

ARRI Tree Planting

April 29 & 30

Contact Megan Blackmon at
mblackmon@schuylkill
headwaters.org to volunteer



Editor's Note: Please send articles or suggestions for the newsletter to Schuylkill Headwaters Association, P. O. Box 1385, Pottsville, PA 17901 or via e-mail to breichert5@verizon.net or dderbes@comcast.net

Citizen's Guide to Marcellus Shale in PA

Demand for natural gas--cited as a cheap and clean source of fuel--is high. In fact, the U.S. consumes 20 trillion cubic feet each year. Along with high demand, the desire to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil makes Marcellus Shale, a natural gas source located under parts of Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Maryland, and Ohio, an attractive option.

Marcellus Shale is estimated to hold trillions of cubic feet of natural gas, and with current usage rates, the shale may contain over a 100-year supply of natural gas for the US. Despite the potential resources available, gas extraction associated with deep American shale deposits was prohibitively expensive until recent advances in drilling technology revived interest in production.

As production in the area has ramped up, landowners and area residents have expressed substantial concerns over the drilling, extraction, and transport of the natural gas. For example, the extraction process uses millions of gallons of water. The withdrawal of this water from area streams and waterways can have a significant effect on wildlife. Residents are also concerned with the effects of the drilling on surface water and groundwater, which supplies drinking water for thousands of wells across Pennsylvania. Other impacts include noise pollution, forest fragmentation, and the spread of invasive species.

This citizens' guide is geared to landowners who might lease land, as well as residents who are not leasing land but are seeking information on the process and how they might get involved. The guide

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In the Riffles

by Bill Reichert

This month's newsletter departs from our normal reporting on issues and topics that are of immediate concern to our local watershed and our organization. On the other pages of this issue you will find important information about happenings and issues outside our immediate area. Even though the topics may be miles away, many folks are asking for more information about these hot topics.

Let's start with the 2011 Schuylkill Watershed Congress. Many topics will be presented and discussed and much information will be shared by a wide variety of folks. In short, there will be something there for everyone. Spend the day at the Congress, learn what others are doing in the watershed, and how you can become involved.

Marcellus Shale gas extraction is another hot topic. Included in this newsletter is an excellent resource for information about the Marcellus Shale gas play. "The Citizen's Guide to Marcellus Shale" is available from Pennsylvania Sea Grant which is a partnership of [Penn State University](#), [The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#), and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#). All are part of the [National Sea Grant College Network](#), which sponsors research, education, training, and outreach projects to foster science-based decisions about the use and conservation of coastal resources.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant Major Geographic Focus Areas:

- **The Lake Erie Watershed** - In Pennsylvania, the Lake Erie watershed consists of the northern half of Erie County and the northwest corner of Crawford County. Overall, the watershed land area is 511 square miles. The dominant topographic feature of the watershed is the 63-mile shoreline of Lake Erie that includes Presque Isle Bay.
- **The Delaware River Watershed** - The Pennsylvania portion of the Delaware River watershed includes 57 miles of tidal coastline within Bucks, Philadelphia, and Delaware counties. The head of the tide for the Delaware Estuary in years of normal rainfall is Trenton, New Jersey. The coastal zone also contains islands, marshes, and shorelands of tributary streams that are tidally influenced, as well as the Schuylkill River watershed.

The Pennsylvania Sea Grant program conducts research and supports applied research that addresses environmental issues. Their education program focuses on meeting the environmental education needs of schools and educators. Pennsylvania Sea Grant has worked since its inception to identify and address ways to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic and invasive species. Pennsylvania Sea Grant staff have been active leaders in promoting aquaculture in Pennsylvania.

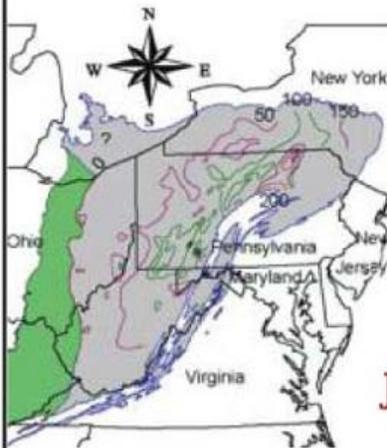
This is but a short list of all the activities Pennsylvania Sea Grant gets involved with. They maintain offices in Erie, Harrisburg, and Chester. I have had the pleasure to visit the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie. The folks working there are very committed to conservation and the environment. The facilities are an excellent research center that is shared with many colleges and universities.

And, closer to home, the Schuylkill Chamber has scheduled a Brown Bag lunch presentation at Penn State Schuylkill Campus. The presenters are folks who are actively involved in the Marcellus Shale gas exploration as it is happening. You will be able to participate by asking questions.

I encourage you to take part in the watershed congress and research the information in the Citizen's Guide as well as at the Brown Bag lunch. At the end of the guide is a resource listing for even more information.

SCHUYLKILL CHAMBER GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

**MARCELLUS
SHALE**



“WILL DRILLING IMPACT SCHUYLKILL COUNTY?”

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

**JOHN E. MORGAN AUDITORIUM
PENN STATE SCHUYLKILL**

SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE:

STEPHEN BROKENSHERE - MINERAL RESOURCE PROGRAM SPECIALIST, DIVISION OF
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND WELL DEVELOPMENT, BUREAU OF OIL & GAS MANAGEMENT

JIM GARNER - DISTRICT MANAGER, SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ELAM HERR - PA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

MIKE NARCAVAGE - CHESAPEAKE ENERGY

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: SHANE KLEINER - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BRENDA SHAMBAUGH - PA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

THE PROGRAM FORMAT IS AN OPEN FORUM WITH A QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD.

THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND BUT RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

FOOD CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO THE AUDITORIUM.

PROVISIONS ARE MADE FOR YOU TO ENJOY YOUR LUNCH PRIOR TO THE EVENT
IN THE HIDDEN STREAM CAFE OR MORGAN AUDITORIUM FOYER.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY BY CALLING THE SCHUYLKILL CHAMBER AT
570-622-1942/800-755-1942 OR EMAILING INFO@SCHUYLKILLCHAMBER.COM.

Sign me up! Marcellus Shale on March 3 at Penn State Schuylkill

Name _____ Company _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Return to : Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, 91 S. Progress Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901 or fax to 622-1638.

Food and drink is not permitted in the John E. Morgan Auditorium.

Provisions have been made for you to enjoy your lunch prior to the event at tables in the auditorium foyer or in the Hidden Stream Cafe, directly across from the John E. Morgan Auditorium.

Citizen's Guide to Marcellus Shale in PA

(Continued from pg. 1)

will provide a brief overview of potential impacts, the regulatory process in Pennsylvania, how residents may participate in the process, and where to go for more information.

The National Sea Grant Law Center and Pennsylvania Sea Grant are pleased to announce a new Citizens' Guide to Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania. The guide provides a brief overview of potential impacts, the regulatory process in Pennsylvania, how residents may participate in the process, and where to go for more information. A .pdf version is available at the link below and a copy is accessible in the Reports section of the Workgroup Resources of this website:

http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/Advisory/marcellus_citizens_guide.pdf

Schuylkill Watershed Congress

Saturday March 12, 2011
Montgomery County Community College
West Campus
101 College Drive, Pottstown PA



This year's program features 28 concurrent sessions and 7 poster sessions covering a broad range of topics. The 2011 Keynote Presentation offers a panel discussion titled "Economic Benefits of Protected Open Space in Southeastern Pennsylvania." Speakers include Nick Frontino, Economy League of Greater Philadelphia; Lee Huang, Econsult Corporation; Patty Elkis, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission; and, Donna Pitz, GreenSpace Alliance. This panel will present an overview of a recent study that quantified in dollars and cents the value of the 200,000 acres of parks, preserved farms and land trust lands in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Whether you are a volunteer dedicated to improving your watershed, a municipal official who cares about water resources, a conservation professional charged with protecting our waterways, a teacher who wants to inform others about watersheds, or a student who wants to know more about stream functions, the Schuylkill Watershed Congress offers something for you.

See official website for schedule and registration form:
http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/pdf/2011_SWC_Online_Detail.pdf

The Schuylkill Action Network will once again be providing a limited number of Scholarships for the 2011 Schuylkill Watershed Congress. Download the scholarship application at http://www.schuylkillwaters.org/doc_files/2011CongressScholarApp.pdf

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Important Dates

Feb. 26: Environmental Awareness Conference

Mar. 3: SHA Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Dave Derbes' home

Mar. 12: Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown, PA

Apr. 7: SHA Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Dave Derbes' home

Apr. 29-30: ARRI Tree Planting

Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 1385
Pottsville, PA 17901

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