

2002 PAEP Board Members

Ted Fridirici - President

Buchart Horn, Inc.
The Industrial Plaza of York
445 West Philadelphia St.
York, PA 17405-7040
Phone: (717) 852-1559
Fax: (717) 852-1622
tfridirici@BH-BA.com

Fred Brenner - Vice President

Grove City College
100 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127
Phone: (724) 458-2113
Fax: (724) 458-2181

fbrenner@gcc.edu

Anthony Toth - Treasurer

McTish, Kunkel & Associates
2402 Sunshine Road
Allentown, PA 18103
Phone: (610) 791-2700
Fax: (610) 791-5425
atoth@mctish.com

Jerrold McCormick - Secretary

PPL Susquehanna, LLC
707 Salem Boulevard (NUCSA1)
P.O. Box 467
Berwick, PA 18603-0467
Phone: (570) 542-3014
Fax: (570) 542-1857
jlmccormick@pplweb.com

Robert Hosking, Jr.

McTish, Kunkel & Associates
2402 Sunshine Road
Allentown, PA 18103
Phone: (610) 791-2700
Fax: (610) 791-5425
rhosking@mctish.com

Eric Buncher

Pittsburgh International Airport
Allegheny County Airport Authority
P.O. Box 12370
Pittsburgh, PA 15231-0370
Phone: (412) 472-3500
Fax: (412) 472-3636
ebuncher@pitairport.com

Joe Musil, Jr.

Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street, 14th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: (215) 922-8080
Fax: (215) 922-8082
jfmusil@urbanengineers.com

Deb Scherkoske

KCI Technologies, Inc.
5001 Louise Drive, Suite 201
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: (717) 691-1340
Fax: (717) 691-3470
DScherkoske@kci.com

Rich Pugh

Gannett Fleming, Inc.
P.O. Box 67100
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7100
Phone: (717) 763-7212, ext. 2144
Fax: (717) 763-8150
rpugh@gfnet.com

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The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals

PAEP Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2002

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

As my term as president comes to a close I would like to thank those that made the journey a truly positive experience and reflect on the years that have passed. When asked to serve as President at the 2001 Fall Retreat, I agreed to do so reluctantly for two reasons.

First, I knew I was in my final year of eligibility to serve on the Board in any capacity, as Board members can only serve two consecutive two-year terms. How much can you get done in a year?

Second, I knew there were some very big shoes to fill based on what I had seen of the efforts, enthusiasm and professionalism of past Presidents Stringos, Butala and Zemaitis. Was I up to the task given other work, personal and volunteer commitments and the need for the occasional round of golf, ski trip or volleyball tournament?

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2003 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars!

Please mark your calendars now for the 2003 PAEP Annual Meeting scheduled for April 30th to May 2nd, 2003 at the beautiful Harrisburg Hilton in the heart of vibrant downtown Harrisburg. Join

your fellow professionals from throughout the Commonwealth as we discuss interesting topics under the theme "**The Urban Environment: Natural, Cultural and Socioeconomic Resource Issues**" and enjoy the renaissance of downtown Harrisburg. **Harrisburg's thought provoking and innovative Mayor, Steven Reed** has agreed to be our **keynote speaker**. Volunteer opportunities are available to help our conference co-chairpersons **Deb Henson** and **Deb Scherkoske** make this the best annual meeting ever!

Contact them now at 717-691-1340 to be part of this exciting event!





Back (L to R): Mark Fedosick, Deborah Scherkoske, Eric Buncher, Fred Brenner, Gary Byron, Anthony Toth, Bob Hosking, Rich Pugh

Front (L to R): Jerrold McCormick, Craig Stanley, Ted Fridirici, Joe Musil

PAEP BOARD FALL RETREAT

The Board of Directors met for the Annual Fall Retreat at the PPL's Montour Preserve in beautiful Northcentral PA. This is where the board elects new officers, sets new initiatives for the upcoming year, trades Section news and program ideas, and discusses the Annual Meeting and Conference in detail.

Topics of discussion included: a detailed review of PAEP Committees and the need to return to a committee based approach to business; the need to revise the organizations' by-laws towards the goal of obtaining 501(c)(3) certification; increasing the diversity of membership; and the election of new 2003 Officers. Board members also voted on a new PAEP Logo for further development and worked on planning issues for the Spring Conference. See the PAEP website for minutes of the Annual Fall Retreat.

Elected for 2003-2004 term as Board Officers were; Jerrold McCormick, President, Eric Buncher, Vice President, Joe Musil, Treasurer, and Mark Fedosick, Secretary. The new officers are currently "in training" and take position in January.



PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL ADDRESS CONTINUED

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Well the year has just flown by! And, thanks to the support of Ed Gabsewics at Buchart-Horn, some very dedicated volunteer Board members and others in the PAEP family, we did get a lot accomplished. Here are some highlights:

Our Data Base manager and part-time Administrative Assistant, Elaine Farrell has been a blessing. I remember as a Board Member several years ago thinking we were paying too much for the level of service we received. I also remember how stressful it was trying to get the Annual Directory produced, which at the time was one of our big services to the members. Would it ever get out? Would it look at all professional? I volunteered to try to find a more efficient company and picked up the phone book while we were still on the Board meeting conference call. Now thanks in large part to Elaine, the Directory and most of the other logistics of keeping the membership informed are routine. Rest assured that the portion of our dues that goes to professional data base management and related services is money well spent.

I think for the most part I have been able to maintain and maybe even build on the positive momentum generated by the past PAEP Administrations. Membership and attendance at section events is at an all time high. I wallowed in the luxury of having some super sectional leaders in Eric Buncher in the West, Joe Musil and Bill Zemaitis in the East, Deb Henson and Deb Scherkoske in the Central Section and also Kate Farrow as the 2002 Annual Meeting Chairperson. There even seems to be a friendly rivalry to have the most interesting and well-attended events! The ideas are flowing and additional volunteers are speaking up. Annual meeting planning although always a challenge and with lots of details to follow-up on, is progressing smoothly, again, thanks to the momentum of past annual meeting committees. This year's annual meeting, April 30th to May 2nd, 2003 at the Hilton in downtown Harrisburg, promises to be the best yet. The theme is "The Urban Environment: Natural, Cultural and Socio-economic Resource Issues". Harrisburg's Mayor, Steve Reed and PENNDOT's Barry Hoffman are confirmed keynote speakers. Here are some PAEP initiatives to look for in the months and years to come:

- We are considering the pros and cons of electronic distribution of newsletters and the directory and/or making them available on the website.
- We will be working hard in the next year to re-write the bylaws which are the foundation of our organization to make them more user friendly and reflect how we do (or can do) business in this electronic age.
- We will continue to diversify and reach out to other agencies and organizations while maintaining our transportation/natural resources base
- We will apply for 501(c)(3) status as a tax exempt organization making us more attractive to our corporate sponsors and others.
- We will continue a strong emphasis on fun and informative Sectional events to fulfill the educational and networking component of our mission statement.
- We will operate more of a committee based approach to our Board meetings

Regrets? Sure, there are some...

I regret that we could not move forward faster on some of the initiatives described above.

And, I wish I could have reached to the very highest levels of PAEP, PENNDOT and other agencies to instill the importance of being involved in an organization like PAEP. Dave Hess and Brad Mallory or your successors are you listening? There is no better educational and networking group so please support (and reimburse) your staff's membership and involvement in PAEP. Membership in PAEP is a great way to meet, interact, educate and be educated.

I am confident that I leave the organization in good hands in Jerrold McCormick your new President, Eric Buncher, Vice President, Joe Musil, Treasurer and Mark Fedosick, Secretary. We are growing, becoming more organized and professional and the momentum is undeniable. I am proud to have volunteered to be part of that positive momentum. How about you?

Ted Fridirici



NEW GENERAL MEMBERS

Scott V. Mowrey— Scott is a Central Section member. Scott holds a BA in Geo-Environmental Studies from Shippensburg University. He is currently employed as a Project Scientist at BL Tethys, LLC in Harrisburg.

Ileana S. Ivanciu— Ileana is a resubscriber to the Eastern Section. She holds a BS and an MS in Geophysics from the University of Budapest and is a Licensed Professional Geologist. She is currently employed as a Senior Associate/Branch Manager at Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc. in Parsippany, New Jersey. Welcome Back!

Clifford F. Denholm—Clifford is a new member in the Western Section. He holds a BS in Environmental Science. He is currently employed as an Environmental Scientist at Biomost in Cranberry Township.

Patrick J. Renshaw—Patrick is a new member in the Eastern Section. He holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Rutgers University and an MBS from LaSalle University. He is currently employed by PPL Generation, LLC in Allentown.

Meghan Kerr— Ms. Kerr joined PAEP through her membership to NAEP with Pennsylvania as a chapter.

Tim D. Belles - Tim is a Central Section member. Tim holds a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry/Secondary Education from Messiah College. Tim is employed at PPL Susquehanna, LLC in Berwick.

James R. Kodlick – James is a Central Section member. James holds a BA and BS in Anthropology and Biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and an MS in Environmental Science and Policy from John Hopkins. He is employed as a Senior Project Manager at BL Companies in Harrisburg.

Thomas I. Warman – Thomas is a Central Section member. He graduated with a BA in Biology from Gettysburg College in 1977. Thomas is the President of Edge Environmental, in York, Pennsylvania.

Michael C. Wood, RLA – Michael is a Eastern Section member. Michael holds a BSLA from Pennsylvania State University. He is a certified landscape architect in Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and Maryland. He is currently a principle of Woodland Design Associates, Inc. in Beach Lake, PA.

Christian S. Berry – Christian is a new Eastern Section general member who joined PAEP through NAEP. Christian is currently employed at Glaxo Smith Kline in King of Prussia.

Deborah K. Poppel – Deborah is a new Eastern Section general member who is also a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists, The Wildlife Society and the Society of Women Environmental Professionals. She received her BS from the University of Delaware and her MS from Frostburg State University of Maryland where she studied Wildlife, Ecology and Wetlands. Deborah is a Bog Turtle Specialist who is currently employed as a senior ecologist by ENSR in Langhorne. She has expressed interest in assisting the Eastern Section program committee.

Alan D. Tabachnick – Alan is a new Eastern Section general member who holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and an MS from Columbia University. Alan is a Vice President at A.D. Marble & Co. in Conshohocken where he specializes in architecture, archaeology and history. Alan has expressed interest in participating on the programs committee and the Board of Directors.

Kristen A. Kitchen – Kristen is a new general member from the central section from KCI Technologies. Kristen holds a degree from Shippensburg University in Regional Development/Tourism and specializes in NEPA documentation and wetland delineations.



NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kenneth T. Bowman – Kenneth is a new Western Section associate member who is currently employed as Assistant Regional Council of the PADEP's Southwest Regional Office.

Mark Urbassik – Mark is a new Western Section associate member who is currently employed by K.U. Resources, Inc., in Duquesne.

Brian Greene, PhD., P.G. – Brian is a new associate member in the Western Section. Brian is employed as an engineering geologist by the ACOE.

Joseph Thomas, P.E. – Joseph is a new associate member in the Western Section and is a Resident Engineer with the ACOE.

Nancy Taylor, P.G. – Nancy is an Environmental Scientist with the ACOE in Pittsburgh, and joins PAEP as an associate member.

NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

Steven C. Eberbach – Steven is a new Western Section student member. He is currently enrolled in the Environmental Resource Management program at Penn State, where he also plans to minor in Biology.

Holly Longenberger – Holly is a new Central Section student member. She is currently enrolled in the Environmental Resource Management program at Penn State, where she specializes in Environmental Engineering. She plans to graduate in 2004.

Laura Ann Perrins – Laura is a new Central Section student member. She is currently enrolled at Penn State and plans to graduate in 2004.

Paula Shank – Paula is a new Western Section student member. She is currently enrolled in the Environmental Resource Management program at Penn State where she specializes in Energy and Pollution Control.

Amanda L. Smale – Amanda is a new Western Section student member. She recently graduated from the Environmental Resource Management program at Pennsylvania State University where she specialized in Environmental Health and Toxicology.

Dues Reminder

Dues Renewal notices were recently mailed out. Your prompt renewal helps our database management and organization efforts.

LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB OR TO HIRE SOMEONE NEW

The PAEP offers a job posting service to members and non-members on the website. Additionally, the NAEP has teamed up with Quantum Careers to provide its members with a job board specifically targeted to the environmental industry. Market yourself and find the career of your dreams. It also gives employers who are seeking environmental professionals the tools to recruit those individuals quickly and efficiently. Check out this website careers.dulcineasystems.net.

NEW PAEP MEMBERS



CENTRAL SECTION

HAIL, HAIL THE GANGS STILL HERE!

On September 13, 2002, ignoring the superstitions associated with Friday the 13th, 25 PAEP members participated in a "Day on the Susquehanna". Gil Hirschel with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and Dave Jostenski of the Department of Environmental Protection were guest speakers and presented an informal session regarding the current drought a large portion of Pennsylvania is currently experiencing. After the presentation, PAEP members headed for the waters to the put in (for those of you non-canoers, this is where the trouble starts-this is where you get in the water). It was every man, woman, and child for themselves. We soon found out that canoeing is not as easy as it looks and going in a straight line is difficult. As we canoed down stream we experienced first hand the obvious effects the drought has had on the river, NO WATER! Well, actually very low water...many of us had barely mastered working with our canoeing partner to get the canoe to go in a straight line, now we had to maneuver through the exposed rock shelves.

(the outfitter never called regarding damages, so all the awful scraping noises must not have done much damage!) The group eventually made it to the first high light of the trip.....the rope swing! And yes, some of our PAEP members were just crazy enough to use it. We were then off to finish the grueling 8-mile trek. As we neared the "finish line" the water became very shallow and it was time to portage, luckily this happened very close to the take out (again for you non-canoers, arms about to fall off....trip over) .

When we returned to the outfitter and conducted a head count we were happy to report the group had managed to make it down stream without losing anyone to the treacherous waters of the mighty Susquehanna. As a matter of fact everyone had a great time and suggested doing the trip again (obviously the blisters from the paddling had not appeared yet).

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the event and made it such a success. I'd also like to thank

Gil and Dave for taking the time to spend a day with PAEP. Not only did we have a great turnout from the Central Section, the Western Section was also present. Rick Barringer and his family came out from Western Pennsylvania for the weekend and joined us for the canoe trip. I hope everyone had a great time and hopefully we can do this again next year!





EASTERN SECTION

The Eastern Chapter recently held the Second Annual Open House "*Your Connection to the Environmental Profession*" in November at the King of Prussia Inn. Twenty attended the event, and the focus of discussions was planning for the Spring 2003 Conference in Harrisburg. Look for the next Eastern Section event in January or February.

WESTERN SECTION

The Western Section has sponsored two fall programs. The first was held on September 26, 2002, and was presented by Dan Wallace, P.E. and Brian Panther of Wallace & Panther Ecological Specialists, Inc., John Paxton of PADEP Southwest Regional Office, and Christina Neubert of the U.S. ACOE. This presentation summarized the concept of Natural Channel Design, and the implications of these measures on the Joint Permit Application process. Forty-three people attended the very informative evening.

The second program was held on November 21, 2002. This program detailed the development and application of the impending PADEP Safe Fill Criteria, and was presented by Mark R. Urbassik, P. E., J.D., of K.U. Resources, Inc. and Pennsylvania's Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board and Kenneth T. Bowman, P.E., J.D., Assistant Regional Counsel, PADEP, Southwest Regional Office. Twenty-five people attended this program.

Look for a program involving the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Program in early 2003. If anyone is interested in helping to plan future programs, or has any suggestions on program topics, please call Eric Buncher, Western Section Chair.

Newsletter Comments

The PAEP Newsletter is published quarterly. Articles and comments are welcome and may be directed to Mark Fedosick at ms consultants, inc. at (412) 264-8701 or mfedosick@msconsultants.com. We are looking for articles on regulatory issues, technology or the environmental profession.

OTHER CENTRAL SECTION NEWS

The Central Section sponsored an event on Government and Environmental Matters at the Appalachian Brewing Company in Harrisburg on Thursday, November 14. Phil Robbins, with the Department of Community and Economic Development, was our guest speaker for the evening. Phil provides technical advisory services on planning and zoning related matters to local government officials and citizens of the Commonwealth. He is also working to implement the Governor's Growing Smarter program promoting sound land use practices throughout the state. Phil also served as the Secretary's Designee on the Sewage Advisory Committee and the State Agricultural Preservation Board. Phil discussed land use issues related to municipal planning and the importance environmental studies play in developing sound land use plans. Thanks to everyone who came and helped make this a successful event.

What's next in the Central Section? Following the lead of the Eastern Sections success, we will be hosting an Open House and are working together with the Society of Women Environmental Professionals (SWEP) and the Consulting Engineers Council (CEC) to develop a regulatory workshop. The Central Section will be hosting an Open House January 29, at the Harrisburg Hilton. This will be the perfect opportunity to promote PAEP and solicit new members as well as check out the facilities for the Annual Conference. The festivities will began at 5:30 p.m. For more information contact Deb Henson at 717-691-1340 or dhenson@kci.com. The Central Section is also working with SWEP and CEC to develop a Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Management Planning workshop in March. Co-sponsored follow-up sessions related to water resources will follow throughout 2003. The Central Section is also contemplating a session with DEP and ACOE on professional judgment in the functional assessment of wetlands. Stay tuned!

SECTION NEWS

PAEP
P.O. Box 7243
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

