

# the BRIDGE

**Environmental Connections Start Here**

December 1, 2022 | Winter - Volume 22.4



## 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: Membership Renewals
- Page 2: PAEP BOARD
- Page 2: Since we last chatted...
- Page 2: Looking ahead...
- Page 2: Environmental News Releases
- Page 3: Pennsylvania Endangered Species
- Page 3: Pennsylvania Invasive Species

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



## Let the snow begin!

Winter has already begun in parts of the country, with [CNN](#) reporting bone chilling temperatures across the entire country in mid-November. Some areas experienced temperatures 35 degrees lower than usual. Thundersnow storms were reported in the Lake Erie states. Buffalo received as much as 6 feet of very heavy, [lake-effect snow](#) as of November 19<sup>th</sup>. [AccuWeather](#) predicts this winter will spawn lower than normal snowfalls, but more rain events. The southeast is likely to see more frequent storms due to the warmer Atlantic waters. The Gulf Coast states and the Tennessee valley will see heavy rain events and severe damaging weather through February.

The continental US has been struck by a hurricane for the first time in 37 years and only the fourth recorded since the mid-1800's. [Category 1 Hurricane Nicole](#) struck Florida in November. [Category 4 Hurricane Ian](#) struck Florida in September, with huge losses in property.

Overall, predictions are for a pretty mild winter across the states owing to the La Niña event in the Pacific. The western draught-stricken states will not get any relief from this winter season's snowpack. - "the Bridge" Editorial Staff



## Karl Mason and Walter Lyon Awards Announced

PAEP is pleased to announce the recipients of the Karl Mason and Walter Lyon Achievement Awards for 2022. [Patrick McDonnell](#), former PADEP secretary, was awarded the Karl Mason Award, while the [Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation](#) (MACHAC) received the Walter Lyon Award. Read more about their achievements on the PAEP website.

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



## Welcome, returning members!

We are now in the membership renewal season. If you have already renewed... THANKS! If you haven't, remember that your membership renewal is due by January 1. We provide you with a one-month grace period but unpaid memberships will lapse at the end of January.

Members should have received a renewal notice for 2023. If you haven't received yours yet, contact the Board office at [info@PAEP.org](mailto:info@PAEP.org).

The PAEP Board of Directors encourages you to invite past members, non-members, and industry colleagues to join our association.

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### PAEP BOARD

**Vlad Odarchenko** – President  
**Barbara Weedon** – Vice-President  
**Radhika deSilva** – Secretary  
**Mike Parrent** – Treasurer  
**Fiona Adamsky**  
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## Since we last chatted...



Check out our 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 16 - **Offshore Wind and the Environmental Professional**, presented by Katie Eberhart, Senior Environmental and Permitting Specialist at Ørsted.

## Looking ahead...



If you have an idea for a future webinar you would like to have offered or a type of event you'd like to attend, contact PAEP at [info@PAEP.org](mailto:info@PAEP.org).

### Webinars:

- January 12<sup>th</sup> Damon Carson of Repurposed Materials, Brighton, CO, will offer a webinar. Topic has not been finalized.
- February TBD.

### Events:

#### Central Section: Holiday Gathering!

Join the Central Section for a [holiday gathering](#) on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the ALS of Hampden/Pizza Boy Brewing Co., Enola, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Contact J.T. Grapensperger at <mailto:jgrapensperger@pennoni.com>.

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## Environmental News Releases

Check out the latest articles on environmental issues:

[COP27 Outcomes](#): what happened at the UN Climate Summit; journalistic viewpoints from various sources – *Climate Beat Newsletter*, Nov. 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](#)

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### Become a Corporate Sponsor for the next Volume of the Bridge



Just \$25 will ensure your company's logo place in the next edition, which is distributed to all members! Contact the [Business Office](#) for details and to register your company. (First come, first served. Only 6 companies can sponsor each quarterly issue).

We all are aware of the unintended impacts anthropogenic 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

### Snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*)

Although the snuffbox is the most abundant and widespread member of the genus *Epioblasma*, it is endangered due to habitation loss, sedimentation and pollution. It can be found in northwest Pennsylvania in streams of both the Allegheny-Ohio River tributaries and the Lake Erie sub-basin.

This clam is sexually dimorphic, with males growing to 2.8 inches and females only to 1.8 inches long. They use the Logperch darter to attach their glochidia to the gills of the darter. They can live for 25 years.

Additional information can be found at [Snuffbox | ontario.ca](http://Snuffbox | ontario.ca).



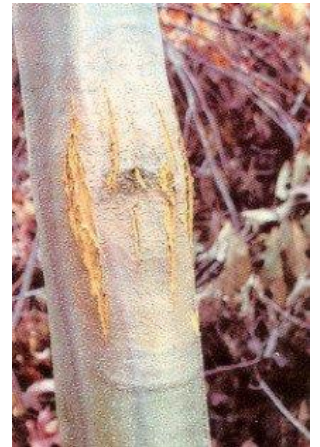
Snuffbox mussel  
(courtesy US Fish & Wildlife)

## Pennsylvania Invasive Species Series

### Chestnut Blight Fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*)

This parasite fungus was responsible for the wholesale destruction of the majestic and commercially-important North American Chestnut Tree. While this effectively wiped out the chestnut population by 1940, it still infects trees such as oaks, red maples, staghorn sumacs and shagbark hickories. These species do not die, but they become hosts for the virus to reproduce and continue infecting healthy trees.

Efforts to date to control it have been found to be lacking due to the nature of infections. An RNA virus, [CHV1](#), has effectively worked in Europe, but it will not spread naturally in the US. Another conservation effort involves the development of a hybrid chestnut that can effectively battle the blight fungus so reintroduction into American woods can succeed.



Blight impact  
(courtesy Wikipedia)



BALANCE