With the arrival of spring, environmental education moves into the busy season! Check out the following for updates on DEP Environmental Education Grants, Pennsylvania's First Native Species Day, ticks, the revision of the environmental and ecology standards, and more. — Bert Myers, Director, Environmental Education and Information Center, DEP

Grants 2022 Environmental Education Grant Program supports 63

projects

We are happy to share the 2022 Environmental Educationa Grant Program awarded funds for 63

projects totaling \$632,897. Over 90 percent of grant funds will help support projects that engage youth and adults living and working within Environmental Justice areas. See the list of awarded projects here.

Application period for 2023 Environmental Education Grants to open in August

The 2023 Environmental Education Grant application period will open a month earlier than usual, to provide applicants more time to submit applications and related documents. Applications will be accepted beginning August 1, 2022. The application deadline is December 9, 2022, at 4:59 p.m. Applications must be submitted electronically via the Single Application system. 2021 Environmental Education Grant Presentations at

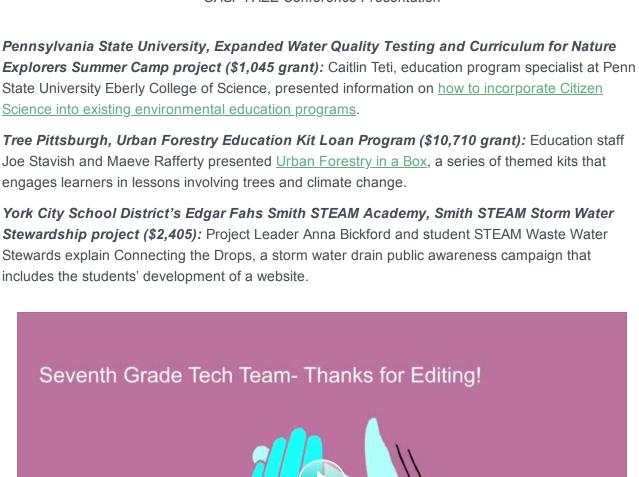
Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators One of the requirements of a DEP Environmental Education Grant is that the recipient present the project, including "Lessons Learned," at an appropriate local or statewide venue. The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators is a popular choice for this. A number of

2021 grant recipients gave live or recorded virtual presentations on their projects during this year's PAEE meeting in March. Check out some of them: Group Against Smog & Pollution, Air Quality and Climate Education Kits project (\$17,497

grant): Patrick Campbell, Executive Director, showcased three Air Quality Education Kits created for use with middle school youth. AIR QUALITY,

ENERGY, & TECH

GASP PAEE Conference Presentation



Shout Outs

Northumberland County Conservation District Community Riparian Buffer Planting, May 14 The Northumberland County Conservation District, Shamokin Community Gardens, Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance, and City of Shamokin will hold an environmental educational event, "Planting for Our Future," on Saturday, May 14, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Claude Kehler Community Park II, off Walnut Street. To prepare for the event, Boy Scout Troop 254, Shamokin, assisted the organizations with installing a split-rail wood fence where a pollinator garden will be built. Scouts erected the fence by digging holes, pouring cement, and leveling the rails. The conservation district used a 2021 DEP Environmental Education Grant for the design, purchase, and installation of educational signs that describe riparian forest buffers, pollinator gardens, and the challenge of acid mine drainage. During the event, these signs, along with a small pollinator garden, will be installed in the park along with more than 20 saplings that, when fully grown, will complement larger trees planted last year. The organizations will also present educational information on riparian forest buffers, pollinator gardens, and acid mine drainage.



Environmental educators from across the state joined in the 2022 Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators annual conference, themed "It's in our Nature" and held online March 21-22. The conference was packed with sessions addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion; Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs), funding opportunities; climate change; and many

In addition, individuals and programs that have made important impacts on environmental education in Pennsylvania were honored. The MWEE Partner of Excellence award went to Allegheny College Creek Connections, and the MWEE School of Excellence awards went to West Chester School

Creek Connections has received numerous DEP Environmental Education Grants. West Chester Area School District used funding from the DEP Water Quality Improvement Projects Along the

other topics.

District.

Deer Tick Virus.

Diseases website.

Mariner East 2 Pipeline Corridor program.

When venturing outdoors this spring and summer, protect yourself from serious tickborne diseases, including Lyme disease and the rare but dangerous

The DTV-positive ticks were discovered during routine testing as part of DEP's active tick surveillance program, a five-year pilot program that began in 2018. Surveys are conducted in every county in Pennsylvania to track ticks' habitats, life stages and peak activity levels and to

Blacklegged ticks, also called deer ticks, are active even in winter when temperatures are in the mid-30s and

and tall grasses that may harbor ticks.

IN AND AROUND THE HAIR

Friday, June 17, 2022. Join in!

test them for human pathogenic diseases.

Vectors **Pennsylvanians Encouraged to Protect Themselves Against Tickborne Diseases**

testing to reduce and monitor the number of ticks present in the recreational areas with high positivity rates for DTV. Recommended precautions for anyone venturing outdoors include: · Apply tick repellents containing permethrin to clothing and EPA-registered insect repellents such as DEET to exposed skin before entering the outdoors. Reapply as needed according to product label instructions. Wear light-colored outer clothing and tuck shirts into pants, and pants into socks. • Walk in the centers of trails, and avoid wooded and brushy areas with low-growing vegetation

After returning home, remove all clothing, take a shower, and place clothing into the dryer on

• Conduct a full-body tick check using a hand or full-length mirror, including hidden areas such

• If a tick is found attached to your skin, use tweezers to remove it carefully, including the head.

For more information about tickborne disease prevention, visit the Department of Health Tickborne

Check your clothing and body for ticks after being outdoors in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas where ticks live!

CHECK THESE PARTS OF YOUR BODY AND YOUR CHILD'S BODY FOR TICKS:

high heat to kill any lingering ticks. Examine gear such as backpacks for ticks.

Check over any pets exposed to likely tick habitats each time they return indoors.

as the scalp, ears, armpits, belly button, and between the legs.

Monitor for symptoms and contact your doctor with any questions.

above. DEP has posted signage to alert the public and will conduct control measures and additional

Blacklegged tick. Photo source: CDC

IN AND AROUND THE EARS

UNDER THE ARMS **INSIDE BELLY BUTTON BETWEEN THE LEGS BACK OF THE KNEES**

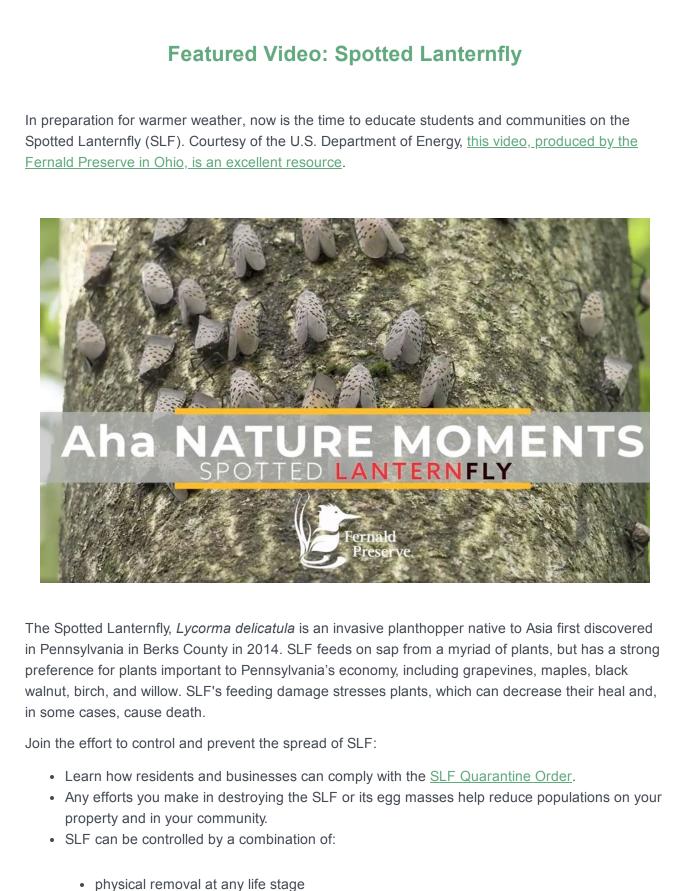
Invasive Species

Join in First Pennsylvania Native Species Day, June 17

The Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council is launching the first Pennsylvania Native Species Day on

Help more Pennsylvanians learn about, celebrate, and help protect native species, and understand the pressures that nonnative invasive species present to their survival. There are many actions that educators, community organizations, business owners, local governments, and residents can take to

help increase awareness of and protect Pennsylvania's native species. More information and a communications toolkit are forthcoming at the Pennsylvania Native Species Day web page.



Use the <u>SLF checklist</u> to complete inspections of vehicles, trailers, or any outdoor items before

Education Standards

Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), in collaboration with the Content and Steering

the new Environment and Ecology standards. On April 14, 2022, the State Board of Education (Board) submitted final-form amendments to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 (Academic Standards and Assessments) to the House Education Committee, the Senate Education Committee, and the

Committees, are working to review, refine, and finalize the revised performance expectations within

Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). Obtain a copy of the final-form regulation from

It will be considered by IRRC at its public meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022, beginning at 10 am in the 14th floor conference room, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA. The agenda and any changes to the time or date of the meeting will be posted on IRRC's website. In addition, the public meeting will

Any comments on this final-form regulation should be submitted to the Board prior to the 48-hour

• removal of <u>Tree-of-Heaven host trees</u>

movement within or out of quarantine locations.

be livestreamed and accessible through the IRRC website.

comment period is open until Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

blackout-out period, which begins at 10 am on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

1-888-4BAD-FLY (1-888-422-3359), Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

pesticide applications

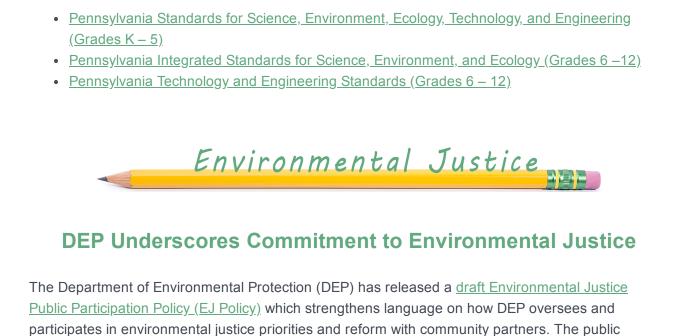
Report SLF sightings:

• Online SLF Reporting

IRRC's website.

justice.

website.



The draft Environmental Justice Policy includes several sections to expand and improve upon the existing Environmental Justice Policy which has been in effect since 2004. The new policy will attempt to integrate environmental justice into more aspects of DEP's work to benefit environmental justice communities. This may include revising definitions of environmental justice areas or populations;

environmental justice mapping, resources, and data for community use; prioritizing environmental justice in grantmaking practices; and training DEP staff and external partners on environmental

More information, including an informational webinar, can be found at the DEP Environmental Justice

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The PA Department of Environmental Protection's draft Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy (EJ Policy) strengthens language on how DEP oversees and participates in environmental justice priorities and reform with community partners.

> Public comment period on the policy is open through Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

Learn more and participate:

dep.pa.gov/EJPolicyRevision

Harrisburg Falcons

Nesting Season Has Arrived! Banding, Falcon Watch and

Rescue to Follow!

On March 6, the first egg of 2022 arrived. This marks the earliest, by two days, in the history of the Rachel Carson State Office Building (RCSOB) nest site that an egg appeared. In both 2012 and 2017, the first egg was laid

Are you a birder, wildlife watcher, or raptor fanatic?

Designed for both formal and non-formal educators, this free, virtual workshop series is a collaborative effort between Penn State's Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Act 48 hours available. A private link to the webinar will be emailed to all

registrants about 1 hour before the start of the live

The American Kestrel (Hawk Mountain)

Tuesday, June 14, 1:30-2:30 pm

Tuesday, June 21, 1:30-2:30 pm

Tuesday, June 28, 1:30-2:30 pm

Pick Up Pennsylvania

Tools for Schools

Litter Free School Zone

Pepsico Recycle Rally

needs and interests.

beautiful.

program. A recording of the webinar will be shared to all registrants following the event. Registration closes 2 hours before the start of the program. Hawk Mountain will be recording this webinar, including all questions, comments, etc., by the audience. By participating, you agree to allow the recording to be posted on Hawk Mountain's website.

Peregrine Falcon: Monitoring and Recovery in Pennsylvania (DEP)

an event or connect you with a local group looking for volunteers.

Pennsylvania's Other Eagle: Golden Eagles in the Keystone State (Shavers Creek)

Waste

Register a litter cleanup or community improvement event now through May 31 and receive free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests, as supplies last. Spring is the best time to pick up litter before the roadside vegetation grows and disguises it. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful can help you coordinate

<u>Find tools and resources for educators and schools</u> to help learn and teach about the effects litter has on people, animals and the environment and what you can do to keep your community clean and

Schools in Pennsylvania can keep their school grounds litter free with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's

environmental stewardship and responsibility and can be combined with a lesson on how litter affects

animals, people, water quality or economics. Responsibilities include planning two improvement projects per school year and can include litter cleanups and beautification events, like creating and

Whether you've been recycling for years or just recently initiated the capability to recycle, Recycle Rally will help boost the excitement and provide an array of tools to make recycling a big deal in your

school. This program allows you to choose the resources and activities that meet your school's

<u>Litter Free School Zone Program</u>. The program encourages hands-on activities to teach

caring for pollinator and rain gardens. Supplies of gloves and vests are available.

hbgfalconwatch@gmail.com.

Watch and Rescue.

Make your voice heard!

increasing collaboration and planning between state government agencies; developing

on March 8. This was the largest clutch since 2010, with five eggs. By April 21, all five eggs hatched in a span of six days. Unfortunately, the fifth falcon to hatch was underdeveloped and didn't survive. Planning is underway for the banding of the young peregrine falcons in 2022. DEP, with vital support from the PA Game Commission, will band the falcons on May 12.

DEP is looking for volunteers for the 2022 Falcon Watch and Rescue. Based on the reproduction schedule it is estimated that Watch and Rescue will occur sometime between May 23 - June 5. During this time the young falcon fledglings are making their first flights. Due to the variety of

potential dangers found in an urban environment, DEP organizes volunteers for observing these first flights, and, if necessary, perform a supervised rescue to ensure the fledgling's safety. Training is provided, so if you are interested in participating contact Volunteer Coordinator Sue Hannon:

Stay tuned to the PA Falcon Cam for the incredible growth period leading to fledging, banding, and

2022 Raptor Workshop Series

Litter Hawk Youth Award Congratulations to the 2022 Litter Hawk winners! This is an annual award with a deadline of January 31 – look for the 2023 announcement this fall! Professional Development Project WET w/MWEE Flair Educator Workshop Saturday, May 14, 9:00 am-3:00 pm In-Person at Millersville University, WETi at Creek Lodge, 198 Creek Dr, Millersville, PA 17551 Fee: Free Project WET (Water Education for Today) is an award-winning, NSTA-recommended curriculum that offers cutting-edge water education. The program is correlated to NGSS & Common Core Standards and applicable to grades K-12! The activities provide educators and pre-service teachers with teaching methods, assessment strategies, and essential classroom tools needed to integrate water education into every school subject. This workshop is open to college students (especially preservice teachers), classroom teachers, and non-formal educators. All participants will receive the

Project WET K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide. This workshop will utilize water as a lens within the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) Framework. Space is limited. Register now.

Sustainable Choices, Sustainable Watersheds: Applying the MWEE Framework to Waste

Two sessions: Tuesday, June 14, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm; Wednesday, June 15, 1:00 pm - 3:00

Audience: This is an advanced MWEE application workshop so participants must have completed the MWEE 101 course or a previous MWEE Ambassador training! This online session is open to

Do you know how much our choices at home or around our schools positively or negatively impact the waste stream? This two-session educator professional development workshop will focus on tools,

• Session 1: Introduction to the issues and challenges around waste streams generated by our consumer choices. Guest speakers will share about slow vs. fast fashion, statewide litter

• Session 2: We will review data collected as part of a small homework assignment and apply conclusions to potential stewardship & civic action projects on both a personal and school-wide

Register now. Questions? Please email Tara Muenz at tmuenz@stroudcenter.org. Learn more about

SUSTAINABLE CHOICES, SUSTAINABLE WATERSHEDS: APPLYING THE MWEE FRAMEWORK TO WASTE STREAMS

Spend two days exploring your natural resources and their connection to agriculture. Day one will be

conservation sites. The second day will be spent paddling a local waterway. Participants will have the opportunity to investigate soil and water quality, conduct biodiversity surveys, and connect with other teachers. Teachers can expect professional development topics paired with hands-on experiential investigations exploring student-centered learning. This two-day course is in partnership with the

spent exploring how natural resources are managed, restored, and protected at two different

2-SESSION EDUC

Exploring Natural Resources in Agricultural Education

Tuesday, June 28-29, 9:00 am-4:00 pm each day

In-Person in the State College Area

Penn State University Teach Ag! program.

Fee: \$75

Fee: \$75

Act 48: 27 hrs.

Act 48: 18 hrs.

tor pd workshop

🎮 PennState Extension

resources, and ideas for sustainable choices you and your students can make to reduce waste streams while using the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) framework.

Funding for this workshop comes from a NOAA/B-WET Capacity Building Grant.

homeschool providers, classroom teachers, and non-formal educators.

issues, & microplastics in the waterways.

MWEEs. Take the MWEE 101 online course.

pm; must attend both sessions

Online via Zoom

level.

Fee: Free Act 48: 4 hrs

Orientation Date: Virtual orientation meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on May 25, June 22, or July 13. Choose one of the virtual meetings prior to your course. COVID Policy: Current policy requires that all participants of summer Chesapeake Classroom courses be vaccinated for COVID-19. Registration deadline: June 20, 2022 Kings Gap Watershed Institute Tuesday, July 12-14, 9:00 am-4:00 pm each day

In-Person at Kings Gap Environmental Center, 500 Kings Gap Rd., Carlisle, PA 17015

The natural world will be studied in a way that promotes inspiration in each participant and, in turn, their students and community. Orientation Date: Virtual orientation meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on May 25, June 22, or July 13. Choose one of the virtual meetings prior to your course. **COVID Policy:** Current policy requires that all participants of summer Chesapeake Classroom courses be vaccinated for COVID-19. Registration deadline: June 20, 2022 Teachers Exploring the Bay, Tangier Sound Wednesday, July 18-22, 9:00 am-4:00 pm In-Person: First half at the Karen Noonan Environmental Education Center, 1304 Phillips Gunning Club Rd. Crocheron, MD 21627 and the second half at the Port Isobel Environmental Education Center, Tangier Island, Tangier, VA 23440 Fee: \$350 Act 48: 45 hrs.

salt marsh edges and ecology of the Chesapeake. We will use art as a tool to investigate connections between nature, culture, and history. Creativity will be the theme of the week from the remarkable crafts that helped construct our region to the artful STEAM integrations propelling us into the future.

impact, encourage sustainability, and foster environmental literacy. All participating teachers will develop a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience for their students. Orientation Date: Virtual orientation meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on May 25, June 22, or July 13. Choose one of the virtual meetings prior to your course. COVID Policy: Current policy requires that all participants of summer Chesapeake Classroom courses be vaccinated for COVID-19. Registration deadline: July 11, 2022 Teachers Exploring the Bay, Smith Island Monday, August 8-12, 10:00 am, Daily schedule may vary In-Person in Tylerton, Smith Island, MD Fee: \$350 Act 48: 45 hrs. of the Bay and spend three days and two nights in the remote island community of Tylerton, Smith

How does our watershed impact the ecology and culture of the Chesapeake Bay? Participants will engage in immersive hands-on, field-based investigations exploring the marshes, critters, ecology and culture of the Bay. The course will focus on ways humans can work to reduce environmental

How does our watershed impact the ecology and culture of the Chesapeake Bay? Come to the heart <u>Island</u>. All participants will engage in hands-on, field-based investigations exploring the marshes, critters and ecology of the Bay. The course will focus on ways we can work to reduce environmental impact, encourage sustainability, and foster environmental literacy. All participating teachers will develop a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience for their students. Orientation Date: Virtual orientation meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on May 25, June 22, or July 13. Choose one of the virtual meetings prior to your course. COVID Policy: Current policy requires that all participants of summer Chesapeake Classroom courses be vaccinated for COVID-19. Registration deadline: August 1, 2022 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

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400 Market Street Harrisburg, PA | 17101 US This email was sent to .

Are you interested in motivating your learners to think outside the box, take risks, and demonstrate their learning through real-world, hands-on learning that happens within their community? By blending hands-on investigations modeled on professional research methodologies, educators will participate in data collection and analysis, community networking and partnerships, stewardship, and service-learning activities—all skills that can be transferred back to the school setting. Orientation Date: Virtual orientation meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on May 25, June 22, or July 13. Choose one of the virtual meetings prior to your course. COVID Policy: Current policy requires that all participants of summer Chesapeake Classroom courses be vaccinated for COVID-19. Registration deadline: July 4, 2022 **Watershed-wide Courses Exploring Ecology Through Creating Art (No previous art training required.)** Monday, June 27-July 1, 9:00 am-4:00 pm each day In-Person at the Karen Noonan Environmental Education Center, 1304 Phillips Gunning Club Rd. Crocheron, MD 21627 Fee: \$350 Act 48: 48 hrs. How can we deepen our understanding of ecological issues by creating art? Teachers will discover educational resources in their local area and then delve deep into the heart of the Bay exploring the

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