

# TheSylvanian

Summer 2011

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org)

*Who Owns  
the Landscape?*

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# From The Editors

This issue of *The Sylvanian* does not pretend to be fair, balanced or objective. We don't like oil and gas drillers who are ruining our landscape. We don't like longwall mining that is ruining our landscape and we don't like sprawl because it is ruining our landscape. We want our government to protect us so our water and air are clean. We want to preserve our forests and wetlands to benefit our generation and generations to come.

When news organizations know someone is telling a lie, they should not quote or cite that source without getting corrective information from the other side. When organizations spend millions on misleading ads, it is difficult for citizens' organizations to get balanced coverage.

One of the big lies that is repeated over and over again in news coverage of Marcellus Shale is: Hydraulic fracturing has never contaminated groundwater or damaged drinking water. What? This industry contention is included in the same articles about contaminated drinking water! If T. Boone Pickens says it, it must be true?

Another big lie is about global warming and the impression that scientists are split over whether the planet is actually warming. The most respected scientific bodies in the world have stated unequivocally that global warming is occurring, and people are causing it by burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests. Why should the two or three scientists in the world that are unconvinced be given equal weight with the overwhelming majority?

We may not have big money to buy our legislators but we can at least tell the truth.



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

WENDI TAYLOR AND PHIL COLEMAN  
Co-editors of *The Sylvanian*

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## OnTheCover

Maybe the landscape is just the surface, just a vista view from one ridge to another ridge or a river valley. But it is also Penn's Sylvania – our woods. It is not just the view; it is flora and fauna. It is soil and water. We feel that we ought to have some say in how it is treated. Is the green chlorophyll, photosynthesis? Or is it the color of money? After we have sold it, it is no longer ours.

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SIERRA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and To use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy can be found online at <http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp> or by contacting the Harrisburg office.

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# The View From Harrisburg



## GAS DRILLING SEVERANCE TAX AND IMPACT FEE BILLS GARNER BIPARTISAN SUPPORT, OPPOSITION. ISSUE DEFERRED TO FALL

As we go to press, a wide variety of proposals have been introduced to impose a fee or tax on natural gas drillers in Pennsylvania. Recent opinion polls show that, while two-thirds of Pennsylvanians support gas drilling, a more than two-thirds majority support making the drillers pay their fair share. Most of Pennsylvania's politicians recognize that it is not a matter of if, but rather, when the drillers start paying the state for the natural gas they are extracting from their wells. Even most of the drilling companies have acknowledged they will be paying a tax or fee. The major holdout is Governor Corbett, who signed a "No New Taxes" pledge during his campaign for Governor.

The most common proposal has been the natural gas severance tax, like Rep. Greg Vitali's (D, Delaware) HB 33 or Senator Andy Dinniman's (D, Montgomery) SB352. These bills' revenues are based on volume of natural gas produced, similar to how other states manage gas taxation. The funds raised are shared between the General Fund, local communities that are affected by natural gas drilling and environmental programs, including those in Growing Greener's Environmental Stewardship Fund. Both bills have bipartisan support. However, Governor Corbett has vowed to veto any severance tax that reaches his desk. Republican leaders have been unwilling to challenge the Governor on this.

In the last few months, we have seen introduction of several natural gas impact fee bills. The primary difference is that the impact fee bills do not impose a tax based on volume of gas produced, but rather a flat fee per well. This is a way for politicians to avoid breaking the "No New Taxes" pledge, while still raising revenues from gas drillers. The keys are: 1) how much revenue is raised, 2) how it is distributed and 3) are there any strings attached?

Senate President Joe Scarnati (R, Jefferson) has introduced an impact fee bill, SB 1100, which establishes a low fee, provides no funding for Growing Greener's Environmental Stewardship Fund, and punishes local governments by withholding funding for communities who pass zoning ordinances designed to protect public health and the environment. SB 1100 has moved from the Senate Environmental Committee, and could be voted on the Senate floor. Sierra Club and others have opposed SB 1100, due to its serious deficiencies.

In the House, Rep. Marguerite Quinn (R, Bucks) has introduced a much preferred version of an impact fee bill, HB 1700. This bill raises significantly more revenue than SB 1100, includes funding for Growing Greener, along with compensation for local communities affected by drilling. HB 1700 has no provisions that restrict local governments from adopting zoning ordinances that protect communities from poorly-regulated gas drilling. Quinn's bill has strong bipartisan support, including from House Appropriations Chair Bill Adolph (R, Delaware). Sierra Club can support HB 1700, as introduced.

Budget negotiations between the House and Senate Republican leadership included a possible vote on an impact fee. However, Governor Corbett issued a last minute veto threat on anything, severance tax or impact fee, until after his hand-picked Marcellus Shale Advisory (MSA) Commission issues their report in late July, well past the June 30 budget deadline. Lt. Governor Cawley, who Corbett appointed to chair the MSA Commission, has previously stated that consideration of the severance tax was "off the table" as far as the Commission was concerned. With that threat, Republican leaders pulled the plug on any tax or fee vote until September, when the General Assembly returns from their summer recess.

## JUNE 7 LOBBY DAY AND RALLY WERE MAJOR SUCCESS

Sierra Club members from throughout Pennsylvania converged on the state Capitol June 7 for a Marcellus Shale Lobby Day and Rally. It was the largest environmental Lobby Day ever held in Harrisburg.

At least 65 Club members registered for the event, which was co-sponsored by Clean Water Action, Penn Environment, Delaware Riverkeeper and a number of local grassroots groups. Collectively, at least 270 people participated in the Lobby Day and between 350 and 400 people attended the noontime rally.

Appointments were made for constituents of at least 42 Senators and 95 Representatives. In most meetings, there were several constituents. In several meetings, more than 15 constituents met with their Senators. Our Lobby Day focused on the following: pass a severance tax that provides funding for environmental programs and local communities impacted by gas drilling, protect water supplies by requiring larger set backs from gas wells and expanding the zone where drillers are presumed liable if pollution occurs, passage of a moratorium on drilling on State Forest lands and reform of the PA Oil and Gas Act to tighten drilling restrictions (i.e. establish mandatory inspections, disclose the chemicals used for drilling each well, increase bonding, etc.) We called for a moratorium on new drilling until passage and implementation of the measures needed to ensure drilling can be done safely.

The rally completely filled the immense Capitol Rotunda, the steps and the balcony. We had a number of speakers from different organizations and perspectives. In addition to Sierra Club and other organizations who co-sponsored the event, speakers included: Josh Fox (Director of Gasland), Senators Daylin Leach and Jim Ferlo, and gas drilling victim Crystal Stroud, whose description of the health problems her family endured from drilling pollution riveted the crowd.

Speakers focused on different aspects of gas drilling. Many called for a moratorium on fracking, most called for a severance tax to make the drillers pay their fair share. Some focused on the need to strengthen the PA Oil and Gas Act to protect public health and environmental quality. Many decried the industry-stacked Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission, whom the Governor is using to shield himself from accountability on all of the drilling issues. Some advocated local governments' ability to better control drilling within their borders.

The Lobby Day succeeded in putting the Marcellus Shale issues front and center in the minds of the members of the PA General Assembly. The rally garnered widespread coverage, helping to further raise public awareness of Pennsylvania's most pressing environmental issue.

We appreciate all the Sierra Club members who traveled to Harrisburg to join us on June 7. You made a big difference!

## THE SIERRA CLUB STANDS UP TO RECKLESS NATURAL GAS DRILLING IN PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE PARKS

On July 6th the Sierra Club and its Pennsylvania Chapter sent a formal letter to the National Park Service, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources calling on them to halt leasing and drilling permitting on Pennsylvania state parks and forest lands until they meet their obligations under the Land and Water Conservation Act to protect state parks and forests from the damaging effects of natural gas drilling. This drilling currently threatens many of these precious state lands.

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# Inside The Chapter

## Don't Ask, Demand

by Wendi Taylor

It was a call to action. Hundreds of anti-Marcellus Shale drilling activists, who filled the Capitol rotunda in Harrisburg for a Lobby Day and Rally on June 7th, were urged again and again to act to stop the drilling.

State Senator Jim Ferlo called for a resistance movement like the Whiskey Rebellion and Josh Fox, producer of Gasland, called for actions of civil disobedience like those used in the Civil Rights Movement.

Ferlo said that no amount of tax or impact fee is worth ruining the state's constitutionally protected right to clean water. Fox insisted the time for asking is over. Citizens must demand that the drilling stop.

At times the group chanted its message – “no fracking way” and “end fracking now” -- loud enough to be heard throughout the Capitol and by the 253 legislators who will ultimately decide the environmental fate of Pennsylvania.

While some ralliers wanted an outright ban of natural gas drilling, others wanted a moratorium until the industry is regulated -- regulation based on scientific studies that would make sure that the drilling is safe. All who attended wanted an end to the drilling – whether by moratorium or ban.

In the end, most at the rally believed that scientific studies will show that hydrofracturing – fracking – cannot be done safely in Pennsylvania.

Sierra Club's Jeff Schmidt spoke to the crowd and declared that people are becoming alarmed at the growing number of incidents of pollution and water contamination. People have complained that their access to recreational sites has been cut off in state lands because of drilling operations. He called for a moratorium on additional leasing of state lands and amendments to the Oil and Gas Act that would protect the environment and human health, rather than the drilling industry. Until critical regulations are in place, Schmidt said, drilling should cease.

The most compelling remarks came from Bradford County resident Crystal Stroud, who is suffering from barium poisoning. She said her family leased their land for drilling and had used the windfall to update their home.



PHOTO BY KATHY HETTINGA

*Sierra Club's Jeff Schmidt gets the crowd going at the Don't Ask, Demand rally on June 7th in Harrisburg.*

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Stroud began feeling ill and after repeated visits to the doctor eventually traced the problem to a water contamination problem -- excessive amounts of barium. She later learned that her neighbors were also suffering similar symptoms. To date, she has received little assistance in dealing with the contamination problem from the drillers, the PA Department of Health or the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Stroud said the whole incident has taught her that “we cannot trust our government to protect its people.” She wants to sell her home but with a tainted well, she doubts anyone would buy it.

About half of the activists had appointments to see 48 of the 50 state senators and 188 of the 203 state representatives concerning Marcellus Shale drilling. In some instances, legislators canceled their appointments at the last minute.

Jen Hara, of Gas Truth of Central Pennsylvania, said it is “shameful” that some legislators did not show up for their meetings with their constituents. She said people should let their elected officials know that they are willing to vote out any who refuse to protect their citizens. Hara does not believe regulations will solve the problem. DEP says it is regulating the industry and yet there have been many instances of water contamination and spills throughout the state. She said that all of us are “sacrificial lambs” at the hands of the gas industry.

Upon conclusion of the rally, Fox demonstrated the use of civil disobedience by holding a sit-in outside Governor Tom Corbett’s office. Fox said that he wanted to talk to the governor. Other efforts to secure an appointment had failed, he said.

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## View From Harrisburg, continued from page 5

“As families return from State Parks and forests after the 4th of July weekend, many of them will have experienced the noisy and polluting natural gas drilling operations taking place on these lands,” said Jeff Schmidt, Director of Sierra Club’s Pennsylvania Chapter. “The natural gas industry is running amok on our protected state lands. This letter is intended to sound the alarm on the lack of enforcement from departments required by law to protect our beautiful parks and forests.”

The letter states that “Pennsylvania has failed to determine or acknowledge the full extent of its Conservation Act responsibilities. It has failed to analyze leases and drilling permits it has already issued for Conservation Act compliance. It has even failed to commit to channeling the revenues from drilling on Conservation Act properties back into public outdoor recreation. These failures are serious, and will result in substantial damage to public lands if the state does not correct them.”

Conservation Act rules also require Pennsylvania to direct revenues from gas extraction on protected lands back into land protection; however Governor Corbett and his administration will divert some of these funds for other purposes.

State parks supported by the Land and Water Conservation Fund that may see gas drilling are the Bald Eagle, Black Moshannon, Cedar Creek, Hickory Run, Hills Creek, Hyner Run, Kettle Creek, Keystone, Lackawanna, Lehigh Gorge, Little Pine, Mount Pisgah, Ohiopyle, Ole Bull, Prince Gallitzin, Ricketts Glen, Ryerson Station, Worlds End, and Yellow Creek.

Ohiopyle State Park’s rugged landscape of whitewater and rolling highlands near Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater house is among the protected parks. However, drilling will take place in the park, unless the state and the National Park Service work together to protect its resources and beauty.

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# Coleman's Lantern

## Corn Dodgers

by Phil Coleman

I fried eggplant for dinner last night, dipping slices in egg and then corn meal to coat them. When I was done I had lots of egg and corn meal left over, so I mixed them into a stiff batter and fried a couple of corn dodgers.

As I ate the corn dodgers, I remembered John Muir and Huck Finn. Muir took lots of long walks, alone or with his dog, sometimes for days at a time. He traveled light. For food he would fill his pockets with corn dodgers.

Never enjoying the weight of a pack, I always liked the idea of traveling light. I took some overnight hikes with little more than a poncho, mosquito net, and some Granola bars. But I didn't get so basic that I carried corn dodgers, and I didn't go for more than a night or two. And those days are behind me.

One thing I enjoy about canoe camping is that I can travel in relative luxury, letting the canoe handle the weight of a coffee pot and some real food, as well as a tent and sleeping bag.

But the quality that makes Muir one of our legitimate heroes was his enthusiasm for going beyond the safe and ordinary. He measured comfort by a different standard than most of us do most of the time. John Muir knew Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy because he did not stop where the trails stopped. His passion to protect grew out of his love of the wild.

Huckleberry Finn is another story. Huck and escaped slave Jim floated down the Mississippi and scavenged for their meals. Their staple was a bag of corn meal. Corn dodgers were breakfast and lunch. Huck celebrated the magnificence of the river and yearned to get away from the restrictions of society, just as Jim wanted freedom from slavery. But they lived a mistake. The river flowed south, deeper and deeper into slave territory. Huck and Jim were doomed to return to "sivilized" Hannibal, Missouri. We leave Huck at the end of that classic story determined to "light out for Injun territory."



Today, we are much more civilized than 19th Century Hannibal. We don't have to walk or to rely on the river's current. We luxuriate in electric powered comfort. For all that, we are more like Huck than Muir. We go with the flow. We speed in fancy cars with a GPS to tell us where to go and a stern GPS lady to tell us when we've gone wrong. However, the GPS only steers us to MacDonald's or Starbuck's. Neither of those offers us corn dodgers.

Even with GPS, we are much like Huck: we don't want to look a long way down the road. We ignore all indications that we are heading in the wrong direction.

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## Environmental Groups Force Conemaugh River Clean-up

by Wendi Taylor

The Sierra Club and PennEnvironment spent four years in federal court to stop GenOn Northeast Management Company from dumping toxic metals from its coal-fired power plant into the Conemaugh River east of Pittsburgh. Sometimes, the level of toxic metals exceeded the allowable limit by 1,000 percent.

In June, the years of toil paid off. GenOn Northeast agreed to pay the largest financial penalty for water pollution ever in the state for its 8,600 violations of the Clean Water Act.

According to the settlement, the company, a subsidiary of GenOn Energy Inc., of Houston, Texas, will pay \$3.5 million to the Foundation for Pennsylvania's Watersheds to cleanup of Conemaugh River, upgrade its plant by early next year to operate within legal limits for toxic metals, and pay a \$250,000 fine to the federal government.

(The fine could have gone as high as \$300 million if the company had been found guilty in court.)

Yet, the real story is that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection knew about the

pollution and under a side agreement, permitted the GenOn Northeast to continue to operate with the understanding that it would update its technology and reduce the plant's pollution by 2011. Instead of doing it, GenOn Northeast asked for and received an extension.

In its June 9th editorial, The Patriot News said: "What was happening here is government at its worst. Instead of the watchdog, Pennsylvanians got a corporate lapdog."

The court determined that the side agreement with DEP did not relieve GenOn Northeast from its responsibility to follow federal law.

"It should not have taken two environmental groups bringing a multiyear lawsuit to get a corporation and the state government to do the right thing," the Patriot said.

Has the Commonwealth learned anything from this suit? With the cozy relationship between state government and the natural gas drillers, it is not far-fetched to assume that the Sierra Club will be back in court in the future to protect the Commonwealth's rivers and streams from the natural gas industry.

Regulations only work if someone enforces them. When the government doesn't do its job with fidelity, the only protection left is the court system. That means that the public pays twice – they pay for DEP to enforce regulations and when they don't, they pay the court system to enforce them. Wouldn't it be more cost effective to enforce the laws in the first place?

*Regulations only work if someone enforces them.  
When the government doesn't do its job with  
fidelity, the only protection left is the court system.*

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# Poem

## Lost

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you  
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,  
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,  
Must ask permission to know it and be known.  
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,  
I have made this place around you,  
If you leave it you may come back again, saying Here.  
No two trees are the same to Raven.  
No two branches are the same to Wren.  
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,  
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows  
Where you are. You must let it find you.

David Wagoner

*"Lost" appeared in Wagoner's book Traveling Light: Collected and New Poems Published by the Univ. of Illinois Press in 1999.*

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## Who Owns The Landscape?

### Not Our Landscape

Toward the end of his Muckraking career, Lincoln Steffens despaired at the lack of impact his exposés seemed to have: “As long as people are warm and have drinkable water, they don’t care what the politicians do.”

We sometimes wonder if anything has changed.

In this issue of *The Sylvanian*, we will point out that the rich and powerful can shape law and policy to their advantage. They can abuse the interests and needs of the people because politicians depend on the rich to finance their campaigns. Caring people tell the truth, but repeated television ads trump the quiet truth. And not enough people care.

People are warm and comfortable, so problems that don’t affect them immediately are easy to ignore.

We will point out over and over that our representatives, regardless of party, hobnob with the rich and powerful and ignore the pain of the poor and working people.

Under Pennsylvania law, if you don’t own mineral rights under your property, you can’t keep drillers from coming in and drilling. We are reminded that coal, oil, and gas companies shaped our laws and continue to shape the way they are applied.

The immediate problem in Pennsylvania is drilling for Marcellus shale gas. And here is where we learn once again that those of us who think we own the landscape are mistaken.



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Follow us on Twitter:  
 @SierraClubPA

## Who Owns The Landscape

# Environmental Bribery and Blackmail

by Phil Coleman

A university I worked for some years back wanted to show the town folk how important it was, so the economics department did an economic impact study. The study proved that every job in the county existed only because the university had a large payroll.

The town was a waste land. But without the university's mega-bucks, it wouldn't have existed at all.

### SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

Is it any wonder that big business has access to the same kind of economic analysis. We have learned to call this feature by two terms: economic bribery and economic blackmail.

"If you relax environmental regulations, we will create jobs."

"If you enforce environmental regulations, we will leave and take our jobs with us."

Whenever big energy corporations are confronted with the logic that they are harming the environment, they do their best to change the subject. Jobs. Without exploitation there would be no or fewer jobs.

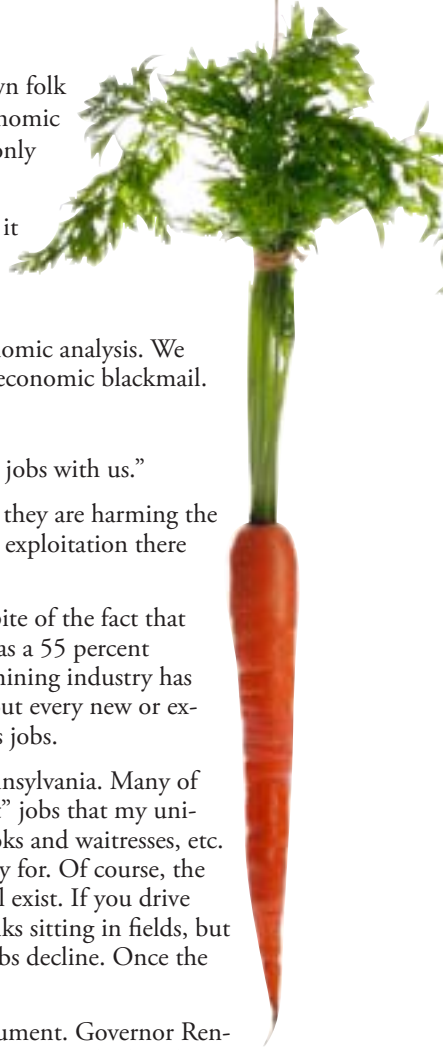
They shout this argument in spite of the evidence. For instance: In spite of the fact that coal production increased by 22 percent from 1985 to 2005, there was a 55 percent decrease in the number of coal miners during the same period. The mining industry has done everything it can to automate, to replace men with machines. But every new or expanded mine is accompanied by a proclamation that the mine creates jobs.

The gas industry has proclaimed that it will create 48,000 jobs in Pennsylvania. Many of these are real production, drilling jobs. Some of these are the "impact" jobs that my university economics colleagues proclaimed. More store clerks, more cooks and waitresses, etc. More school teachers also, which local school districts will have to pay for. Of course, the gas industry does not explore the question of how long these jobs will exist. If you drive along Pennsylvania back roads, you see gas and oil wells and their tanks sitting in fields, but you don't see workers around them. Once the wells are drilled, the jobs decline. Once the wells are dry, the jobs disappear.

Proponents of wind and solar power are not above using the jobs argument. Governor Rendell bragged about the jobs manufacture of wind turbines would create. But whether they create more or fewer jobs than extractive industries do is almost beside the point. The question is how we can manage our economy while doing the least environmental harm. The question might well be whether renewable energy programs pollute water the way coal, oil and gas do. The jobs issue is beside the point.

If you look at a list of the poorest counties in Pennsylvania and set aside Philadelphia, you find that you are looking at the counties where coal mining flourished decades ago. Wherever coal mining was, poverty has followed.

We can see the same if we look at the history of the oil industry, and we will witness it again as we trace the career of Marcellus gas exploitation.



When the play is played out the jobs will disappear. The workers will move on or go on the dole. The bosses, those wealthy liars who promoted exploitation, will move to private Caribbean islands. They will have cashed in their inflated stocks at just the right moment and will have flown their private jets to sunnier climes.

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## Money Buys a Lot in Pennsylvania

Based on Common Cause report, *Deep Drilling, Deep Pockets*

“There are institutional reasons why environmentalists keep getting the crap kicked out of them in Pennsylvania’s halls of power,” said Barry Kauffman, Executive Director of Common Cause of Pennsylvania\*. It comes down to the power of political money.

Money buys influence, and environmentalists don’t have it at anywhere near the levels their corporate adversaries do. This is dramatically demonstrated in the battles for our state’s environmental future with regard to drilling in the Marcellus Shale. The Sierra Club’s Pennsylvania Chapter has one lobbyist at the state capitol and maintains a Political Action Fund, which seldom gives more than \$500 to a candidate. Put that up against big gas companies, which have donated over \$7 million to political candidates and spent more than \$10 million on lobbying. In fact, the Marcellus Shale campaign has been described as “the full employment for lobbyists” initiative. That begins to show how out-gunned the Sierra Club is.

This is a David versus Goliath story and the only stone the Sierra Club has is its members. Member votes count with the same weight as the top executives of corporations. If our 28,000 members were able to influence 100 people each, we would be a force to be reckoned with. However, the truth is that we have members that don’t talk about environmental issues with their friends, family and co-workers. And sadly, some members aren’t even registered to vote! We know the only way to beat organized money is with organized people.

In its review of the campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures of the natural gas industry in Pennsylvania, entitled “Deep Drilling, Deep Pockets,” Common Cause shows how the commonwealth’s campaign finance laws contribute to the problems. The special relationships that political money establishes between the industry and elected officials pays huge dividends. Not only does it ensure that candidates sympathetic to industry goals are more likely to be elected, it also creates a favorable relationship that can be exploited when industry lobbyists seek help from those officials. As a result, the industry has won nearly every battle over its public policy goals.

“Pennsylvania has often been described as the “Wild West” of campaign financing. Ours is one of only eleven states that do not limit campaign contributions,” noted .Kauffman Further, the state’s online campaign contribution database is not fully searchable or sortable, so that a search for contributions from a particular interest that might take minutes in another state could take hundreds of hours in Pennsylvania. As a result of these two failures—**failure to limit campaign contributions, and failure to make this information truly accessible**—big political donors wield extraordinary influence over the political process in Pennsylvania, even as they face relatively little scrutiny as compared to many

## WhoOwnsTheLandscape

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other states.

### THE NATURAL GAS BOOM

The natural gas industry **gave \$7.2 million to Pennsylvania political candidates and Political Action Committees (PACs) between 2000 and 2010 – with \$3.4 million of that going to officials currently in office.** As the Marcellus Shale battles raged ever hotter over the past several years the industry doubled down their bets increasing campaign contributions from \$1 million in the 2008 election cycle to \$2.6 million in the 2010 election cycle.

Campaign contributions are the door openers for industry lobbyists. To be certain their contributions have the intended effect, the industry also spent over \$10 million on their lobbying operations between January 2007 and March 2011.

Spending in both categories has spiked since 2008 as new drilling techniques have enabled the industry to more fully exploit the Marcellus Shale. This spike also comes as the industry is seeking to defeat a proposed severance tax on natural gas extraction, defeat a moratorium on drilling in state-owned lands, defeat or delay tougher environmental regulations, and keep information about exactly what mixtures of chemicals are used in natural gas extraction secret.

Pennsylvania and New York are the only major natural gas producing states that do not tax the extraction of this finite natural resource. Revenues from the severance taxes levied in other states are used to fund environmental protection, infrastructure repair, and proper regulation of drilling.

Former Pennsylvania, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary John Quigley recently said, “Quite frankly, the citizens of this state are being played for chumps.” A modern-day Gold Rush in a state with “Wild West” campaign finance laws is a potentially dangerous combination. Without a severance tax, how will Pennsylvania pay to mitigate environmental damage, maintain and expand local infrastructure, and cover other costs that result from drilling? And without further study of the environmental consequences of hydraulic fracturing for the state’s water supply, and the possible risks to human health, how can we know how great this cost will be?

### “REMARKABLE PRODUCTION”

Large Marcellus gas companies are willing to make large donations to protect their interests. Two of the industry’s biggest political donors in Pennsylvania—both of whom contributed to multiple candidates for governor in 2010—are bullish on the industry’s prospects in a state that is both a “sweet spot” for the natural gas industry, and, because of its weak campaign finance laws, a “sweet spot” for any big donor hoping to influence the political process.

Consol President and Chief Executive Officer Brett Harvey recently stated, “Our total Marcellus position of 760,000 acres vaults us into the top acreage holders of what may be the world’s most prolific natural gas formation.” Consol subsidiary CNX Gas “has drilled its best ever horizontal Marcellus Shale well... This production is remarkable.” Range Resources CEO John Pinkerton called first quarter drilling results “outstanding” and said they reflect the ability Range and other drilling companies recently have to extract natural gas from high yield and low cost areas.

Industry enthusiasm for the profit potential of the Marcellus Shale is hardly limited to recent months. In the second half of 2009, oil giant Exxon-Mobil negotiated to purchase Fort Worth-based XTO, a company with large holdings in the Marcellus Shale that has pioneered hydraulic fracturing for natural

gas extraction. The Houston Chronicle commented on Exxon Mobil's \$40 billion acquisition, stating, "Exxon Mobil's move to join XTO, a company with expertise in unconventional gas production, and tap into its potentially 45 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, signals the oil giant's confidence in the commercial viability of shale gas."

The natural gas industry is keenly aware of the power of suggesting that a severance tax will deprive the state of jobs and revenue and force operators to seek business opportunities elsewhere. As Governor Manchin of West Virginia said, "The Marcellus Shale is a tremendous producer... Believe me, if we didn't have the gas, they wouldn't be here;" The industry cannot find a similarly profitable domestic natural play in any other state. But as a spokesman for Chesapeake Energy, which has 519 well operate permits in Pennsylvania, told a reporter in 2009, "We gladly pay a severance tax in every state where we're active, except in New York and Pennsylvania."



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Pennsylvania should take the following steps to limit the role of campaign contributions in shaping elections and public policy, and to make information about these contributions more readily available to the public.

**I. Contribution Limits:** To protect the integrity of its legislative, regulatory, and judicial processes, Pennsylvania should limit contributions from both individuals and PAC's to candidates for state and local offices, as all but 10 other states have done.

**II. A Better System of Disclosure:** A search for natural gas interests which might take a few minutes with the more sophisticated databases used by New York or Maryland, for example, would take hundreds of hours in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania should improve its data bases, and make them both fully searchable and user-friendly.

**III. More frequent disclosure of campaign contributions.**

Pennsylvania should require the quarterly disclosure of campaign contributions during non-election years. In election years legislative candidates should be subjected to the same disclosure schedule as statewide candidates – adding a report due on the 6th Friday prior to an election.

\* Editor's note: 1. Barry Kauffman is a past State Chair of the Sierra Club and the principal founder of the Sierra Club Environmental Lobby. 2. To see the full Deep Drilling, Deep Pockets expose, go to [www.commoncause.org/pa](http://www.commoncause.org/pa), and for updated data go to [www.Marcellusmoney.org](http://www.Marcellusmoney.org).

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## Who Owns The Landscape

# Fishy Numbers from a Toxic Industry

by Cassie McCrea, Center for Coalfield Justice

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry recently released a “Marcellus Shale Fast-Facts Report, April 2011.” Perhaps this first of its kind report is part of what thousands of dollars in campaign contributions buys in Governor Corbett’s administration. The headline most frequently cherry-picked from the report is that gas drilling has brought Pennsylvania 48,000 new hires from late 2009 through the first quarter of 2011 (by way of example, check out the Observer-Reporter version or the *Pittsburgh Tribune* version). That’s all well and good as far as headlines go, but the closer I look at this thing, the more it stinks.

For starters, a simple observation: it appears that the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) is responsible for the report but it neither published a press release nor placed the report itself to their website. (If I’m mistaken, and you can find it directly on their website, please forward a link!).

This document took me a minute to find. Where

can you find it, you might ask? Easy. Check with the Marcellus Shale Coalition. You remember them -- that industry-funded puff group, a beacon of propaganda and strategic misinformation. If L&I is too shy to toot their own horn, you better believe that the Marcellus Shale Coalition will give it a squeeze for ‘em.

Onto strategic misinformation -- with respect to the earning potential of these gas drilling jobs, the papers will tell you something like this:

The report shows that the average wage last year for jobs in the basic gas industry was \$69,995, while the average wage in support industries — such as construction, steel and engineering — was \$63,967. That compares with an average wage for all industries in the state of about \$45,491. *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*

True enough but let’s try harder, folks. The report also gives extended tables of core and ancillary Marcellus Drilling occupations and the average wage for each. If we’re talking about Marcellus job creation, let’s use the data specific to Marcellus jobs. And what do we discover?

- Average wage for Marcellus Shale Core Industries is \$44,629 — or \$862 below the average wage for all industries in the commonwealth and an impressive \$25,366 BELOW the industry wide numbers cherry-picked out of the report.





- Average wage for Marcellus Shale Ancillary Industries is a little stronger at \$48,156 — roughly \$2,665 over the average wage for all industries in the commonwealth and considerably closer to the industry-wide number, coming in just \$15,810 short. After all, what’s \$15K between friends?

After the money, let’s talk straight numbers. If the news is that drilling rigs create jobs, I’m curious how many core and ancillary jobs these rigs create. And that’s where the numbers got REALLY confusing and unpredictable. For starters, of the six identified regions in the report, the range of workers reported (both core and ancillary) per well varies from 3.3 workers/well in the Northern Tier all the way up to 131.5 workers/well in Westmoreland and Fayette. The average across the six regions comes in at 62.8 workers/well with a standard deviation of 44.5. I don’t know about you, but when I see numbers like that I get VERY suspicious of the source data. Are we really expected to believe that the level of variation across Marcellus Shale drilling rigs is that fantastic? From 3.3 jobs per well to 131 jobs per well?! To be frank, I think variations in the level of credibility of the people doing the reporting is much more likely.

These sorts of dubious inconsistencies continue when we take a harder look at the ratio of core-to-ancillary positions claimed in each region. The largest spread in the numbers is found in Westmoreland and Fayette, where it is reported that roughly 89 ancillary jobs have been created for every 11 core jobs. Central and Southwest are in a similar ballpark, claiming approximately 86 ancillary jobs for every 13 core jobs. And in another ballpark entirely, we have regions like North Central and Northern Tier reporting something closer to 6 ancillary jobs created for every 5 core jobs.

So what’s going on folks? Is this the level of variation that we should expect from the industry? In

that case, stop promising jobs that may or may not even materialize. Or is this simply a case of people not being on the same page about how they planned to go about puffing the numbers?



When data vary so much, we need to question method?

Granted, I’m a bit of skeptic, but it seems to me the reasonable bet is that the inconsistency is not in the industry jobs themselves, but rather is in how grandly we craft fairy tales about that industry and the jobs that trail along, raking in the breadcrumbs.

And one last note to keep this all in perspective: We’re talking about less than 2% of the total jobs in the state. And these jobs do NOT exist in a vacuum. If the commonwealth has time and money to whip up analytical reports, they should

continue to do so. However, how about compiling one that considers how much each drilling rig is costing us? Let’s compare jobs created to impacts on public health, environmental remediation, declining property values, emergency response services, roads and infrastructure maintenance, and so on. And then let’s not forget to look at corporate profits, too. Then we’ll be ready to have a conversation

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about who's benefiting here.

### *Editors Note:*

*Since this article was written, the Department of Labor and Industry has come out with an updated report. (<http://www.northerntier.org/upload/6-1-1Marcellus%20Shale%20Fast%20Facts%20June%202011%20viewing.pdf>)*

*On June 9, at the Economic and Workforce Development Work Group meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Marcellus Shale, Sue Mukherjee of the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) provided updated statistics on jobs. L&I expanded the standard industrial codes used to determine the spin off effect of Marcellus Shale drilling. As a result, L&I is now claiming that 72,000 people have been hired to work for the industry, up from 48,000.*

*Yet, 82,000 people are still unemployed in the Marcellus Shale region. The work group members offered several explanations for this: the skills of the people who need jobs don't match the skills needed by the industry and what members called "life style" incompatibility. Drilling companies will not hire people with drug or alcohol violations on their records. Further, they say that Pennsylvania workers are not used to working 12-hour shifts because it is not part of their working culture.*

*The average retention of new hires in drilling industry is 10 months while the average for manufacturing is 13 months. Only 36 percent of those hired in the drilling industry are still working after a year, and only 22 percent after two years. In manufacturing, those figures are 50 percent and 42 percent.*

### *Addendum*

*Cassie McCrea is not the only one who questioned the figures being released by the Department of Labor and Industry. The Keystone Research Center also took a look at the Fast Facts Report released in April. It concluded that the jobs from the Marcellus Shale industry has been vastly overstated. The Keystone Research Center found that between late 2007 and 2010, the drilling industry in the Marcellus Shale region created fewer than 10,000 new jobs, far less than claimed in the Fast Facts Report.*

*The center explained the difference on the source documents used to compile the Labor and Industry report. The L&I report is based on "New hires" which tracks people hired but not people who left their jobs. The center noted that according to the "New hires" reports, 2.8 million people were hired in Pennsylvania between the fourth quarter of 2009 and the first quarter 2011, Yet, only 85,400 new jobs were actually created during that time period.*

*The policy brief, "Drilling Deeper into Jobs Claims: The Actual Contribution of Marcellus Shale to Pennsylvania Job Growth," is available online at [www.keystoneresearch.org](http://www.keystoneresearch.org). The Keystone Research Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that promotes a more prosperous and equitable Pennsylvania economy.*

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*"I am glad I shall never be young  
without wild country to be young in.  
What avail are forty freedoms  
without a blank spot on the map?"*

*Aldo Leopold*

## Energy is [NOT] a Public Use of the Forest

by Cathy Pedler

Recently, Bill Belitskus, Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) Board President, and I were sitting through an appeal resolution meetings for large logging projects on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). This was only the second of eight meetings and probably many more) in which the public has the right to administratively appeal a project as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The process attempts to ensure transparency, sufficient environmental analysis, and public participation in the federal decision making process.

As we were reiterating our appeal points about the impacts from oil and gas development on the ANF and how those impacts were never considered significant when the vegetative management plan was developed (the 2007 ANF Forest Plan which directs logging on the ANF), the District Ranger told us “Energy is a public use of the forest.”



PHOTO BY CATHY PEDLER

Marcellus Well in Allegheny National Forest on FR 444

The Allegheny currently has 12,000 to 15,000 active shallow (many of which are stripper wells at 500 foot intervals), and at least six active Marcellus shale gas site complexes within its boundaries (two of which are on ANF land) with more planned. In the last 30 years, few of these wells have gone through the NEPA process, which is the subject of the litigation in which ADP, Sierra Club, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE), the U.S. Forest Service, and the Oil and Gas Industry are currently involved.

I am not sure why, given the frequency and pervasiveness of the phenomenon, but every time I hear industry rhetoric coming from the mouths of government officials, (like the statement by the ANF District Ranger) I am astonished, angered, and perplexed.

I suppose there was something hard-wired in me from birth that makes me really want to believe that the citizens of this country are served by our government, that we live in a democracy, and that our government protects us and makes decisions in our best interest. Fortunately, there is an older and deeper understanding that we are all plugged into (despite what programming we have received after birth) that helps us recognize crap and injustice when we see it.

On June 26 the *New York Times* ran an article on the front page, “Insiders Sound an Alarm Amid a Natural Gas Rush,” in which Ian Urbana describes what some of us already suspected (given what

I am not sure why, given the frequency and pervasiveness of

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we have observed in the stripper well developments on the Allegheny): The shale gas plays are Ponzi Schemes.

“The word in the world of independents is that the shale plays are just giant Ponzi schemes and the economics just do not work,” an analyst from IHS Drilling Data, an energy research company, wrote in an e-mail on Aug. 28, 2009. <sup>1</sup>

What should be happening to the citizens of our state and country who have been hit with the impacts of unconventional shale gas plays, such as the Marcellus and Utica, is a massive, collective realization that our government is serving masters who do not represent us. In fact, they have colonized us and are stripping us of our resources and our ability to live on the land. It should hit us like an oh-crap-my government-does-not-work-for-me tsunami.

This fact should have become crystal clear in 2010 when a Pennsylvania Homeland Security memo was leaked showing that our state and federal governments were monitoring citizens who were attempting to protect their families and communities from the impacts of unconventional shale gas drilling. Homeland Security issued the security memos (which highlighted activities by citizens such as attending Gasland screenings or municipal meetings) not only to state law enforcement and emergency managers, but also to oil and gas companies operating in Pennsylvania. <sup>2</sup>

Those of us working on the Allegheny had some warning for what was to come to the rest of the state as we watched over 2,500 miles of oil and gas roads tear through Pennsylvania’s only federal public forest . It was established for watershed protection and was already heavily impacted by industrial clear-cut logging. We have monitored, reported, litigated, only to hear industry rhetoric come from the mouths of the judges.

One of the core issues is that oil and gas infrastructure is considered by our state and federal government to be critical infrastructure; but clean water, air, and land, along with public health and wellbeing is not.

Our government is not behaving like a democracy.

It is long past time for us to send a new message to our state and federal government and the industry that it serves:

You never had the right to destroy our forest, our homes and communities, and our clean water and air; and if the justice system fails us because of ignorance or corruption, we will work through a higher law. We know we have an inalienable right to protect our homes and



PHOTO BY MAREN COOKE

*State Trooper attempting to keep Cathy Pedler and Bill Belitskus off public land because it is a “private company.”*

communities, to re-establish a democracy of local self-government that serves the citizens of our communities, not some farce that exists to subsidize with public funds your destruction of the environment, and to protect your industry from liability.

What has become exceedingly clear in our experience with public resources in Pennsylvania is that our state and federal agencies and representatives are currently not serving the interests of citizens. They will not, or cannot (because their “hands are tied” by unjust exemptions, laws, or failure of leadership) protect what our families and communities need to survive. If the USFS District Ranger would have made a truthful statement he would have said, “Industrial energy extraction is being used to destroy public resource for private interests, and my agency has been directed to facilitate this process.”

Moving forward, the strategy of those who decide to protect their homes and communities may vary depending on their community, organization, or affiliation, but accepting the status quo is no longer an option. Find your own way to act that makes sense in your situation and does the most good for your family and all of your human and non-human neighbors.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/26/us/26gas.html?pagewanted=2&hp>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.aclu.org/blog/free-speech-technology-and-liberty/drilling-opponents-spied-terrorists>

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*“We shall achieve  
conservation when and  
only when the destructive  
use of land becomes  
unethical—punishable  
by social ostracism.”*

*Aldo Leopold*

## Who Owns The Landscape

# Dirty Coal, Dirty Money, Dirty Politics

by Krissy Kasserman of Youghiohgheny River Keepers

Coal is dirty, and coal money in politics is very, very dirty. Corporate influence in our political system is certainly not breaking news, but in parts of Pennsylvania it remains so rampant and so blatant that it deserves our attention, especially as we debate the fallacy of “clean coal.”

A recent article in my local newspaper was titled “Critz hears coal company concerns,” and described a meeting between U.S. Representative Mark Critz and over a dozen coal and gas company representatives. Apparently the discussion was one in a series. The article described the industry’s objection to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) newfound involvement in reviewing permits--particularly for water discharges. At the end of the article Critz is quoted as stating, “I don’t want the federal or the state government to be an impediment. I want them to be an asset and an ally and work with them to create jobs.” There was a glossy photo of the roundtable to accompany the article.

Several state agencies play a role in job creation--the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Department of Labor and Industry, and the Department of Public Welfare to name a few. Our state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and our federal EPA do not and should not, however, focus on job creation. These particular agencies are charged with protecting our environment. While their success in carrying out that mandate is at times disputable, both agencies certainly play an important role in regulating coal mining and many other types of activities. When they attempt to fulfill that role they find themselves on the wrong side of Big Coal. What is Big Coal’s response? They rat them out to our elected officials, of course.

In Pennsylvania (and in West Virginia and in Kentucky and across Appalachia, really), coal reigns. You’ve probably not heard much from King Coal lately--the Marcellus shale industry took the heat off of them-- but they’re still here, still kicking behind the scenes (and sometimes right before our eyes), still manipulating the legislative process to their benefit. Super Bowl tickets, anyone?

Recently the EPA began to review National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit applications associated with coal mining operations in the Monongahela River watershed. Typically, because Pennsylvania has been delegated the authority to write such permits, this issue has been handled by DEP without EPA intervention. However, issues with high levels of total dissolved solids, salinity and chlorides in the Monongahela River led to this additional level of review. Coal companies don’t appreciate this added oversight. A more rigorous permitting process results in a more careful review of the permit application, and Big Coal has to walk the straight and narrow. This level of scrutiny also takes longer. Big Coal objects to this new relationship with EPA; they cry foul to our elected officials, many of whom are happy to listen and exercise their political muscle.

As citizens, we must protest. Corporate money in politics is a dangerous game (unless, of course, you’re a corporation, but that’s another article), and as long as we are complacent Big Coal will continue to play the game. They’ll manipulate and influence the regulatory system-- via our elected officials-- to their benefit and they’ll continue to impede good environmental policy and progress. In the watershed I work in, the easy coal is gone, having been depleted by over a hundred years of mining. Mining is now spreading into areas once considered pristine--areas with exceptional biodiversity, steep slopes, and high quality streams. Local elected officials occasionally appear at public hearings to extol the virtues of job creation. It is our obligation to dispel that myth, and to ensure that the fireside chats between industry and our elected officials do not silence our voices.

## CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Recently, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Fisheries Committee proposed adding 99 streams or stream sections across the state to the Wild Trout list. This designation ensures that naturally reproducing populations of trout—including native brook trout—are protected. The number of naturally reproducing trout streams in the state has dwindled due to abandoned mine drainage, development, and other pressures. While this designation does not stop development it does provide additional protections for the streams. Predictably, howls of opposition arose from the Pennsylvania Coal Association. Big Coal's letter of protest was—are you ready?—endorsed by many of our elected state senators and representatives. Big Coal's protest and the legislative intervention served to delay the decision to vote on these 99 stream sections, but ultimately the Pennsylvania Board of Fish and Boat Commissioners stood up to Big Coal, stood behind their science, and voted the stream sections onto the list. Hats off to the Commissioners.

I recently called one of my elected representatives to discuss Governor Corbett's proposed budget. He was out to lunch, so I spoke with his assistant. She asked when I was available. She asked for my name and my phone number. Then she asked what company I was with. Company? I wasn't calling on behalf of a company, and I told her that. She answered, "You mean you're just a constituent?"

Yes, I'm just a constituent. Not a lobbyist, not a company, not a corporation. Just a citizen, a mother, a taxpayer, and yes, an environmentalist. Let's all schedule chats with our elected officials. Let's frankly discuss the need for sound environmental policy, and call out Big Coal and the role their dirty money plays in politics. It's both our right and our responsibility.

## CLEAN COAL

The notion of "clean coal," so touted by politicians and the industry these days, refers to methods used to reduce carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and particulates from emissions including the capture and storage of carbon dioxide.

The coal industry has spent millions on billboards, commercials, and print advertisements proclaiming the benefits of clean coal. The reality is that coal is a major contributor to climate change, and the burning of coal is the second largest contributor of carbon dioxide emissions in the US. Recent studies show that 17,000 premature deaths occur each year because of old, grandfathered in coal-fired power plants. Even if we can successfully sequester the carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants or reduce emissions through scrubbing technologies (and the success of these methods is still in question), coal must still be mined and burning coal will still produce coal ash.

Until we can transport the coal out of the ground without environmentally destructive mining methods like strip mining, longwall and mountaintop removal mining, until it can be burned without producing heaps of toxic ash laden with heavy metals including arsenic, mercury and lead, coal will remain a dirty fuel source, and the notion of "clean coal" is a dirty lie.



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## Who Owns The Landscape

# Ever-Increasing Damage from Longwall Mining in Pennsylvania:

## Seven Common Mining Industry Myths Exposed

by Citizens Coal Council

University of Pittsburgh researchers have provided more than 500 pages of text and maps derived from agency files for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's third report on underground coal mining (2011). Act 54 of 1994 mandated a report every five years on the damages actually recorded from underground mining after Commonwealth law was changed to authorize surface subsidence, with the expectation that mining companies would mitigate if allowed to damage structures and water supplies. The first five-year report was prepared by Department staff in 1999 (with supplement in 2001), and the second was prepared for PADEP by California University of Pennsylvania in 2005.

Coal traditionally was mined in Pennsylvania by room-and-pillar methods, which leave nearly half of the coal in place for support to prevent collapse of the mine roof. By the 1990s industry was eager to utilize high-extraction, longwall technology by which automated machinery could remove more coal, faster, with fewer workers and, therefore, at lower cost to the mining companies. As a result of the removal of all coal from ever-growing panels miles long and thousands of feet wide, however, roof collapse is guaranteed, and overlying rock layers subside into the void, creating hydrogeological disruptions often all the way to the land surface.

Surface subsidence affecting structures built before 1966 had been prohibited for decades in Pennsylvania by the Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act, until the Act 54 amendments allowed restoration/replacement/compensation for damaged structures and water supplies. Act 54's reporting requirement was intended to inform legislators and the public how extensive the resulting subsidence damage is, how much repair is needed, and how effective restoration is proving to be.

Now after 15 years of reporting, seven coal mining industry myths are exposed and proven to be untrue:

**INDUSTRY MYTH #1: THE 1966 PA BITUMINOUS COAL MINING LAW PROVIDED NO PROTECTION FROM LOSS OF WATER SUPPLIES, AND ACT 54 CORRECTED THAT.**

### THE REALITY IS:

- Pennsylvania's progressive 1966 Mining Law prohibited damage to homes built before 1966, as well as to schools, churches, hospitals, public buildings, and cemeteries. The protection directly afforded by those prohibitions on damage effectively protected a larger area around each of the protected features, and thus indirectly protected many streams, wetlands, groundwater aquifers, and wells in the vicinity of those features.
- Permanent water loss is increasingly a problem under Act 54. Of 269 private water supplies damaged during just the 2003-2008 period, only 7 percent recovered on their own and only 2 percent were repaired in situ. Half of the water supply losses were settled by private agreement or purchase of damaged property with no recorded repair or replacement of the water supply. Al-



ternative permanent water supplies (particularly public water) that were provided did not always replace water quality equal to that lost.

- Water loss is a consequence of current longwall mining technology, which ignores backstowing of coal waste and other means to minimize surface subsidence. Water loss attributed to underground mining during this latest Act 54 review period was found to be twice as common above longwall mines as above room-and-pillar mines.

**INDUSTRY MYTH #2: ACT 54 EXTENDED THE SAME PROTECTIONS TO HOMES BUILT AFTER 1966 AS TO PRE-1966 STRUCTURES.**

**THE REALITY IS:**

- Act 54 allowed all homes and other structures to be damaged by underground coal mining, so in that sense it extended the same consideration – or lack of consideration – to homes no matter when they were built and regardless of their historic significance. The “protection” afforded to structures by Act 54 only begins after they have been permitted to be damaged, in the form of repair, restoration, or compensation that may take several years to resolve after subsidence ceases, with severe disruption to prior uses in the interim.

**INDUSTRY MYTH #3: ACT 54 MAKES MINE OPERATORS LIABLE FOR ALL DAMAGES CAUSED BY SUBSIDENCE.**

**THE REALITY IS:**

- Act 54 specifically provides remedies only for certain damages to structures and to water supplies. Other collateral damage now occurs to streams, wetlands, and aquifers which indirectly had been protected by the 1966 Mining Law’s prohibition on damage to structures, but those damages are not being addressed. Likewise, physical and emotional distress caused by subsidence damage and dealing with its consequences, as well as business and economic disruptions, are afforded no compensation or reparation under Act 54.
- The PADEP now collects credible data on structure and water supply impacts and associated “resolutions,” but is not collecting comparable data, and thus cannot properly evaluate, individual or cumulative impacts to hydrologic resources (streams, wetlands, aquifers, and water quality) that result from underground coal mining.

**INDUSTRY MYTH #4: DAMAGES FROM LONGWALL MINING ARE PREDICTABLE, LIMITED, AND MANAGEABLE.**

**THE REALITY IS:**

- No statistics are being compiled, and there is no mention or evaluation in any of the Act 54 Reports, on the number, nature, location, or severity of impacts that were predicted versus those not predicted in permit applications.
- Overall, impacts during the 2003-2008 (3rd) Act 54 report period increased 14.4 percent from impacts reported during the 1998-2003 (2nd) period, including an 86 percent increase in land impacts and a 31 percent increase in structure impacts.

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- Acreage of active room-and-pillar mines more than doubled from the second to the third reporting period, while acreage of active longwall mines decreased 10.5 percent --- yet longwall mines caused 100 percent of reported damage to streams, 95 percent of damage to land, and 94 percent of damage to structures during the 2003-2008 review period.
- Of 1,879 structures undermined by room-and-pillar mining in 2003-2008, only 29 (1.5 percent) experienced damage, compared to 427 (23 percent) of the 1,856 structures above longwall mines. Actual repair of structures occurred in only 19 (6 percent) of the 300 “resolved” cases. In 211 cases (70 percent) the mine company either bought the property or relied upon a (confidential) landowner agreement. Homes are being abandoned in many small communities.
- Act 54 fails to acknowledge the massive landscape-scale damages and water losses which are occurring, and the consequent widespread disintegration of rural agricultural communities is neither socially acceptable nor good public policy.

**INDUSTRY MYTH #5: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF LONGWALL MINING ARE BEING REGULATED AND CONTROLLED.**

### **THE REALITY IS:**

- Dewatering of southwestern Pennsylvania streams, springs, wetlands, and aquifers is incompletely documented and seldom corrected. Two-thirds of the 55 stream damage cases reported during the Third Act 54 review period (all due to longwall mining) were not “resolved” as of August 2008, and some dewatered streams determined by PADEP to be “resolved” were still not functioning, illustrating that “resolved” does not mean “restored.”
- The documented long-term loss of several once-thriving streams appears likely to be permanent as a result of longwall mining.
- Minimal pre-mining data on streams and wetlands are available, despite PADEP regulations and prior Act 54 report recommendations, so evaluation of stream damages remains scientifically inadequate and woefully incomplete.
- Stream pollution enforcement data are not reviewed as specifically directed by Act 54.
- Groundwater aquifers are being destroyed and never repaired.
- Designated “Special Protection” waters receive no more consideration by PADEP than ordinary or non-attaining (polluted) waters when underground mining permits are approved.
- The cost to repair longwall mine damage to public highways and other infrastructure is borne entirely by taxpayers and not by the mining companies that cause the damage.

**INDUSTRY MYTH #6: LONGWALL MINING IMPACTS ON PEOPLE ARE TEMPORARY AND UNAVOIDABLE.**

### **THE REALITY IS:**

In addition to the tragic realities listed above –

- The long-standing statutory incentives for mining companies to avoid surface impacts were re-

moved by Act 54. Room-and-pillar mining remains as an economically viable alternative allowing operators to extract coal with vastly smaller impacts on people, water supplies, and the environment of southwestern Pennsylvania than those caused by longwall mining.

- Subsidence damage from centuries of underground room-and-pillar mining in Pennsylvania is infrequent and minor in scale, and is covered by inexpensive insurance available from the Commonwealth, which – because of the rarity of room-and-pillar subsidence – is a net positive income stream to the Mine Subsidence Insurance Program.
- Minimal damage to surface resources occurs from the 42 room-and-pillar mines as compared with the massive damage from the 8 longwall mines, with much faster resolution of impacts from the few room-and-pillar damage cases.
- Major disruption to the homes, businesses, and water supplies on land undermined by longwall technology lasts for years. The repairs cannot even begin until subsidence is complete, if repairs are ever attempted. Oftentimes, the resolution is simply to buy-out owners and demolish homes.
- Water supply damages that occurred during the third Act 54 review period required 321 days on average to reach a “final” resolution. 32 cases of water loss reported from the 1998-2003 period were still unresolved in 2008, averaging 6.8 years without final resolution.

#### INDUSTRY MYTH #7: ACT 54 IS WORKING FINE.

#### THE REALITY IS:

- Act 54 is seriously flawed and directly conflicts with longstanding Pennsylvania environmental protection laws, the Commonwealth agencies’ public trust responsibilities, and the constitutional guarantee of environmental protection embodied in Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.
- Act 54 allows damages that are avoidable; those damages are continuing to increase; and restoration of all damages is not occurring. These deficiencies, which now are clearly recorded in the Third Act 54 5-Year Report, must be addressed and corrected immediately for the benefit of the Commonwealth, the welfare of the residents of Pennsylvania, and for generations to follow.

“The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

---Article 1, Section 27 (Declaration of Rights) of the Pennsylvania Constitution

The Citizens Coal Council is a group of people “Working together for justice in the coalfields.”

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## Who Owns The Landscape

### Also Ensuring the Common Good

by Joe Sestak

America's character is based on an alliance of rugged individualism and common enterprise. Each individual has his own fair opportunity to attain his dream, but always in an alliance with America's commonwealth. America has been built by those striving for their own achievement, but always with a sense of being part of a greater effort.

Here in Pennsylvania, the natural gas companies are stressing the individual opportunity that the Marcellus Shale offers: 175,000 to 200,000 jobs to be created by 2020. (Litvak) But they caution that 35 percent of natural gas wells will be forced to close – and promised jobs lost – if the federal government's Safe Drinking Water Act were imposed. And they have similar warnings if an excise tax were to be enacted.

How does this promise of so many jobs balance with our “commonwealth”? First, only 2,000 of these promised jobs are permanent, and according to a study by the Pennsylvania College of Technology over 80 percent of the temporary ones are being filled by “out-of-staters.” Second, Pennsylvania is not benefiting from the savings the gas companies are reaping in transportation and distribution costs. These represent half the expense of natural gas, and they are greatly reduced by our location next to the lucrative American northeast market. Our Commonwealth is not being paid an excise tax for our own share of the companies' increased revenue -- unlike the other top 14 natural gas producing states, which are located further away from this market. (Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center) Yet despite the loss of this revenue, the Commonwealth is paying for infrastructure investment and for repairing environmental damage caused by heavy trucks and drilling contamination. In contrast, when Walmart creates over 2000 permanent jobs in just a few years, we will not be faced with having to repair environmental damage or make such infrastructure investments.

I learned in my 31 years in the Navy that poor pre-planning means greater cost later, which will be borne by those left behind, including future generations. For instance, after the demise of the anthracite coal industry, the Commonwealth was still left with a \$15 billion cleanup of 2,500 miles of damaged streams and 250,000 acres of contaminated land. (Busch) Today, at least seven of our counties have already been cited with contamination from natural gas fracking, and the Commonwealth has issued several hundred violations for wrongful discharges, faulty practices and pollution of our streams. (Lustgarten)

The Navy also taught me to “expect what you inspect.” The Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection not only lacks sufficient inspectors but also adequate standards by which to inspect and enforce drilling violations and contamination. Moreover, since 2004 the federal Environmental Protection Agency has been prohibited from any oversight to ensure that Commonwealth's drinking water is safe from drilling. Unfortunately for the Commonwealth, those “left behind” once the natural gas companies are done will have a greater cost to bear than they did after the demise of coal mining. The footprint of fracking gas is at least 20 percent greater and perhaps as much as double that of coal over a 20 year horizon; this is because methane is a far more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. (Templeton)

The point is one we have failed to learn far too often in the past. The role of government is not to strangle rugged individualism, but to encourage it – while ensuring that the common enterprise, the common good, of our citizens is enhanced and not harmed. In this case, drilling can ensure a com-

mon good by offering reduced carbon emissions and less dependence on foreign oil. But it must not be at a greater cost, or even damage, to our Commonwealth. It is this balance that government must strike in fracking for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale. To do otherwise is to reward individual opportunity without regard to our overall Commonwealth.

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Joe Sestak is a retired admiral and former Congressman from Media, PA, He was the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate in 2010 and was endorsed by the Sierra Club.

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## No more State Forest Leasing for Marcellus Drilling

by State Representative Greg Vitali, Delaware County

As Pennsylvania moves toward its June 30 budget deadline, the leasing of additional state forest land for Marcellus drilling is again under consideration. It would be irresponsible for Gov. Tom Corbett and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to lease more state forests to raise revenue. Almost half our state forestland is now available for drilling, and what remains is environmentally sensitive. There are much better sources of revenue such as a drilling tax.

Pennsylvania Senate President Pro Tem Joseph Scarnati (R-Jefferson) recently called for the leasing of an additional 50,000 acres of state forestland for Marcellus drilling. Corbett has previously said he plans to reverse former Gov. Ed Rendell's moratorium on further state forest leasing. He now wants his new Department of Conservation and Natural Resources team "to get in there and see if it's time to continue" with more state forest leasing.

Leasing more state forestland is the wrong way to raise new revenue. About 1.5 million acres of state forest sits atop the natural gas rich Marcellus Shale formation, and 725,000 of those acres are now available for gas drilling. The remaining un-leased acreage contains old growth forests, fragile ecosystems, and habitats for rare and endangered species -- all inappropriate for gas drilling.

This remaining acreage should be protected for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians including hunters,

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fishers, hikers, campers, horseback riders, mountain bikers and boaters. This state treasure should be passed unscathed to future generations.

More leasing could also have a negative economic impact. It would threaten development initiatives like the Pennsylvania Wilds, which has built a strong and growing ecotourism economy based on a healthy and intact state forest. More leasing could also put Pennsylvania's Forest Stewardship Council sustainability certification at risk, thus impacting the 70,000 Pennsylvanians employed in the forest products industry.

Marcellus gas drilling is an intensely industrial activity using millions of gallons of chemically-treated water. It requires the clearing of land, construction of pipelines, water impoundments and access roads, along with hundreds of truck trips. I recently visited Tiadaghton State Forest in Lycoming County where I witnessed firsthand how Marcellus drilling can turn a wilderness area into an industrial site.

Ninety percent of the land that sits atop the Marcellus Shale formation is privately owned. Further natural gas drilling should only occur on this private land or on state forestland already leased.

There are much better sources of revenue to balance our budget such as a drilling tax. Every other major natural gas producing state imposes one.

A recent poll showed that 70 percent of voters support such a tax while 65 percent were against leasing more state forests for drilling. Yet, the governor and some legislators steadfastly refuse to consider a drilling tax but will consider more state forest leasing. They should begin listening to the people they represent.

*Greg Vitali is a Democratic state representative from Delaware County and serves on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. He can be reached at [greg@gregvitali.com](mailto:greg@gregvitali.com)*

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“IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET A MAN TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING WHEN HIS SALARY DEPENDS ON HIS NOT UNDERSTANDING IT.”

-- UPTON SINCLAIR

## Work Group Meetings on Marcellus Shale are Revealing

by Wendi Taylor

Upon taking office, Governor Tom Corbett appointed the Governor's Advisory Council on Marcellus Shale. What has followed is not only more of the governor's blatant support of the industry but also opportunities for others to jump on the gravy train. At the same time, people's and communities' real needs are being given short shrift.

### NO FREE LUNCH

When the council first met, it quickly broke into four work groups, with each work group specializing in a different aspect of Marcellus drilling in Pennsylvania.

Lunch is provided for the council members. While the public can attend the work group meetings, they can't attend the lunch, where most of the decision making is probably done. More than once, the chair of the work group has suggested that a particular issue would be discussed at lunch.

Even so, as someone who has attended two of the four work group meetings, I have observed that issues emerge giving some indication of what is going on behind the scenes.

### "FORCED POOLING"

For example, at the Economic and Workforce Development work group meeting on June 9, Terry Engelder of Penn State University gave a presentation on proposed legislation for the 640-acre drainage unit. Before he began he asked if there were any reporters in the room because he said that the 640-acre drainage unit is equivalent to forced pooling but did not want anyone to use the words: "forced pooling." According to Engelder, Pennsylvania is one of the few states which does not have a provision in law for "large draining units." Without large draining units, some gas would be left behind where landowners refused to sign a lease.

According to Engelder, the purpose of the 640-acre drainage unit is to maximize economic benefit, minimize environmental footprint and provide just and fair compensation for the landowners who do sign leases.

Engelder said that this concept has been upheld by the Texas Supreme Court in *Coastal Oil and Gas v. Garza Energy Trust*. On August 29, 2008, the court reversed an appeals court decision, holding that fracking across property lines does not constitute actionable trespass because the resulting drainage is protected by the rule of capture. Marcellus Shale drilling is not covered by the Oil and Gas Conservation Law, Engelder said.

### AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

In a May session of the work group, John Vidmar of the Ben Franklin Partnership asked for time because he wanted to make sure that the work group did not overlook the economic opportunities that can be developed as a result of the drilling industry. Right now, the Ben Franklin Partnership is work-

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ing with Penn State University researchers to develop a new kind of “proppant” to replace the sand used in fracturing. Vidmar said that sand is getting scarce. Imagine that! Sand is scarce!

A research project at Penn State has come up with a higher grade of proppant, which can be turned into a viable product within two years, with the help of the Ben Franklin Partnership.

The Partnership takes a small amount of money and short period of time to help make a path for commercialization. In this case, with help of Angel Investment Organization, it took just three months to find investors. The company has already produced 10 tons of this new proppant. This new proppant is made of a by-product from another process, which is very plentiful and has to be disposed of in some way. Vidmar said the product, which is proprietary, is “near ceramic.”

While Vidmar did not say, my best guess is that the byproduct is coal combustion waste, which experts say should not come anywhere near water.

### THE MAGIC OF TRAINING

In April, Larry Michael of the Marcellus Shale Education & Training Center in the College of Technology in Williamsport gave a presentation on its collaboration with the Penn State Cooperative Extension to train people for jobs in drilling, called “Shale Net.” Shale Net was developed as a noncredit program to train people to become roustabouts, which are needed during the drilling stage. The job training is currently being funded with a Career Opportunity Grant from Labor and Industry, Workforce Employment funding from the federal government, and other private grants.

The course is focused on making workers “fit for natural gas” by “remediating soft skills.” Prospective workers must have a clean criminal history and have a work ethic that guarantees that they will show up for work every day on time. Anyone in the program who is late just once will be dismissed.

A roustabout is an official classification for someone who works on oil rigs in oil fields who typically performs various laboring jobs that require little or no training. In a 2010 survey by CareerCast.com, the position of roustabout was rated as the worst job in the survey – dead last. The survey was based on five criteria: environment, income, employment outlook, physical demands and stress.

So now we know that the state and federal governments along with other grantors are using scarce funds to train people for a position that needs little or no training to do the worst job in the world.

### DEALING WITH LOCAL IMPACTS

The real issues with the drilling industry show up in the Local Impact and Emergency Response Work Group. Small rural communities that lack resources and financial power are bearing the brunt of this type of industrial development in formerly pristine settings.

Yet, right now, the gas industry pays no direct taxes (such as property taxes) to local governments. Until 2002, oil and gas, like coal and other minerals, were assessable for real property tax purposes. In 2002, the PA Supreme Court (*Independent Oil and Gas et al v. Fayette County Board of Assessment Appeals*) found that oil and gas is only assessable for property taxes if specifically enumerated in the law, which they aren't. Local governments would like the General Assembly to restore the ability to tax of oil and gas under real property, in which the tax would be paid by the company holding the interest in the oil and gas and not the surface owners. Further, some drilling operations are located in a Keystone Opportunity Zone, in which state and local taxes are deferred for up to 12 years.



In June, Doug Hill executive director of County Commissioners' Association expressed concern about what will happen to these rural communities once the resources are depleted. He wants to find ways for the profits to be reinvested for the long term life of the community. Local governments are being stretched to the limits and are affected in a number of ways: roads and bridges; gas pipeline system; human services, such as police and children and youth; education; tourism; housing and the conversion of subsidized housing to market value; and the increased case load in both criminal and civil court with litigation over leases and royalties, inheritance tax probate, and the need for translation services.

Hill advocated returning oversight of erosion and sediment for permits and monitoring to the local Conservation Districts. In March 2009, the Conservation Districts, which work with PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture to prevent erosion and sedimentation, were relieved of their oversight in the permitting process for the oil and gas industry.

The work group balked at the idea of restoring permit review to Conservation Districts because they could "throw a grenade" at drilling companies seeking permits.

Ed Troxell of the PA State Association of Boroughs said that he represents boroughs, which are the urban centers in rural areas. Boroughs need assistance with planning. He highlighted the stress that drilling has placed on water and sewer systems, police protection, traffic control (stop signs which used to control traffic now require traffic signals, which cost more to install and carry reoccurring maintenance costs). Further, tourism has been affected because many of the camping facilities are now filled with recreational vehicles, owned by drillers.

Elam Herr of Pennsylvania Township Supervisors focused his remarks on roads. He complained that local townships are out of the loop when it comes to drilling. Townships receive no direct tax revenues from drilling companies yet they are supposed to take care of 78,000 miles of township roads, most not made for industrial traffic. While the drilling industry repairs roads, they make quick repairs but they are not up to standards. Non-standard roads cost the townships liquid fuels money. Roads that violate storm water planning regulations subject the townships to fines.

There are bonds paid by the industry to use roads that were not built to sustain the weight. Before now, loggers were usually the only ones to pay these bonds. The rate currently is \$12,500 for one mile of two lane paved highway and \$6,000 for unpaved roads. Yet, reconstructing a road to standards costs \$670,000 a mile. Herr said that there has been an instance in Greene County where the logging industry and the drilling industry blamed each other for damaging the roads.

In every Local Impact and Emergency Response Work Group meeting, the plight of first responders comes up. Emergency management is creating hardships for volunteer fire companies. The calls are frequent and usually aren't serious but the number of calls is wearing people out. The law says that police (paid) and fire personnel (almost all volunteer) must respond to emergency calls. Further, the locations of drilling sites, gathering lines, and compressor stations are hard to find in rural areas. In most instances, roads to drilling sites are brand new and without satellite coordinates; they take a long time to find. While all locations will eventually have 911 addresses, many still do not have them.

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# Environmental Protection Must be Adequately Funded

by Greg Vitali, State Representative, Delaware County

The Commonwealth must finalize its annual budget by the end of this month and if proposed cuts to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are allowed to stand, valuable programs will be reduced and the Department will have insufficient personnel to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvanians.

The DEP is a state agency charged with enforcing Pennsylvania's environmental laws and regulations. The agency must make sure our power plants, drinking water facilities, coal mines and sewage treatment plants are operating safely. It must also make sure the enormous amount of Marcellus drilling coming to Pennsylvania is done in a safe and responsible way. The DEP is the environmental "cop on the beat."

The DEP's budget has been significantly cut in recent years and the budget passed by the House last month would reduce its budget even further. The \$136 million dollar general funds component of this budget is a \$9 million reduction from the current fiscal year and a \$54 million reduction from fiscal year 2006/2007. (The total DEP budget is larger containing both federal funding and monies from fees and permits.)

Referring to this general funds component Former DEP Secretary John Hanger recently stated: "DEP cannot do its mission reasonably, let alone address the growing challenges it faces with a budget effectively below \$170 million dollars."

There has been about a ten percent cut in DEP staff over the past 5 years, decreasing from 2,911 positions in 2006 to 2,610 positions in 2010. Gov. Corbett's proposed budget would eliminate the equivalent of an additional 69 full-time positions from the agency. The budget recently passed by the House provides \$2 million less in DEP funding than requested in the Corbett budget.

I have personally spoken with DEP personnel charged with regulating the Marcellus drilling industry and they tell me they need more help: more oil and gas inspectors, more water quality and solid waste specialists and more staff for air permitting and sampling.

The House-passed budget also cuts important DEP programs. \$3.48 million was cut from the flood control program which mitigates damage to communities caused by flooding and \$438,000 was cut from the West Nile Virus monitoring program, which helps reduce infections of the potentially deadly disease carried by mosquitoes.

There are a number of revenue sources to increase the DEP budget. The most obvious is a Marcellus drilling tax. Every major natural gas producing state but Pennsylvania has one.

Additionally, the implementation of a fee package for air permitting and inspections, mining program operations and, regulation of water systems would generate up to an additional \$25 million. Such a fee package was initiated by the Rendell administration but stopped by Governor Corbett.

Finally, Commonwealth tax revenues were nearly \$540 million over estimate through May. A small portion of this overage could fix the problem.

In these difficult economic times the DEP budget has been an easy target for Harrisburg budget makers. But with the emergence of the Marcellus drilling industry, the environmental challenges facing this commonwealth have never been greater. The DEP budget should be increased not decreased.

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## The Public Role in Economic Development

by Joseph M. Hoeffel, Montgomery County Commissioner

Private developers and investors have long understood that it is cheaper and easier to develop projects on farmland and suburban green fields than in downtowns and older communities. Rehabbing old structures and upgrading old infrastructure is more costly and time-consuming than building from the ground up in an open field.

Accordingly, for many years the development industry has successfully lobbied for government and private funding and secured favorable local zoning that allows, and even encourages, green field development at the expense of investment in our older communities that are in desperate need of support.

But most citizens want to protect open spaces and enjoy more recreational opportunities along with economic growth and job creation in cities and suburbs. So do we want to encourage economic development in cities or in the countryside?

Clearly, there is an important role for local and county government to implement rational planning, wise investment and local involvement in economic development. The private sector creates most of the jobs and provides most of the investment dollars. At the same time, the public sector needs to encourage private decision-makers through government grants, incentives and encouragement to make smart investments where they are most needed and where they are most in tune with community desires.

A number of our older communities and downtowns in Montgomery County have fallen on hard times, with upscale shops relocating to suburban malls with all the parking, and little new investment to modernize or renovate the urban centers left behind. The county commissioners decided to consider actions to attract private investments and to leverage government funding sources to revitalize our older towns.

We appointed a 35 member Economic Development Task Force comprised of local business leaders, community activists, labor leaders and local elected officials. We hired an economic consulting firm for the task force and also assigned as staff our existing employees in the county planning and commerce departments. After six months of meetings, study and public hearings, the task force presented a comprehensive report to the county commissioners recommending the establishment of a county

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economic development plan. The report recommended specific initiatives to fund older community revitalization, downtown and Main Street redevelopment, business incentives, planning and marketing support and work-force development. (To read this report, use this link: <http://www.montgomery-planningboard.org/semiannuals/documents/spring-2011.pdf>)

Our new economic development plan has succeeded in creating or saving over 600 well-paying jobs in our county seat of Norristown. We have seen that there is an appropriate and even vital role for government at all levels to create a stronger workforce, invest in new jobs, and revitalize communities.

We must do a much better job in coordinating the government spending that already exists throughout the state. The projects funded by transportation dollars must strengthen communities and help encourage smart growth. Economic development spending must attract and guide the all-important private investments to communities most in need of revitalization and jobs. Funding to protect green and open space must complement efforts to redevelop downtowns.

All of this spending is public money, and we need to spend it wisely and creatively if the taxpayers are going to tolerate that we keep spending it at all.

We can build our economy by investing in new jobs, clean energy and workforce development. We can boost small business and revitalize our communities with coordinated programs of economic development, open space preservation and transportation improvements.

We must think big, even during tough budgetary times, if we are going to win public support for smart, targeted growth and revitalized older communities and downtowns. We must match government incentives with an invigorated private sector to grow our economy, protect our environment and improve the quality of life for all.

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## Acid Oceans

Linda Small, Candidate for York's 93rd Legislative District

**B**asic chemistry: put carbon dioxide in water and water becomes more acidic. When talking about your favorite cola, that's fine. When talking about the food chain and life in the ocean, that's bad. It's another unregulated experiment on your grandkids' future. Oceans are 30 percent more acidic now than they were in pre-industrial times. If we do nothing, by the end of this century, oceans will be 150 percent more acidic. Why do we care?

Many of the critters in the ocean have shells. Corals, which are the basis for whole ocean ecosystems, are among those. The more acidic the ocean, the more difficult it is to build those shells. Weaken or eliminate the shells, and you lose the animals. Corals may hit the acid point of no return by 2050.



Taking out the small shelled animals at the bottom of the food chain is dangerous. Other effects of acidity may show up in larger fish. Studies show the clownfish made popular by the movie "Finding Nemo" can't use the chemical signals to find its home in acidic water. Worse, some clownfish are drawn to the scent of predators. Bye-bye, Nemo! Not as good a bedtime story for children.

Ocean acidification may affect whole fisheries. This doesn't seem a worthwhile risk as the population is expect-

ed to grow another 2 billion people by 2050. We'll need the food, yet we risk eliminating the ocean as a food source.

It's time to take carbon dioxide seriously. Yes, we breathe it out. It is life itself when plants use it to grow and thrive. Yet, since we are adding carbon dioxide to the oceans at a rate far greater than we've ever known, it is time to act. The measurements and effects of ocean acidification are simple to observe. By burning fossil fuels like coal and oil, plus chopping down forests at an unprecedented rate, humans have added 500 billion additional pounds of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere which nature previously kept locked away. Thirty percent of that carbon dioxide has been absorbed by the oceans. The oceans are huge, but that's a huge amount of carbon dioxide. Every hour the ocean absorbs around a million tons of carbon dioxide. It doesn't matter that no one intends to harm the oceans. It is acidifying now.

There are various versions of a story of a man of faith who was threatened by a flood. He refuses multiple offers of help as the threat gets worse and worse. His faith is strong, and "God will save me." When he dies in the flood and meets God the man wants to know why he died despite his strong faith. God tells the man that He sent multiple warnings and help but the man refused to take heed.

That parable fits us today. We have multiple warnings. We know that burning fossil fuels causes

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thousands of deaths a year due to particulate matter pollution. One in 6 women have in their bodies enough mercury from burning coal for power to risk their babies being born with lower IQs or impaired motor skills. We know that drilling for oil and gas causes periodic explosions that kill workers and spills that pollute water and kill wildlife. We know that mining for coal has created a legacy of polluted landscapes and miners killed quickly through mine accidents or slowly through black lung disease. Despite the loud denial by a few with enough money to buy a contrary message, we know that climate change from greenhouse gasses is making our climate less hospitable to people and animals. And now, as we're ignoring all of those warnings, here is one more. Ocean acidification is a red flag waving along with a loudspeaker saying stop putting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere!

Does this mean we go back to the dark ages? No. If we start a serious effort to conserve energy and develop clean renewable energy, we can live well while ending the damage. Politically, this seems impossible to achieve today. Yet if we don't wake up, the adults of today will be responsible for irreversible damage to our children's world. It's time to move to the 21st century technologies that will keep the earth livable for future generations, but we must start now. Tomorrow is too late.

To learn more about the acid problem in the oceans, read:

*National Geographic* "The Acid Sea" from the April 2011 issue. <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/04/ocean-acidification/kolbert-text>

NRDC article "Ocean Acidification: The Other CO2 Problem" <http://www.nrdc.org/oceans/acidification/default.asp>

NRDC Video: "Acid Test: The Global Challenge of Ocean Acidification". <http://www.nrdc.org/tv/>

Fact Sheet- Coal-Fired Power Plants. <http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/pa/downloads/psrcoalfactsheet.pdf>

One version of drowning man story. <http://www.pennyparker2.com/saveme.html>

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# ExploreEnjoyPennsylvania

## Quehanna Wild Area— Laurel Draft, Gore Vista, Foley Draft

by Gary Thornbloom

The decision of where to hike can involve spreading out maps and allowing a name, a set of contours, a stream, or something unique on that particular map to grab my attention. Hiking with the season means that in mid-summer I often look for a hike that promises relief from summer heat. On a map of the Quehanna trail system (available from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) the word draft jumps off the map—what better place for a mid-summer hike than in a draft! And, the drafts followed streams in terrain with steep contours on both sides. This means a cool canopy of hemlocks is likely to add to the shade promised by steep terrain with a stream at the bottom. Definitely a promising way to spend a mid-summer day in the woods!

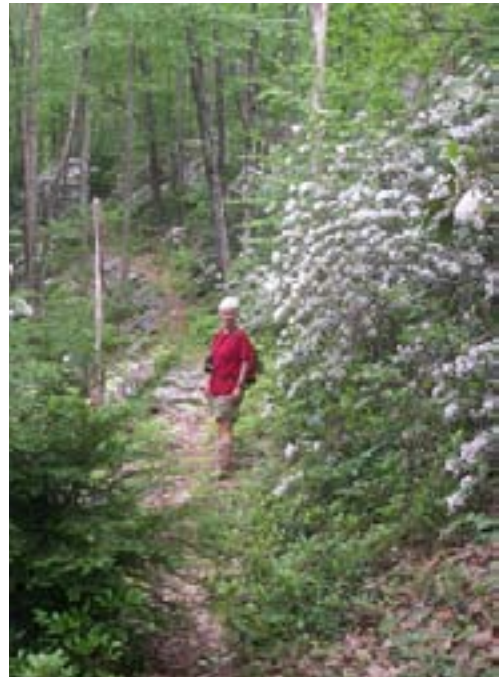
According to Ralph Seeley in *Great Buffalo Swamp* ([http://www.quehannaareatrailsclub.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.quehannaareatrailsclub.com/Home_Page.html)) “The word draft is an interesting one that seems to appear only in northern Pennsylvania, no doubt given by loggers... The best analysis heard so far is that a person could feel a draft created by the cooler air above, falling down the sides of the plateau.”

To experience a draft, begin hiking up Laurel Draft where the Quehanna Trail crosses Wykoff Run Road (North of Karthaus, at the junction of Route 879 and the Quehanna Highway (SR 1011), 9 miles north on the Quehanna Highway to Wykoff Run Road; 5.3 on Wykoff Run Road to the Parking Area at Laurel Draft).

The moss-covered trail stretches up the draft, shaded by a thick hemlock canopy. While it is a steady uphill climb of about 1000 feet in elevation from the parking area to the top, the grade is gentle. There are some beautiful, tall, columnar tulip trees in this draft. You can identify the tulip shaped leaves high in the canopy. This is Pennsylvania’s tallest hardwood species. It is related to magnolias and in early June the spent orange and yellow blossoms decorate the trail. Partridgeberry, star grass, and common wood sorrel are three wildflowers that also put on small, but striking displays at different places along the trail.

Throughout June the mountain laurel blossoms are overwhelming. The flash of spicebush swallowtail and tiger swallowtail butterflies among these blossoms adds to the display.

Woodlands below the trail are thick with patches of ferns, including the lovely Christmas fern. The trail parallels Laurel Run, above and a bit away from the stream. As you move up the draft, the soft gurgle of water returns again and again, interrupted by splashing as water drops through boulders and over small falls.



In July rhododendron are blooming and several years ago this provided one of those unexpected high points that make spending a lot of time out in the woods so rewarding. I have seen banks of rhododendron in bloom and hiked beneath bowers of rhododendron, and both are quite a spectacle. The far side of Laurel Draft was a mountainside covered with rhododendron, but each bush was sparse because of the dense canopy above it. The blossoms were also scattered rather than en masse. The effect was of a galaxy of dark green embedded with white stars stretching across my field of vision. It was a stunning, surprise display.

At the top of this enchanting draft, a carpet of teaberries gives way to blueberry bushes thick with berries as the trail moves into an open meadow dotted with pine trees. Wildlife sign can be abundant: coyote scat, bobcat scrapes, elk prints, wallows and rubs.

At Hoover Road follow the Foley Trail south and then into the woods. Soon you are at a muddy pool of water at a break in the woods that can be teeming with frogs, tadpoles and dragonflies.

One mile plus from the Sevinsky Trail junction is the spur to Gore Vista. In June you walk through mountain laurel covered with white blossoms. At times the flowering display extends as far as you can see ahead on the trail. In another mile is Gore Vista with its beautiful view over Wykoff Run. The haunting flutelike notes of a hermit thrush provided lunch stop music on my recent hike there. Retrace to Sevinsky Trail.

Sevinsky Trail, overgrown in places but easily discernable, is not heavily traveled and follows Foley Draft. This draft is wilder in character than Laurel Draft. It has steep sides and is narrow. You will be hiking close to the stream. The hemlock canopy, while thick, has enough hardwoods intermixed to allow for more undergrowth. Occasionally the trail follows along a steep grade above the stream. Stinging nettle is a plant you should learn to recognize, mostly so you can avoid it. This trail offers numerous chances to confirm the plant's identity.

Sevinsky Trail ends at Wykoff Run Road and your vehicle is about one mile down the road. With a visit to Gore Vista this is an eleven-mile hike. Laurel and Foley Drafts are a cool way to beat the summer heat and to explore a small corner of the Quehanna Wild Area.



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## Spotlight: Amanda Bocutti

Amanda Bocutti was among the first scholarship recipients to receive the Wyona Coleman Scholarship and has been supported by this scholarship every year throughout her study at Mary Washington University. This spring she graduated and began her career. The Sylvania thought our members would like to know a little about this truly remarkable young woman.

Q. Describe something in your childhood that got you interested in the environment?

A. Growing up in a suburb, I certainly had plenty of opportunities to play outside, whether it was my backyard or a local park. Though I did spend quite a bit of time outside, I credit my interest in the environment to my parents. They are both musicians and from an early age, my brothers and I were very involved in the arts. Being in such a culture of creativity encouraged me to develop a sense of appreciation for and curiosity about my surroundings. Arts tend to heighten your awareness and ability to perceive nuances and looking back, that very much drove my fascination with the environment.

Q. What is the environmental issue nearest to your heart?

A. Something that I have always felt very strongly about is environmental justice. It is an issue that permeates every other environmental issue but tends to be overlooked. Typically, the most vulnerable populations have to deal with the most alarming environmental problems, whether it is, for example, a small island threatened by sea level rise, poor communities battered by natural disasters, or less affluent areas becoming a “dumping grounds” for waste. This issue resonates with me because these vulnerable populations must bear the consequences of problems they certainly have not singularly caused and they tend to have the least ability to adapt, cope and recover. While global thinking is not going to solve environmental issues at large, I do think that the ability to recognize that the world is an interconnected system and view these problems as global responsibilities would edge us closer to the line of thinking that will usher in a more socially and ecologically sensitive action plan.

Q. Is there someone you can tell us about that that served as your mentor or environmental hero?

A. I have been fortunate to encounter very inspiring and knowledgeable mentors throughout some of the most formative junctures in my academic, and now professional, career. In high school my biology teacher, Brian Suter, helped me realize that I wanted to pursue my studies in environmental science by getting me involved in Envirothon, an academic science competition. When I studied abroad, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Michael Maniates, who introduced me to the concept of environmentalism as a social movement, which is something I have since been fascinated in. At Marstel-Day LLC, I am surrounded by remarkably professional and well-rounded thinkers, which was extremely influential in helping me create my professional identity while I was an intern and now that I am an employee. Of



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course, though, I have to give credit to my college advisor and professor, Dr. Michael Bass, because he provided with me invaluable guidance as I navigated through my academic curriculum, applied for internships, and, essentially, carved the path I wanted to take through this field.

**Q. As you look ahead to the rest of your life, how successful do you think your generation will be in addressing environmental concerns, such as averting the climate change, developing renewable energy, preserving wilderness areas?**

A. There is a great quote from one my favorite environmentalists, Paul Hawken, where he says, in regard to environmental issues: “what a great time to be alive, what a great time to be born because this generation gets to completely change this world.” I find it particularly inspiring because, often times, it is easy to become fatalistic about environmental issues. There are so many problems and they are extremely complex problems. What I love about that Paul Hawken quote, is that it reminds us that these very challenging problems are also an immense opportunity. Sure, we are tackling tough problems, but we are also making big changes and how exciting is that? I have a lot of faith in my generation. I always find it offensive when others call us apathetic because I think there’s a strong, unifying sense among us that challenges, environmental or not, our chances to make a positive difference. We are a generation of innovators and, I would argue, optimists because we believe that change can happen and that we can drive that change.

**Q. What will you be doing in your first, fulltime job out of college?**

A. Shortly after I graduated, I transitioned to working as a full-time researcher at Marstel-Day LLC, an environmental conservation consulting firm headquartered in Fredericksburg, Virginia. I was an intern with the company for nearly two years while completing my undergraduate degree. When they offered me the full-time position, I immediately accepted. As an intern, I always felt as though my assignments allowed me to contribute to the company projects in a meaningful way. I also appreciate how the company’s internal sustainability initiatives reflect the values it communicates to its clients. It’s a great company and they have afforded me a number of wonderful opportunities. Coming on as a full time employee was a natural and exciting step for me.

**Q. If you go to grad school, what would you like to study?**

Part of the reason I didn’t continue on immediately to graduate school after completing my undergraduate degree is because I struggle to answer this question! Graduate school is certainly in my future, but there are so many fields within environmental science that interest me, it is hard to whittle it down. I am hoping that the experience I gain professionally will help me develop a more focused direction. Some of the areas I would like to look into further include ecosystem services valuation, urban planning, and sustainability as a social movement.

**Q. What do you want to be doing 20 years from now?**

A. In 20 years, if I can look back and see that I have contributed to taking care of the earth in a meaningful way and look forward and be excited about the opportunities to continue to do so, then I think I will be exactly where I hope to be.

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## Who Said “Yes, We Can”?

by Phil Coleman



“Yes we can” was the campaign slogan of Barack Obama, wasn’t it? Sure it was. But the phrase wasn’t original with him. Some wag announced that Eve was the first to say, “Yes we can.” But there was a more immediate precedent that Obama seems to have borrowed from.

Consider this speech made by Democratic candidate Dennis Kucinich in 2003:

“Today, we need a new faith in America, and in ourselves. Faith that we can change the present condition. Faith that

we can regain the confidence, the optimism that the whole world has identified with America. Faith that it is the democratic party that can once again lead the way to a better day, to a better America, to a better world.

“Democrats can move this country forward from a condition of eight million people out of work to a full employment economy, with a living wage for all. If we believe our party can do this. Let us tell the nation. Yes we can. Si se puede.

“Democrats can move this country forward from its loss of 3 million good-paying jobs to NAFTA, and we can cancel NAFTA. We can start over and condition trade with America on workers’ rights, human rights, and environmental protection. Yes we can. Si se puede.

“Democrats can move this country forward from 40,000,000 without health insurance to a single-payer system which provides quality health care for all. Yes we can. Si se puede.

“Democrats can move this country forward from underfunded schools, underpaid teachers, and undereducated youths to making education our top funding priority and providing free college education for all.

“Democrats can move this country forward from a condition where our air, our water, and our land is being ruined by multinational corporate interests to a place where we demonstrate that environmental protection is our path to sustaining the life of the planet. Yes we can. Si se puede.

“Democrats can move this country forward from the destructive Patriot Act to restore for Americans the right to assemble, the right to free speech, to the right to be free in our persons from unreasonable search and seizure. Yes we can. Si se puede.

“Just as FDR proclaimed his Four Freedoms, it is time for us to reclaim our freedoms and mission as the party of the people, with a declaration of the human economic rights of the American people.

We have a right to a job.

We have a right to quality health care

We have a right to a good education.

We have a right to decent housing.

We have a right to food fit to eat.

We have a right to water fit to drink.

We have a right to be free from fear.

We have a right to be free from war.

We have a right to be human.

“In the months ahead, I will travel this nation with this message. I will ask for your support and, if I am the nominee of this party, together we will lead this party to victory, this nation to greatness, this world to peace. Thank you and let us call on God to bless and keep this country.”

Not only does Obama borrow Kucinich’s phrase (minus the Spanish), but he seems also to have borrowed the platform. Is there anything in the Kucinich speech that Obama did not endorse? We can complain that Obama has not lived up to his words to the extent we would like, but the words are very similar.

Coincidentally, the platform is essentially identical with the platform of the Blue-Green Alliance, of which the Sierra Club is a member. It is a platform almost all of us endorse almost completely.

### *References*

*Dennis Kucinich, A Prayer for America, Thunder’s Mouth Press/Nation Books, 2003. Adapted from a speech to the Democratic National Committee, February 22, 2003, Washington, D.C.*

*In defense of Obama, he inherited a disastrous economy when he took office and he spent most of his political capital on health care.*

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## Call For At-Large Member Nominations

Each year the statewide membership of the Sierra Club elects three members to the Chapter Executive Committee for two-year terms. These members, with representatives from each Group, comprise this governing body of the Pennsylvania Chapter. Nominations are now being sought for these three important At-Large delegate positions.

Interested members may provide to the Nominating Committee the names of members (including yourself) believed to have a broad interest in, and knowledge of, the activities of the Club throughout the state and who may be deemed qualified to represent you well.

Nominee names and contact information should be submitted for consideration by the Nominating Committee at the address hereunder no later than August 15, 2011.

In addition, if not nominated by the Nominating Committee, a member's name may appear on the election ballot through a simple written petition process. A valid petition consists of the name, address and membership number of the petition candidate, and a statement that the candidate has given approval for the petition and intends to serve if elected. Telephone number and e-mail address of the candidate are requested. Members signing petitions must print their membership name and membership address, and date and sign legibly. The telephone number, e-mail address and membership number of members signing are also requested in order to verify current membership. Both members of a joint membership may sign. A minimum of fifteen (15) valid signatures is required on a petition.

Given that some signers may have unknowingly let their membership lapse, a greater number of signatures is recommended.

Petition candidate statements and completed petitions must be received by the Nominating Committee no later than August 30, 2011.

Members who wish to be considered to chair committees, serve on committees, announce their willingness to be considered as Executive Committee officers, or recommend others for such positions should also provide such information to the Nominating Committee.

Ballot candidates should prepare a written statement highlighting their qualifications to serve as a delegate, which will appear in *The Sylvania*. Statements are limited to 200 words and should be e-mailed to the Nominating Committee by September 1, 2011.

Mail petitions and petitioners' statements to the Nominating Committee by US Postal Service or commercial overnight delivery service at the following address, which must be used in full:

Chapter Nominating Committee

Jack Miller, 130 DeLong Road

Middleburg PA 17842-8182

[jmiller1018@yahoo.com](mailto:jmiller1018@yahoo.com)

For more information, contact:

[jmiller1018@yahoo.com](mailto:jmiller1018@yahoo.com)

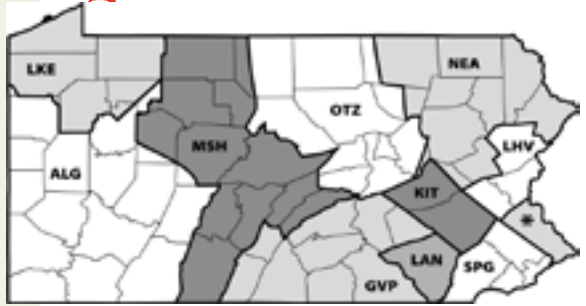
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# Meetings & Outings

For up-to-date information, start times, meeting points, & directions, please see your Group's website or newsletter, or contact the Sierra Club members listed below.

Groups may plan events & outings after *The Sylvania* goes to press & those listed here may change. Participants on outings must sign a liability waiver, available from [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms) or from the Outings Department at 415-977-5528.

Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling & assumes no liability.



day when we rise bright and early, shower, have breakfast nearby and traverse the State Park on the Baker/North Country Trails from North to South for an 8-ish mile hike. We will see the fire tower lookout (you can climb it) and maybe the wildlife center if it is open. Call Jim Ritchie at 412-576-0849 for more information and reservations.

Saturday, August 13 -- DCNR Forbes State Forest Trail maintenance in the Roaring Run Natural area and the North Woods Area. Contact Dave Mottorn at 724-327-7582. We usually get several dozen volunteers representing all sorts of outdoor organizations that frequently use the trails.

Saturday, August 27 -- Roaring Run Natural Area: This is an 8-ish mile loop hike on the South Loop Trail with a side excursion to Birch Rock where we'll bushwack a short distance to the summit. We'll continue to the junction with Roaring Run Trail that we'll follow back to our starting point. We may put waypoints at some old abandoned campsites along Roaring Run. Make it a day in the mountains and stop apres hike at the Laurel Summit Inn for refreshments. Call Jim Ritchie at 412-576-0849 for more information and reservations.

Sunday September 18 -- Hike an intermediate 8 miles in McConnells Mill State Park from Alpha Pass to Hell's Hollow. Most of the hike is along Slippery Rock Creek, \$5 suggested carpool fee - 31 miles from Cranberry Mall including the car shuttle. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993.

Saturday, October 8 -- DCNR Forbes State Forest Trail maintenance in the Laurel Mountain Area. Contact Dave Mottorn at 724-327-7582. We usually get several dozen volunteers representing all sorts of outdoor organizations that frequently use the trails.

## Allegheny Group

[www.alleghenysc.org](http://www.alleghenysc.org)

### MEETINGS

Allegheny Group meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The public is welcome at no charge. Meetings are usually followed by refreshments, conversation and a time to connect with representatives and officials about conservation action. Contact Donald Gibbon at [dongibbon@earthlink.net](mailto:dongibbon@earthlink.net) with questions or suggestions.

### OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Ask leaders for carpool & contact information. Structured rates for carpooling fees based on distance. Please reserve 36 hours in advance. Interested in leading outings? Contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737 or [bsundquist1@windstream.net](mailto:bsundquist1@windstream.net)

Sunday, July 17 -- Hike an intermediate 12 miles from the Roaring Run Natural Area to Laurel Hill State Park via the lake and the hemlock grove along Laurel Hill Creek. (A car shuttle is required.) \$10 carpool fee - 55 miles. Contact John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Saturday/ Sunday July 23-24 -- Cook Forest Weekend - Come for the whole weekend or pick your favorite pieces: pitch camp on Saturday in the Cook Forest Campground with your friends from Meetup; do an easy 3-ish mile hike in the late afternoon in Cook Forest State Park followed by dinner at our choice of the Bucktail Inn in Marienville, the Vowinkel Hotel (rhymes with Bullwinkle) in Vowinkel, or the Farmer's Inn near Sigel. The main attraction is on Sun-

## Governor Pinchot Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot)

### MEETINGS

Governor Pinchot Group monthly Meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the evening. Call Jack Flatley at 717-921-2708 for location or email at [riverman17018@comcast.net](mailto:riverman17018@comcast.net)

### OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For info on Governor Pinchot Group activities, see [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot).

## Kittatinny Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks)

### MEETINGS

Kittatinny Executive Committee meets monthly. All members welcome. For more info, contact Jim Keller at 484-769-0537 or [keller.james.m@gmail.com](mailto:keller.james.m@gmail.com)

### OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For up-to-date listings of activities, see [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks/calendar.htm](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks/calendar.htm).

## Lancaster Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lancaster](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lancaster)

### MEETINGS

Business meetings of the Lancaster Group of the Sierra Club are held on the third Wednesday of every month (except July and December) as follows: August 17, September 21, October 19, and November 16.

All meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m. They are held in Lancaster Country Day School (Room 111), 725 Hamilton Road, Lancaster. Parking is available in the school's parking lot.

### OUTINGS

The Sierra Club-Lancaster Group has slated several summer outings or events, to which all people are invited.

Wednesday, July 20 -- Presentation on the "State of the Susquehanna River" by Lower Susquehanna riverkeeper Michael Helfrich. The time and place to be announced.

Visit the website [www.lancastersierraclub.org](http://www.lancastersierraclub.org) for more details on these events, as well as on others that are in the planning stages, or contact Jennifer Ericson at [jericson@ezsolution.com](mailto:jericson@ezsolution.com) or 717-892-2026.

## Lake Erie Group

### MEETINGS

Business meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month at the Asbury Wood Education Center, on Asbury Road in Erie, starting at 6:30 pm to 8 p.m.

### OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For information on Lake Erie Group outings and activities, contact Chuck Benson at [bensonville@aol.com](mailto:bensonville@aol.com)

## Lehigh Valley Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv)

### MEETINGS

The Lehigh Valley Group Executive Committee meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend the Executive Committee meetings. This is where we do our strategic planning & receive updates on current projects. The meetings are held in the 6th floor conference room of the Fowler Center, Northampton Community College, Third and Buchanan Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

### OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Please visit their website for updated outing information. For up-to-date information on outings & activities see [www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv](http://www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv)

## Moshannon Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon)

### MEETINGS

Moshannon Group meetings are on the first Tuesday of month at 7 p.m. at Clear Water Conservancy, State College. All members & guests welcome. For more info, contact Gary Thornbloom at 814-353-3466 via [bearknob@verizon.net](mailto:bearknob@verizon.net).

### OUTINGS

All outings open to general public & members. All levels of ability and interest are encouraged to participate.

Moshannon Group's outings are at <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/outings.html>

## Northeastern Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/northeastern](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/northeastern)

### MEETINGS

Members are always welcomed and encouraged to join us each month for our executive committee meetings, where we plan activities & group priorities. Meetings held on first Tuesday of each month, usually at 7 p.m. and meeting sites vary. For more information, contact Jen Lavery at [JenLavery@aol.com](mailto:JenLavery@aol.com).

### OUTINGS

For more information, please visit the website.

## Otzinachson Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson)

### MEETINGS

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every other month. For more information, please visit the website.

For more information contact:

Paul Shaw, Outings Chair, 570-672-2389 [pshaw@ptd.net](mailto:pshaw@ptd.net)

Sunday, July 10 - R.B. Winter State Park

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Sunday, July 17 - R.B. Winter State Park

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Overlook Trail and powerline to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Sunday July 24 - Loyalsock Trail

6.5 miles, easy to moderate. We will hike the LT from Sones Pond to the end of the LT on Route 220 via the Haystacks. Meet 8:45 am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Leader Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

Sunday, July 31 - R.B. Winter State Park

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Sunday, August 7 - R.B. Winter State Park

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Saturday, August 20 - Fourth Run Loop

13 miles, strenuous. This loop hike will make a grand tour of the extensive trail system at Hickory Run State Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the McDonalds off Rte. 80 at the Mifflinville/Rt. 339 exit #242. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence; [cathyed@nation.net](mailto:cathyed@nation.net) or call 570-925-5285.

Sunday, August 21 - Golden Eagle Trail

9 miles, moderate to strenuous. One of the best hikes in PA with excellent views. Meet at 8:30 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Avenue between Market and Hastings Streets (Rt. 15) in South Williamsport or at the trail parking lot along Rt. 414 at 9:10 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine, 570-220-4707.

## Southeastern Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern)

### MEETINGS

Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Whole Foods Community Room, 20th & Callowhill Sts, Philadelphia. To confirm the meeting date and location, contact 215-820-7872.

### OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Please visit the website for updated outing information. For more information on any event, contact Bill Brainerd at 610-325-3127 or [billbrainerd@gmail.com](mailto:billbrainerd@gmail.com).

### Answers to Crossword Puzzle

(from page 51)

#### Across

- 2. DODGERS
- 6. FISHYNUMBERS
- 8. CORBETT
- 9. SMALL
- 12. BOCCUTI
- 13. VITALI

#### Down

- 1. HOFFEL
- 3. KASSERMAN
- 4. BELITSKUS
- 5. QUEHANNA
- 7. SESTAK
- 10. KUCINICH
- 11. FOX

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# Chapter Directory

## SIERRA CLUB PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OFFICE

P.O. Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108  
(717) 232-0101, [pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org)  
Chapter Director: Jeff Schmidt ..... [jeff.schmidt@sierraclub.org](mailto:jeff.schmidt@sierraclub.org)  
Administrative Assistant: Lindsay Delp ..... [lindsay.delp@sierraclub.org](mailto:lindsay.delp@sierraclub.org)

## PA FIELD PROGRAM

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Regional Representative: Rachel Martin  
Associate Representatives: Randy Francisco, Hillary Bright (Blue Green Alliance)

## CHAPTER LEADERS

### OFFICERS

Chair: Dennis Winters ..... (215) 790-1894, [dennis.winters@verizon.net](mailto:dennis.winters@verizon.net)  
Vice Chair: Wendi Taylor ..... (717) 612-9409, [taylorwj@comcast.net](mailto:taylorwj@comcast.net)  
Secretary: Bill Brainerd ..... (610) 325-3127, [billbrainerd@gmail.com](mailto:billbrainerd@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: James Keller ..... (484) 769-0537, [keller.james.m@gmail.com](mailto:keller.james.m@gmail.com)  
Legal Chair: Open

### COUNCIL

Delegate: Nancy Parks ..... (814) 349-5151, [nfparks2@verizon.net](mailto:nfparks2@verizon.net)  
Alternate: Arthur Clark ..... (717) 774-3015, [fsck100@gmail.com](mailto:fsck100@gmail.com)

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### POLITICAL

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### POLITICAL ACTION FUND

Chair: David Byman ..... (570) 963-2586, [dx14@psu.edu](mailto:dx14@psu.edu)  
Treasurer: Tom Anderson ..... (717) 432-4177, [tandkindillsburg@aol.com](mailto:tandkindillsburg@aol.com)

### OUTINGS

Chair: Vacant

### COMPUTER

Chair: Dan Schreffler ..... (570) 343-4056, [computer.chair@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org](mailto:computer.chair@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org)

### WEBMASTER

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### SIERRA STUDENT COALITION

Matt Himmelein ..... (215) 815-7757, [mathew.himmelein@gmail.com](mailto:mathew.himmelein@gmail.com)

## GROUP LEADERS

### ALLEGHENY GROUP (ALG)

Chair: Claudia Kirkpatrick ..... (412) 683-1799, [kirkclaudia2@gmail.com](mailto:kirkclaudia2@gmail.com)

### GOVERNOR PINCHOT (GVP)

Chair: Robin Broderick ..... (717) 221-8590, [rbroderick1@email.com](mailto:rbroderick1@email.com)

### KITTATINNY (KIT)

Chair: James Keller ..... (484) 769-0537, [keller.james.m@gmail.com](mailto:keller.james.m@gmail.com)

### LAKE ERIE (LKE)

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### MOSHANNON (MSH)

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Chair: Open

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Co-Chair: Wayne Kenton .....waynekenton@comcast.net

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Chair: Justina Wasicek.....717-234-7445, jmwasicek@gmail.com

LAND USE

Chair: Open

MINING

Chair: Michael Nixon .....(412) 221-6261, michaelnixon@yahoo.com

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Co-Chair: Donald Miles.....(610) 865-3844, donmiles@rcn.com

PUBLIC LANDS

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Chair: Open

TRANSPORTATION

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SOLID WASTE

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Co-Chair: Thomas Au.....(717) 234-7445, thomxau@gmail.com

WILDERNESS

Chair: Dave Sublette.....(814) 825-0450, davidsublette@aol.com

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Randy Francisco .....(412) 802-6161

SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

Rachel Martin.....(412) 802-6161

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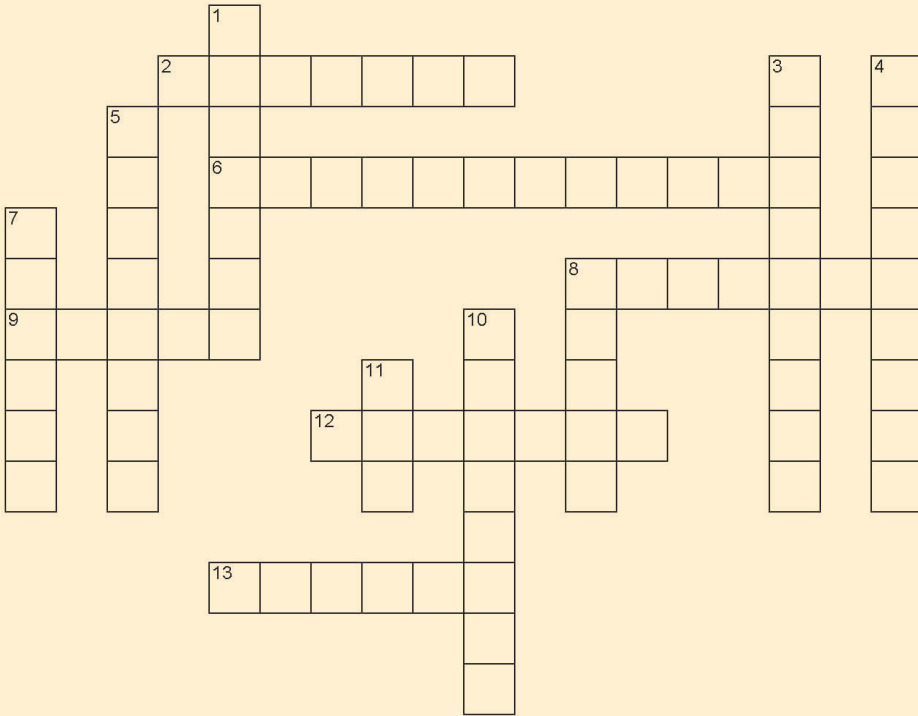
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# SummerCrossword



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## Across

- 2 They ain't fritters
- 6 Cooked employment statistics
- 8 Received big campaign bucks from gas industry
- 9 Warns of acid oceans
- 12 First Wyona Coleman Scholarship winner
- 13 Representative on our side

## Down

- 1 Former Congressman, Montgomery County Commissioner
- 3 Runs Youghiogheny River Keepers
- 4 President of Allegheny Defense Fund
- 5 Beautiful wild area
- 7 Former Admiral, Congressman
- 8 Congressional friend of Big Coal
- 10 Said "Si se puede"
- 11 Producer of Gasland

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Answers can be found on Page 48