

# PENN'S WATERS

News & Notes from the Pennsylvania Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Summer 2015

## Pennsylvania is Off Track to Meet its Clean-Water Commitments

Pennsylvania has a lot of work to do and must accelerate efforts, if it is to meet its commitment to cleaning up its waters and those that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent milestone assessment shows that the Commonwealth is falling dangerously short of commitments to reduce pollution and restore its waterways.

Pennsylvania and other Bay states developed two-year milestones as



B.J. Small/CBF Staff

EPA found that Pennsylvania will need to add 22,000 acres of forest and grass buffers to meet its 2014-15 commitments.

incremental pollution-reduction targets, as part of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. The goal is to implement 60 percent of the programs and practices necessary to restore local water quality by 2017, and finish the job by 2025.

EPA's 2014-15 interim milestone assessment shows the most significant shortfall is in reducing nitrogen and sediment pollution from agriculture. Agriculture is one of the least expensive sources of pollution to reduce.

To get back on track, the Commonwealth will have to reduce nitrogen pollution from agriculture by an additional 14.6 million pounds, or 22 percent, by the end of this year. Pennsylvania appears to be on track for phosphorus reduction goals.

"It is past time for Pennsylvania to take meaningful actions that will accelerate pollution reduction," CBF President Will Baker said. "If Pennsylvania does not significantly advance their efforts to reduce pollution then CBF calls on EPA to specify the actions it intends to take to ensure pollution is reduced."

### From the Desk of Harry Campbell

#### Pennsylvania Director

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Penn's Waters. I hope you find it to be useful, informative, and engaging.



Harry Campbell

As we kick off this issue, a lot of bad news has been in the media of late — over 20,000 fish were killed in the Conewago Creek by polluted runoff from a chemical fertilizer plant fire. Smallmouth bass in the lower Susquehanna River continue to struggle, and EPA concluded that Pennsylvania is "substantially off track" in implementing Pennsylvania's Clean Water Blueprint.

But work to reduce pollution continues and progress is happening. Farmers are reducing pollution. Sewage plants are exceeding expectations. State government is recognizing the need to do more.

As always, "Clean Water Counts" in Pennsylvania. It is a legacy worth leaving future generations.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Saving a National Treasure*

# “Clean Water Counts” Takes Hold in PA!

CBF and the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition launched the Clean Water Counts campaign last fall to call on county governments across the Commonwealth to pass clean-water resolutions. The resolutions acknowledge the need for state lawmakers to better prioritize and invest in programs that help local governments, farmers, businesses, and homeowners comply with state requirements and contribute to achieving clean-water commitments.

To date, 16 counties have passed Clean Water Counts resolutions calling for action and greater commitment to clean water from elected officials.

Counties participating in Clean Water Counts so far include: Berks, Cumberland, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Jefferson, Luzerne, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Somerset,

Venango, Washington, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York.

The campaign continues to gain support from individuals as well. More than 1,500 Pennsylvanians have signed petitions calling on their county officials to pass clean-water resolutions.

CBF expanded the campaign to groups and businesses and in a short period of time, more than 80 state-wide and regional organizations signed on to declare their support for making clean water a priority in Pennsylvania.

Momentum is building with each passing day!

Pennsylvanians have a right to recreate safely on and around local rivers and streams, to trust that drinking water supplies are sufficiently protected, and to know that lawmakers will protect their interests.



Students from Palmyra Area Middle School (Lebanon County) were among those participating during the SWEP's 25th year in 2015.

## SWEP Celebrates 25 Years of Environmental Education

The Susquehanna Watershed Education Program (SWEP) is celebrating its 25th year of showing young people how to learn and have fun on Pennsylvania's waterways, and that the health of aquatic resources depends on actions they take every day.

Through its first 24 years, SWEP has conducted about 2,000 programs and involved 43,000 participants with its spring and fall environmental education days. SWEP is one of 14 CBF education programs. It serves students in grades 6 through 12 in more than 25 central Pennsylvania counties.

Paddling canoes and exploring the creeks and rivers are highlights of the students' days.

Students also collect and survey macro-invertebrates, and conduct water tests.

The lessons come by investigating the history, ecology, and geography of the Susquehanna River and its tributaries. The goal is to promote a deeper understanding of environmental issues and motivate future leaders to take action to improve water quality in their own neighborhoods and downstream to the Bay.

## CBF and you!

**AUGUST 18-20**

Visit us at our booth at Penn State's Ag Progress Days in the Harrington Building at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center in Rock Springs.

Tuesday, August 18, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday, August 19, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

50,000 people are expected to attend the expo featuring the latest technology and research exhibits, educational programs, and guided tours.

Details at [agsci.psu.edu/apd](http://agsci.psu.edu/apd)

**AUGUST 29**

### Veterans on the Susquehanna

Celebrate freedom on the river at this first-ever veterans' paddling and fishing event. This event will be held in Wrightsville, in partnership with "Heroes on the Water" and local chapters of Trout Unlimited.

3-7 p.m. Fishing and paddling  
7-9 p.m. Dinner and music

Details soon at [cbf.org/calendar](http://cbf.org/calendar)



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