

# the BRIDGE

**Environmental Connections Start Here**

March 1, 2022 | Spring - Volume 22.1



## 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.

Inside this issue:

Page 2: Welcome new members!

Page 2: Since we last chatted...

Page 2: Looking ahead...

Page 3: Looking ahead....can't

Page 3: Environmental News Releases

Page 3: Pennsylvania Endangered Species Series

Page 4: Pennsylvania Invasive Species Series

Page 4: Annual Conference Call for Presentations

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



## A Note from the President – Vlad Odarchenko

Greetings PAEP Members and Friends. I'd like to start off by thanking the Board of Directors for their vote of confidence in accepting me as PAEP's president for 2022. I can attest that it takes a great effort by many individuals to plan and implement our events, and I look forward to helping guide the process. I'd also like to thank our membership for their continued support over the past few years during some unprecedented times. PAEP was able to successfully adapt due in large part to Deborah Poppel's leadership and the dedication of our board and committee members. Special thanks go out to them.

As we look forward in 2022, PAEP has a lot in the works, all aimed at providing value to our members. Along with continuing our educational webinars, I am pleased to announce that our 2022 Conference planning is underway, and it will be back to an in-person format! Stay tuned for more information. We are also planning a variety of events in our western, central and eastern sections focused on networking and providing unique opportunities to expand our skillsets.

My goal as president this year is to help not only guide, but to help grow PAEP. I aim to increase PAEP's exposure and build up membership to celebrate the diverse experience and backgrounds of all environmental professionals.

As valued PAEP members, I encourage your feedback anytime, so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, comments or ideas you'd like to share. Let's do this together!



Vlad Odarchenko

## Elections results

We were excited that there were more members interested in becoming a director than open seats this year. Directorships are a time-consuming responsibility but absolutely necessary for the success of our organization. Their dedication has lifted our efforts to another level. This year we had five candidates to fill four positions. The candidates were Deb Poppel, Joe Musil, Mike Parrent, John Smith and Edmund Karl.

After the smoke cleared and the votes were tallied the membership chose Deb Poppel, Mike Parrent, John Smith and Joe Musil to fill the empty seats. Deb is the immediate past president of PAEP. Mike is our current treasurer. Joe was a past director and past president and John is a new director.

*[Fear not, Edmund, we have not forgotten you!]*

The new board of directors voted on a new slate of officers at their January retreat/meeting. The results of that vote were:

- Vlad Odarchenko elected President
- Barb Weedon elected Vice-President
- Mike Parrent elected Treasurer
- Radhika deSilva elected Secretary

After the Covid interruptions of the past two years, we look forward to reestablishing face-to-face social gatherings this year. *[We'll have to wear name tags so we can figure out who we all are.]*

### Attention!

The Board is seeking individuals who have a working knowledge of WordPress websites to help us take our site to a higher level. We have a number of improvements we want to implement, including, development of a robust membership directory, better navigation and discussion boards. Your experience is greatly appreciated! Contact [info@paep.org](mailto:info@paep.org).

"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](mailto:info@paep.org)** to be accepted.



### Welcome new members!

PAEP is pleased to announce the following individuals to the PAEP family:

- Anna Yelk** – Non-profit
- Elise Bartelme** – General
- Brooks Fost** – General
- Kevin Grooms** – General
- Paige Fino** – Student
- James Heitmann** - Student
- Demetri Koutsokostas** – Student

Welcome these new members and invite them to participate in our activities, events, and committees.

## PAEP

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### Profiles of Board Members...

Fiona Adamsky, current PAEP Board member sat down with John Smith to chat about his background and his new role as a newly elected PAEP Board Member.

John has spent most of his career working in filtration. With a degree in physical science from the prestigious Johns Hopkins University, John started out working for companies such as WR Grace, National Semiconductor, Graver Technologies, Westvaco, and has been with his current company, Allegheny Bradford Corporation, a stainless-steel manufacturer and surface finishing company, for about eleven years. John is a Senior Chemist and works both for the parent and daughter companies of Allegheny Bradford within the hazardous waste/environmental program in support of manufacturing operations.



John has led a non-traditional path to environmental work rather his foray into environmental work was more like trial by fire as he did not become involved until he worked in his current role. John was hired by Allegheny Bradford to find a solution for wastewater treatment as Pennsylvania had added molybdenum to the NPDES permit at the time. Additionally, John was charged with resolving issues related to TRI reporting as he entered the organization.

John has been a member of PAEP for several years now and decided to nominate himself for the Board as he is interested in finding ways to make his company more environmentally friendly. As a manufacturing company with electropolishing services, Allegheny Bradford is a large power consumer and with four facilities sends its share of residual waste to the landfill. Personally, John is passionate about renewable energy. As for his intentions for a term on the PAEP Board, John would like to "focus on transparency within the organization and get more people involved".

Please join me in welcoming John Smith to the PAEP Board. Congratulations!

### Since we last chatted...



A list of free webinars available to all our members is on the [PAEP website](#). These webinars can be used to satisfy your PDHs.

#### Past Months' Webinars

- February 24 – **Sustainability 101**, presented by Vlad Odarchenko.

### Looking ahead...



The Board of Directors has committed 2022 to expanding our services to you while we improve ones we have added over the past years.

#### Monthly Webinars:

The Education Committee is fleshing out our monthly webinar program. Information on the confirmed webinars, their dates, and their topics will be made available to all members through the website, the Bridge, and by email notice. Each webinar will be held on a Friday from noon to 1 p.m. These are free to members. We hope you take advantage of this service.

- March 31, 2022 – **Implementing Sustainability Practices**, presented by Vlad Odarchenko, ACT Engineers, Inc. [view abstract](#)
- April 7, 2022 - **Entrainment Survival: Using Science to Defy Misconceptions**, presented by Brooks Fost, PhD, ASA Analysis & Communication, Inc. [view abstract](#)
- NAEP will also be starting their 2022 webinars shortly. Check out their [website](#) for details.

## Did you Know...?

- **Plastics** make up 50% of today's cars, which helps significantly improve fuel efficiency
- Plastic building and insulation products save about 467 trillion Btus of energy over alternates
- Only 9% of all plastic produced is recycled
- 85% of all plastics end up in landfills, where they leach contaminants into soil and drinking water
- Every minute of every day a truckload of plastic is dumped into the ocean
- 73% of beach litter worldwide is plastic
- Over the past 50 years, world plastic production has doubled
- Two million plastic bags are used every minute worldwide
- Single-use plastics are illegal in some parts of the world
- One million plastic bottles are bought every minute
- The average time that a plastic bag is used is just 12 minutes
- The average person consumes and inhales 70,000 microplastic particles each year

(information courtesy of [earthecho.org](http://earthecho.org), [givingcompass.org](http://givingcompass.org), [theearthproject.com](http://theearthproject.com), and their sources) Also refer to Vlad Odarchenko's webinar "Sustainability 101"

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### Events:

- **Save the date!!!** We will be holding the Annual Conference in person this year (YAAAAH!). Block out your calendar for October 5-7. We'll be at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College. **See you there!**

### Awards Applications:

- 2022 Student Scholarship Applications will be available in the next few months. Periodically check the website for their announcement.
- Start thinking about your nominees for the Karl Mason and Walter Lyon Awards. We'll be asking for them before long. Look for more information on the website.



## Prospective Employers Note!

PAEP launched a new service last year allowing you to seek qualified candidates for your open positions. This is a free service offered to our corporate members, non-profits, and government agencies. Anyone from your organization can post your opportunities on the on-line portal just by creating an account (personal membership not required). Job types include full-time, part-time, temporary and internship positions. Any job category (title, discipline) can be advertised. Job postings are listed for 30 days but can be extended or removed by the poster. Twenty-one positions have been posted since this service was introduced.

Please take advantage of this great service to recruit your next hire...

## Environmental News Releases

Check out the latest articles on environmental issues

[The Reality of Carbon Capture Utilization Technology](#) – Open Access Government, Feb 22, 2022

[United Nations Report: Climate Change 2022](#) – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Feb 28, 2022

[United Nations Environment Assembly sets sights on ending plastics pollution](#) – United Nations News, February 28, 2022

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](#)

*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

### Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

This majestic bird of prey has decreased significantly in population in Pennsylvania since the 1980's. The same has occurred in adjoining states, as well. Pennsylvania's northern goshawks are found in only two occupied territories as of 2021, while in 2019 there were 13 such locations. Prior to this there were upwards of 200 occupied territories in the 1980's.

Causes for their decline are not fully understood. Their drop may depend on habitat loss, disturbances near nests, predation and prey availability (they like passenger pigeons) and climate change.



Read more [here...](#)

## PAEP BOARD

Vlad Odarchenko – President  
Barbara Weedon – Vice-President  
Radhika deSilva – Secretary  
Mike Parrent – Treasurer  
Deb Poppel  
Fiona Adamsky  
Amy Jordan  
John Smith  
Joe Musil

## Pennsylvania Invasive Species Series

### Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Thanks to our European ancestors who brought this species over from the homeland, we have been blessed with its expansion from sea to shining sea.

The garlic mustard adapts extremely well to our environs. Its reproductive proliferation allows it to spread seed multiple times during the year. It will create dense monocultures and, along with its early season growth start, will crowd out native plants.

They can be readily controlled by manually pulling out plants, preferably, prior to the development of stalks, as they do not regenerate from their roots.

Additional information can be found at [Penn State Extension's website](#).



### SAVE THE DATE:

### 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 5-7, 2022

### RAMADA INN – STATE COLLEGE, PA

Please mark your calendar now and plan to join the 2022 PAEP Communities, Corridors & Connections Conference (C4). The theme for the 2022 PAEP Communities, Corridors & Connections Conference (C4) will promote the importance of working together to learn about the unique, interdisciplinary nature of our environmental industry and also highlight today's hot topics and industry updates. We are looking for a large variety of environmental topics for the conference presentations.

PAEP's Annual Conference provides an educational and conducive environment to learn about important issues affecting our careers, lives, and world. We would like to invite all environmental professionals to submit proposals for presentations for the upcoming conference. As always, PAEP is interested in presentations that are innovative, relevant, educational, and motivational.

We need your submissions/suggestions/ideas to help us make the 2022 PAEP Conference the best yet! Have you recently worked on a paper or project that you feel would be of interest to our attendees? Is there something innovative or new happening in your profession/field of expertise that you would like to present or have a panel discussion about? Feel free to volunteer yourself, a speaker you have heard in the past, a colleague, or a student that you think might be a great addition to our speaker lineup.

APPLICATION PROCESS: All presentation proposals must be submitted by using the link below: [Click Here](#) to Access the Online Application to Present

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