

LANCASTER COUNTY WATERSHED

NEWSLETTER

www.lancasterwatersheds.org



August 2010

Please enjoy the latest edition of the **Lancaster County Watershed Newsletter**. Once again, the purpose of this newsletter is to better inform watershed/ conservation organizations, volunteers, municipalities, citizens, and those concerned about the water resources of Lancaster County. Please feel free to forward the [Watershed Newsletter](#) to others within your group or anyone with an interest in watersheds.



LOCAL NEWS



Lancaster Barnstormers Game to Benefit Local Youth

Conservation School – The Lancaster Barnstormers and the PA Game Commission are sponsoring a **Youth Hunter Appreciation Night on Tuesday, August 31st (Game time 6:30PM)**. Proceeds from tickets sales will go to the Lancaster Federated Sportsmen for the club's Youth Field Day and Conservation Camp. Special Events planned for this evening include fluorescent orange baseball caps for the first 2,000 kids 16 and under, learn to shoot a bow and arrow, Laser Shot and Beam Hit shooting simulator games, lots of giveaways, and the always popular dollar dog night (hot dogs \$1). In order for the proceeds of your tickets to go the Federation you need to purchase tickets on line at www.pgc.state.pa.us keyword 'Hunter'. Look for the Lancaster Barnstormers tab and follow the directions. Tickets are \$10 each but \$4 will be donated to the local sportsmen's clubs for their youth programs.



TreeVitalize Streams Riparian Forest Buffer Workshop

– The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, DCNR's TreeVitalize Program, Pennsylvania DEP, and the Lancaster County Conservation District are sponsoring a **FREE** workshop for community groups and municipal leaders who want to learn more about how to plan, plant, protect and pay for forested riparian buffers in their watershed. This **FREE** workshop will take place on **Wednesday, September 22nd at the Farm & Home Center (1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster) from**

9AM to noon. For more information or to register contact Matthew Kofroth at (717) 299-5361 ext 124 or matt.kofroth@pa.nacdnet.net.

(StreamVitalize, is the riparian component of the TreeVitalize program, a statewide public-private partnership led by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and is designed and implemented by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay through funds awarded by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and DCNR.)

▶ **Funding Available for Local Stream Cleanup Activities** – The Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) has partnered with PPL Corporation to provide financial and technical assistance to local municipal governments, nonprofit organizations, and citizen volunteers to clean up their watersheds. Grants are available to eligible entities and individuals to help pay the costs of equipment rental, purchasing products and services, and advertising and promotion associated with watershed cleanups. If you would like to sponsor a cleanup in your community, please contact Gary R. Peacock, WAY Secretary/Treasurer, at gpeacock@yorkccd.org or call (717) 840-7687.

❶ **The Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Update** – On July 1, EPA announced draft allocations for nitrogen and phosphorus as part of a rigorous pollution diet for meeting water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay and restoring local rivers and streams throughout the 64,000-square-mile watershed. EPA proposed watershed-wide limits of **187.4 million pounds of nitrogen** and **12.5 million pounds of phosphorus** annually, and divided those allocations among the six watershed states and the District of Columbia, as well as the major river basins. (**Sediment limits are in the range of 6.1 to 6.7 billion pounds of sediment per year.**) In addition, EPA is committing to reducing air deposition of nitrogen to the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay to 15.7 million pounds per year. The jurisdictions are expected to use the allocations as the basis for completing Watershed Implementation Plans, detailing how they will further divide these allocations among pollution sources, and achieve the required reductions. The jurisdictions are expected to have all practices in place to meet the established limits by 2025, with 60 percent of the effort completed by 2017. EPA plans to issue a draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) or pollution diet for a 45-day public comment period on September 24. The final Phase 1 Watershed Implementation Plans are due November 29, and EPA will establish the Bay TMDL by December 31. In 2017, the jurisdictions are expected to submit updated implementation plans to ensure that all the control measures needed to meet Bay water quality standards will be in place by 2025. www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/.

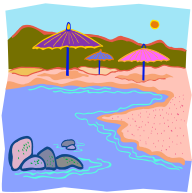
§ **Watershed Protection & Restoration Grants through the Growing Greener Plus Program** - As part of the 2010 Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Plus Program, applications are now being accepted for watershed protection and restoration grants. The Department is authorized to allocate these grants to a variety of eligible applications including: counties, authorities, other municipalities; county conservation districts; watershed organizations recognized by the Department who promote local watershed conservation efforts involved in the restoration and protection of the environment in this Commonwealth. For the upcoming grant round, the Department will invest approximately **\$6 Million** in projects that will ultimately protect and/or restore this Commonwealth's watersheds from impairment due to nonpoint source pollution. Examples of special priority areas include: Chesapeake Bay and the **Conestoga Watershed**. Examples of eligible projects could include reducing nonpoint source pollution in watersheds where streams are impaired; integrating

stormwater management into watershed management; and water conservation strategies, and projects that will help reduce Total Maximum Daily Load pollutants. *The deadline for submitting applications to the Department's Growing Greener Grants Center is September 17, 2010.* To request or download an application or obtain more information concerning the Growing Greener Program, visit the Growing Greener web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us
Keyword: Growing Greener.



New Report on Sediment & Nutrient Loads from Stream Corridor

Erosion - A report entitled "*Sediment and nutrient loads from stream corridor erosion along breached millponds*" was recently authored by **Dorothy Merritts, Robert Walter, and Michael A. Rahnis at Franklin and Marshall College**, and is available for download in Word and PDF format. Along with Franklin and Marshall College, PADEP supported the study and findings. Given the ubiquitous nature of legacy sediment in PA and elsewhere, these findings and estimates demonstrate the magnitude of the problem. The report illustrates the reality that many previous assumptions and models, focused largely on modern land use and activities as the dominant source of suspended sediment and nutrient loads, need to be re-evaluated and adjusted in many watersheds. Modeling results presented in this paper identify the current and likely future trajectory of incised channels, typical in many watersheds today, and their likelihood to produce substantial sediment and nutrient loads for a period that is on the order of centuries. This trajectory is in stark contrast to natural functioning stream corridors and ecosystems that are the goal of management practices we are developing specifically to restore ecological function and value in watersheds impaired by legacy sediment. Download: <http://edisk.fandm.edu/michael.rahnis/outgoing/DEP/>



ONLINE RESOURCES


💧 **Value of Volunteer Time Rises** - The Independent Sector announced that the estimated value of a volunteer hour reached **\$20.85** in 2009, up 60 cents from 2008. The estimate is based on the average hourly wage of all non-management, non-agricultural workers as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Independent Sector also estimated the value of a volunteer in each state, available at www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time. This information is useful to watersheds associations who often rely on volunteers to help implement specific projects. According to the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the value of volunteer services can be used on financial statements, grant proposals and annual reports if a volunteer is contributing a specialized skill.





Online Tool Generates Outreach Materials - The Source Water


Collaborative, a group of federal, state and local partners working to protect America's drinking water, recently released a toolkit called **"Your Water. Your Decision"**. Using this interactive, online toolkit, you can create a customized drinking water outreach guide targeted at your local policymakers. In just a few minutes, the tool will generate a printable document that emphasizes

your local or regional drinking water issues, lists available local and state resources, and includes concrete steps that local officials can take to protect sourcewater. To get started, visit www.yourwateryourdecision.org.

 **Community Pharmacies Launch Medicine Take-Back Program** – Hosted by the National Association of Community Pharmacies, www.disposemy meds.org is an online resource to help you to find medication disposal programs at a local independent community pharmacy. Enter your zip code in the Pharmacy Locator to find your nearest participating pharmacy. To see what other states are doing, check out www.medicinereturn.com (Washington State) and www.safemeddisposal.com/ (Maine). Another site of interest is www.smarxtdisposal.net/index.html. This site gives instructions for proper disposal of medicines when a take-back program is not available. It also has downloadable brochures and other handouts on disposal options and why flushing is bad.

 **Program Offers 'Carbon Neutral' Landscape Techniques** - The Stroud Center and Longwood Gardens offer a collaborative education program about landscaping techniques that produce a minimal carbon footprint. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the program features a carbon neutral landscape at Longwood Gardens that includes educational and interpretive materials. The program also includes a video library for visitors, students and professionals, intended to demonstrate the “how to's” of creating carbon neutral landscapes. For more information: Stroud and Longwood Gardens Landscape www.stroudcenter.org/newsletters/2010Spring/longwood.html

 **Pond/Wetland Management Guidebook** - EPA has released a guidebook that describes maintenance and inspection practices for existing wet ponds and wetlands. The guide includes checklists for use during construction and routine maintenance of ponds/wetlands, and also includes a home owner pond inspection checklist. Maintenance profile sheets describe how to address eight different common maintenance issues. Resource: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/pondmgmtguide.pdf>

 **Game Commission Unveils New Website On State Endangered, Threatened Species** - The Game Commission published a new "*Endangered & Threatened Species*" section to its website to help educators, students, contractors, environmental planners and interested residents learn more about these species of greatest conservation need. This authoritative collection of species of concern – written by state's experts on these species – includes all of Pennsylvania's endangered and threatened species, one extirpated species and one extinct species. Each account provides detailed species background, color photos, a range map, recommendations for further reading and source information. They are presented in an 8.5- by 11-inch PDF. Visit the new Endangered and Threatened Species webpage online www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=621014&mode=2.



EDUCATION



Freshwater Invertebrate Flash Card Sets Released - McDonald &

Woodward Publishing recently released 4 new educational resources based on J. Reese Voshell's book '*A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America*'. The resources include the QuickGuide to Major Groups of Freshwater Invertebrates (a doublesided laminated brochure-\$5.95) and 3 sets of Flash Cards of Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America (three sets of 32 two-sided waterproof cards-\$39.95 each). The first flash card set covers the major classes and orders of freshwater invertebrates, and would be best suited for teaching biology and ecology at the K-12 levels, for interpretation and outreach activities, and for biomonitoring of freshwater streams and ponds. The second and third flash card sets address the taxa at the family level and therefore provide more detail. These sets would be most useful for teaching the principles of biology and ecology at advanced high school and college levels; for training instructors who would be conducting interpretation or outreach activities; and for biomonitoring carried out by experienced citizen volunteers, agency personnel and professional scientists. For more information, see www.mwpubco.com/environmentaleducation.htm



Online "Water Sourcebooks" - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's

online "*Water Sourcebooks*" contain 324 activities for grades K-12. This balanced approach program explains the water management cycle and shows how it affects all aspects of the environment. All activities contain hands-on investigations, fact sheets, reference materials and a glossary. The program sections are available in PDF format and may be printed and copied. For more information: www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/wsb/



Bay Backpack Provides One-Stop Shop for Educational Tools - The Chesapeake

Bay Program Education Workgroup launched www.baybackpack.com to help teachers and environmental educators engage students in hands-on learning about the Chesapeake Bay and its local waterways. The new website includes more than 500 [resources supporting classroom studies](#), including books, lesson plans, and curriculum guides. The site also features an [interactive map](#) listing outdoor educational programs throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, a [training calendar](#) with professional development opportunities for educators, and a list of [grant programs](#) that provide funding to support environmental education. A blog on the site discusses new education initiatives and other resources, such as ideas for classroom projects, and enables educators to share information by posting comments or writing guest entries. The site is designed to help teachers provide their students with a [Meaningful Educational Watershed Experience](#) and an understanding of environmental issues in the bay and other local waterways. The Chesapeake Bay Program is attempting to ensure that all students in the watershed receive these experiences before graduating from high school.



"Water You Waiting For" Video - A new video, "*Water You Waiting For*", is now available for viewing on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Website. Produced by EPA as part of the Agency's efforts to promote water sector careers as green jobs, the "*Water You Waiting For*" video is designed for high school and vocational students. The video shows vocational students with internships at drinking water systems and highlights the many different types of jobs available at water utilities. Published reports indicate that approximately 30% of the water sector workforce is eligible to retire in the next 10 years. EPA, American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Water Environment Federation (WEF) are partnering in various efforts to highlight the need for qualified professionals to enter this important field. The video can be accessed at www.epa.gov/safewater/operatorcertification/index.html.



Penn State Cooperative Extension Launches Discovery

Watersheds Website - No matter where you live in Pennsylvania, you live in a watershed. Each stream, pond, lake, and groundwater aquifer has a watershed that captures and delivers water to it. Protecting the land area that makes up each watershed is critical to maintain water quality and quantity for both human use and aquatic life. This new site contains resource material and links to other sites for watershed education. The site will showcase some of the tools and approaches developed for nutrient and sediment reduction within Pennsylvania's watersheds. Visit <http://extension.psu.edu/water/discovery-watersheds>.



Watershed Monitoring Through Google Earth - The Clean Watersheds Project is a watershed monitoring project that uses Google Earth Pro to store and share watershed data. The website is used to collect, post, and analyze data about watersheds in an effort to better understand how to maintain and improve them. If you're interested in learning more about the project or by getting your local school involved, visit <http://cleanwatersheds.wikispaces.com/>.