

# the BRIDGE

*Environmental Connections Start Here*

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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PAEP is a member of NAEP, the national organization for environmental professionals. Click below to view news from the national perspective.



National  
Association of  
Environmental  
Professionals  
Be Connected

## Fun is Done

We will soon be greeting Fall 2022 with some new developments on the environmental front. This summer has been a [scorcher](#) and the results of the [droughts](#) in the west and southwest, extending into the Great Plains, have made our beautiful lands a tinderbox for [wildfires](#) and is drying up our water resources beyond our imaginations. [Lake Mead](#) is giving up its long-hidden sunken secrets – a [body](#) here, a [boat](#) there, [fossils](#) showing up in dried river beds. [Sunken towns](#) have been temporarily (we hope) resurrected from their watery graves.

Meanwhile, the rest of the country has been hot and dry – at least until last month when we were bestowed with rain events of significant severity from Texas to Minnesota and east to New England. [Death Valley](#), southeastern Illinois, [St. Louis](#), eastern Kentucky and [Dallas](#) have experienced 1 in a thousand-year events. [Las Vegas casinos](#) flooded!! What are the odds?

HOLD ON TO YOUR SEATS! THE RIDE IS GOING TO GET **BUMPIER!**

We have heard new reports that “[forever chemicals](#)” (PFA’s) will be with us, well, forever! If we are not screwed up enough already, we can rest assured we will be with the discovery of our wonder chemical compounds in our [brains](#). And, for the first time [microplastics](#) (PET, polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene) have turned up within our blood. And just recently we learned that [Antarctica](#) has joined the rest of the world, with plastics being found for the first time in fresh snow on the continent.

BUT WAIT!...WE HAVE ENCOURAGING NEWS!!

New inventions may help us survive our extremely difficult environmental problems. Innovations for purifying water are available on an [individual/small group level](#) and larger quantity solutions have been developed to wring [moisture from thin air](#). A promising [inexpensive desalination process](#) is undergoing large operation testing in Egypt. Even the fracking industry is stepping up to deal with its [environmental impacts](#).

Breakthroughs in the war against plastics pollution have identified [bacteria](#) that will eat PET plastics, and scientists are genetically modifying these creatures to devour other types with as much gusto as they love PET. (Some creatures’ sustenance repertoire is not very appetizing.) Even the “forever chemicals” may have met their Waterloo with a [new, safer chemical process](#) to break down their compounds.

There remain many challenges facing our collective future. Introduction of these new products may potentially create environmental impacts we didn’t anticipate. The environmental professionals’ tasks will continue to be challenged to insure we have carefully considered all impacts we may create and know how to negate them. - “the Bridge” Editorial Staff

*“The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee for these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”*

...Article 1, Section 27, Pennsylvania Constitution

"the BRIDGE" is the newsletter of the **Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals** and strives to provide its members with current, useful and unbiased information that will improve their ability to offer quality consultation and appropriate solutions to their clients. To make sure you receive these publications, be sure to **allow email from [info@paep.org](mailto:info@paep.org)** to be accepted.



## Welcome, new members!

PAEP is pleased to announce the following individuals to the PAEP family:

**Morgan Evans**, JMT Industrial & Environmental Contracting Services

**Nick Freeman**, Eris Information, Inc.

**Denise Piechnik**, General Member

**Justin Adams**, Student

**Gavin Sullivan**, Student

Invite these new members to participate in our activities, events, and committees.

Committees are looking for volunteers to assist the chairs in achieving PAEP's goals. Check the website and contact the chair for

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## PAEP BOARD

**Vlad Odarchenko** – President

**Barbara Weedon** – Vice-President

**Radhika deSilva** – Secretary

**Mike Parrent** – Treasurer

**Fiona Adamsky**

**Amy Jordan**

**Joe Musil**

**Deb Poppel**

**John Smith**

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## Since we last chatted...



Check out our free webinars available to all our members, on the [PAEP website](#). They can be used to satisfy your PDHs.

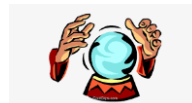
### Past Monthly Webinars – June thru August:

- July 28, 2022 – [Implementing Sustainability](#), presented by Vlad Odarchenko, ACT Engineers.
- August 31, 2022 – [Historic Preservation 101](#), presented by Robert J. Wise, Jr., Principal Senior Architectural Historian from Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.

### Past Sectional Events

- June 3: WTS/PAEP Annual Golf Outing at the Valley Green Golf Course in Strasburg saw 65 attendees.
- August 10: The Eastern Section held a happy hour social at the Iron Abbey in Horsham. (see photo, last page)

## Looking ahead...



We continue to work on in-person educational and networking events to reacquaint you with your industry peers. Monthly webinars will continue.

### Webinars:

- November 16, noon - **Offshore Wind and the Environmental Professional**, presented by Katie Eberhart, Senior Environmental and Permitting Specialist at Ørsted. (see website for information)

### Events:

#### 2022 In-person Annual Conference:

### Registrations are **now available** on the website for the Annual Conference!

The Annual Conference will be held in-person on October 5-7 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College. This year's theme, Communities, Corridors & Connections Conference (C4), will promote the importance of working together to learn about the unique, interdisciplinary nature of our environmental industry and highlight today's hot topics and industry updates. There will be a pre-conference educational workshop on Wednesday, October 5, available at additional cost.

The PAEP Student & Scholarship Committee will be holding a silent auction to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. Please consider donating a themed basket of your choosing to the auction. Your past donations have allowed us to provide these worthwhile scholarships to support the education of our up-and-coming environmental professionals and we look forward to your continued support during this year's conference.

Sponsors and Exhibitors are encouraged to sign up. Forms and additional information can be found at [paep.org/programs/events](http://paep.org/programs/events).

## Did you Know...?

- Environmental professional career openings are expected to increase significantly over the next decade
- [Projected growth in solar panel installers and wind turbine technician fields are going to explode by more than 50% by 2029](#)
- [Urban/regional planner positions are projected to increase by 11%, or 4400 new positions](#)
- [Environmental scientists will see an 8% increase, amounting to 7100 new positions](#)
- [Environmental Technician positions are expected to increase by 2900, or 8% over the next decade](#)
- 2021 average income positions for Chief Sustainability Officer (\$184,000), Atmospheric Engineer (\$99,000+), Environmental Engineer (\$92,000+), Geoscientist (\$70,000 to \$93,000, depending on discipline), Hydrogeologists, Ag Engineers and Environmental Engineers (80,000+)

(information courtesy of [The Balance Careers](#), [Research.com](#) and [Indeed.com](#))

Great career opportunities lie



straight ahead for environmental professionals.

## Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Scholarship Committee has announced the winners of the Environmental Science Scholarships for 2022. These recipients have an extensive list of activities and interests related to the environmental segment. Plus, they are learned scholars.

The recipient of the Gifford Pinchot Scholarship for upper classmen is Molly Hoffman. She is enrolled at Gettysburg University carrying a 4.06 GPA.

The recipient of the Maurice Goddard Scholarship is Megan Kownurko, a student at the Pennsylvania State University. She has a GPA of 3.58.

Each recipient received \$1500 for their schooling expenses. Go to the [PAEP website](#) and check out the outstanding achievements of these young individuals.

## Environmental News Releases

Check out the latest articles on environmental issues:

[California to ban gas-powered automobiles by 2035](#) - *New York Post*, Jesse O'Neill, August 24, 2022

[Next energy boom could be wind power](#) – *EnergyCentral*, Michael E. Webber and Hugh Daigle, University of Texas, August 25, 2022

[Designer materials to keep plastic out of landfills](#) – *PhysOrg*, Alison Hatt, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, July 20, 2022

Links to other newsletters:

[DEP Newsroom](#) – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources News Releases

[PA Environment Digest Newsletter](#)

[PennEnvironment](#)

[Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#)

[Conservation Voters of PA](#)

*We all are aware of the unintended impacts humanity's activities have had on numerous species throughout the world. Right here in Pennsylvania we have experienced the alarming reduction of once-plentiful species of Flora and Fauna, both terra and aquatic based. Some of these species are being replaced by invasive organisms introduced by accident or purposely into our environment resulting in serious unplanned consequences. Keep your eyes peeled for these species during your daily endeavors.*

## Pennsylvania Endangered and Threatened Species Series

### Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

The Loggerhead Shrike is a migratory bird, considered endangered in Pennsylvania. The bird has experienced significant drops in population in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern US for reasons which are unclear to wildlife agencies. No nesting pairs have been spotted since 2004. It is considered extirpated in the State.

Its size – that of a robin – belies its predation tendencies. It feeds on smaller birds and mammals and insects, earning the nickname "butcher bird".



Loggerhead Shrike

As suitable habitat is available for these birds to nest, experts are baffled as to why they are not prevalent in the State, with speculation ranging from pesticide usage, conversion of habitats to inhospitable uses, and death by automobiles. [PAEP, along with AAAAA (Avian Admirers Against Avifauna Automobilists) has been advocating that a special program be developed for this species to improve their driving skills.]

Additional information can be found at the [PA Game Commission website](#).



BALANCE

## Pennsylvania Invasive Species Series

### Honeysuckles (*Lonicera*)

The honeysuckle franchise – Japanese, Sweet Breath of Spring, Amur, Morrow's, Standish, and Tartarian – have been invading Pennsylvania and most other states and are not abating. Their fragrant scent is enchanting, ushering in the rebirth of life in a pleasant, beautiful manner. But they easily spread and are taking over our native plants. They have no natural restraints. There are simple ways to [get rid of honeysuckle](#). Small plants can be pulled by hand by using a pair of pliers, grasping the plant near the base. Larger plants can be dug or pried out of the ground. Herbicides can be used, especially for larger bushes.

Only one honeysuckle is considered safe – the native Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). It is easily identifiable by its coral-colored flowers that lack the fragrant smell and is a vine that either creeps on the ground or wraps itself around vertical elements like trees or posts.



Coral Honeysuckle



Attendees at the Iron Abbey in Horsham on August 10

*Left-to-right:* Hayden Janssen, Ronald Heun, Radhika deSilva, Ryan Rupprecht, Sean Weatherwax, Dee Elwell, Vlad Odarchenko, Hemaka Rajapakse, Kelly Stratton

*Photograph by Ranjit Rajapakse*

### WTS/PAEP Annual Golf Outing at Valley Green Golf Course, Strasburg



"I know that ball is around here...somewhere."



"Does that club toss count as an eagle?"