watergardens and stormwater wetlands. Shawn Rybka, s.rybka@luzernecd.org.

Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association Inc., Sullivan, Wyoming, Bradford, Luzerne Co, \$1550, will provide information to the community about stream restoration efforts intended to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Mehoopany Creek and educate landowners and local officials about using natural stream design principles to manage their properties in a way that reduces sedimentation and water flow speed in the Mehoopany Creek. Lars Lundin, lundin2015@epix.net.

Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition, Center, Clearfield Co, \$5000, will design a newspaper insert about acid mine drainage and the devastating effects this nonpoint source pollution has had on the Moshannon Creek. By placing the insert in several area newspapers, citizens will learn how they can support officials looking to initiate and finance restoration efforts. Art Beveridge, ascotchman@iqnetsys.net.

Northampton County Conservation District, Northampton, Lehigh Co, \$5000, will coordinate and conduct the 2006 Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference, a forum for individuals, watershed protection organizations and municipal officials that will equip participants with resources and tools to address nonpoint source pollution in the watersheds of the Lehigh Valley. Kate Brandes, kate-brandes@pa.nacdnet.org.

Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc., Delaware Co, \$5000, will hold workshops for homeowners and businesses of Radnor and Upper Providence Townships illustrating how rain gardens and rain barrels can lower the amount of stormwater runoff during rain events and significantly curtail the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering the Darby Creek, Ridley Creek, and Crum Creek. Sue Cochrane, cochrane@prc.org.

Peters Creek Watershed Association, Inc., Allegheny, Washington Co, \$4600, will use written materials, interpretive signage, and web-based educational programs to instill in the citizens of Peters Creek watershed an incentive to adopt behaviors and encourage local policies that will reduce nonpoint source pollution in Peters Creek. Tim Schumann, peterscreekwsa@verizon.net.

SEE YOU ALL AT ALTOONA!
JUNE 15-16

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Water POLICY NEWS Spring 2006

Resources . . .

June 14-16 Branchville, NJ
**Stream Restoration and Protection
in the Mid-Atlantic Region**

Sponsored by the DE, NY, NJ and PA sections of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA)
More info at www.awra.org/state/new_jersey/mac2006
or email khale@rارانbasin.org.

June 15-16 Altoona, PA
WREN Orientation Meeting

For information contact: Sherene Hess
sherenehess@yourinter.net

June 26-28 Missoula, MT
**Adaptive Management of Water
Resources - AWRA Summer Speciality
Conference**

Visit: www.awra.org

June 28 Bethlehem, PA
**WREN Source Water Protection
Workshop**

Approved by DEP for 3.5 Contact Hours for Water System Operators
Visit: www.drinkingwaterwise.org

August 28-30 Denver, CO
**Wastewater Treatment Through
Integrated Watershed Management**

NOWRA Annual Conference
Visit: www.nowra.org

Sept 30-Oct 5 Miami, FL

**Ground Water Awareness: A Call
to Action 2006 Annual Forum of
the Ground Water Protection Council**
co-sponsored by US EPA and others
Visit: www.gwpc.org

October 12 Pottstown, PA
Monitoring Matters

Sponsored by the Schuylkill Action Network
Details soon at:
www.schuylkillactionnetwork.org

October 23-26 Columbus, OH
2006 Watershed Institute

Sponsored by the Center for Watershed Protection and River Network
Contact Rebecca Winer, Center for Watershed Protection, 410-461-8323;
email: rrw@cwpc.org

November 1-3 Lansing, MI
**2006 Groundwater Foundation
Conference**

Details soon at www.groundwater.org

November 6-9 Baltimore, MD
**Community, Conversation, Con-
nections - AWRA Annual Water
Resources Conference**

For more information, contact Terry Meyer, 540-687-8390, terry@awra.org
Visit: <http://www.awra.org>

Save the Date
June 15-16
WREN
Wrap-Up/Orientation Meeting
Altoona, PA

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.