

the BRIDGE

Environmental Connections Start Here

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals is to promote environmental education, research, planning, assessment, review, and management through the formation and operation of a nonpolitical multidisciplinary professional society.

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PAEP is a member of NAEP, the national organization for environmental professionals. Click below to view news from the national perspective.



Outgoing President's Message - Deborah Poppel

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as PAEP's Board President for these last two years. Although I may continue on the Board of Directors, the leadership role will be turned over to someone new. I remain hopeful for the future of our organization and wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season. I will leave you with this poem by Mary Oliver, which speaks so poignantly about both nature and transition.

Profiles of Board Members...

This issue, PAEP's newest Board Member Amy Jordan posed the following interview questions to outgoing PAEP Board Member Dee Elwell.



Where do you currently work and what is your position?

Michael Baker International in the Fort Washington office. I'm an Environmental Specialist.

How and when did you get involved with PAEP?

Eight years ago, I attended my first PAEP lecture in Philadelphia where I connected with Board Member (at the time) Eric Rosina. With my boss' encouragement, I applied for a Board position in the election that year. While I was not elected, I continued to follow PAEP and remained in contact with Eric. Several months later, one of the board members left the state for another job and I was voted in as "interim board member". The rest, as they say, is history. (Thanks Eric!)

Elwell interview continued...

VOTE!

Ballots have been sent to members for selection of four individuals for the four open board seats. Ballots must be returned by 5:00 pm, December 10.

See *Elections continued...*

In Blackwater Woods

Look, the trees
are turning
their own bodies
into pillars

of light,
are giving off the rich
fragrance of cinnamon
and fulfillment,

the long tapers
of cattails
are bursting and floating away over
the blue shoulders

of the ponds,
and every pond,
no matter what its
name is, is

nameless now.
Every year
everything
I have ever learned

in my lifetime
leads back to this: the fires
and the black river of loss
whose other side

is salvation,
whose meaning
none of us will ever know.
To live in this world

you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it

against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it
go,
to let it go.

Poem by Mary Oliver (September 10, 1935 – January 17, 2019)

"the BRIDGE" is the newsletter of the **Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals** and strives to provide its members with current, useful and unbiased information that will improve their ability to offer quality consultation and appropriate solutions to their clients. To make sure you receive these publications, be sure to **allow email from info@paep.org** to be accepted.



New Members' Corner

In 2021 PAEP welcomed these new members to our professional family:

Barbara Boyd – McTish, Kunkel & Assoc.

Shane Cranford – Kleinfelder

Andrea Danucalov – Exelon Generation

Andrea DeCola – Eurofins Lancaster Lab

Timothy Didlake – HDR

Catherine Dress – Lotus Environmental

Charlotte Hedlund – H2E Consulting

Joseph Jasinski – McCormick Taylor

Amy Jordan – AKRF

Benjamin Langey – GHD Services

Amanda Lofink – Terracon

Beverly Miller – PennDOT

Patricia Newdeck – PennDOT District 8-0

Ann Smith – Eurofins

Dr. Philip Thomas – Trout Unlimited

Meghan Blair - student

Mary Bogert - student

Brandon Brewster - student

Jaylin Calistro - student

Alex Cartwright - student

Kayla Cayemite - student

Bethany Fisher - student

Bridgette Gorg - student

Zoe Heckathorn - student

Sylvie Josel - student

Bailey Kozalla - student

Tess Kuracina - student

William Laing - student

Yansong Li - student

Autumn Moore - student

Matthew Myers - student

Alexi Neiffer - student

Dawton Nelson - student

Penelope Northing - student

Paeton Peluso - student

Amber Pentycofe - student

Mark Rychcik - student

Lori Stover – student

Invite these new members to participate in our activities, events, and committees.

Since we last chatted...



Our monthly webinar program has been a hit...you can check out all the free webinars, available to all our members, on the [PAEP website](#). They can be used to satisfy your PDHs.

Past Monthly Webinars – September thru November:

- November 15th webinar - [On Thermal Evaluations](#), presented by John Dimitry
- October Virtual Conference Presentations are available to those who paid for the sessions. Contact the [PAEP Business Office](#) if you have not received access instructions. Others can access these by paying for the cost of the session(s).

Past Months' Events

- September 17, 2021 – PAEP/WTS Scholarship Golf Outing was a wonderful success. PAEP's Scholarship Fund received \$2,697.45.
- November 19, 2021 – a networking social at Seven Sirens Brewery in Bethlehem, PA, was held

Karl Mason | Walter Lyon Awards Presented

The winners of the 2021 Karl Mason and Walter Lyon awards have been announced. Recipients are:

- Karl Mason: [Marci Mowery](#) - PA Parks and Forest Foundation
- Walter Lyon: [Wildlife Leadership Academy](#) – Michele Kittell Connolly, Director

Learn more about [Karl Mason](#) and [Walter Lyon](#) and their contributions to Pennsylvania Conservation efforts. Click on their names to see their bios.

Looking ahead...



With the relaxation of Covid restrictions, we are working on in-person educational and networking events to reacquaint you with your industry peers. Monthly webinars will continue in 2022.

Monthly Webinars:

- December 6th webinar - **Public Outreach and Environmental Justice Considerations in Transportation Planning and Project Delivery**, presented by Jennifer Crobak, Jon Crum, and Deborah Suci Smith of FHWA
- January webinar – Sustainability 101, Vlad Odarchenko
- February webinar – to be determined

Events:

- The 2022 Annual Conference will be held in-person sometime in September or October, depending on availability of venues. We look forward to getting together with each of you. It will be a great opportunity for us to reestablish friendships and network with our colleagues over good meals and drinks and, of course, timely educational seminars.

Did you Know...?

- The tallest tree in the country is a Coast Redwood growing in northern California's Redwood National Park. It is 369 feet tall and over 2000 years old!
- The world's oldest trees are 4,600 year old Bristlecone pines in the USA.
- Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute.
- Water originating in our national forests provides drinking water for over 3400 communities, and approximately 60 million individuals.
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30%
- The shade and wind buffering provided by trees reduces annual heating and cooling costs by 2.1 billion dollars.
- Each average-sized tree provides an estimated \$7 savings in annual environmental benefits, including energy conservation and reduced pollution.
- A single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year. That means two mature trees can supply enough oxygen annually to support a family of four!
- Over the course of its life, a single tree can absorb one ton of carbon dioxide.
- Every day, American businesses generate enough paper to circle the earth 20 times!
- Recycling a single run of the Sunday New York Times would save 75,000 trees (about the same for more major papers' Sunday editions).
- On average, ONE supermarket goes through 60,500,000 paper bags per year!
- The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.

(information courtesy of earthecho.org, savatree.com, and their sources)



BALANCE

Environmental News Releases

Check out the latest articles on environmental issues:

[Reinventing Coal Country: Reclaiming America's Abandoned Mine Lands](#) - [Environmental Health News](#) (article from Grist)

[Air Pollution can Alter Our Brains in Ways that Increase Mental Illness Risk](#) - Kristina Marusic, The Allegheny Front

[Senate Moves To Block Key Part Of Wolf's Climate Plan](#) - Rachel McDevitt, The Allegheny Front

Links to other newsletters:

[DEP Newsroom](#) – *Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources News Releases*

[PA Environment Digest Newsletter](#)

[PennEnvironment](#)

[Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#)

[Conservation Voters of PA](#)

Elwell interview continued...

What has been the most rewarding experience you've had?

The most rewarding experience has been the comradery. While PAEP's achievements in environmental education, research, and outreach across the state speak for themselves, I get the most out of the group members and the multidisciplinary discussions we have.

Tell us about how you got involved in the environmental field.

For as long as I can remember I loved 2 things – animals and a clean, healthy earth. And when I found out how long veterinarians had to be in school for, there was only one choice left for my future: protecting our natural environment. From a young age, I understood the importance of protecting the only place we all have to live. As a toddler at the park, I would scold anyone who littered, including the 'big adults'. That mentality never waned and ultimately landed me in the Environmental Geology program at Kutztown University. Now I get paid to care about the environment!

What has been the most exciting or impactful project you've worked on professionally?

That's a tough one. I do enjoy investigating contaminated sites; I always learn something new. But a lot of that work involves long-term monitoring. So, for the most impactful project, I think I must choose a project type: trails. I work on the permits, and I get to see each project unfold within a relatively short timeframe. I'm a firm believer that the more time people spend in nature, the more they appreciate it, and the more likely they are to protect and advocate for it. Creating new trails and parks helps accomplish this, and I like being a part of that.

What are you looking forward to in 2022, both professionally and personally?

Getting my Professional Geology license. That definitely counts toward both a professional and a personal achievement in my book.

Elections continued...

We have an excellent slate of candidates to select from. Nominees are:

Deborah Poppel, Certified Wildlife Biologist for RK&K; current PAEP President

Michael Parrent, retired from the Environmental Branch at Tobyhanna Army Depot; current PAEP Treasurer

Joseph Musil, Jr., Regulatory Compliance Engineer and Community Planner; former PAEP Board President

John Smith, Environmental Coordinator / Senior Chemist for Allegheny Bradford Corporation

Edmund Karl, Director of Karl Environmental Group

PAEP also has a variety of working committees that would benefit greatly from member participation. You do not need to be a Board Director to help chart the future of PAEP.

Remember...vote early, vote often!

PAEP BOARD

Deb Poppel – President
Vlad Odarchenko – Vice-President
Radhika deSilva – Secretary
Mike Parrent – Treasurer
Danielle Elwell
Barbara Weedon
Fiona Adamsky
Amy Jordan

We all are aware of the unintended impacts humanity's activities have had on numerous species throughout the world. Right here in Pennsylvania we have experienced the alarming reduction of once-plentiful species of Flora and Fauna, both terra and aquatic based. Some of these species are being replaced by invasive organisms introduced by accident or purposely into our environment resulting in serious unplanned consequences. Keep your eyes peeled for these species during your daily endeavors.

Pennsylvania Endangered and Threatened Species Series

Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)

The Dwarf wedgemussel is found only in North America's Atlantic coast streams and rivers. In Pennsylvania, they have been identified in the Sinking River and the Delaware River. They have been decreasing in population for some time.

It has two lateral teeth on the right valve and only one on the left side. It is a small mussel, whose shell size rarely exceeds 45 mm in length and 25 mm high.



Exterior

The trapezoidal-shaped shells are colored brown or yellowish-olive, with reddish brown or greenish rays in young or pale specimens.

The nacre is bluish or silvery white, and is

iridescent on the posterior.



Inner shell

It relies on certain fish species as hosts during its larval stage - the tessellated darter, Johnny darter, and mottled sculpin.

Its habitat in Pennsylvania has been adversely affected by severe river flooding that has disturbed the riverbeds. (sources: Wikipedia, US FWS)

Pennsylvania Invasive Species Series

Winter Invasive Plant Control

The Penn State Extension Office says winter is not 'down time' for controlling invasive plants. In fact, winter is an ideal time to check the impact of a number of species, including, hairy bittercrest, garlic mustard, poison hemlock, non-suckering woody plants (Norway maple, European alder, Japanese barberry, etc.) and woody vines (Oriental bittersweet, porcelainberry, various wisterias, etc.). These various invasive species can be readily controlled during winter months. The Extension Office provides specific recommendations in the article below.

Additional information can be found at: <https://extension.psu.edu/tis-the-season-winter-invasive-plant-control>

Your Company can sponsor future issues of the BRIDGE for \$25/issue. Your company logo will be placed on page one. Contact the Board Office for additional information.

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