

The BRIDGE

Environmental Connections Start Here

June 1, 2023 | Summer - Volume 23.2



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.



Third Student Scholarship now available

The PAEP Board passed a resolution in March of 2023 to offer this third scholarship in honor of Zulene Mayfield, an environmental justice activist in Chester City where she lived next to a new waste processing facility, built without input from the community affected by its negative impacts. Her opposition to the plant's continued operation brought to the forefront environmental discrimination against poor and mostly communities of color. (see *additional discussion on page 3*)

This scholarship will focus on those students from underrepresented groups enrolled in the environmental sciences.

President Biden Issues Executive Order: Environmental Justice

On April 12, 2023, President Biden signed an Executive Order, [Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All](#). From the White House's website, several overarching goals are identified:

- Deepen the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government commitment to environmental justice.
- Better protect overburdened communities from pollution and environmental harms.
- Strengthen engagement with communities and mobilize federal agencies to confront existing and legacy barriers and injustices.
- Promote the latest science, data, and research, including on cumulative impacts.
- Expand interagency coordination and launch a new Office of Environmental Justice within the White House Council on Environmental Quality.
- Increase accountability and transparency in federal environmental justice policy.
- Honor and build on the foundation of ongoing environmental justice work.

The White House outlined plans to take additional steps, which include:

- Publishing a first-ever [Environmental Justice Scorecard](#).
- Launching a White House [Campaign for Environmental Justice](#).
- Announcing new [Justice40](#) covered programs.

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"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!

New Members joining us are:

Benjamin Brosius - Student
Slade Figard - Student
AJ Gable - Student
Makayla Holleran - Student
Kylee Hollerich - Student
Page McGovern - Student
Madison Monger - Student
Lindsey Sabo - Student
Angel Sanchez - Student
Ritik Sarraf - Student
Anastasia Volciak - Student
Samuel Wilson - Student
Katelyn Bombalski - Student
Connor Carnahan - Student
Nora Mason - Student
Emily Rouse - Student
Christopher Wambach - Student

Kevin Hinkle - LaBella
Hunter Kahley - Dewberry
Corbin Lucas - Navarro & Wright
Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Regan Wilton - Navarro & Wright
Consulting Engineers, Inc.

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

As always, we are interested in your ideas and input on providing our membership with quality, informative, timely and educational programming and opportunities. Contact the Board office with your ideas!

PAEP BOARD

Vlad Odarchenko – President
Barbara Weedon – Vice-President
Radhika deSilva – Secretary
Deb Poppel – Treasurer
Mike Parrent
Joe Musil
John R. Smith
Joe Snavelly
Jan Warnick

Since we last chatted...



Check out our free webinars available to all our members, on the [PAEP website](http://paep.org). They can be used to satisfy your PDHs. Not a member? You can view any of our webinars for \$25.

Past Monthly Webinars – March thru May:

- April 6 – **Five Easy Steps to Home Composting**, presented by Colleen Falicki, Owner of Back to Earth Compost Crew, LLC
- April 18 - **Sustainability Disclosure Trend**, presented by Kimberly Long, Senior Manager, Corporate Sustainability for ERM.
- May 3 – **Environmental and Permitting Aspects of Offshore Wind Projects**, presented by Amardeep Dhanju, PhD., AECOM
- May 16 – **Planning for the Future of Coastal Louisiana: The 2023 Coastal Master Plan**, presented by Eric D. White, P.E., Research and Planning Division of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Past Months' Events:

- PAEP and WTS Central PA held the annual Golf Outing on May 5th at the Valley Green Golf Club in York. Fifty-two registered for the event and the weather was beautiful!



Team Gannett Fleming
& Greenman Peterson

Team NTM and District 5
Environmental

Team FHWA

photos provided by Barbara Weedon

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:

- June 8, at noon – **DRBC Water Resources Programs**, presented by Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E., Deputy Executive Director
- July 8, at noon – **topic to be announced**, presentation by Maria Schumack, PADEP
- August 15 at noon – **topic to be announced**, presentation by Andrew Dehoff, Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Upcoming Events:

- 2023 Annual Conference (see page 4)
- P2E2 is preparing a breakfast meeting with one of our industrial members. Dates and times should be finalized by July. Watch for an announcement from the Business Office.
- Central Section is planning a 30-minute Golf Training Event with a golf pro. More information to come.

Do you have an idea for a social outing? Here are some suggested activities: Mini-Golf Outing; Bowling; Axe-Throwing and/or Skeet-Shooting Fundraiser; Corn-Hole Tourney. **Let us know your ideas!** info@paep.org

Western Section

The Western Section of PAEP serves the western portion of the State (hence, the name). It covers metropolitan areas like Pittsburgh, Erie,

We are seeking like-minded individuals to join us to learn and advance new technologies in the continual strife to maintain a clean, safe environment for us to survive.

Contact one of the below listed:

Mike Parrent (MLParrent@comcast.net),

Jan Warnick (janet.warnick3.civ@army.mil),

Joe Musil (jfmusil@msn.com), or

PAEP Business Office (info@paep.org)

for additional information or to contribute to this committee.

Photographers...

We are looking to update our photos for "the Bridge", our website, and other publications as they may arise. Pictures can be anything you feel you want to share- action, static, streams, construction, pollution, remediation, etc. If you can, give us some background info, like, the photographer's name, Company name, date of photo, and location.

Submitted photos can be used by PAEP without compensation consideration. The above photo credits will be included if provided. Please submit to info@paep.org.

"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

Environmental Justice

This issue appears to have become a hot topic within governmental and environmental circles. PAEP, of course, added a third student scholarship for underrepresented students in the environmental professional field in honor of Zulene Mayfield. President Biden has directed certain departments to funnel 40% of grant budgets to those communities with significant minority and poor residents that have been marginalized in the past. An exceptional example of such political shortsightedness to environmental problems includes the Flint, Michigan water contamination debacle. Studies have been ongoing on this topic for several decades and have uncovered facts that support the conclusions reached.

Did you know?...

- A significantly greater percentage of blacks, Latinos, and people in poverty live near industrial facilities that use large quantities of toxic chemicals, compared to national averages.
- Fenceline Zones (areas within 1 mile of a hazardous facility) are occupied by the vulnerable populations in significantly higher numbers than their counterparts with incomes above the poverty line. People of color comprise half (11.4 million) of the population living within these Fenceline Zones.
- Accidents within the Fenceline Zones greatly affect these individuals due to the close proximity and the inability to vacate quickly from the impacted area due to limited means.
- 1.6 million children under the age of 5 live in these Fenceline Zones. These children are especially vulnerable to toxic exposure in the event of a chemical release.
- Facilities located in communities of color have nearly twice the rate of incidents than those located in white neighborhoods.

[The information cited above comes from a study conducted by the Center for Sustainable Systems, University of Michigan. 2022. "Environmental Justice Factsheet." Pub. No. CSS17-16.]

- Antiquated water and sewage systems contribute to inequalities as the areas affected tend to be in low income and people of color neighborhoods.
- Lead contamination in drinking water affects 18 million people in the US. (Joseph Davis, *Society of Environmental Journalists*, 2018) Pennsylvania communities are not immune from this problem as lead in drinking water is prevalent in PA's central counties.

Environmental News Releases

Check out the latest articles on environmental issues:

- [East Palestine Train Derailment Current Updates](#) – EPA website
- [Arizona limits new construction in the Phoenix area](#) (due to water shortages) – NBC News, June 2, 2023; story origin: Associated Press
- [High-efficiency silicon solar cells go on a roll](#) – Anthropocene Magazine; Original Source: Liu, W., Liu, Y., Yang, Z. et al. Flexible solar cells based on foldable silicon wafers with blunted edges. *Nature*, 2023

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](#)

PAEP

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Our 2023 Corporate Members:

(as of June 1, 2023)

ACT Engineers
ASA Analysis & Communication
Ernst Conservation Seeds
McCormick Taylor
Rettew

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

September 20-22, 2023

PAEP 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Wyndham Garden, State College, PA

GUEST SPEAKER:

PA DEP SECRETARY NEGRIN

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOP:

WETLAND WORKSHOP

LED BY FRANK PLEWA, USACE

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 terrestrial 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

Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*)

The Small Whorled Pogonia is a disappearing species in the eastern United States, although it has historically been a rare specimen to find. In Pennsylvania, there are only a few locations where it can be found. These are in the western half of the State.

In recent years there has been an increase in its populations, notably in New Hampshire and Maine. It lives in small groupings of no more than 20 individuals, locating in forest openings. A loss of habitat is the main contributor for its rarity but it seems to be able to rebound once the habitat is restored.

They look a lot like the Indian cucumber, are known for having the distinctive whorl leaf pattern, its leaves and stem are gray-green in color. They will reach about 10 inches in height.

For further reading visit:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Small%20whorled%20pogonia_identification%20guide_0.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotria_medeoloides



Photo: Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS. 1995.

Pennsylvania Invasive Species Series

Eurasian Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

This aquatic plant has taken to Pennsylvanian ponds like ducks to water. It is not native to the States and can rapidly grow to nuisance levels; it is not readily controllable. In time in those bodies of water where it is present, it will reach the water surface and develop a thick canopy. In summer, a large colony can reduce dissolved oxygen levels, suffocating fish.

Overabundant growth of Eurasian water milfoil is a symptom of excessive nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) in the pond water from barnyards, crop fields, septic systems, lawns, and golf courses.¹ The sources of these nutrients must be identified and mitigated if successful intervention is to be achieved.

There are other mitigating tactics as well, such as water drawdown to freeze the rootstock, stocking grass carp (requires special State permit), or introduction of chemicals, although these are not as desirable or effective.



Photo courtesy of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council

For further reading:

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/eurasian-water-milfoil/>

<https://extension.psu.edu/eurasian-water-milfoil>

¹ copied from Penn State Extension Eurasian-water-milfoil article (see link above)

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