



# PAEE JOURNAL

The Journal of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators

Schuylkill Conservation District 1206 AG Center Drive Pottsville, PA 17901

[www.pae.net](http://www.pae.net) Summer 2006



Inside: Conference 2006 Highlights

## PAEE JOURNAL CONTENTS

Legislative Update	2
IPM News	2
Conference '06 Highlights	4
rEEsources	12
New Nature Center	13
What's Up? Astronomy	15
Attracting Teens With Snakes	17
Fever	18
2007 Conference	
Call for Workshop Proposals	19
Call for Exhibitors/Vendors	21

Membership Form.....Inside back cover



The PAEE Journal is published regularly by the PA Association of Environmental Educators. Individuals or organizations are encouraged to submit suggestions, ideas, articles, and items to the PAEE office. All submissions must be typed. E-mail is the preferred method for submitting, but mailing or faxing is also acceptable.

### MISSION STATEMENT

*"The Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Educators unites, supports, and inspires individuals to be stewards of the environment".*

Nine different categories of membership are available through PAEE:

Individual: \$30  
 Partner in Government: \$30  
 Full Time Student \$20  
 Retired Person: \$20  
 Affiliate: \$100  
 Contributor: \$101-\$249  
 Supporter: \$250-\$499  
 Donor: \$500-\$999  
 Patron: \$1,000

## PAEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Kathleen Geist - SE  
 Green Woods Charter School  
 8480 Hagy's Mill Road - Phila., PA 19128  
 (215) 699-7329 (h)  
[kgeist@greenwoodscharter.org](mailto:kgeist@greenwoodscharter.org)

### Vice President

Dennis Pennington - SE  
 Hydrogeologist  
 Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association  
 12 Morris Rd. - Ambler, PA 19002  
 (215) 646-8866 (w)  
[www.aol.com](http://www.aol.com)

### President-Elect

Ruth Roperti  
 965 Edgewood Road  
 Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
 (724) 843 7046  
[roperti@zoominternet.net](mailto:roperti@zoominternet.net)

### Secretary

Angela Belli - SW  
 Environmental Education Center Director  
 Saint Vincent College  
 300 Fraser Purchase Road - Latrobe, PA 15650  
 Phone: (724) 805-2051 (w)  
[angela.belli@email.stvincent.edu](mailto:angela.belli@email.stvincent.edu)

### Treasurer

Pat McKinney - NE  
 Schuylkill Conservation District  
 1206 AG Center Drive - Pottsville, PA 17901  
 (570) 622-4124 x113  
[porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:porcupinepat@yahoo.com)

### Membership Director

Deborah Hemphill  
 Tyler Arboretum  
 515 Painter Road - Media PA 19063  
 (610) 566-9134 x218  
[dhemphill@tylerarboretum.org](mailto:dhemphill@tylerarboretum.org)

### Legislative Director

Jean Wallace - SE  
 Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction  
 Green Woods Charter School  
 8480 Hagy's Mill Road - Phila., PA 19128  
 (215) 482-1963 (w)  
[jwallace@greenwoodscharter.org](mailto:jwallace@greenwoodscharter.org) (w)  
[jnweeteach@aol.com](mailto:jnweeteach@aol.com) (h)

### Publications Director

Judith Gratz - SE  
 Director of Environmental Ed.  
 Wissahickon Valley Watershed Assoc.  
 12 Morris Road - Ambler, PA 19002  
 (215) 646-8866 x13 (w)  
 (215) 997-1063 (h)  
[weitzhuis@comcast.net](mailto:weitzhuis@comcast.net) (h)

### Southeast Region Director

Vacant

### Public Relations Director

Jolene L. Naugle - SW  
 Environmental Program Specialist  
 PA CleanWays, Inc.  
 105 West Fourth St.  
 Greensburg, PA 15601  
[inaugle@pacleanways.org](mailto:inaugle@pacleanways.org)  
 (724) 836-4121 (w)  
 (724) 689-3308 (c)

### Northwest Region Director

Tim Hart  
 Valley Grove School District  
 Sixth Grade Teacher/ Science  
 171 Hart Drive - Franklin, PA 16323  
 (814) 432-3861 ext.1415 (w)  
[tlhart@verizon.net](mailto:tlhart@verizon.net)

### Southwest Region Director

Trisha O'Neill  
 Director of Education  
 Audubon Society of Western PA  
 Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve  
 614 Dorseyville Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
 412-963-6100 x24  
 412-963-6761 FAX  
[toneill@aswp.org](mailto:toneill@aswp.org)  
[www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org)

### North Central Region Director

Debra Buckman DIF165  
 One College Ave.  
 Pennsylvania College of Technology  
 Williamsport, PA 17701  
[dbuckman@pct.edu](mailto:dbuckman@pct.edu)  
 Fax: 570-547-6352  
 (570) 323-1707 (h)  
 (570) 320-2400 ext. 3526 (w)

### South Central Region Director

Jan Arnold  
 Information Specialist, Blair County  
 Department of Solid Waste & Recycling  
 423 Allegheny St., Suite 036  
 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2022  
[jarnold@blairco.org](mailto:jarnold@blairco.org) (w)  
[fromygarden@netzero.com](mailto:fromygarden@netzero.com) (h)  
 (814) 793-3679 (h)  
 (814) 696-4620 (w)

### Northeast Region Director

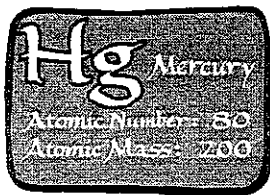
Rory Giovannucci  
 530 Fallon Street  
 Old Forge, PA 18518  
 570.457.2960 (h)  
 570.241.1083 (c)  
 570.343.7711 (w)  
 B's Floral Design, 131 Penn Avenue,  
 Scranton, PA 18503

### Webmaster

Doug Orner - SC  
[ornerdoug@verizon.net](mailto:ornerdoug@verizon.net) (h)  
[dorner@proprecycles.org](mailto:dorner@proprecycles.org) (w)

**On the Cover:** PA Game Commissioner, Joe Stefko, led a field study into the Laurel Highlands at the 2006 PAEE Conference. The highlight of the trip was sighting a bear in its winter den. Photo by photo journalist, Karen Hohman. Other conference photos in this issue by Karen, Nancy Wells, and Natalie Price.

## Legislative Update *By Jean Wallace*



Now is the time to step up and join a crucial effort to protect the health and well-being of Pennsylvania's children by supporting the Rendell administration's

stringent regulations to reduce emissions of toxic mercury from the Commonwealth's power plants.

Mercury is a neurotoxin that builds up in wildlife, particularly fish, and in people. Mercury endangers subsistence fishermen and recreational anglers, but especially pregnant women, unborn babies and children, who are most at risk for health effects that include brain and nervous system damage. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency scientists report that more than one child in six born in the United States could be at risk of having developmental disorders as a result of mercury exposure in the mother's womb. That means one child in six may develop disorders that result in life-long learning disabilities. That is just wrong and it is preventable.

Governor Rendell recently proposed an aggressive plan to significantly cut mercury emissions from coal-fired electric generating plants by 2010, with an ultimate goal of controlling 90 percent of the mercury pollution from this source by 2015. Most importantly, the Governor's plan will require in-state reductions of mercury pollution -- unlike the federal EPA mercury program that would allow Pennsylvania's dirtiest plants

to avoid reducing mercury emissions by purchasing pollution credits from cleaner plants in other states.

There is compelling reason for Pennsylvania to take action within its borders. Pennsylvania has 36 coal-fired power plants with 78 electric generating units that represent 20,000 megawatts of capacity. These units accounted for approximately three-fourths of the more than 5 tons of mercury emitted into the air from all contamination sources in the Commonwealth, ranking us second only to Texas in terms of total mercury emissions. In addition, according to the latest Toxic Release Inventory report, which EPA released April 12, Pennsylvania moved from third to second in the total amount of electric generating unit-specific mercury emissions in 2004. The Commonwealth previously had been third behind Texas and Ohio, respectively. Enough is enough.

Unfortunately, there is an aggressive effort underway in the Commonwealth to block the adoption of our toxic mercury reduction rule.

Two bills have been introduced -- S.B. 2610 and H.B. 1201 -- that would mandate that we follow the lead of the federal government and adopt their less-protective standard for toxic mercury. These bills will prevent us from doing the right thing for the health and well-being of our children. That's just wrong. Join us in this effort to do what's right for the health of all Pennsylvanians, especially our children.

---

---

## PA Urban IPM Program Partners with New Jersey

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - It is one of the nation's most significant and fastest-growing chronic health threats to children under 18 and the leading cause of death in the elderly. It's called asthma, and a Penn State program is working to combat its spread in urban areas by addressing asthma's chief causes: pests and pesticide misuse.

The Pennsylvania IPM Program (PAIPM) and the New Jersey IPM Program are collaborating in an effort in Philadelphia, Pa. and Camden, NJ to identify residents at risk of developing asthma due to pest and pesticide triggers. According to Lyn Garling, education specialist with the Pennsylvania IPM Program, inner-city residents are especially at risk for developing asthma and other health

problems from multiple sources of environmental pollutants and toxins. "In low-income urban communities, exposure to pests and

pesticide s is an everyday occurrence," says Garling.

"Residents living with serious indoor pest infestations become demoralized and desperate to get rid of these creatures, so they routinely and indiscriminately use 'bug bombs', 'bug sprays' or 'rat baits'. Recent studies indicate both pests and pesticides can cause and aggravate asthma and other health issues, especially with our children and elderly residents," she explains.

IPM is a kid-safe, economical,



and scientific approach to managing pests. IPM integrates knowledge of pest identity and biology with pest monitoring so that action, if needed, can be taken at just the right time. In addition, IPM uses a combination of management tactics that are more likely to be safe and effective.

Two years ago, the Pennsylvania IPM Program formed the Philadelphia School and Community IPM Partnership (PSCIP) in low-income African American neighborhoods in West Philadelphia. According to Garling, members include parents, students, administrators, teachers, agencies, churches, and community group or organization representatives working together to promote IPM as a means to reducing

*IPM(Continued)*

*IPM (continued from page 2)*

the risks associated with pests and pesticides. PA IPM and New Jersey IPM recently won a Northeast Regional Integrated Pest Management grant to further their work. These funds are administered by the Northeast Regional IPM Center, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The current project will work to expand the groups' goals of reducing pesticide use through educational outreach throughout the targeted communities.

The program will first identify residents' attitudes and current activities concerning pests and pesticide use in the West Powelton neighborhood in Philadelphia and Camden, NJ. PA IPM has already been working in the West Powelton through PSCIP. "In Camden, our target community is within the Heart of Camden Program. The Heart of Camden program is an urban renewal project that renovates run down housing in Camden, NJ and then sells the homes at a discount to disadvantaged families. It is similar to the Habitat for Humanity program," Garling explains.

Each resident that participates will receive an IPM resource kit containing information about using IPM to control pests, nontoxic traps with instructions,

and sealed containers to store food items. PA IPM will also survey local stores to find out the types of pesticides that are being sold to local residents.

In addition, the project will develop new outreach materials to meet the needs of their target communities. "The new materials will empower residents to take control of the pest problems and make positive changes in the home, reducing the health risks associated with both pests and pesticides," Garling explains. The group will work with urban health partners to develop brochures, radio spots, presentations and other forms of communications. They'll also begin developing more multi-lingual publications, starting with Spanish. "We'll take advantage of the many social service agencies in both Philadelphia and Camden to help us distribute the materials to our target audiences. The materials will also be made available on our Web site at <http://paipm.org>."

Garling estimates that at least 500 residents and six health care organizations and their staff will be educated on pests, pesticide use and IPM. "In addition, we'll also be 'training the trainer' with various organizations so that a potentially a much larger population can be reached through their own clientele."

According to Ed Rajotte, PA IPM coordinator, the project will help address the new Federal IPM Roadmap that requires addressing urban pest problems. "IPM programming in the U.S. has mainly addressed agriculture. However, to understand and manage pest problems in urban environments, we have to go beyond looking for parallels from agriculture and moving them into the 'city limits.' We need to start from scratch by understanding the situation of our clients just as IPM implementers did with their agriculture clients more than 30 years ago," Rajotte explains.

For more information on this project and the PA IPM's Community IPM Program, visit their Web site at <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/community.html>. Or, you may contact Michelle Niedermeier at the Philadelphia IPM office, phone (215) 435-9685, or e-mail [mxn14@psu.edu](mailto:mxn14@psu.edu).



**Reminder**  
**Schedules get busy, so plan ahead!**  
**Put it on your 2007 calendar now.**  
**PAEE Conference 2007: April 13, 14, 15**  
**Genetti's Best Western Conference Center**  
**Wilkes-Barre, PA**  
**"No Child Left Inside"**

**For everyone interested in environmental education.**

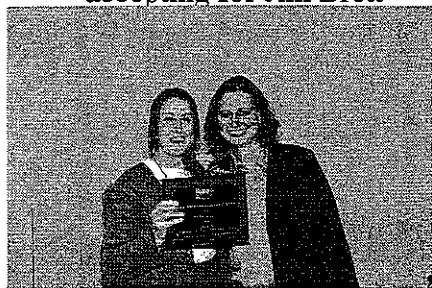
# PAEE ANNUAL AWARDS

## Keystone Award

In March 2005, Jim Brett was asked to spearhead a major initiative in East Africa for the development of sustainable programs in 6 nations. 300 ethnic groups will come together for solidarity of education and cross-cultural exchanges for wildlife and their habitats. Pennsylvania knows Jim best as the curator of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the world's first raptor center, for 25 years. He continues to influence our environmental education as a founder and now director and teacher of Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation. He makes the entire world his classroom.



Michelle Richards(R)  
accepting for Jim Brett



April Claus accepting (R)  
Kathleen Geist, PAEE President  
(L)



Pittsburgh Voyager accepting (L)  
Dennis Pennington, PAEE-VP (R)



Kathleen McGinty, DEP  
Jack Forester accepting for her  
Kathleen Geist, PAEE President



Jen Karsten(R) accepting for  
Shana Alfaro

## Outstanding Environmental Educator

April Claus, Interactive Environmental Educator, has presented programs about Pennsylvania's reptiles and amphibians throughout southwestern Pennsylvania since 1998. If anyone has ever met April or seen her conduct a program, you will surely not forget her incredible teaching talent and technique, sense of humor, her wealth of information, and true kindness toward these misunderstood creatures. She is a woman with tremendous talent in relaying crucial environmental education.

## Outstanding Environmental Education Program

"All of Pittsburgh Voyager's programs are adventure-based, discovery programs that engage students, young and senior, in hands-on learning while exploring Pittsburgh's Three Rivers. At the center of Voyager's education programs are two retired U.S. Navy vessels originally used to train midshipmen in navigation. These vessels have been refurbished and put into educational service again as fully operational state-of-the-art floating classrooms now referred to as Voyager and Discovery. Voyager's educational philosophy is, "Tell me, I'll forget; Show me, I might remember; Involve me, I'll understand."

## Partner in Government

DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty is the recipient of the first Partner in Government Award. PAEE recognizes her as a champion for environmental education in Harrisburg. We applaud her efforts to see that effective environmental education programs continue to receive funding.

## Daisy Kliendenst Award

The awardee is Shana Alfaro of Awbury Arboretum, SE PA. Shana has made a great impression on the Awbury Staff since she joined them in 2004 as a teacher/naturalist for field trips and as a member of the summer nature camp staff. She teaches grades K-8 and has a gift for working with the children from the local densely-populated urban neighborhood (Germantown). She also lives in the same community where she home-schools her 7 children. Shana applied to be a docent at the Philadelphia Zoo, where she is currently training, and she also does work with programs for the Franklin Institute. She has a B.A. in Biology and has taught High School Biology classes and offered health counseling to High-schooler.

