Allegheny County Sportsmen's League

www.acslpa.org

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 24 Issue 7

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

July 2022



The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an

American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

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Leaders from seven state agencies highlighted the importance of protecting native species, which are critical to protecting our natural resources, at a stream restoration site at Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission headquarters. Governor Tom Wolf has proclaimed the first Pennsylvania Native Species Day.

The agencies, along with 14 organizations in academia, environmental advocacy, and agriculture and other industries, are members of the Governor's Invasive Species Council (GISC). The council created Pennsylvania Native Species Day to celebrate the state's diverse native plants, insects, and animals and increase

Wolf Administration, Fish and Boat Commission, and Game **Commission Celebrate First Pennsylvania Native Species Day**

> people's understanding of the importance of protecting them as invasive nonnative species proliferate.

"Municipal and state officials, business owners, community organizations, and local residents are realizing the need to conserve this essential part of

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DEP, Recyclers Group Highlight Student Winners of Earth Week **Poster and Video Contest**

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation Deputy Secretary Krishnan

Ramamurthy and the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) Executive Director Jennifer Summers today highlighted the student winners of PROP's 2022 Earth Week Poster and Video Contest. There were 12 winning posters and three winning videos.

"Seeing young people creatively showcase their commitments to the environment shows that future generations are prioritizing sustainable lifestyles.

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Wolf Administration, Fish and Boat Commission, and Game Commission Celebrate First Pennsylvania Native Species Day (continued)

Pennsylvania's natural infrastructure," said Tim Schaeffer, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director. "We are thrilled to join these partners in highlighting the work on our property that reduced erosion and restored natural stream flow while keeping native species in mind. Along with the 4,000 native plants and trees that have been added to the land-scape, other habitat improvements will benefit native aquatic species and wildlife."

A diverse native ecosystem provides a range of benefits to Pennsylvanians, including food sources, timber, climate resilience, outdoor recreation, such as fishing and hiking, and related economies.

"Biodiversity is important to the health of our water, land, and air, and therefore important to our quality of life in Pennsylvania," said Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

DEP works with partners around the state to reduce aquatic invasive species, including sea lamprey in Lake Erie and European frog-bit in Pymatuning Reservoir, and to support native species, including the American eel in the Susquehanna River basin and native vegetation on stream banks.

"Pennsylvania has 2.2 million acres of state forests, millions of acres of state park and game lands, and private forestlands that must be protected from invasive species," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Assistant State Forester Matt Keefer said. "To help raise awareness and minimize impacts, DCNR provides training and outreach on invasives, works with federal agencies for early detection and rapid response, participates in Pennsylvania's Invasive Species Management Plan, and strives to prevent and reduce the extent of invasives. Protecting our native plants and forests is critical to keeping Pennsylvania landscapes beautiful and productive for future generations."

Survival of many native species is under increasing pressure from the proliferation of invasive nonnative species that has occurred as global commerce and travel have increased.

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Wolf Administration, Fish and Boat Commission, and Game Commission Celebrate First Pennsylvania Native Species Day (continued)

Spotted lanternfly, which arrived in 2014 in southeastern Pennsylvania and has now spread to two-thirds of the state, is a very recent example. It follows sea lamprey, emerald ash borer, quagga mussels, hydrilla, and numerous other nonnative species that have arrived and spread throughout Pennsylvania with detrimental impacts in the past century.

Invasive nonnative species not only damage food chains and habitats for native species, but also have negative economic and health impacts on Pennsylvanians.

"Pennsylvania Native Species Day is an opportunity to celebrate and protect our native plants, insects, and animals. Native organisms provide outdoor experiences, ecosystem services, and natural resources that all Pennsylvanians depend on," said Kristopher Abell, coordinator of GISC, for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. "When invasive species like the spotted lanternfly spread, they have detrimental effects on native species, and our environment, economy, and quality of life can be impacted. That is why it's so critical to create awareness on how to best manage invasive pests and support the commonwealth's native species."

"Public health is interconnected with our environment," said Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General Dr. Denise Johnson. "The Department of Health supports efforts to combat the prevalence of invasive species because they directly affect our health in many ways. From the mitigation of diseases such as Lyme, to decreasing allergic reactions and even playing a part in improving mental and physical health, this is a worthy goal that we're proud to be a part of."

"Working with federal environmental partners, we're refining our roadside seed mixes to focus on native species and pollinators," said Department of Transportation Acting Executive Deputy Secretary Melissa Batula. "Additionally, we've entered into a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant partnership with the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania to develop pollinator plots on PennDOT rights-of-way, with two sites selected for seeding."

"Our state's diverse wildlife resources depend on our native ecosystems. Invasive nonnative insects and plants can disrupt these delicately balanced systems, and create difficult challenges to managing for healthy wildlife and healthy habitats.

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Wolf Administration, Fish and Boat Commission, and Game Commission Celebrate First Pennsylvania Native Species Day (continued)

Through partnership, we can share knowledge and resources to promote native species and ensure healthy habitat for wildlife for current and future generations of Pennsylvanians," said Pennsylvania Game Commission Director of Wildlife Habitat Management David Gustafson.

The GISC recently developed a program called <u>Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management</u>. If funded, the program would establish and support six regional independent public-private partnerships statewide to address local invasive species priorities and for early detection and rapid response to new invasive threats.

A number of state parks and other organizations are celebrating the first Pennsylvania Native Species Day with local events, including talks, walks, and volunteer activities, such as pulling nonnative invasive plants.

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

DEP, Recyclers Group Highlight Student Winners of Earth Week Poster and Video Contest (continued)

and we all should continue to support these young environmentalists and their efforts," Ramamurthy said.

The top 12 scoring posters will be used in a calendar template provided electronically to schools, DEP, and members of the public for download and print. The top scoring video will receive an award and be posted on the PROP website.

The contest is part of PROP's School Recycling Study in which PROP members collaborate with DEP to help school leaders manage recycling programs in both fiscally and environmentally sound ways. Annually, DEP supports PROP with average grant funding of about \$250,000. The grant funding is made possible by the commonwealth's Recycling Fund, which receives \$2 for every ton of municipal solid waste entering a Pennsylvania landfill or resource-recovery facility.

The impacts of this partnership are plentiful.

"When Act 101 was first introduced (1988) requiring larger municipalities to recycle, business and government all learned the fundamentals of recycling, and built infrastructure for Pennsylvania's recycling industry from the ground up. Great focus and resources were directed toward educating citizens on the 'what, when, how, and where' of recycling," Summers said. "In the 34 years since recycling began in earnest across the commonwealth, Pennsylvania has become a nationwide model for the recycling marketplace, contributing over \$22 billion to Pennsylvania's gross state product. Pennsylvania leaders recognize the need to refocus efforts on education. Only through recycling right can we simultaneously protect our resources and support jobs in the recycling industry."

For more information on PROP's Earth Week Poster and Video Contest, visit www.proprecycles.org.

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DEP, Recyclers Group Highlight Student Winners of Earth Week Poster and Video Contest (continued)

Poster Winners

Lilliana "Lilly" Lohsl

Penn Mont Academy

Blair County

Samira Patel

Penn Mont Academy

Blair County

Ella Beiswenger

Saint Michael School

Cambria County

Ava Itle

Saint Michael School

Cambria County

Mia Anderson

Ramsey Elementary

Westmoreland County

Hunter Trout

Ramsey Elementary

Westmoreland County

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DEP, Recyclers Group Highlight Student Winners of Earth Week Poster and Video Contest (continued)

Kierra Kelly

George Washington Elementary

Allegheny County

Kendall Exler

George Washington Elementary

Allegheny County

Emma Stover

Jersey Shore Elementary

Lycoming County

Oyayi Magno

Erie Day School

Erie County

Christina Bouassaf

Penn Mont Academy

Blair County

Ava Fritz

North Star Middle School

Somerset County

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DCNR Dedicates New Pool Complex, Celebrates New Solar Arrays That Bring Ryerson Station State Park To Net Zero Energy Use

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn visited Ryerson Station State Park in Greene County to dedicate a new pool complex and solar arrays that shade the pool parking area.

"DCNR is committed to enhancing recreational opportunities that benefit not just park visitors at Ryerson Station, but also surrounding communities and their economies here in Greene County," Dunn said. "This state-of-the-art pool complex and other park improvements are direct results of public input and participation centering on the future of Ryerson Station."

The new pool complex includes a "zero entry" pool, waterslide and spray park. The new parking lot located at the site of the old pool is equipped with solar shading structures that provide all the electricity needed at the park.

The Re-Vision Ryerson Station State Park Task Force, formed to examine future park recreational opportunities, called for swimming and camping improvements at Ryerson Station. The campground renovations including new shower facilities; three deluxe camping cottages; and full hookups on seven campsites were previously completed.

"We are proud to be here today to celebrate the tremendous improvements at Ryerson Station from a recreation and conservation perspective," DCNR Deputy Secretary John Norbeck said. "Families will be able to visit the new pool and spray ground and we will be able to operate another of our state parks at net zero, thanks to a focus on sustainability and green infrastructure."

DCNR's sustainability initiative includes adding small-scale solar arrays in state parks and forests, electric vehicle charging stations, reduction of internal combustion engine passenger vehicles within the agency's fleet, and high-performance buildings.

Duke Lake at <u>Ryerson Station State Park</u> was drawn down in July 2005 for safety reasons after inspections of the dam revealed seepage and dam foundation movement. In April 2013, DCNR and Consol Energy Inc. settled a lawsuit related to the impact of longwall mining in the area on the dam. Settlement funds financed the estimated \$10 million pool complex costs.

A future project at the park includes stream restoration work addressing fish habitat and waterway access.

Located in Greene County's southwestern corner near the West Virginia border, Ryerson Station's 1,164 acres offers visitors hiking, fishing, picnicking, and winter activities. Visit DCNR's website for more information about Ryerson Station State Park.

Source: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

DEP Environmental Education Grant Funds Allegheny College's Creek Connections Activities Trip

Using funding from a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Environmental Education Grant, Allegheny College's Creek Connections program held its annual cross-curricular activities trip at Gibson Park in Conneaut Lake, Crawford County.

Forty seventh graders from Conneaut Lake Middle School participated in several stations, including the collection of macroinvertebrates – tremendous indicators of stream quality – which allowed students to rate the quality of the stream.

"This is an excellent opportunity for these students to get outside and experience the importance of conservation and protection of our local waterways firsthand," said DEP Northwest Regional Director Erin Wells. "The Creek Connections program at Allegheny College has received a number of DEP Environmental Education Grants and rightfully so. They do an amazing job educating these students and the DEP couldn't be prouder to be a partner in helping make these opportunities possible."

Students also saw an electrofishing demonstration by DEP aquatic biologists. Electrofishing uses an electric field, emitted from a pulser, to temporarily stun fish. The fish can then be collected via dip net for identification and further study. DEP uses data collected from electrofishing to determine abundance, density, species composition, and health of fish populations.

The DEP <u>Environmental Education Grants Program</u> was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates setting aside five percent of the pollution fines and penalties DEP collects annually for environmental education in Pennsylvania. Since its inception, the DEP has awarded \$12.3 million in environmental education grant funding to support 2,134 projects.

<u>Creek Connections</u>, formerly the French Creek Environmental Education Project (FCEEP), forged a partnership between Allegheny College and regional K-12 schools to turn the French Creek Watershed into outdoor environmental laboratories. Emphasizing an investigation of local waterways, this project involves a hands-on, inquiry-based, natural science education for 49 different schools and 60 teachers. In recognition of this exemplary program, Creek Connections received the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience Partner of the Year Award at the 2022 Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Conference.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

DEP Helps Environmental Education Come Alive at Philadelphia Solar Energy Association's 29th Annual Junior Solar Sprint

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) joined leadership from Philadelphia Solar Energy Association (PSEA) today for its 29th Annual Junior Solar Sprint competition, an event funded in part each year through a DEP environmental education grant.

"We're so grateful for partners and projects that use their environmental education dollars in hands-on ways," said DEP Southeast Regional Director Pat Patterson. "I'm confident at least one student racing here today will pursue a career in solar energy as a result of this program."

The PSEA is a volunteer-based, member-supported nonprofit that promotes the adoption of solar energy in the Philadelphia region and beyond. Founded in 1980, PSEA has hosted the Junior Solar Sprint since 1993, encouraging students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Each year, students in 5th through 9th grades from as many as 20 schools design, build, and race model solar cars competing for top places in 4 categories.

"Solar is now the fastest growing form of energy in the world," said PSEA Executive Director Liz Robinson. "It's vitally important that our young people learn to harness its power."

The <u>DEP Environmental Education Grants Program</u> was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates setting aside 5% of the pollution fines and penalties DEP collects annually for environmental education in Pennsylvania. Since its inception, DEP has awarded \$12.3 million in environmental education grant funding to support 2,134 projects.

More information on DEP's Environmental Education Grants Program can be found here. For more information on the Junior Solar Sprint, visit www.phillysolar.org.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

DEP Tours Growing Greener Grant Funded Streambank Stabilization Project at Shirk Farms

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) visited Shirk Farms Monday to view streambank stabilization work under construction using Growing Greener grant funds and to discuss the importance of stream and agricultural best management practices (BMPs) as part of the Snyder Countywide Action Plan (CAP) to improve local water quality in Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Representatives from project partners including the DEP, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Snyder County Conservation District, and Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy participated in Monday's tour.

"The series of BMP projects underway at Shirk Farms will improve water quality by decreasing erosion and sedimentation on a tributary to Middle Creek," said Jason Winey, Snyder County Conservation district manger. "The work at this site is an important early step toward implementing the recently completed Snyder County CAP."

"DEP is proud to be part of this project and many similar projects funded through a \$120,000 Growing Greener award," said Jason Fellon, watershed manager for DEP's Northcentral region. "The BMPs used in this project address major sources of nonpoint pollution and utilize recommendations highlighted in the Pennsylvania Nonpoint Source Management Program."

"We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Shirk Farms to make this project possible," said Lauren Cheran, watershed specialist for Snyder County Conservation District. "They first approached us to improve the stream crossing for livestock. During my initial site visit, our conversation evolved to much more, including the animal walkway, fencing improvements, and stabilizing the eroding streambanks."

"The Shirk Farms project is an outstanding example of how Conservation Districts can work cooperatively with farmers to achieve their goals through environmentally beneficial techniques," said DEP Northcentral Regional Director Jared Dressler.

The project design uses in-stream log and rock structures, such as log vanes and mudsills, to redirect water velocity and pressure away from stream banks and toward the center of the stream channel. Reducing stream bank erosion decreases the excess sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus that can smother aquatic life and degrade water quality. The structures also help support macroinvertebrate populations, which are essential for the aquatic food chain.

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DEP Tours Growing Greener Grant Funded Streambank Stabilization Project at Shirk Farms (continued)

"Our agency has been building these log and rock structures to create aquatic habitat for decades, but in 2009, we began installing them in a broader range of sites with the intent of stabilizing eroding streambanks and decreasing the sediment entering local streams," said Cameron Englehart, senior fisheries biologist with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. "These structures are a win for fish and a win for water quality."

The agricultural BMPs being constructed at Shirk Farms are equally essential to reducing pollution before it can enter the stream in the first place.

"Keeping livestock out of the riparian area allows vegetation to establish and filter nutrients out of water before entering the stream and also reduces the physical pressure on the stream bank," said Renee Carey, executive director of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy. "The stream and agricultural practices work in tandem to decrease erosion and sedimentation in the streams."

These partners and others form the Northcentral Stream Partnership, which works cooperatively to secure funds to assist farmers and landowners who voluntarily opt to install BMPs that improve local water quality. To learn more about the Northcentral Stream Partnership and their work in the region, which has been recognized by a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, view DEP's interactive, multimedia story map at www.dep.pa.gov/TurtleCreek.

In addition to the Growing Greener grant, funding for the stream and agricultural BMP work at Shirk Farms was provided by PennDOT and the landowner.

Growing Greener was established by law in 1999 and re-established in 2002. In February, Governor Tom Wolf proposed a \$450 million Growing Greener III initiative that, if passed by the General Assembly, would help improve Pennsylvanians' quality of life and make Pennsylvania's communities and economy better able to withstand more frequent extreme weather events caused by climate change.

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DEP Tours Growing Greener Grant Funded Streambank Stabilization Project at Shirk Farms (continued)

Currently unspent federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 would be targeted to accelerate farmers' efforts to protect soil and water resources, increase farmland preservation, protect open space, improve maintenance of state parks, clean up abandoned mines, restore watersheds, increase trails and parks, help communities address land use, and provide new and upgraded water and sewer systems.

"Growing Greener is Pennsylvania's best known grant program for environmental improvement projects. It's relied on by many communities that value the quality of life, economic, and resiliency benefits that come from a strong natural ecosystem, and are working to sustain this amid growing pressures from human land use and climate change," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

Since 1999, the DEP Growing Greener Plus program has supported more than 2,600 water quality improvement projects by organizations and governments statewide with over \$372 million in grants.

The program is funded by the state Environmental Stewardship Fund and Acid Mine Drainage Set-Aside Program and the federal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act. Growing Greener III would add \$180 million to DEP Growing Greener Plus.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Statement on WV v. EPA Supreme Court of the United States Decision

The following statement may be attributed to Acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection Ramez Ziadeh in response to the Supreme Court of the United States ruling in the case West Virginia v. United States Environmental Protection Agency:

"Governor Tom Wolf and DEP have been at the forefront of protecting the air we breathe and ensuring that communities are not bearing unfair burdens from regulations protecting air quality. Cost-effective actions like reducing methane leaks from gas wells and participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will continue to improve Pennsylvania's air for years to come.

"Today's ruling undercuts good-faith efforts to fight climate change and protect clean air but that does not mean we will stop fighting. Pennsylvanians strongly favor strong protections for the air we all breathe, the water we drink, and the land we live, work, and play on. This administration will continue to uphold our constitutional responsibility to conserve and maintain clean air and pure water for all people, including generations yet to come."

Source: Department of Environmental Protection

Wolf Administration Visits PA Outdoor Corps Youth Crew Working At Locust Lake State Park

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Department of Labor and Industry Secretary (L&I) Jennifer Berrier visited with crew members of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps Youth Crew at Locust Lake State Park in Schuylkill County.

The PA Outdoor Corps is a signature program within DCNR, created during the administration of Gov. Tom Wolf. More than 900 young people have completed the program, which provides opportunities for paid work experience, job training and environmental education to help corps members become successful stewards of our natural resources and productive citizens. The corps is managed by DCNR and the Student Conservation Association (SCA), and is supported through funding provided by L&I, as well as private philanthropic partners.

During Monday's visit, members of the Hazelton Youth Crew installed new exercise stations along the bike trail at the park.

"Today's work, and the work these young people do this summer, will have a tremendous impact for many years to come," Dunn said. "I am hopeful that the skills they acquire through this incredible opportunity will create lifelong conservationists and public servants, whether that is occupational or as volunteers. Many thanks to the DCNR and SCA staff that keep this incredible program running each year, as well as our sister agencies that support its operations."

Established in 2016, the corps offers young people the opportunity to serve on a team and complete conservation projects that protect, enhance, and restore Pennsylvania's public lands. It also teaches participants about public service and provides job skills and ethics to make them better employees.

"Outdoor Corps provides young workers with educational employment opportunities that allow them to acquire lifelong skills and earn a paycheck -- all while working to protect Pennsylvania's natural resources," Berrier said. "L&I is proud to support Outdoor Corps' effort to nurture meaningful connections, promote conservation, and prepare young people for successful careers in a highly competitive job market."

In 2016 the program started with just five youth crews. This year there are 24 crews across the commonwealth:

- Fourteen 6-week youth (age 15-18) crews based in: Erie; Greensburg; Harrisburg; Hazleton; Norristown; Pittsburgh (two crews: community and American Sign Language); Reading; Renovo; Ridgeway; Wellsboro; Wilkes-Barre; Williamsport; and York.
- Ten 10-month young adult (age 18-25) crews are based in Altoona; Harrisburg; Meadville; Pittsburgh; Saint Marys; Wilkes Barre; Williamsport; and statewide Natural Resource, Cultural Resource, and Trail crews.

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Wolf Administration Visits PA Outdoor Corps Youth Crew Working At Locust Lake State Park (continued)

Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps members this year are working in more than 100 parks, forests, and communities across the state on projects including:

- Trail work
- Habitat enhancement
- Improving park and forest assets such as buildings, drainage structures and landscaped areas
- Tree planting
- Storm damage restoration
- · Inventorying trees planted in communities

<u>Alumni of the PA Outdoor Corps</u> have obtained employment with conservation organizations including DCNR, SCA, National Park Service, National Forest Service, and other conservation organizations, thanks in part to experience with the corps.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps visit the DCNR's website.

Source: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

DEP Demonstrates Oil Recovery System that Reduces Pollution to the Susquehanna River

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) visited the Berwick Seep Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) project site in Columbia County to view a recently installed oil recovery system and discuss how the HSCA program mitigates the release of contaminants into the Susquehanna River.

DEP's Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program and the project contractor, Amentum, demonstrated the system components, discussed the volume of oil collected, answered questions about the oil recovery system and the HSCA project, and viewed the area where oil has been seeping into the Susquehanna River.

"This HSCA-funded project is now successfully addressing a longstanding issue of concern to the Berwick community," said DEP's Northcentral Acting Regional Director Jared Dressler. "DEP is grateful to the multiple property owners where the investigation has taken place and the Borough of Berwick for their coordination and cooperation through a complex and challenging process to make this accomplishment possible."

The oil recovery system consists of three pump-on-demand (POD) skimmer systems that reduce the amount of oil entering the Susquehanna River by drawing in groundwater containing an oily layer of floating petroleum product. The oil is separated into a drum where it is stored until taken offsite for proper disposal.

"This is an important interim step as DEP continues our investigation, with the ultimate goal to remediate the source or sources of the contamination," said Cheryl Sinclair, environmental group manager with DEP's Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program.

A representative from the Berwick Industrial Development Association (BIDA) also observed the demonstration. A significant portion of the HSCA investigation took place within BIDA's Berwick Industrial Park.

DEP first received a report in 2004 of an unidentified liquid leaking into the Susquehanna River, causing an oily sheen. Many reports of sheen, bubbles, and odors coming from the river bank have followed intermittently over the years.

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DEP Demonstrates Oil Recovery System that Reduces Pollution to the Susquehanna River (continued)

The Hazardous Site Cleanup Fund (HSCF) has been utilized in multiple phases to attempt to identify the source or sources of the petroleum product, including the use of groundwater monitoring wells. The scope of the investigation encompasses numerous historical industrial activities and underground storage tanks in the adjacent area.

The HSCF provides funding for DEP to carry out investigation, cleanup, and monitoring activities to address the release of hazardous substances from contaminated sites to the environment. In many cases, the HSCF allows DEP to address legacy contamination resulting from past industrial activity where there is no longer a viable responsible party to fund cleanup activities.

More information about the HSCA Program is available at www.dep.pa.gov/HSCA.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Video Winners (Placing)

Indiana County Technology Center, 10th Grade Class (1st Place)
Indiana County

Our Lady of Confidence School, Special Education Class (2nd Place) Montgomery County

George Washington Elementary, 4th Grade Green Team (3rd Place) Allegheny County

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)