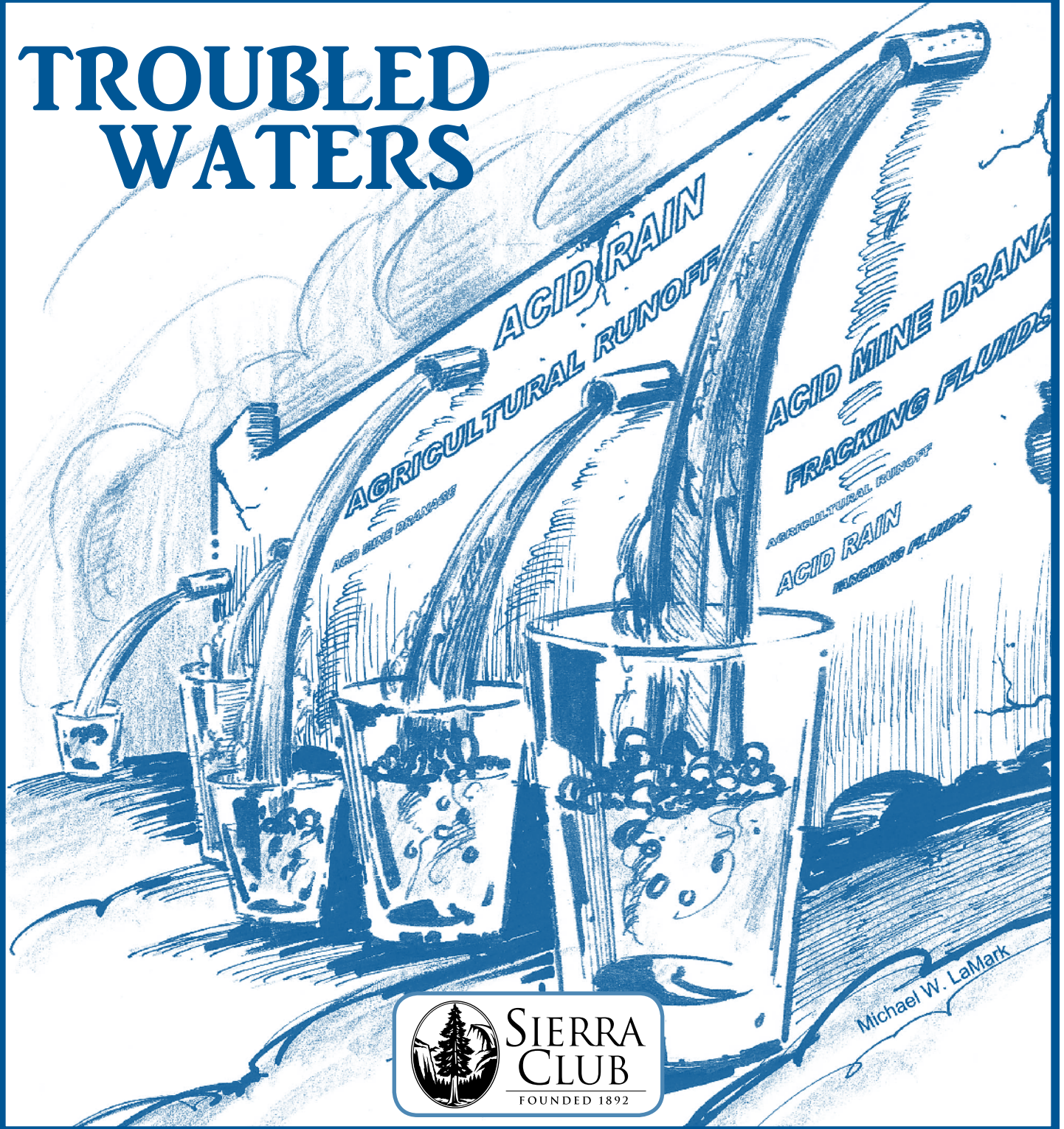


THE SYLVANIAN

Summer 2013

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

TROUBLED WATERS



Michael W. LaMark

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

FROM THE EDITORS

USE YOUR POWER

Old-Fashioned *Sylvanian*

We checked recently and discovered that only two of 24 houses on our block received a daily newspaper. We don't know how many received a paper in past years, but we suspect that the number was larger. Newspapers are on the decline.

One way to view this trend is that we are saving trees. On the other hand, we acknowledge that all former newspaper readers are now turning elsewhere for their news. Maybe they listen to NPR. It gets most things right. But maybe they are tuning in to TV. Consider: they learn all the details of the latest celebrity misbehavior, repeated on the half hour, and get snippets of real news between weather and traffic reports. Of course, some of us turn to internet news services and become moderately informed. But many just sink more comfortably into our recliners.

Our entire system of democracy relies on an educated public. It assumes that people have taken the time to understand what is going on and why. Voters are supposed to know what is in their best interests. Forming our political opinions by watching TV political ads is no way to decide for whom to vote. Political ads filled with ten-second sound bites and half truths that are meant to sway people who don't know any better. How can we justify elections if the electorate neither knows nor cares?

We justify our return to a paper *Sylvanian* by being sure the paper it is printed on is recycled and by hoping that some readers get information and attitudes they wouldn't otherwise receive.

We know that most our members never received the digital version of *The Sylvanian*. We hope that a significant number will read these lines.



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

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



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Contributor deadlines are September 15 (Fall issue), December 15 (Winter issue), March 15 (Spring issue), and June 15 (Summer issue). Anonymous contributions are not accepted.

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.

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ON THE COVER

There is a sense in which Pennsylvania is blessed with lots of water, especially compared to some arid western states. But having plenty is not an excuse for abusing it. Michael LaMark wonders what goes into the water we drink. Acid rain, mining, agriculture, oil and gas impact our second most vital resource. Our contributors consider various aspects of this issue.

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Chapter Directory

Due to space restrictions, the Chapter Directory was not included in this issue. To view the directory, go to http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/PA_Chapter_2008/chapter-directory.html

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THE VIEW FROM HARRISBURG

by Jeff Schmidt

THE ABRUPT TERMINATION OF DCNR SECRETARY RICHARD ALLAN

In stark contrast to the planned April 15 resignation of DEP Secretary Michael Krancer, DCNR Secretary Richard Allan was forced out abruptly on June 13, with a terse, three sentence press release from Governor Corbett's office providing no details. Allan's tenure as DCNR Secretary included a number of controversial actions, including elimination of funding for scientific research into the environmental impacts of gas drilling on State Forest lands, and his inability to interact respectfully with conservation organizations with whom he disagreed. Allan, who was appointed by Governor Corbett to the DCNR Secretary post, was notable for his lack of any experience managing public lands, as he took over the management of the 2.2 million acre State Forest system, and the 120 State Parks scattered throughout Pennsylvania.

Since the fall of 2012, Allan has been enmeshed in the running controversy over DCNR's secret negotiations with Anadarko Petroleum Company over their drilling plan for the Loyalsock State Forest. Allan repeatedly ignored letters from an environmental coalition, including Sierra Club, that asked Allan to provide the details of the drilling company's proposals. DCNR even refused Right-to-Know Law requests to make public the development plans for environmentally-sensitive lands and exceptional value watersheds such as Rock Run, where Anadarko owns the gas rights. DCNR owns the surface lands which comprise part of the Loyalsock State Forest in Lycoming County. Due to unique deed provisions, a court has found that DCNR has exclusive control over all surface activities, which should allow them to deny Anadarko the right to drill in these parts of the Loyalsock Forest, called the Clarence Moore lands.

Allan's attempt to stonewall on the Loyalsock drilling situation created an escalation of the issue, as noted in a separate article in this edition of the *Sylvanian*. Our coalition convinced several legislators,

led by Representative Greg Vitali (D - Delaware) and Representative Rick Mirabito (D - Lycoming) to pressure Allan to open up the process. Allan's response was to convene an "invitation-only local stakeholders meeting," intentionally excluding statewide organizations, such as the PA Chapter Sierra Club, Penn Future and Keystone Trails Association. This closed process, and Allan's public comment that DCNR never holds public meetings about their forest management decisions (an outright untruth) created even more embarrassment for the Corbett administration, who wants to avoid public controversy as the 2014 election season approaches.

Eventually, Allan was forced to convene a public meeting. However, he did so on a Monday afternoon in Williamsport; a strategy clearly intended to suppress public participation. Allan underestimated the strong public sentiment against drilling in the Loyalsock. Approximately 500 people attended the meeting at Lycoming College, and everyone who spoke opposed drilling, including Sierra Club leaders such as national Board member Robin Mann, who told Allan the Loyalsock drilling issue was being watched around the country. However, Allan even bungled this meeting, angering attendees by informing them that the advertised 5 minutes limit on testimony would be reduced to 2 minutes. To make matters even worse, Allan ended the meeting abruptly, while people were still standing in line to speak at the microphone. Media coverage of DCNR's Williamsport meeting highlighted Allan's poor treatment of attendees, further embarrassing the Corbett administration. Allan proclaimed the Williamsport meeting was the end of the public input process (it actually was only the beginning) which added insult to injury for those interested in protecting our state forests.

Following the Williamsport debacle, our coalition sent a letter to Governor Corbett, complaining about Allan's handling of the Loyalsock drilling issue and asking the Governor to intervene to open up the process. Two days later, Allan was fired. Most news articles about Allan's firing made reference to the Loyalsock drilling issue. Quickly, anonymous administration sources were quoted saying the firing was a confidential personnel matter, not a policy matter. When the Loyalsock issue continued to be referenced in conjunction with Allan's firing, rumors were floated that Allan had actually been discovered using a racial epithet. Finally, when the media submitted formal state Right-to-Know requests, the Corbett administration release the contents of an e-mail exchange between Allan and his wife, who worked at DEP. The word "COLORED!!!" in Allan's e-mail was identified as the reason for Allan's termination.

Secretary Allan was involved in a number of controversies during his 2+ year tenure as DCNR Secretary: He fired Bureau of State Parks Director John Norbeck, who had been blocking Allan's efforts to allow logging in and mining under state parks. Ignoring DCNR's scientists' recommendations, he eliminated funding for scientific research into the environmental impacts on public lands from gas drilling (two projects) and impacts from climate disruption on pub-



JOAN WILSON

lic lands (two projects). He also blocked for several years efforts by conservationists and the PA Game Commission to stop the planned Monroe County sports car race track (Alpine Rose) whose developer wanted to construct on land directly adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. This was a direct reversal of policy by DCNR, who had worked for many years to block the project. Recently, no thanks to Sec. Allan, the Alpine Rose lands were acquired and will be turned over to the PA Game Commission. Appalachian Trail hikers will not have to worry about listening to race cars while they backpack that section of the Appalachian Trail.

In the same terse announcement from the Governor's office about Allan's forced resignation, Ellen Ferretti was named Acting Secretary, effective immediately. As with others Allan appointed to DCNR political positions, Ferretti also has no public lands management experience. Our environmental coalition has asked for a meeting with Ferretti, to gauge whether the removal of Allan will signal a change in how DCNR interacts with the public. As this article is written, we are waiting for a response from Acting Secretary Ferretti. Sierra Club is calling on Governor Corbett to appoint a new DCNR Secretary with public lands management experience and no ties to industry.

ABRUZZO STILL ACTING DEP SECRETARY

Following the resignation of DEP Secretary Michael Krancer in April, so he could return to his former law firm that represents energy industry interests, Governor Corbett appointed his Deputy Chief of Staff Chris Abruzzo Acting DEP Secretary. As we reported in the last Sylvania, Abruzzo has no environmental management experience, having been brought by Corbett to the Governor's office when he left his Attorney General office following his election as Governor. Abruzzo still holds his Deputy Chief of Staff position, so he is technically holding two jobs. Thus, the Governor's office is now officially running DEP. As we go to print, there has been no word about whether Abruzzo will continue permanently in his position as Acting DEP Secretary.

Meanwhile, the Sierra Club and other members of the environmental coalition, which have been working on the issue of DEP lab water test results from gas drilling contamination, have requested a meeting with lab testing staff. A meeting has been tentatively scheduled for early July, which will likely include Abruzzo. Readers may remember that a prior meeting had been scheduled with lab testing staff but it was arbitrarily cancelled by Krancer. Krancer then went on to make public statements that our coalition was refusing to meet with the DEP, a claim that was patently false.

GARBAGE INCINERATION PROPONENTS WANT TO CROWD RENEWABLES OUT OF THE AEPS / SENATE VERSION WOULD APPLY TO NEW INCINERATORS

Legislation has been introduced in both the PA House and Senate that would add municipal solid waste (MSW) incineration to Tier 1

of the PA Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) law, where it would directly compete with clean renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. Currently, MSW incineration is part of Tier 2 of the AEPS, where it competes with other more problematic energy sources, such as the combustion of waste coal and wood processing byproducts. The Senate version, SB 1015, was introduced on June 17 by Senator Mike Folmer (R - Lebanon) and referred to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. The House version, HB 1151, was introduced in April by Rep. Ron Miller (R - York), and was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, which Miller chairs.

The environmental community does not support garbage incineration as an acceptable form of solid waste management, nor as a clean energy source. Incinerators compete directly with recycling facilities for raw materials, and they also emit a variety of air pollutants, including toxics such as dioxins, and large volumes of the green house gas carbon dioxide. The fact that both bills will allow incinerators to directly compete with the relatively limited 8 percent goal in Tier 1 of the AEPS will serve to crowd out renewables, such as solar and wind.

The bills are being described by proponents as identical, but this is not the case. In addition to moving MSW incineration from Tier 2 of the AEPS to Tier 1, Folmer's SB 1015 would eliminate the requirement that qualifying facilities are only those that existed at the time of passage of AEPS in 2005. That limitation (grandfather clause) was a carefully-crafted compromise that excluded any new MSW facilities from qualifying for the AEPS, thus creating no meaningful incentive to build new facilities. Passage of SB 1015 would overturn that delicate compromise. The Miller bill, HB 1151 does not open the door to new facilities.

Sierra Club and other environmental and public health groups have been opposing the Miller bill, and will now have to oppose Folmer's SB 1015, as well.

continued on page 7



EXPLORE ENJOY PENNSYLVANIA

OLD LOGGERS PATH — CROWN JEWEL AT RISK!

by Gary Thornbloom

Three days backpacking the Old Loggers Path - Loyalsock State Forest, Lycoming County - is a trek into the past, present and future of Penn's Woods.

The trailhead is Masten: sawmill town (1905-1930); Civilian Conservation Corps Camp (1933-1941); ghost town today. The trail follows ghosts of the past along logging railroad grades, haul roads and skid trails.

The trail also follows the ridges, hollows and streams that define the enduring landscape of Penn's Woods. There are numerous stream crossings and two fords. The terrain drops steeply down slope from the trail as you make your way up and down hollows. The trail follows the edge of rocks, a vertical drop just past your elbow.

Yellow violets, red trillium, an occasional hepatica, and patches of spring beauty dot the twenty-seven mile path. Dutchman's

breeches blanket hillsides. The trail cuts through carpets of mottled trout lily leaves, dark burgundy on green. Ramp leaves cover the low lying areas.

We camped early to enjoy the splendor of Rock Run and the water fall at the mouth of Hawk Run. We explored rock chutes, small falls, and eight-foot high rock walls undercut by the stream. At the top of the wall bulbous bases of hemlocks flowed over the edge.

Rock Run and Pleasant Stream, along with their tributaries, carve up the terrain. Even on the ridge tops there are springs, and wetlands. The trails are regularly crossed by running water. On many of the steeper old logging road grades there are erosional gashes several feet deep. This is a very wet area, lots of clear, cool, flowing water.

A hint at the future of this area was the flagging we encountered: orange flagging

from CGG Veritas, a seismic testing company; red flagging, blue flagging, and white flagging (gas lines, water lines, clear cut right of ways); red tags hang from trees.

At Sharp Top Vista – an impressive view 19 miles into the hike - the view includes private, State Game, and State Forest lands; two Marcellus drilling rigs, one towering over farmland, the other above the trees; a huge white gash in the forest, an impoundment meant to hold 23 million gallons of water for drilling. The future promise is up to twelve well shafts punched through the aquifer in every square mile, with as many as 150,000 of these throughout the Marcellus region. Seven percent of the well cement/casings fail in the first year, 60 percent within thirty years, and all of them will fail at some point in future. Water will continue to work its way through the entire area, water carrying whatever drilling exposes it to.

Before Sharp Top, there was another look into the future: Duke Energy's Laurel Hill wind turbines. We could see eighteen of the thirty, four hundred thirty-five foot high, structures lining the ridge across from us.

This forest was clear-cut in Pennsylvania's timbering heyday. Topsoil was eroded from the mountainsides. While the forest has come back, and we find it beautiful, the current forest is a ghost of what it formerly was. The current rush to industrialize our forests will again transform the character of these forests. We contemplated this as we stared out at the view.

The trail continues along rock outcroppings, and then follows a steep switchbacked ascent to Sprout Point Vista. Next, we encounter logging, then more beautiful wet-



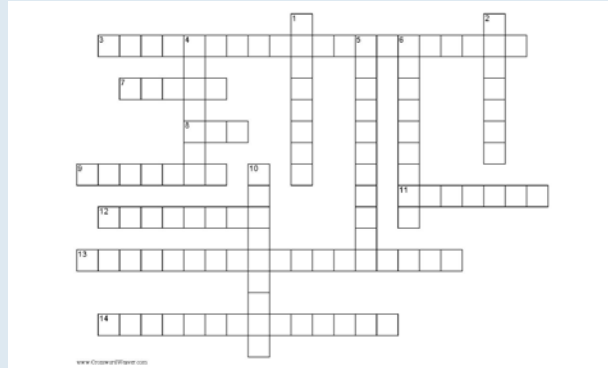
lands, thick mountain laurel, and a long descent following a tributary of Pleasant Stream.

As we neared Masten we realized we would not be camping for a third night. Campsites, by streams, are spaced for two nights of backpacking. Our camps were near Rock Run and Pleasant Stream.

The Old Loggers Path remains the crown jewel of water, rocks, and solitude that many appreciate, but this is at risk. Now is a good time to enjoy the Old Loggers Path, to explore it and then to consider helping to protect it!

Gary Thornbloom serves as co-chair of the PA Chapter's State Lands Committee

Answers to Crossword Puzzle
(from page 24)



Across

- 3. FRACKING PENNSYLVANIA
- 7. ALLAN
- 8. CHU
- 9. BUFFERS
- 11. CORBETT
- 12. WYMP'S GAP
- 13. EFFLUENT LIMITATION

Down

- 1. DEERLAND
- 2. GIARDIA
- 4. KRANCER
- 5. SUSQUEHANNA
- 6. LOYAL SOCK
- 10. PIPELINES

View From Harrisburg, continued from page 5

VITALI INTRODUCES BILL TO STUDY PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF DRILLING, FORCE CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE, CHANGE ACT 13'S DOCTOR GAG ORDER AND NOTIFY LESSORS OF POTENTIAL HEALTH IMPACTS

Rep. Greg Vitali (D - Delaware) has introduced comprehensive legislation that would require the PA Department of Health to collect, analyze and disseminate health data on the impacts of unconventional gas drilling. It would further require the Health Department to conduct a long-term study on the health impacts of gas drilling operations.

HB 1579 also would require disclosure of chemicals used by the drilling industry. This includes both chemicals added to fracking water prior to the fracking process, as well as the chemicals and radionuclides that may become part of the flowback water following fracking.

Vitali's legislation would also clarify Act 13's "doctor gag order" to allow physicians who treat patients who are exposed to drilling fluids to share information about chemicals they have been exposed to with other health professionals or other regulatory agencies for health care purposes.

Finally, HB 1579 would require a provision in Marcellus leases that notify lessors of the potential health impacts of living near drilling

operations. Vitali's bill has been referred to the House Environmental resources and Energy Committee, where Vitali serves as the Democratic Chair.

HARPER HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS BILL MOVING IN SENATE

Rep. Kate Harper (R - Montgomery) has introduced legislation that would require new state buildings or major renovations to meet tougher energy efficiency requirements. Her proposal, HB 34, is similar to legislation she introduced in the 2011-12 session. Her prior bill passed the House, only to die in the PA Senate. What is notable about her current proposal is that it has already passed the PA House (163-32), was then referred to the Senate and has just unanimously passed the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, where it had languished in the previous session. Movement in the Senate provides efficiency proponents hope that this time, it will pass and be signed into law.

Jeff Schmidt is the director of the PA Chapter Sierra Club

COLEMAN'S LANTERN

LESSONS LEARNED

by Phil Coleman

A kind of continuation of my April rambling

I'm sure there are readers who read my April piece and laughed at my taking a walk so unprepared. I plead guilty. But I have always had a tendency to go less than fully prepared, especially if the alternative was not go at all.

Some people might criticize me for going alone. Again, I have gone alone lots of times when the alternative would have been not to go at all. In reality, I have never been a big risk taker. My excursions were in fairly safe locations, only risky because any time you are by yourself little problems can be big problems. If I am with a group and there is a log across a creek, I will walk it. If I'm alone, I don't chance a fall.

But my best outings were solo events. [Almost as good were my hikes with my sons. They loved to be in the woods. They loved the freedom they had to check things out for themselves. And they let me do the same.]

A few weeks after I bumbled around on that walk on Chestnut Ridge, I got a topographical map. I learned a lot about that area on the West Virginia border. I learned that the ridge had a slight breakdown in the area where I was. A hill called Devies Mountain had streams

running on both sides, and the result was a gap in Chestnut Ridge called Wymps Gap. Wymps Gap was also the name of a small community that developed in the 19th Century and faded away in the first

third of the 20th. Wymps Gap had a cemetery that I visited once. The most recent slate headstone had a 1947 date on it. A few years ago, I looked for the cemetery but couldn't find it. I found instead a gathering spot for four wheel drive vehicles.

Since my first walk took me west of Devies Mountain, my first interest was in the area west of Skyline Drive, which at that time defined the western border of the Quebec Run Wild Area. I hiked both Patterson Run and Laurel Run from their origin springs on down into West Virginia. I came across a beaver dam on Laurel Run and visited it for years. When I began hiking the area, I carried a cup but not a canteen and drank out of the streams wherever I happened to be. To me, the water was the clearest, coolest refreshment I could have. But a few years later, I learned that beavers carried a protozoan called Giardia, which can give humans a debilitating ill-

ness. I gave up my cup for a canteen and drank city water, which was disease free, I assume, but not refreshing.

A few years later, I walked to the Beaver dam in late afternoon a few times. Beavers are most active in the evening twilight and the pre sun-up morning. I could walk to wherever I heard chewing and watch a beaver cut into a tree or strip the edible bark from a downed tree and drag it back to the den. I would watch as the light disappeared and then get up in the morning with the first grey glimmer and listen for the beavers to start to work. Eventually, the beavers downed every available tree, including some that did not fall into the water.

The area surrounding the pond became a sunny clearing. Then, one summer I walked down to the pond only to find the beavers gone. It is possible that a trapper got them, but I think it is more likely that their pond no longer supplied the food they needed.



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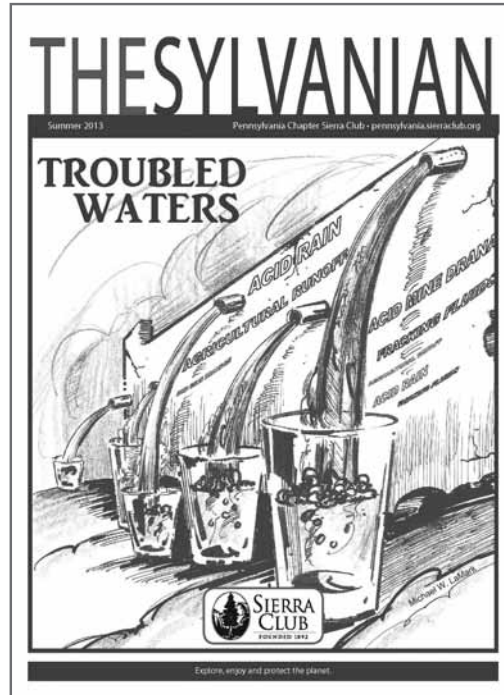
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Clean up the Susquehanna
Now 16



TROUBLED WATERS

Life began in water. It’s been over 3 billion years since the first simple cell discovered the ability to split in two. But water has been part of the life sustaining process ever since.

Life has evolved. Plants and animals have developed in their own ways, and finally people have come along. Humans have succeeded because of our developing ability to exploit our world. But now we have become so good at exploiting it that we are wearing out our world. We can’t live without air, but we are polluting it.

And we can’t live without water. But we are wasting it, polluting it, and often turning it into poison. Pennsylvania is blessed with an abundance of water. Beautiful rivers define our landscape. However, our careless practices of mining coal, pumping oil, clear cutting forests, destroying soil through exploitive agriculture, and, now, fracking for gas are destroying our legacy.

Because of our reckless, unlimited use of water, we are killing its life-giving qualities -- and if we are not careful -- ourselves.

TROUBLEDWATERS

WASTING WATER FOR PROFITS

by Water Brasch

For National Drinking Water Week (May 5–11), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) put out a press release to ask Pennsylvanians not only “to make every drop count,” but also to “to learn how to better protect and conserve their water.”

The release gave a few brief suggestions of how “to keep pollution out of water sources,” and how “to conserve Pennsylvania’s water sources.” The release even gave a huge puff to Gov. Tom Corbett who DEP said “is committed to water protection efforts that are vital to ensuring the health of the public and Pennsylvania’s economy.”

Here are a few things the release did not state.

Two months after he took office in January 2011, Corbett declared he wanted to “make Pennsylvania the Texas of the natural gas boom.” To do that meant he and the Republican-controlled legislature had to create, with the help of the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), what became Act 13, which Corbett signed on Valentine’s Day 2012. It was a sweetheart gift to the natural gas exploration industry, the same one that had donated more than \$1.8 million to Corbett’s previous political campaigns.

And so the state officially recognized and encouraged the development of high-volume horizontal fracturing. Fracking, as the process is better known, is the controversial method of drilling into a rock formation as deep as 12,000 feet below the earth’s

surface. After drilling down vertically, the company creates a perforated lateral bore-hole, about 90 degrees from the vertical hole, which fractures the shale and rock for up to 6,000 feet, opening channels and forcing out natural gas and fossil fuels.

Proppants, as much as two million pounds of silica sand, keep the fractures open to

don’t contribute to fragmentation that affects wildlife and the ecological balance of nature. And, let’s pretend that there wasn’t a 7 percent failure of the cement casings in the past two years that, at least in theory, protect the billions of gallons of water, toxic fluids, and sand from leaking into the earth. And, let’s pretend there can never be any migration of all that toxic fluid into

aquifers and somehow into the wells of about two million Pennsylvanians.

Let’s also pretend that the water brought up from fracking doesn’t contain chemical compounds and radioactive waste that was disturbed by the process. And, let’s pretend that the billions of gallons of this toxic mixture brought up isn’t put into open storage pits, where it could evaporate into the air or leak from plastic liners of the pits and into the ground. And, let’s pretend there are no problems with the current method to get rid of that toxic waste that is injected back into the ground, and that doing so

won’t cause more pollution and, possibly, a series of small earthquakes.

Let’s stretch our level of credulity and pretend there is no air, water, or ground pollution, and that there are no health and environmental effects from fracking. And, let’s really stretch our level of naiveté and pretend that unlike water used by farmers that goes into the ground or air and can be recycled, or that water used by individuals that is flushed into a sewer plant, processed, and then returned to the earth, that the waste water of fracking is also reusable.



allow the gas to flow from the shale into the well bore. Chemical additives, most of them toxic and labeled as carcinogens, prevent pipe corrosion and help force the sand and water into the site.

But it is the water that is critical to the success of fracking. Each well requires between three and nine million gallons of fresh water for the first frack. A well can be fracked additional times.

Now, let’s pretend that each well pad and the associated infrastructure (roads, pipelines, etc.), which carve out eight acres,

Disregard the evidence, and accept what we are told by the industry and politicians, who swear upon stacks of \$100 bills, that fracking is safe and controlled. There is still the question of water, the most critical part of fracking.

In 2005, there were only eight unconventional wells in Pennsylvania. By the end of 2012, there were 6,258 wells. That would mean at least 44 billion gallons of water, most of it taken from the state's rivers, was used to frack the environment. That doesn't include all the water that was spilled and unusable. So, while the state wants individuals to conserve every drop of water, it is also encouraging out-of-state megacorporations to grab as much as they can in order to continue to frack the state.

However, it's the last sentence of the DEP press release that may be the most important. "This year," say the DEP's PR people, "marks the 39th anniversary of the Safe Water Drinking Act, the main federal law that ensures the quality of drinking water in the United States."

What the press release doesn't say is that the Safe Water Drinking Act doesn't apply to the natural gas industry. In 2005—by a 249–183 vote in the House and an 85–12 vote in the Senate—Congress exempted the oil and natural gas industry from the Safe Water Drinking Act. That exemption applied to the "construction of new well pads and the accompanying new roads and pipelines."

Vice-President Dick Cheney, whose promotion of Big Business and opposition to environmental policies is well-documented, had pushed for that exemption. His hand-picked "energy task force," composed primarily of industry representatives, had concluded that fracking was safe. Cheney had been CEO of Halliburton, one of the world's largest energy companies, now headquartered in the tax haven Cayman Islands; the exemption became known as the Halliburton Loophole.

The fracking industry, by Congressional action, mostly during the George W. Bush Administration, is also exempt from all or parts of the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Another federal law that was created to protect Americans was the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) that created the "superfund" that holds companies financially liable for causing hazardous waste. However, Congress specifically exempted oil and natural gas industries from CERCLA.

The DEP and the Corbett Administration can issue all the press releases they want. But they can't deny the reality that while they want individuals to save every drop of water, the state officially encourages the use and waste of water in its mindless race to

excavate all the gas it can get—in the false assumption it will create jobs, improve the economy, lower gas prices, and make the U.S. energy independent—but at the cost of the health of the people and the destruction of their environment.

*Dr. Brasch is an award-winning journalist and the author of 17 books. His most recent book is *Fracking Pennsylvania*, a look at the effects of fracking upon the environmental, health, agriculture, wildlife, and worker safety. The book also explores the collusion between politicians and Big Energy, and claims made by politicians and the industry as to the economic benefits of fracking. The book is based upon extensive analysis of articles and research studies, and interviews with persons in the industry, those affected by the fracking process, physicians, psychologists, and research scientists. *Fracking Pennsylvania* is available from your local bookstore, greeleyandstone.com, or amazon.com*



TROUBLEDWATERS

NEW EPA RULE WOULD KEEP TOXICS OUT OF OUR WATER

by Tom Schuster

Over the years, Sierra Club has worked hard to ensure that the Clean Air Act is updated based on science to protect the public and environment from air pollution. We have also worked tirelessly to ensure that coal-fired power plants are required to obey the law, and either install scrubbers to control their pollution or shut down. But when a plant installs scrubbers, the toxics don't simply disappear. Rather, they end up in coal ash, which has the potential to pollute our water.

Every year, coal-fired power plants dump millions of tons of toxic metals into our waterways, representing over half of all industrial water pollution. What's more, four out of every five coal plants in the U.S. (and 17 of the 31 operating coal plants in Pennsylvania) have no limits on the amount of toxic pollution they are allowed to discharge into our drinking water, fishing areas, and local rivers and streams. These discharges can contain heavy metals like arsenic, selenium, boron, cadmium, mercury, and lead. Research has shown that exposure to these dangerous chemicals can lead to birth defects, cancer, and even death—meaning that limiting these pollutants will not only clean up our water, but will also save lives.

The existing standards governing water pollution from power plants have not been updated in 30 years, but that is about to change. This spring, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed new coal plant water pollution standards to limit the amount of toxic metals that can be dumped in the water. These water pollution

limits—also referred to as Effluent Limitation Guidelines—will set national standards that limit the amount of toxic metals that can be dumped in our waterways. For the first time, all coal plants would be required to monitor and report the amount of pollution they dump into the water. For the first time the public will have detailed information about the types and amounts of dangerous chemicals coal plants are releasing in our water.

These new rules will increase the cost of coal-fired electricity, which levels the playing field between dirty coal and clean, renewable energy. This in turn will help fight climate disruption as we shift to wind and solar energy.

As expected, the coal industry is mobilizing. The proposed rules were published in the Federal Register in early June, and the 60-day comment period will end on August 6. The proposal lays out a range of options, some of which are too weak to make much difference. The coal industry is already mounting a well-organized and well-financed campaign to pressure the EPA to adopt the weakest possible option. Therefore, the Sierra Club must make the most of the summer. Sierra Club volunteers will be urging EPA to adopt meaningful standards that will protect our waterways and our families.

The new rules will make the coal industry pay the real costs of pollution out of their profits, rather than pushing the cost of on to the public. Events are being planned throughout the state to spread the word and gain support for strict new rules on coal plant operators to make them responsible for cleaning up their pollution.

Watch your email for information about events near you! To volunteer, contact Sierra Club Organizer Randy Francisco (randy.francisco@sierraclub.org). You can also visit action.sierraclub.org/wastewater to learn more, get involved and take action in support of these critical new standards.

Tom Schuster is the PA Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign



STREAM BUFFERS OFFER MANY PROTECTIONS

by Barbara Benson

Lining our streams with trees not only protects the water quality and preserves habitat for fish and other aquatic life but also reduces the damage from flooding and the effects of droughts.

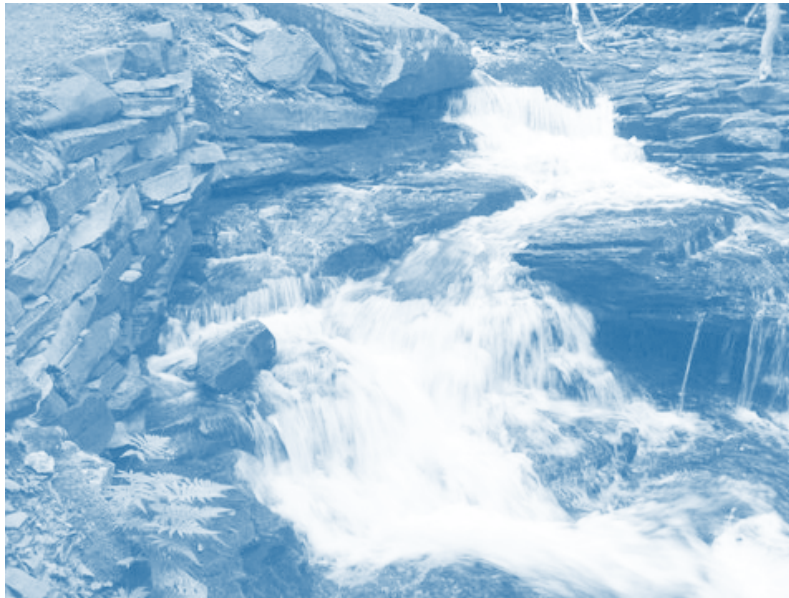
Streams are the healthiest when they are lined with buffers. Buffers are zones of vegetation that remain intact and unaffected by building, farming, and other uses of the land, which occur near streams. According to scientific research, forested buffers with a minimum of 100 feet on each side are best for stream health and water quality.

Buffers have many benefits. They: prevent flood-related damage by absorbing flood waters; improve water quality by trapping and filtering out sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants; reduce the need for storm water sewers; reduce the effects of drought on stream flow; increase property values by providing privacy and enhancing natural vistas; contribute to growing ecotourism and healthy economies; cool water and absorb greenhouse gases; reduce erosion; and preserve habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.

In 2010, Pennsylvania took a big step forward in requiring stream buffers by adopting storm water and erosion control rules on all new construction. The new state rules required buffer zones of 150 feet for new development in Exceptional Value and High Quality waters! Protecting our best streams in new development was a huge step forward, but many more of our Penn-

sylvania streams should be protected with buffers.

Now is an opportune time to make progress toward more stream buffers in Pennsylvania. Nearly 1,000 large municipalities in Pennsylvania are in the final stages of developing and implementing their Storm



Water Management (SWM) plans as required by the federal Clean Water Act. In developing their SWM, municipalities are to design a plan to protect the streams to which they discharge storm water.

These municipalities are required to incorporate six elements (known as minimum control measures, or MCMs) into their storm water programs. Each MCM has a series of suggested best management practices (BMP). The municipalities select measures that work to minimize the storm water discharges from the suggested BMPs. One of the BMPs is the inclusion of stream buffers. Buffers are excellent choices in

these storm water management plans!

Pennsylvania is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (CBW) to meet its commitment to clean up the Bay by 2025. Many of the impaired streams have been analyzed

to determine the amounts of nitrates, phosphates, and sediment that the streams can receive on a daily basis and still be healthy. The PA Department of Environmental Protection and EPA set limits on the amount of pollutants the streams can receive. Storm water contributes significantly to the amounts of these pollutants and the impairment status.

One way for municipalities to meet the pollutant limits is to reduce storm water discharges. Here as well, buffers are a best management practice that would contribute significantly to satisfy the DEP requirements.

You can help promote stream buffers! First, find out if your municipality is developing a storm water management plan. Are there impaired streams to which your municipality discharges? Determine if the storm water plan includes stream buffers as a best management practice. If not, promote a buffer ordinance if your municipality does not have one. By getting involved, you can take action to increase the number of stream miles with buffers in Pennsylvania.

TROUBLED WATERS

NEW PIPELINES CAN CHANGE PENNSYLVANIA'S LANDSCAPE

by Tom Au

With both state and federal governments eager to promote the Marcellus gas industry, weakened laws and reluctant regulators are creating a perilous situation for forests, streams, and wildlife throughout Pennsylvania, even where there is no Marcellus shale drilling.

The Marcellus shale boom requires the installation of shale gas infrastructure, which includes storage facilities, refining facilities, and most of all pipelines. Thousands of miles of new pipelines will have to be built in Pennsylvania to transport Marcellus Shale gas. Unlike shale gas well pads which are limited in size, natural gas pipelines snake across the landscape and affect nearly every county. Pipelines carry fresh water to well pads and remove contaminated frack water from them. Pipelines also gather shale gas from well pads and connect to transmission lines going to intrastate and interstate markets. Pipeline construction exacts a heavy toll on our landscape by excavating farmland, removing trees removed and crisscrossing wetlands and streams. Some of these pipelines are barely regulated. In particular, gathering pipelines in Class 1 rural areas currently are subject to no federal or state safety requirements.

The 39-mile MARC I line in Bradford, Sullivan, and Lycoming Counties, recently approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), will disturb 591 acres of land, resulting in the clearing of more than 200,000 mature trees and the crossing of more than 100 bodies of water, including exceptional value waters and sensitive trout streams. These pipelines will leave more than 200 acres of the landscape permanently altered for the operation of the project's facilities. A mere 4 percent of the proposed pipeline routes will use or parallel existing rights-of-ways. Along with 39 miles of pipeline and additional miles of access roads that will cut across forests and watersheds, MARC I will include two com-

pressor stations and associated equipment. The MARC I project potentially will affect both threatened and endangered species, including the Indiana Bat, and special protection waters. FERC declined to engage in an environmental impact review.

Repeat this impact for the approximately 25,000 pipeline miles of additional infrastructure that will be required to transport Marcellus Shale gas throughout Pennsylvania and you will see a fragmented landscape and degraded waterways by 2030.

A recent study of pipelines in Lycoming County by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania highlighted the environmental and safety problems. The League found that a regulatory patchwork was deficient, both in terms of siting and safety – particularly for gathering lines in rural areas. Officials, from local to national levels, lacked adequate, objective knowledge on which to base decisions regarding pipeline siting and safety. The League concluded: "The topography, ecology, flooding history and rural nature of Lycoming County make it prototypical of an area where a pipeline failure could pose a significant risk to people and to unusually sensitive environmental areas."

With pipelines crisscrossing the landscape, the opportunity for spills and accidents is abundant. When pipelines are constructed through wet-

lands or waterways, permits are needed from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). These permits are routinely granted without extensive review. The DEP also has oversight if the pipelines cross through areas with endangered or rare species. However, Pennsylvania's new drilling law, Act 13 of 2012, removed local governments from applying zoning rules for natural gas development, including pipelines.

Recently, DEP fined PVR Partners, a Marcellus pipeline company, \$150,000 for polluting High Quality and Exceptional Value streams in the fall of 2011. DEP investigators found pipeline construction activity caused bentonite, a common component of drilling mud, to spill into Larry's Creek in Lycoming County. The company failed to report the spill. Subsequent inspections found more violations of the state's Clean Streams Law, the Dam Safety and En-

continued on page 18



PROTECTING PA'S SPECIAL WILD PLACES FROM FRACKING

by Barbara Benson

All over Pennsylvania citizens are organizing to protect their forests and public lands from fracking and the industrialization that follows. Currently, citizens and environmental groups are united to protect Loyalsock State Forest, which includes some especially sensitive places, such as Rock Run, Old Loggers Path and Devil's Elbow.

The Clarence Moore lands within the Loyalsock State Forest, Lycoming County, contain extraordinary natural and recreational resources. The expansive woodlands provide critical habitat for declining species of forest-dwelling birds; its clear streams draw anglers in search of brook trout; and popular trails cross its valleys and plateaus, including the Old Loggers Path, one of the state's most popular long-distance trails. The scenic views are sought by travelers from far and wide.

What happens when shale gas operations are located in areas as sensitive and special as the Loyalsock?

Streams such as the exquisitely beautiful Rock Run are at risk of serious degradation due to the logging, road building, stream crossings, and other aspects of the drilling infrastructure. The headwaters for Rock Run are in the seeps and wetlands on the plateau, and local conservationists worry that any drilling there could forever change what the state considers an "exceptional value" waterway. Accidents would cause serious damage to the sensitive streams. Brook trout fishing, a favorite with anglers who visit from afar to fish, will suffer.

Many miles of hiking trails, including the Old Logger's path, offer stunning vistas and views of clear, cold, cascading streams. The assaults of the drilling process will degrade the experience of hikers who come from long distances to enjoy the spectacular views.

The Loyalsock forests have been designated by the National Audubon Society as an Important Birding Area. The expansive areas of forest provide critical habitat for numerous forest interior birds such as wood thrushes, scarlet tanagers. With the fragmentation due to drilling activity, the birds will lose their refuge. The more a forest is broken up, the less protected interior habitat is left and populations of these sensitive birds decline.

Loss of forest cover increases soil and nutrient run-off to the streams and eventually degrades the waters that are fed by the forested watershed. At a time when Pennsylvania is struggling to meet EPA-mandated stream pollution limits, we want more forests, not

less.

The Loyalsock State Forest is a public holding, belonging to Pennsylvania's citizens and deserving of protection from the extractive industry. Anadarko Petroleum Corporation has plans to drill for shale gas there and DCNR and Governor Corbett have not released the proposal for review and public comment. At stake is the survival of these very wild and special places that would be devastated by the shale oil drilling process.

Why is fracking even being considered in the Loyalsock State Forest, one of the wildest, most sensitive, highly valued lands in Pennsylvania?

A patch work of mineral rights ownership exists in the Loyalsock State Forest since the lumber company that once owned the land sold the surface ownership to the State but sold the mineral rights to others. These mineral rights have been bought and sold over the years. The State owns some and others have been

bought and sold over the years. An unusual deed restriction gives the DCNR an opportunity to restrict surface access to the 18,870 acres of Loyalsock where the State does not own the mineral rights. This includes the Rock Run headwaters that were once owned by Clarence Moore. The permission of mineral rights owners to access oil and gas from the surface was terminated as of 1983. Court rulings in 1989 and 1999 have upheld the earlier termination of the right to access from the surface.

Those who are working to protect the Loyalsock believe that the DCNR has authority to withhold access from the surface according to State law. The legal interpretations seem clear. DCNR seemingly does not agree with the above judgment and continues to negotiate with Anadarko.

DCNR has held a closed door meeting to which only a few stakeholders were invited. A number of organizations sent a letter to DCNR Secretary Rick Allan stating our request for a public hearing on Anadarko's gas drilling plans. The signees included conservation, recreation, and environmental organizations. Allan said that the previous closed door meeting was the public meeting!

June 3 brought over 500 concerned individuals to Williamsport at a hastily scheduled public hearing, a great turnout considering the short notice and the 4 pm hour. Many who attended were not able

WHY IS FRACKING EVEN BEING CONSIDERED IN THE LOYALSOCK STATE FOREST, ONE OF THE WILDEST, MOST SENSITIVE, HIGHLY VALUED LANDS IN PENNSYLVANIA?

continued on page 18

TROUBLED WATERS

CLEAN UP THE SUSQUEHANNA NOW

by Jan Jarrett

Since 2005, sickness, disease and massive algae blooms have devastated what was once a world-class bass fishery in the Susquehanna River. It's a sick river, and the bass in the river are sick and dying. Most years, young bass born are not surviving. Adults are afflicted with open sores, black blotches, parasites and cancer. Almost all male fish are now also carrying female characteristics.

The situation has gotten so bad that the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has restricted bass fishing to catch and release only on a 98-mile stretch of the river from Sunbury to the Holtwood Dam and closed fishing during the spawning season. John Arway, the executive director of the PFBC, has said that he does not want the last bass to be caught out of the Susquehanna on his watch.

But while the PFBC is doing all it can to protect the fishery, the same cannot be said of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Arway, along with several environmental, conservation and angling organizations, including the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club, have asked DEP to officially designate the river as "impaired," a designation that would set legally enforceable deadlines for identifying the sources of the pollution that is making the river sick and creating a plan to bring it back to health. DEP maintains that there is not enough scientific evidence to warrant an impaired designation. Last month, the federal Environmental Protection Agency agreed and accepted Pennsylvania's list of impaired waters that did not include the Susquehanna.

However, there is ample evidence pointing to what is killing the bass. Studies done by DEP, PFBC, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and the U.S. Geological agencies over the last several years have implicated periods of very warm water, nutrient pollution and associated low dissolved oxygen levels and high pH levels in the decline of the bass fishery.

The extensive research and monitoring already identified parts of the river that do not meet water quality standards in the

summer. Thanks to the Chesapeake Bay clean up, upgrades of sewage plants and better farming practices, total levels of nutrients have been decreasing in the Susquehanna over the last decade. So, what's causing big algae and plant blooms in the river and periods of low dissolved oxygen? A USGS study identified a potential culprit – dissolved inorganic phosphorus which has been rising dramatically in the river. The rise in levels of dissolved inorganic phosphorus has coincided with big algae blooms.

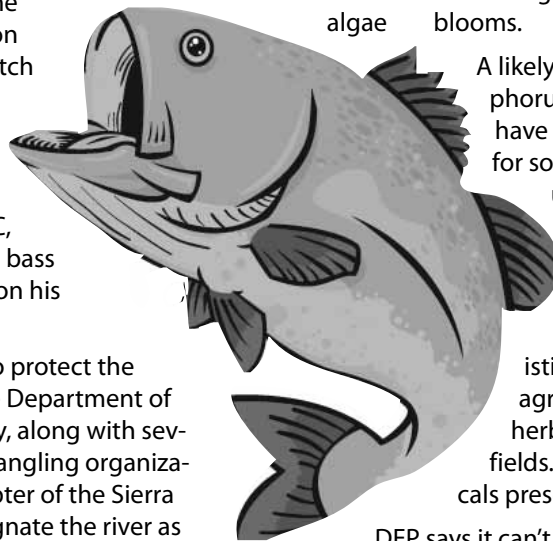
A likely source of the dissolved inorganic phosphorus is manure spread on fields. Farmers have been spreading manure on some fields for so long that they are becoming super-saturated with phosphorus. When farmers spread on more manure on phosphorus-saturated fields, it simply runs off into the nearest waterway.

The prevalence of fish with characteristics of both sexes is also associated with agricultural areas as endocrine-disrupting herbicides and pesticides run off of farm fields. The increasing amount of pharmaceuticals present in wastewater may also be a factor.

DEP says it can't put the Susquehanna on the impaired waters list until it knows exactly what's killing the bass. While more research is warranted, it is unlikely that a single factor making the bass sick and disrupting their reproductive systems will ever be identified.

The truth is that fish in the Susquehanna are swimming in an ever-warming stew of nutrients and chemicals that is weakening their immune and reproductive systems. Putting the river on the impaired waters list would start the process of a developing a comprehensive plan to reduce the sources of the pollution we know are contributing to the problem.

Delay only puts the storied Susquehanna bass fishery in danger of destruction.



BOOKREVIEW

Al Cambronne, *DEERLAND: America's Hunt for Ecological Balance and the Essence of Wildness* Lyons Press, 2013

reviewed by Gary Thornbloom

Hikers, farmers, rural residents, suburban, and increasingly urban dwellers – our lives, our activities, our interests – are impacted and influenced by whitetail deer. We love them, we hate them. We eat them, and we feed them, even as the deer, through their sheer numbers, devastate the landscape.

In *DEERLAND* the reader accompanies Al Cambronne, a seasoned journalist, as he looks at the peculiarly American relationship with deer. This story is told conversationally, as if you were enjoying a beer or a venison burger with Cambronne at the end of each day of his research.

The first half of the book explores our “Love and Obsession” with deer. Cambronne begins with their biology and then describes their place in the North American landscape. Despite many challenges – including heat, cold, starvation, disease, highways, and hunters – many deer mature and can be found throughout our landscape.

Deer biology leads to a discussion of antlers and the deer industrial complex. Hunters are using gear that did not exist two decades ago- trailcams, laser rangefinders, products for tending feed plots, scent products, and products that remove scent, are a few of these. An industry worth billions of dollars has a huge influence on public policy.

Hunter's dollars also fund wildlife conservation, including habitat. For example, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Act, a tax on guns and ammunition, has provided over \$7.2 billion for wildlife habitat. This habitat not only serves the goals of hunters, it also provides habitat for nongame species and for non-hunting interests.

Cambronne takes us to Buffalo County in Wisconsin for one vision of the future: the privatization of a county that grows deer with trophy antlers. Similarly he looks at feeding deer: feeding, baiting and food plots. Treating deer as a crop leads

to problems: wildlife that is no longer wild, overpopulation, disease, and a landscape devastated by over browsing.

The first half of the book ends with a discussion of venison, the over 300 million pounds of deer meat that end up on American's dinner plates each year.

The second half of the book deals with the “Consequences” of 30 million deer in our landscape, a tremendous success story of restoring an animal that was nearly extirpated from North America a century ago.

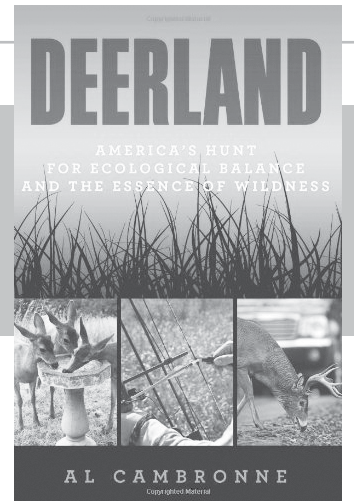
Hunters want more deer. A forest or a mountain would disagree, as more deer mean less forest, or fewer plants on the mountain. A discussion of managing forests for trees, and a look into exclosures clearly shows the devastation too many deer can cause.

Subsequent chapters look at crop damage, vehicle damage, and the invasion of our suburbs that are part of the picture of deer overwhelming the landscape. The problem of managing the deer herd falls on state agencies, like the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Hunting is necessary to establish a balance between deer and the landscape. It is reasonable to expect that science would direct policy, but hunters pressure politicians, and they pressure agencies. This can result in politics trumping science.

Cambronne ends his journey by moving beyond a discussion of balance to suggesting harmony as the guiding concept. What remains to be determined is whether we, the deer, and the landscape can reach a semblance of harmony.

DEERLAND is available online and at bookstores everywhere. You can visit the author online at www.alcambronne.com.



BOOKREVIEW

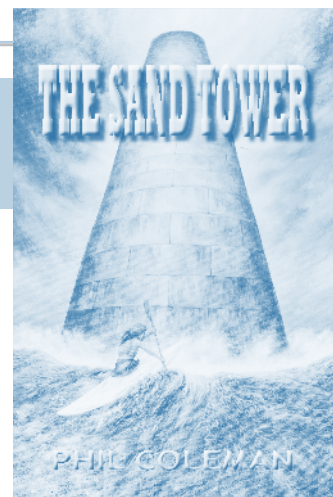
Phil Coleman, *The Sand Tower* Lulu Publishing, 2013

reviewed by Sydney Willis

Since his first venture in a kayak 43 years ago, Phil Coleman (not to be confused with Sylvania editor Phil Coleman) has devoted his life to white water. He learned kayaking on Pennsylvania streams, and as he mastered his craft, he has paddled the wildest streams in Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia. In some cases, he was the first to attempt some of the most difficult. He grew up as the sport of whitewater kayaking grew. As boaters learned to handle wilder and wilder rivers, he was frequently leading the way. He became an expert kayaker and raft guide.

In 1994, he moved to Costa Rica and operated a rafting company there for 18 years. Along the way, he began to formulate a story he wanted to tell.

An experience he had in the early 1980's, helping recover a drowned kayaker, led him to feel that sometimes rivers have energies of their own. This feeling led him to start writing a novel.



If you can conceive a suspense thriller, a sci-fi adventure, and a story of fate, love, and faith combined in one novel, you will find it here. It is a natural for whitewater enthusiasts, but it will appeal to a broader audience, including those who are willing

to do some time traveling, those who care about abuse of the earth, those who love an adventure thriller. The story moves from contemplation to turbulence. It catches the reader as though the river runs almost beyond control. It also poses a question about where our civilization is going as a warning we cannot ignore.

The Sand Tower is available at Lulu.com or by following this link: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/phil-coleman/the-sand-tower/paperback/product-20964832.html>

New Pipelines, continued from page 14

croachments Act and sediment discharges.

Despite the shortcomings in regulatory oversight, citizens have the right to challenge permits required to construct these pipelines. Citizens can use their rights to secure better oversight by insisting on better construction practices, requiring mitigation measures and selecting stream crossings. When the Transcontinental Gas and Pipeline Company sought permits to cross Brandywine Creek to replace a large gas pipeline, citizen groups mobilized to demand a public hearing and strong review of this proposed "open cut" stream crossing method. They demanded horizontal direct drilling that would go under the creek and not through it. Actions like these are necessary to keep pipeline companies from taking short-cuts for moving gas to market.

1 <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/pennsylvania/ng-pipelines.pdf>

2 http://www.palwv.org/files/429_TAGFinalCopySmall.pdf (Executive Summary)

3 <http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/593264/Gas-company-accused-of-discharge-agrees-to-pay-fine--expresses-regret.html?nav=5011>

4 <http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/river-action/ongoing-issue-detail.aspx?Id=44>

Tom Au is the PA Chapter Conservation Chair and is the co-chair of Water Issues.

Fracking, continued from page 15

to speak for lack of time. On June 6, the Save the Loyalsock working coalition gathered to plan future steps. Sierra Club joined in a letter to Governor Corbett calling on him to open up the process and allow for public review and comment on the drilling plans submitted by Anadarko. We are asking for release of Anadarko's plans to the public, a 90 day comment period and six hearings around the state.

Keep looking at our Website and, hopefully, there will be more opportunities to prepare and present your comments at a hearing.

For more information on the Chapter's blog:

David Meiser's comments at:

<http://sierraclubpa.blogspot.com/2013/04/rock-run-beautiful-wild-and-natural.html>

Press release, including link to the letter to Governor Corbett, at:

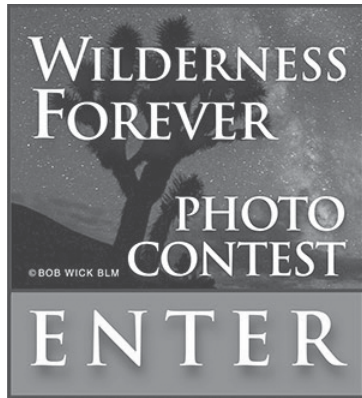
<http://sierraclubpa.blogspot.com/2013/06/groups-shine-light-on-gas-drilling.html>

WILDERNESS FOREVER PHOTO CONTEST

Does your best Wilderness photograph belong in the Smithsonian?

Find out by entering your photograph in The Wilderness Forever Photo Contest in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act, known as Wilderness 50. The contest is being sponsored by Wilderness 50 in partnership with Nature's Best Photography and the Smithsonian Institution.

Winning photographs and a selection of photos earning Honorable Mention will be displayed in the 2014 print exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. Winning photographs will also appear in a special publication commemorating the Wilderness Act's golden anniversary and in other electronic, print, and event promotions.



This professionally juried contest will accept entries until September 3, 2013, online or by mail. Each entrant may submit up to twenty photographic images.

Each photograph can be entered in one of the contest's four categories: Scenic Landscape, Wildlife, People in Wilderness, or Most Inspirational Moment.

Each category will have a Professional, Amateur, and Student winner. Judges will award Honorable Mention to other exceptional photographs in each

category.

Official instructions and guidelines are online at www.naturesbestphotography.com/wilderness.

Wilderness 50 is a coalition of more than 25 non-profit organizations that includes the Sierra Club, academic institutions and government agencies planning lo-

cal, regional and national events and projects.

American wilderness areas are managed by four federal agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

Photo Contest Categories include:

- Scenic Landscape: Dramatic scenes, unusual perspectives, expansive views of protected Wilderness land.
- Wildlife: Wild animals photographed within the boundaries of wilderness areas.
- People in Wilderness: People enjoying wilderness lands.
- Most Inspirational Moment: Wilderness locations with a special story or meaning for you.

Please see official guidelines for full description.



OUR STAR VOLUNTEERS

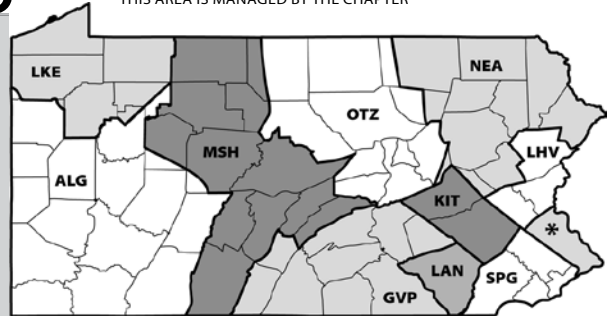
On May 4th Chapter members gathered in Carlisle to honor their star volunteers from across the state at the PA Sierra Club's Stargazing Awards Dinner. From L to R: Brian Vandegrift, Tom Au, Jennifer Ericson, Jack Miller, Nancy Parks, Ronn Brouman, Sheila Gallagher, David McGuire, Pat Beaudet.

Other honorees not pictured: Michael Pastorkovich, Keith Wexler, Tom Hiegel, Ben Harper, Peter Wray, Cathy Pedler.

MEETINGS & OUTINGS

PENNSYLVANIA GROUPS MAP

* THIS AREA IS MANAGED BY THE CHAPTER



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.

Participants on outings must sign a liability waiver, available from www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or from the Outings Department at 415-977-5528. Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling and assumes no liability.

Chapter Executive Committee

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/>

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PASierraClub>

Follow us on Twitter: @SierraClubPA

MEETINGS

The Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) meets between four and six times a year in locations near the middle of the state.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 12, 13, and 14 - Annual Outing and Retreat at Susquehannock State Park, 1880 Park Drive; Drumore, PA 17518-9751, hosted by the Lancaster Group, featuring an optional kayak trip downriver to see petroglyphs.

Saturday October 5 - from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ExCom meeting in the Centre County Solid Waste Authority Building, 253 Transfer Road Bellefonte, PA 16823

Allegheny Group

www.alleghenysc.org

MEETINGS

The Allegheny Group meets the 2nd Monday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the Sierra Club Office, 425 North Craig St., Pittsburgh, PA

For more information, see the Web site: www.alleghenysc.org

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Interested in leading outings? Con-

tact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@windstream.net

Governor Pinchot Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot

MEETINGS

The Governor Pinchot group meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30. For the meeting location, please check the Web site above.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For information on Governor Pinchot Group activities, see pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot.

For more info contact John at 717-737-7675 or lenahan.john@mac.com

Kittatinny Group

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/kit/>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sierra.Kitt.Club>

MEETINGS

Kittatinny Executive Committee meets monthly. All members welcome. For more information, contact Kathy Stoica at 610-916-2928 or katstoica@yahoo.com

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For up-to-date listings of activities, see pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks/calendar.htm.

Lake Erie Group

lakeeriegroup.webs.com

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 p.m. to 8 p.m.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For information on Lake Erie Group activities, contact Chuck Benson at bensonville@aol.com

Lancaster Group

www.lancastersierraclub.org

MEETINGS

General meetings of the Lancaster Group of the Sierra Club are scheduled for June 19, August 21 and September 18. All meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m. They are held (unless otherwise noted on the website) in Lancaster Country Day School (LCDS), 725 Hamilton Rd., Lancaster. Parking is available in the school's parking lot.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Visit www.lancastersierraclub.org for more details about these events, as well as others in the planning stages, or contact Jennifer Ericson at jericson@ezsolution.com or (717) 892-2026.

Lehigh Valley Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sierraclublv>

MEETINGS

The Lehigh Valley Group Executive Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (except July) in Room 638, Fowler Family Center, Northampton Community College, Third and Buchanan Streets, (south) Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015. All members are welcome. This meeting is where we do our organizational planning and discuss environmental issues.

For updated information, please visit our Website:

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv/>

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sierraclublv>

For more information about Lehigh Valley Group, contact:

Donald Miles, Lehigh Valley Group chair, at donmiles@rcn.com or 610-730-2514 or Matt MacConnell, vice-chair, at mattmacconnell@gmail.com or 610-657-2707.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

If you'd like to join us for outdoor fun, please consider joining our outings MeetUp: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Lehigh-Valley-Group/>

continued, next page

Moshannon Group

www.sierramsh.org

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/112180198821601/>

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 or by email at: 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 listed at: <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/outings.html>

Northeastern Group

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.

OUTINGS

For more information, please visit the website above.

Otzinachson Group

<http://otzinachson.wordpress.com>

Follow us on Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/Otzinachson?ref=ts&fref=ts>)

MEETINGS

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

OUTINGS

For more information contact:

Paul Shaw, Outings Chair
155 Mowery Lane
Sunbury PA 17801
717-215-8339
pshaw@ptd.net

Southeastern Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern

MEETINGS

Executive Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at 135 S 19th St # 300, Philadelphia, PA

19103. To confirm the meeting date and location, contact: spgsierraclub@hotmail.com.

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.

THE COMMITTED OPPORTUNIST

by Marlin Turby

I recently joined the Sierra Club. My membership came about from a series of events that began with my decision to get involved in the climate change issue. That led to me attending a screening of the film, "Do the Math," at Dickinson College. There I met some of the students who are involved in Dickinson's divestment initiative, known as "Reinvest Dickinson." That led to plans of holding a running event called the "CO2 5k Fun/Run" in the spring of 2014 in Carlisle, Pa. (Hope to see you there!) Then, I contacted Wendi Taylor, who also hosted a showing of "Do the Math," to see if we could work together on climate change. The rest is history.

Never underestimate the power of intentionality.

While the scientific community has reached a general consensus on climate change using peer reviewed scientific evidence, some deny it. The tactics used by the contrarians prey upon the scientific illiteracy of the public. As polls indicate the deniers are doing a good job of convincing the public that climate change -- and many other environmental issues for that matter -- are nothing more than a hoax.

Energy poses a dilemma. The world must figure out how to produce the energy it needs, while keeping the planet suitable for sustaining life. The challenge is very complex and global in scale. Yet, I have no doubt that we are up to the challenge and that the necessary technologies will appear and evolve. The greater challenge is to ad-

dress the issue on a national and international level. The resistance is huge and we are needlessly arguing over whether climate change is a scam.

Corporations influence governmental policy and set the conditions by which they flourish at the expense of the rest of us. Corporations believe that economies are built around the "classic macro-economic model," which holds that the environment is a sub-set of the economy. Nature's ecology is not buying it and the universe does not appear to be obligated to corporate desire.

Ecological economics is the reciprocal and in that model the economy is a sub-set of the environment. Here, the limits of the carry capacity of the planet are acknowledged and respected.

Our future is in our hands. If there was ever a time in human history to take a stand, it is now.

I cannot think of anything that I would rather be part of than participating in this transition. It is easy to become upset at those that lie and manipulate. I choose to rise above that and set my sights on the time, whenever that may occur, that humanity will dance on this planet.

I look forward to meeting and working with the Sierra Club community.

PUBLIC LANDS WATCH TRAINING: AUGUST 9 TO 11, 2013

Are you perplexed or confused about what to do next to protect our public lands? If so, join leaders, strategist, organizers and volunteers for a weekend at World's End State Park, located in Sullivan County, just south of Forksville. Grassroots allies will have a chance to fill their activist-advocacy-democracy tool kit with some new ideas and tactics. Allies include the Sierra Club, Allegheny Defense Project, Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, Responsible Drilling Alliance, The PA Foest Coalition, Adirondack Mountain Club, Heartwood, Save Our Streams PA, and many more. Together we will discuss ways to protect the public lands and the communities we love. Dan Chu, Director of the Sierra Club's Our Wild America Campaign will be the keynote speaker on Saturday night, August 10.

Presentations and workshops will be held in the evenings and mornings, leaving the afternoons for guided hikes into Loyalsock, time to swim at the World's End Beach, or browse the displays in the Event Pavilion. The Group Camp Area #3 has been reserved (no showers and pit toilets) for this training. However, if you prefer showers and flush toilets, you can reserve your own space at the modern campground within the park. <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/worldsend/>.

For more information, please log on to: alleghenydefense.org

To RSVP, contact: Cathy Pedler, 814-520-4639, pedler.cathy@gmail.com, or Gary Thornbloom, 814-353-3466, bearknob@verizon.net

PRESENTATION TOPICS DURING THE WEEKEND INCLUDE:

- What is Forest Watch?
- Case Studies from Pennsylvania: Allegheny National Forest and Loyalsock State Forest
- Community Rights and the Rights of Nature
- Citizen Suits
- State Regulation
- State Public Land Planning Process
- Forests, Climate, and Carbon Campaign
- NY State Public Lands and the NY Moratorium
- Workshops, discussions, displays, and films cover:
 - Strategy and Networking
 - Orphaned, Abandoned, and Inactive Wells
 - Environmental Intelligence
 - Filing a FOIA or Right To Know Request
 - Conducting File Reviews
 - Triple Divide
 - Water Monitoring and Testing

A CALL FOR AT-LARGE DELEGATES

WHOM DO YOU WANT TO REPRESENT YOU?

by Jack Miller

The Nominating Committee wants to know whom you think is qualified to represent you on the PA Chapter Executive Committee. Each year the statewide membership of the Sierra Club elects three members as delegates to the Chapter Executive Committee for two-year terms. These delegates, along with representatives from each group, comprise the governing body of the Pennsylvania Chapter. Nominations are now being sought for these three important At-Large Delegate positions.

Members are encouraged to submit the names of people (including yourself) to the Nominating Committee, which they believe to have a broad interest and knowledge of the activities of the Club

throughout the state. Submit the names and contact information of people you want to be considered by the Nominating Committee as nominees no later than August 15, 2013.

In addition, members who are not officially nominated by the Nominating Committee can be added to the election ballot for At-large Delegates through a simple, written petition process. A valid petition consists of the name, address and membership number of the petition candidate, along with a statement that the candidate has given approval for the petition and intends to serve if elected. A telephone number and e-mail address of the candidate are also requested. Members signing petitions must include their printed

membership name and address, the date and a legible signature. The telephone number, e-mail address and membership number of members signing the petition 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. Because 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 31, 2013, whose address is listed below.

Ballot candidates for At-Large Delegates should prepare a written statement highlighting their qualifications to serve as delegates, which will appear in the fall edition of *The Sylvania*. Statements are limited to 200 words and should be e-mailed to the Nominating Committee by September 5, 2013.

Petitions and petitioners' statements should be mailed to the Nominating Committee by the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial overnight delivery service at the following address:

CHAPTER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jack Miller
130 DeLong Road
Middleburg PA 17842-8182

Further, the Nominating Committee will gladly accept recommendations for various posts and volunteer positions. Please contact Jack Miller at: jmiller1018@yahoo.com



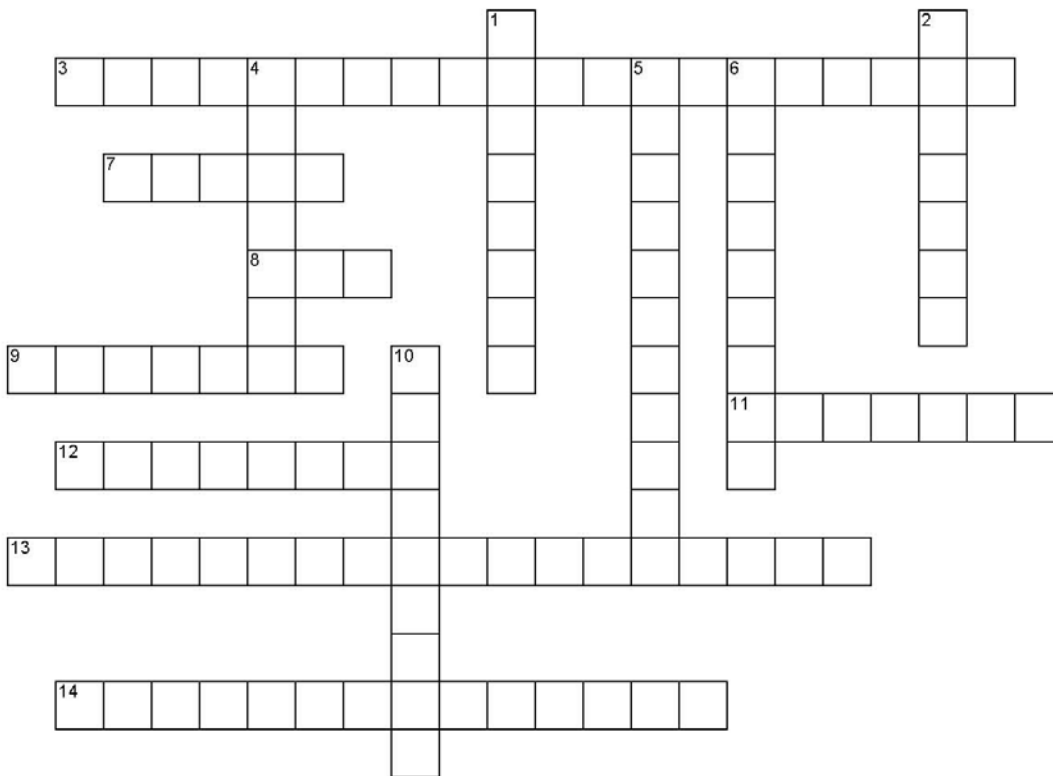
Pictured (from L to R) are: Tom Hiegel, Outings Chair; Chuck Benson, Group Chair; and Bob Benson, Sierra Club member.

The Lake Erie Group held its 12th annual spring clean-up as part of the United Way's National Day of Caring on April 20th. Partnering with the PA Game Commission, group members spent the afternoon picking up trash in parking lots and roadways around Game Lands #109 in the Waterford area and the commission took care of disposing of the trash.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

SUMMERCROSSWORD



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Across

- 3 Study by Walter Brasch
- 7 Former DCNR secretary
- 8 Director of Wild America Campaign
- 9 Zones of vegetation protecting streams
- 11 Governor who passes gas
- 12 Low spot in Chestnut Ridge
- 13 Limits toxic pollution from power plants
- 14 Hiking Trail in Loyalsock

Down

- 1 Eco study by Al Cambronne
- 2 Beaver-carried disease
- 4 Former DEP secretary
- 5 A sick river
- 6 State Forest threatened by fracking
- 10 25,000 miles of added gas infrastructure

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