

WREN E-News

April 2009

A monthly Update from the **Water Resources Education Network**

a project of the League of Women Voters of PA - Citizen Education Fund

In this issue

[April Feature is Posted](#)

[Federal Stimulus Money for Green Projects](#)

[Professional Geologists](#)

[USGS Study of Private Wells](#)

[EPA "Healthy Watersheds" Initiative](#)

[National Drinking Water Week](#)

[WREN Offers Opportunity Grants](#)

April WREN Feature - Meadville Area Water Authority Receives Award

Meadville Area Water Authority has received the 2009 Source Water System of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association.

Federal Stimulus Money for Green Projects

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and PA Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) are sponsoring a webinar on April 20th focused on the portion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds that are distributed through the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, with specific attention to the Green Project Reserve (GPR) component.

The April 20, 2009 webinar will be held at 2PM. The goal of the program will be to provide participants a walk through of how to complete the computer-based PENNVEST application for funding. Pre-Registration is not necessary, but in order to participate an entity will need to obtain a (free) "Friends of Penn State Account."

Obtain a Friends of Penn State Account at: <https://breeze.psu.edu/AgEnvPartnership>. Follow the directions listed under "Enter as a Guest."

Participants are encouraged to set up the Friends of Penn State Account prior to the webinar session so that you can easily sign on at the meeting time. On the day of the webinar, go to <https://breeze.psu.edu/AgEnvPartnership> and sign on using your Penn State user ID and password.

The application and other details for GPR can be found on the PENNVEST website under "What's Hot". <http://www.pennvest.state.pa.us/pennvest/cwp/view.asp?Q=220524&A=95>

PA Professional Geologists Marcellus Shale Program May 6

The PA Council of Professional Geologists will hold an Introduction to Marcellus Shale educational program on May 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Inn at Chester Springs in Exton, PA.

The 2-hour program is intended to provide a basic primer on key concepts and issues, including anticipated environmental concerns, related to the exploration and drilling of the Marcellus Shale.

The presenter will be Valerie Holliday, founder of Geo-Logos, LLC, a geologic consulting firm located in Berwyn, Pa, with at least 21 years of experience as a petroleum geologist.

For more information, visit the [PCPG website](#)

USGS Study of Private Wells

A recent study by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) found that over 20% of the private wells sampled contained at least one contaminant at levels of concern for potential health issues. Most of the contaminants came from natural geological sources in the aquifers, such as radon and arsenic, but some were from human sources, including nitrate from fertilizer application.

Access the Report on the [USGS website](#) or in the [WREN Library](#).

For the Pennsylvania picture check out: ***Drinking Water Quality in Rural Pennsylvania and the Effect of Management Practices*** in the [WREN Library](#)

EPA Launches "Healthy Watersheds" Initiative and Web Site

EPA has launched a new initiative called "Healthy Watersheds" that emphasizes protection and conservation of aquatic ecosystems. The initiative is being introduced on a new Web site, www.epa.gov/healthywatersheds, which provides tools to identify and protect healthy watersheds and their components.

The Healthy Watersheds Approach addresses the watershed as a system of biota and habitats that are driven by critical processes such as hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, and natural disturbance regimes. Programs that protect and restore aquatic ecosystems are most effective when they recognize and integrate these dynamics and manage watersheds as systems.

National Drinking Water Week is May 3-9, 2009.

Plan an activity with your public water supplier, something as simple as a newspaper ad. Visit American Water Works Association [Drinking Water Week](#) website to see what they offer. Apply for a WREN Opportunity Grant to cover the cost.

WREN Offers Opportunity Grants

A small amount of funding is available for WREN Opportunity Grants -- grants to community groups to carry out local education projects. Projects must be related to Source Water Protection and must be completed by June 30, 2009. Maximum funding per project is \$300. Learn more at wren.palwv.org/grants

Quick Links...

Register for the [April 22 Drinking Water Protection Workshop](#) in Charleroi, PA

WREN Opportunity Grants <http://wren.palwv.org/grants>

WREN's Water [Calender](#)

WREN websites: <http://wren.palwv.org> and www.drinkingwaterwise.org