

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.



Summer  
2008

## PAEP Newsletter

### PAEP

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If you have any items for the next Newsletter, or if you would like to help with the Newsletter please contact Jeffrey Prawdzik at (610) 731-6606 or j.prawdzik@gaiconsultants.com

### Thoughts from the President...

As I write this message I can't believe summer is already here! Time flies when you're having fun. And speaking of fun, I was glad to see everyone at the annual conference in Grantville. If you weren't able to attend you missed some great presentation and lots of good discussion. I want to thank the conference committee for all their hard work putting the conference together. We selected a new PAEP logo at the conference, so we should be making the change over in the near future. I would like to congratulate Kelly Stratton with Infomap Technologies, Inc., Kelly had the winning design.

I think we had a good membership meeting at the conference and we talked about a lot of good ideas for the organization. The board is working on several things and is looking for ways to better serve our existing members and keep our organization moving in the best direction. If you have any ideas for the organization, please email me directly or send an email to [info@paep.org](mailto:info@paep.org).

The P2E2 section is planning the 2009 conference so if you have any suggestions for them or would like to volunteer to help on the committee let Mike Parrent or Jeff Luzenski know or just send an email to [info@paep.org](mailto:info@paep.org).

I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer. While you're sitting by the pool take a few minutes to look through our latest newsletter. The format should be a bit difference since this is the first newsletter created with the assistance of Naomi Cahill. Also, if you must go inside take a look at the website [www.paep.org](http://www.paep.org), the page has been revamped and I think it looks pretty good. Let us know what you think and again have a great summer!

Jason Minnich



# Oh, the fun they had....

## 2008 PAEP Annual Conference Update

...Join us next year!

PAEP's Annual Conference this year was coordinated by the Eastern Section, led by co-chairs Marc Radell and Deborah Poppel. The conference was held from May 7 through May 9 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey in Grantville, Pennsylvania. The theme this year was "Adapting to Global Climate Change: A Pennsylvania Perspective". The conference platinum sponsor was GAI Consultants. A summary of conference events follows.

### WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday, May 7, approximately 25 members of PAEP attended the annual Technical Tours, which focused on developing forms of renewable energy and conservation efforts. Our first stop was the Locust Ridge Wind Farm, which is located high up in the mountains of Schuylkill County, where we were informed, and witnessed first hand, that the wind is always blowing. To capture the power of this wind, Iberdrola Renewables Company has developed thirteen 400-foot tall turbines that produce 2.0 megavolts each. We were informed that plans were under way to install approximately fifty more turbines along this ridge. As may be expected, some PAEP members were interested in the energy production benefits of these facilities, whereas others were concerned about the environmental impacts.

Since we were in the middle of the anthracite coal region, it was only appropriate to visit the Wheelabrator Frackville Coal Reprocessing power plant. For over 10 years, this facility, and several other similar plants in the region, has been utilizing anthracite culm (waste coal) for power production and using the resulting coal ash for abandoned mine reclamation efforts. Over the past 150 years, coal mining activities in the region have resulted in hundreds of acres of culm piles, which were considered useless due to their reduced energy potential. Improved technology used at the Frackville plant has made it cost effective to exploit this "waste" coal to produce energy. The benefits of this effort has been the reduction of culm piles, which leach toxic chemicals into local surface and ground waters, and the reclamation of over 300 acres of abandoned mines thought the placement of the coal ash by-product.

Our last stop was Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, which is located high up in the mountains of Berks County, where again we were informed that the winds are always blowing. These winds, however, are used to carry migrating raptors over the Blue Mountain Ridge. In prior years, hunters would use these vantage points to shoot down hundreds of these birds for sport. The property was bought in the 1930's by a national conservation activist named Rosalie Edge, who converted the area into the world's first refuge for birds of prey. Today, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary carries out integrated conservation programs in education, research, and monitoring with the primary focus of conserving these valuable animals. Although we did not see any hawks, the view over the valley and across the mountain ridges was an appropriate end to an informative day.

After everyone returned from the technical tours, conference participants enjoyed the Opening night reception with exhibitor displays.

### WEDNESDAY CONTINUE...

This was followed by the Opening night dinner, with a presentation by Keynote Speaker Larry Schweiger, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. Larry's talk addressed global climate change from worldwide, national, and local perspectives.

### THURSDAY

Thursday morning opened with a delicious continental breakfast in the exhibitor area. The program began with a Plenary Session, with a panel of speakers who are well informed on Pennsylvania's perspective on climate change and statewide mitigation efforts. These included Glenn Unterberger of Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll, LLP, Carol Butler of the Pennsylvania Resources Council, John Hanger of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, and Scott Van de Mark of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. The plenary session concluded with a lively discussion about whether any of the proposed solutions to global climate change can really make a difference, and balancing the secondary effects of such solutions on the environment and wildlife.

The session then broke up and participants attended one of three program tracks focusing on topics in Professional Development, Land Use, and Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency. At the Karl Mason Award Luncheon, awards were presented to Terry Rightnour in the Individual Category, and to the Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils in the Group category (see separate sidebar writeup in this newsletter). The afternoon concluded with Program Tracks, Evening Reception, and Casino Night.

### FRIDAY

We started the morning with the Board of Director's meeting and annual membership meeting. There was some good discussion during this meeting, some people shared their ideas about ways to provide better services to the membership and ways for our organization to grow. The board will take the things discussed and see what they feel can work for the organization. A copy of the minutes from the meeting will be placed on our website at the following address [http://www.paep.org/board\\_meetings.htm](http://www.paep.org/board_meetings.htm).

After the board meeting we had our open forum discussion titled "The Future of the Environmental Professional" hosted by Wayne Kober. Wayne led the discussion for a bit before it was opened up to some other members.

Following the open forum we raffled off some great door prizes and then wished everyone a safe trip home. A good end to a very good conference!

# Save The Date...

September

28-30

2008

2008 PA Greenways and Trails Summit  
September 28-30, 2008  
The Inn at Pocono Manor

*“Greenways and Trails – Your Path to  
Active Living”*

**Join us for FUN, FRIENDS, and FOLIAGE in the beautiful  
Pocono Mountains!**

Keynote addresses from national leaders in greenways,  
trails, and active living including Tom Murphy and  
Mark Fenton

Recreational outings including hiking, biking, ATV,  
and equestrian

Classroom sessions with experts on greenway and trail  
development, management, advocacy, and  
promotion

Networking with peers, consultants, local, state, and  
federal government officials

Please visit [www.prps.org](http://www.prps.org) after June 1 for details and  
registration.

## Website News

PAEP Webmaster **Carole Backman** has completed the  
revamping of our website. If you haven't checked it out,  
please do so at [www.paep.org](http://www.paep.org) ! I believe you will be  
impressed. We welcome any comments or suggestions  
for continued improvement or general feedback.

You will notice the addition of our new LOGO on the  
site. We had many excellent submissions for the Logo  
Contest and making the final decision was not an easy  
one. I'd like to personally thank all who competed in our  
contest.

There is a Members Only Section in top right of site. This  
has not been fully developed yet so we will be alerting  
the membership to improvements in this area once they  
are formulated.

Please continue to check out our site for new information  
and features.

Ed Gabsewics, CEP  
Chair, Website Committee

## Miles and Miles...

### Committee Updates

#### Membership Committee

The membership committee has been very active at  
attempting to promote the organization, develop new  
members, and gaining exposure for our individual and  
corporate members. We could use some help. If you  
would be interested in spotlighting your company or  
personnel, please contact Mr. Brian Oram at  
[brian.oram@wilkes.edu](mailto:brian.oram@wilkes.edu). Regarding our efforts to reach  
out to local colleges and universities, we are making  
progress. If you or your organization has ideas on how  
to promote the organization and membership in the  
organization, please feel free to contact Mr. Brian Oram.

#### Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is looking for help  
from our corporate members to develop a standard  
protocol for the preparation and submission of press  
releases and other related items to help promote the  
Association. The chairperson of the committee is a  
geologist and soil scientist and not a marketing  
specialists - We really could use your help. We are not  
asking for individuals to join the committee, but you  
are welcome to join. At this point, the Committee is  
looking for the following from our corporate members:

- examples of press releases;
- listing of email addresses and contract persons for  
press release submission; and
- any ideas about marketing and promoting the  
Association.





Say Cheese!  
Scenes from the  
2008 Annual Conference





# 2008 Karl Mason Award Recipients

The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) presented the 2008 Karl Mason Awards during their Annual Conference on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at the Holiday Inn, Grantville. The 2008 awards were presented to Terry A. Rightnour, a noted Pennsylvania Environmental Professional who received the award in the individual category, and Lebanon County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz, who accepted the award on behalf of The Pennsylvania Association of Resource, Conservation and Development Councils, recipients of the award in the organization/project category.

**Terry A. Rightnour** is the President and Principal Hydrologist of Waters Edge Hydrology, Inc. He has more than 25 years of experience in the field of environmental consulting and is most recognized for his innovative work in developing and applying natural designs and ecology-based technologies to meet water resource protection, restoration, and management needs. His technical expertise in passive wetland treatment for the electric utility industry has led to award winning sustainable designs to treat wastewaters from coal combustion byproduct landfills. His work with the mining industry has included sustainable solutions for mine drainage abatement, reclamation plans, abandoned mine land restoration, and mine drainage water treatment. His experience in stream restoration and wetland mitigation includes high profile projects employing new and emerging technologies for riparian habitat creation, natural channel design, wetland mitigation banking, and the abatement of acid deposition on a watershed scale. Continuing activities consist of the development of a computer model to optimize selection and location of treatment systems for watershed restoration, design of in-stream flow measurement systems and research and development of natural systems for restoration and water pollution control.

As a consultant to industry and public agencies, Terry has served as the project manager on assignments ranging from concept development through construction management. His corporate experience includes executive level environmental management positions both in industry and with national environmental consulting organizations. As a guest instructor, he actively participates in university-based environmental programs and educational seminars on environmental management topics and has developed and taught related workshops for industry and government. As part of his work, he is a frequent author and presenter of professional papers at national and international symposiums and conferences.

Terry is a charter member of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals and an active member of American Institute of Hydrology and Society of Wetland Scientists. He was awarded the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Conservation Award for his work with acid rain mitigation and wetland habitat creation in the Mosquito Creek watershed and has been selected as an Outstanding Alumnus by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences for his accomplishments in the field of environmental management.

For many years Terry has served as a guest lecturer and advisor for the Penn State ERM program. Countless ERM students have benefited from Terry's real-world lectures on what it is like to work as an environmental professional and the opportunities for rewarding careers in conservation. He also assisted the ERM program managers in improving the ERM curriculum. The ERM program now has over 3000 graduates.

Photo: Jo Ellen Litz on left and Terry Rightnour on right.



## PA Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils

The Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation and Development (PARC&D) was recognized for the work its nine regional RC&D Councils are doing to enhance the environment and quality of life in local communities throughout the state.

PAEP commended the PARC&D Councils for their "outstanding service and support of resource conservation and development in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through innovative and dynamic leadership and by nurturing partnerships among public and private agencies, corporations, organizations and citizens to protect, restore, and enhance the environment" during the presentation of this prestigious award. The Karl Mason Award is given each year to an organization or project that has made significant contribution to the betterment of Pennsylvania's environment.

The PA RC&D Program and regional non-profit Councils develop projects based on regional needs identified and provide technical and/or financial assistance necessary to bring various projects to fruition. The focus of the national RC&D program includes land conservation, water management, environmental enhancement, and community development. There are 375 RC&D Councils nationally receiving assistance through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"With the support and collaboration of our partners within the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, we bring together local citizens at a regional level to plan and implement projects that not only address natural resource concerns, but also address the need for community and economic development within our important rural communities," stated Lebanon County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz during her acceptance of the award on behalf of the PARC&D Councils.

For more information about the PA Association of RC&D Councils, or to find out what RC&D does in your community, contact your local RC&D office or visit the web at:

[www.parc-d.org](http://www.parc-d.org)

## Section Updates

### Central Section

The Central Section recently held a Q&A session with the DCNR PNDI reviewers. Look for a copy of the power point presentation and a Q&A document on the website in the near future. The central section also hopes to resurrect the annual river canoe trip later this summer. We are also planning a **Central Section Family Picnic at the Gifford Pinchot State Park on August 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Keep your eyes open for more information about both events.

### Eastern Section

In May, the Eastern Section was proud host of the 2008 PAEP Annual Conference. Section Co-Chairs Deborah Poppel and Marc Radell were also co-chairs of the conference planning committee and wish to thank the members of the committee and the administrative staff who made the event such a success: Heidi Fleming, Bob Hosking, Jeffrey Prawdzik, Eric Buncher, Brian Oram, Joe Musil, Tim Tuttle, Jason Gilmore, David Yezuita, Dan Campbell, Mitchell Burack, Mike Parrent, Jeanmarie Kline, and Terri Breon.

After several years of service, Deborah and Marc are stepping down as Eastern Section Co-Chairs in order to give other PAEP members the opportunity to coordinate Section activities. If you are interested in fulfilling this role, please contact PAEP President Jason Minnich at 717-705-4752 or [jaminnich@state.pa.us](mailto:jaminnich@state.pa.us).

### Western Section

The Western Section is trying to "re-start" the program and held their first committee meeting on June 9. As a result of the meeting, they are going to attempt a new format and hold a monthly program on the second Friday of each month at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh (provided all the logistics work out with Phipps). They are hoping that a monthly meeting at a set location might draw more people over time. Their first program is planned for August with a tour of the Conservatory itself. If anyone has any questions, or would like to join or help out the Western Section, please contact either Tammy Sherwin [tammysherwin@lrkimball.com](mailto:tammysherwin@lrkimball.com) or Kelly Eismont [eismok01@lrkimball.com](mailto:eismok01@lrkimball.com).

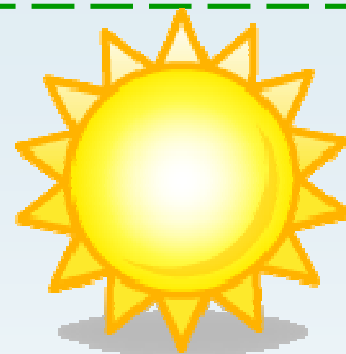


**Mark your Calendar....**

### NAEP 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in San Diego

The National Association of Environmental Professionals held its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference at the Omni Hotel in San Diego March 25-28. The conference was co-hosted by the California Association of Environmental Professionals and the theme was *Changing Climates*. Almost 700 people from across the country and several different countries attended. Similar to past conferences, this year's conference included all-day training sessions with CEU credits, technical tracks – NEPA, transportation, brownfields, land and watershed management, restoration, geospatial technology, and sustainability – mobile workshops, and social events. Information on the conference can be found at <http://www.naep.org>.

**Next year's conference will be held May 3-6, 2009 in Scottsdale, AZ.** Details to follow soon.



**ROUNDTABLE of PAEP**  
Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency

P2/E2 is tentatively planning an August 21 trip to Lancaster, PA. We will visit a consortium of business, government and academia green buildings in the area. The visit will highlight a number of vegetative roofs and other green building efforts. To register, or for more info, please contact Mike Parrent at [Michael.Parrent@us.army.mil](mailto:Michael.Parrent@us.army.mil).



# PPL Peregrines

Thirteen years ago in an effort to help Pennsylvania restore peregrine falcons, I started the Lehigh Valley Peregrine Project. With the ongoing support of PPL, the PA Game Commission and many other local businesses and environmental organization, fourteen immature captive raised peregrine falcons were purchased from breeders in the mid-west, raise and ultimately released (hacked) from the PPL corporate headquarters in Allentown from 1995 through 1997. The goal was to one day have a nesting pairs return to Lehigh Valley. After thirteen years of waiting, this spring a pair of peregrines took to a nest box at PPL and successfully nested. On the 13th day of May, the first of ultimately four eyases hatched.

In 1996, working with local volunteers and PPL employees, four other nest boxes were constructed and installed at PPL facilities throughout central and eastern Pennsylvania in an effort to further support the effort. Although the ultimate goal is to return to the 44 known nest sites on cliffs in Pennsylvania, each new nest, including those in urban and industrial areas strengthens the peregrines recovery. This year PPL has three other productive peregrine nest, one at their Montour plant in Washingtonville, in its second nesting, and another at their Martins Creek in Bangor, in its fourth nesting. This year with the addition of the Allentown location, PPL will be adding at least twelve new falcons to the Pennsylvania skies! Last, but not least, there is also a nest site on some cliffs owned by PPL. This is one of only four know productive nesting pairs on natural cliffs in Pennsylvania. It appears there will be an additional three fledglings from this nest as well.



Photo: Falcons four with mom



Photo: Hungry Falcons

These magnificent birds of prey have captured the attention and admiration of people for centuries. The interest and response to the pair in Allentown has received in such a short time proves they certainly have not lost their touch! Websites, including PPL's <http://www.birdsofpreyatppl.com/> have not only attracted the interest of people in the Lehigh Valley and throughout Pennsylvania, but from locations across the United States and even in the United Kingdom! In addition to the PPL website, local media, WFMZ-Channel 69 and The Morning Call, created websites and installed web cameras, <http://www.wfmz.com/> and <http://www.mcall.com/>, respectively.

When most of us at PAEP were children, there were no wild peregrines to be seen in skies over Pennsylvania. Today, peregrine nest sites are at a post-eradication high of twenty-four known nests! And more

importantly, we are all able to share these magnificent birds of prey with our children! About forty students from four elementary schools in center city Allentown attended the recent Allentown banding event hosted by PPL.

I started this project with the hopes of helping the peregrines falcons in Pennsylvania. The added benefit on increasing the public's knowledge and interest it peregrine falcons was fantastic. Seeing our teachers and youth get excited about these natural wonders... words cannot express!

Keep your eyes to the Pennsylvania skies, they are no longer barren of peregrine falcons!

Jeff Luzenski,  
PAEP Board Member  
PPL, Sr. Environmental Professional



Photo: Jeff with eyas

# Member Highlights

L. Robert Kimball & Associates is pleased to announce that ***Dennis J. McGraw*** has joined the firm as a natural resource specialist.



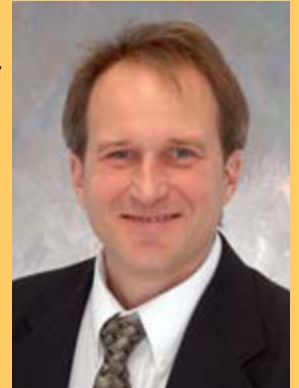
Dennis has more than 10 years of specialized experience in wildlife ecology and large mammal distribution/range analysis. Early in his career, Dennis worked as a wildlife technician for the state of Colorado and a land manager, responsible for the propagation and management of wildlife on a 3,000 acre ranch in the state of Washington. His expertise includes analysis of wildlife distributions and movements via application of habitat evaluations techniques and the assessment of habitat fragmentation resulting from various land development activities.

Dennis most recently served as Pennsylvania regional director of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, where he chaired the RMEF State Project Advisory Committee, and worked with various cooperating agencies to devise and implement a Long-Term Elk Habitat Enhancement Plan. He is an active member of The Wildlife Society and Associate Board of Director with the Cambria County Conservation District.

For more information contact:  
Dennis J. McGraw  
Natural Resource Specialist

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[DennisMcGraw@lrkimball.com](mailto:DennisMcGraw@lrkimball.com)

L. Robert Kimball & Associates is pleased to announce that ***Steve J. Pernick*** has joined the firm as a senior natural resource specialist.



Steve brings more than 16 years of practical experience in NEPA documentation/compliance, state/federal permitting and specialized ecological, and individual species surveys. He is an active member in several local and state professional organizations and regularly volunteers his time and survey hours to assist with various species-related studies, including the Pennsylvania Herpetological Atlas Project, Pennsylvania Timber Rattlesnake Site Assessment and Inventory Project and the Northeast Bat Working Group.

Steve is a Qualified Indiana Bat Surveyor and a United States Army Corps of Engineers Certified Wetland Delineator. In addition, Steve also previously co-developed and instructed an *Advanced Wetland Delineation Level II* for certification under the Federal Wetland Delineator Certification Program.

For more information contact:  
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