

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.



National
Association of
Environmental
Professionals
Be Connected

Summertime!

Summer is just around the corner, with outings and parties and enjoyment awaiting us all. The covid outbreak – while still real and still with us – has diminished in its impact on our health and lives, allowing us to reacquire with old friends and compatriots over what is likely to be the hottest summer on record. Pools and lakes will be big venues to seek relief from the scorching heat. Water sure can make one feel good on those hot days.

Speaking of which, fresh water is a precious resource for our planet (and our State), with only one percent of the earth's total being fresh and readily available. So, while we are outside enjoying the sunshine, the sights, the camaraderie...and the water, let's not forget that the small percentage of available fresh water must support all our human activities like, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, recreation, ingestion, etc., and is a resource available to all in Pennsylvania.

In our profession, we must keep vigilant to recognize the connections between our activities and the impact these have on this precious resource. Boating, while fun and relaxing, brings the threat of cross contamination of invasive species into non-impacted waterways. Remember to **THOROUGHLY CLEAN YOUR BOAT HULL AND TRAILER BEFORE LEAVING YOUR FAVE REC LOCATION.**

Fishing is enjoyed by many of us, although contaminated lakes and streams reduce the number of sites available. Wading in the stream can disrupt habitats for several endangered aquatic species. **DON'T WALK THE STREAM!** Our needed agricultural activities lead to surface water pollution caused by fertilizer and pesticide runoff. Destruction of riparian boundaries remove an important ecosystem cleanser for our waterways, intensifying runoff pollution.

Trash dumping in or near our waterways – whether large-scale or the casual tossing of an empty food package – poses a risk of pollution from the items tossed. **PICK UP ANY SMALL ITEMS AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF THEM AND GPS LARGE SITES FOR FUTURE VOLUNTEER CLEANUP ACTIVITIES.**

Note locations where habitat damage has occurred for DEP-listed endangered species and refrain from entering these areas for purely recreational activities.

Encourage others to enjoy our beautiful State along with you, but don't forget, you are the frontline advocates for environmental protection. - *D. Breon, R.A., Breon Consulting*



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

...Article 1, Section 27, Pennsylvania Constitution

"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.



Welcome, new members!

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

Christina Voorhees, Enviro-Science
Judith Charles, Fluor Marine Propulsion
Nadia Chichester, student
Samantha Bryn, student
Grace Krueger, student

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

Committees are looking for volunteers to assist the chairs in achieving PAEP's goals. Check the website and contact the chair for more information.

PAEP BOARD

Vlad Odarchenko – President
Barbara Weedon – Vice-President
Radhika deSilva – Secretary
Mike Parrent – Treasurer
Fiona Adamsky
Amy Jordan
Joe Musil
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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 – March thru May:

- April 7, 2022 - **Entrainment Survival: Using Science to Defy Misconceptions**, presented by Brooks Fost, PhD, ASA Analysis & Communication, Inc. [view abstract](#)
- May 17, 2022 – **Journey to a more sustainable Pennsylvania; Public roads paved with waste plastic binder modifier**, presented by Crystal May and David Sledziewski from RK&K.

Looking ahead...



We continue to work on in-person educational and networking events to reacquaint you with your industry peers. Monthly webinars will continue in 2022.

Events:

2022 Annual Conference:

Block out your calendar for October 5-7! The Annual Conference will be held in-person at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College. This year's theme, Communities, Corridors & Connections Conference (C4), will promote the importance of working together to learn about the unique, interdisciplinary nature of our environmental industry and highlight today's hot topics and industry updates. There will be a pre-conference educational workshop on Wednesday, October 5, available at additional cost.

The PAEP Student & Scholarship Committee will be holding a silent auction to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. Please consider donating a themed basket of your choosing to the auction. Your past donations have allowed us to provide these worthwhile scholarships to support the education of our up-and-coming environmental professionals and we look forward to your continued support during this year's conference.

Sectional Events:

- June 3: Mini-golf Outing at the Village Greens Miniature Golf Course in Strasburg.
- Late June: The Eastern Section is planning a happy hour social.



Did you Know...?

- The amount of Water available today is the same as it has been for millions of years – approximately 326 million trillion gallons.
- Only 3% of all water is fresh. Sixty-eight percent of that is locked up in glaciers. Only 1% is readily available.
- Pennsylvania's surface water resources account for 2.5 trillion gallons of water. Another 80 trillion gallons can be found in underground aquifers.
- Of our total water availability, Pennsylvanians use about 2 trillion gallons per year of surface water. Groundwater withdraws account for 0.22 trillion gallons.
- Pennsylvanians use waters for public uses, private domestic, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, recreation, and other purposes.
- There are more than 1 million private wells in use in Pennsylvania, serving 3.5 million people in rural areas. These wells are not regulated or tested.

(information courtesy of [Penn State Extension](#), and [USGS National Water Information System Survey Circular 1441](#))



BALANCE

Environmental News Releases

Check out the latest articles on environmental issues:

[Even moderate air pollution in Allegheny County raises ER visits for kids with asthma, study finds](#) - *StateImpact Pennsylvania* (an NPR initiative), Reid Frasier, May 22,2022

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

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

The King Rail is a migratory bird, protected by under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. It is not endangered or threatened at the Federal level, but it is rarely seen in Pennsylvania. It rarely breeds in the state. Its numbers have never been overwhelming. The state declared it an endangered species in 1985.

The King Rail lives in freshwater and brackish marshes, marshy fields, and roadside ditches, and virtually only in large marshes and large and unfragmented wetlands. Since Europeans began to colonize Pennsylvania, more than half of the wetlands have been lost, the main apparent reason for the bird's decline. It's breeding presence has been limited to Mercer, Tioga, Crawford, and Bucks Counties. Breeding and nesting season for this chicken-sized bird begins in April and ends in July.

The most essential element for the King Rail's continued presence in the state and potential increase in sightings is the maintenance of large undisturbed wetlands.

More information on the King Rail can be found on the [PA Game Commission website](#) and at [Birdscoach Life & Pets](#).



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