

the BRIDGE

Environmental Connections Start Here

December 1, 2023 | Winter - Volume 23.4



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.



A Message from President Vlad Odarchenko

Greetings PAEP Members,

As we approach the holiday season at what seems like the speed of light, I wanted to tap the brakes and review some of PAEP's accomplishments this past year.

PAEP's annual conference was the highlight of the year and not only provided valuable regulatory updates and technical presentations, but it also brought us together to catch up with colleagues, make new connections, and share our experiences. What would you suggest for next year's conference? Would you like to participate on PAEP's Conference Planning Committee? Or maybe membership, education, or marketing is more your speed?

PAEP continued our monthly webinar series offering a variety of topics, from backyard composting to offshore Wind Energy planning and permitting. Was there a specific topic you enjoyed? Do you have a suggestion for an interesting topic?

PAEP also held several networking events in both the Central and Eastern Sections. Did you attend one? Is anyone interested in axe-throwing, cornhole or Topgolf?? Do you by chance live in western PA and would like to help coordinate events for PAEP's Western Section?

The PAEP/WTS golf outing continued to build on the previous year's success in raising funds for PAEP's annual scholarships. We even added a third scholarship this year! And the young applicants and recipients continued to amaze us! The future of PA's environmental professionals is bright! Did you attend the golf outing? Maybe you're not into golf and have an idea for an event? Speaking of future professionals, we'd love to hear your thoughts on how PAEP can attract the younger generation of environmental professionals.

Our success this past year has been encouraging, but we can do better! We need you, our members, to engage! How? you may be asking. Start by sharing your feedback, suggestions, or comments. Volunteer to help on a committee or coordinate a section event. You could share your expertise or lessons learned on a project via a webinar. Why not encourage younger staff to become involved (it's a great opportunity!). [More...](#)



This issue of the Bridge is sponsored by



Allegheny Bradford Corporation is proud to sponsor this edition of the PAEP newsletter and to support the organization's mission of protecting Pennsylvania's diverse and beautiful wild nature.

Allegheny Bradford produces high-quality stainless steel equipment to serve the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, chemical, food and beverage, and cosmetic industries.

"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 to be accepted.



Welcome new members!

Renewal notices have been sent to current members urging you to sign up before the end of the year. If you experience difficulties renewing through the website, please contact Terri at info@paep.org.

The PAEP Board of Directors encourages you to invite past members, non-members, and industry colleagues to join our association.

As always, we are interested in your ideas and input on providing our membership with quality, informative, timely and educational programming and opportunities. Contact the Board office with your ideas!

Do you have ideas on environmental solutions you'd like to air? Do you have tips on handling day-to-day issues we all have to deal with that you could share with your peers? Do you have ideas for news articles for "the BRIDGE"? Are you interested in improving your writing skills? Consider being a volunteer contributor for "the BRIDGE".

We are interested in speaking to your needs, concerns and interests. Your participation would "bridge" the gap in meeting the goals of your fellow members!

PAEP BOARD

Vlad Odarchenko – President
Barbara Weedon – Vice-President
Radhika deSilva – Secretary
Deb Poppel – Treasurer
Mike Parrent
Joe Musil
John R. Smith
Joe Snavelly
Jan Warnick

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I am thankful for the opportunity to have served various roles on PAEP's Board for the past 6 years. Please consider engaging with PAEP... we represent YOU and want to continue to build strong connections for all future environmental professionals in PA!

Cheers!

Vlad Odarchenko

(please feel free to reach out to vodarchenko@actengineers.com or info@paep.org to connect)

PAEP Board is seeking Volunteers

PAEP is most effective when you, as a member, participate in the programs and events we offer. This includes being on a Board Committee, nominating yourself or another member to become a director, offering ideas for PAEP's future direction and/or just supporting our programs and events.

Consider nominating yourself to a director's seat. We struggle each year to find interested members who are willing to serve in this capacity. There is a time commitment involved – a one hour telecom meeting is held each month – and participation in the PAEP activities can be intensive, though rewarding. We will be looking for individuals interested in serving starting in 2025. For more information [click here](#).

We also want you to consider volunteering to sit on one of our committees. Our committees can make significant impacts for our membership but can achieve greater success if we share the effort with others. We are greatly appreciative of all our members who have volunteered time and talents to serve on these committees:

- **Education:** Ryan Szuch and Eric Conrad and directors Vlad Odarchenko and Radhika deSilva
- **Membership/Finance:** Bill Plumpton and directors Deb Poppel and Joe Snavelly
- **Scholarship:** Mike Kenawell, Kristen Aiosa, Virginia Bailey, Jessica Brzyski, Michelle Goddard, JT Graupensperger, Jason Minnich, and Angela Schreffler
- **Annual Conference:** Claire Wolessagle, Bethany Ayers-Fisher, Kate Sharpe, Ryan Szuch, Eric Conrad and directors Vlad Odarchenko, Barb Weedon and Jan Warnick
- **Marketing:** Vlad Odarchenko and Jan Warnick

Our Sections are also seeking volunteers to assist the section chairs in planning and executing events and educational programs at the local level. In the future, we want to increase both the section meeting gatherings and membership participation. Presently, we have no chair in the Western Section. As a result, our members don't get the chance to network with their peers.

Chairs and members of our sections are:

- **P2E2:** Joe Musil, Mike Parrent, Jan Warnick
- **Eastern:** Radhika deSilva, Vlad Odarchenko
- **Central:** J.T. Graupensperger
- **Western:** VACANT

If you are an inquisitive individual, please join us in learning and advancing innovative technologies in environmental care with your fellow environmental professionals by sharing your knowledge and experience on any of our committees or sections.

Our 2023 Corporate Members:

(as of September 1, 2023)

ACT Engineers

ASA Analysis & Communication

CDR | Maguire Engineering

Ernst Conservation Seeds

McCormick Taylor

Rettew

Photographers...

We are still looking to update our photos for “the Bridge”, our website, and other publications as they may arise. Pictures can be anything you feel you want to share – action, static, streams, construction, pollution, remediation, etc. If you can, please provide some background info, like, the photographer's name, Company name, date of photo, and location.

Submitted photos can be used by PAEP without compensation. The above photo credits will be included if provided. Please submit to info@paep.org.



PAEP is partnering with **TruEarth** to raise money for our organization and help reduce plastic pollution, support sustainable cleaning products, and promote a healthier environment for everyone. Every purchase made through our dedicated link will return 20% to PAEP and help support our educational initiatives, scholarship, and emerging professionals mentorship. Sales on 'Giving Tuesday' will return 30% to PAEP! Check out TruEarth's special holiday deals in November and December for your gift giving needs. However, this fundraiser will be active all year long. Thank you for your continued support of PAEP!

Click the link to access: <http://tru-earth.sjv.io/PAEP>

Since we last chatted...

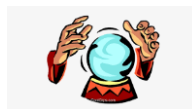


Check out our free webinars available to all our members, on the [PAEP website](#). They can be used to satisfy your PDHs. Not a member? You can view any of our webinars for \$25.

Past Monthly Webinars – September thru November:

- September - Presentations from the Conference have been posted and are available for attendees. Contact the [Business Office](#) if you attended and want access to the presentations.
- October 24 – **Science Meets Community: The Delaware River Watershed Initiative**, presented by Roland Wall, The Academy of Natural Sciences, Drexell University
- November 15 – **DELEP101 - Delaware Estuary Program**, presented by Kathy Klein, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Looking ahead...



If you have an idea for a future webinar you would like to have offered, like to talk to PAEP membership about an interesting environmental topic, or a type of event you'd like to attend, contact PAEP at info@paep.org.

Upcoming Webinars:

- December 14 – **Abiotic and Biotic Factors Affecting Restored Pollinator Habitat in Solar Installations**, presented by Sarah Kania, Penn State

Upcoming Events:

- No events are currently planned for the remainder of the year. Watch your emails for announcements when they are scheduled.

Do you have any ideas for a social outing? Here are some suggested activities: Mini-Golf Outing; Bowling; Axe-Throwing and/or Skeet-Shooting Fundraiser; Corn-Hole Tourney.

Let us know your ideas! info@paep.org



"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



Eye on the Environment

Environmental News Releases

Check out the latest articles on environmental issues:

- The [UN Environment Program](#) (UNEP) claims plastics pollution can be reduced by 80% by 2040. The [World Economic Forum](#) has laid out a plan to achieve this goal.
- [10 Scientific Solutions to Plastic Pollution](#) – Earth.org posted this article on November 18th.

Links to other newsletters:

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

[PA Environment Digest Newsletter](#)

[PennEnvironment](#)

[Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#)

Updates on Invasive Species from Past

Bridge issues:

Zebra mussel:

Dec. 8, 2023-Researchers have discovered how this mussel is able to attach itself to the environment using a fibrous anchor (byssus) that is unique to it and its cousin, the quagga mussel. The recognition of their ability to manufacture this fiber could lead to a way of combatting its invasive capabilities.

Spotted Lanternfly:

Sept. 25, 2023: Penn State researchers are studying the long-term environmental impacts this insect wreaks. They've learned that, while there is initial impairment done to its victims, the damage is not fatal to the majority of plants it attacks. It relishes the tree-of-heaven (another invasive tree species) and is lethal to grapevines. However, controlled studies have concluded that hardwood trees thought to be permanently harmed by the lanternfly's feeding – such as, maples, birches, and weeping willows – are not killed even after four years of testing and show recovery as the insect's feeding cycle lessens year by year.

We all are aware of the unintended impacts anthropogenic 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 terrestrial 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

The **Eared False-Foxglove** (*Agalinis auriculata*) is an annual flowering, critically-imperiled species of the Figwort family located in the United States. Historically, it was found in 22 states but has been reduced to 17 states with known colonies. In Pennsylvania, it was once found in 16 locations, now reduced to only two.

The plant stem grows up to 16 inches in height, is hairy and has lobe shaped leaves in the upper-most leaves. A one-inch purple flower blooms in August and September.

A number of the populations were destroyed during past road construction projects.

For additional information see:

<https://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/factsheets/14729.pdf#:~:text=Of%2016%20known%20Pennsylvania%20locations%2C%20populations%20of%20eared,is%20endangered%20or%20threatened%20in%20nine%20other%20states>

<https://saveplants.org/plant-profile/?CPCNum=6601>



Photo Credit: J. Locklear

Pennsylvania Invasive Species Series

Two new species are making alarming advances into Pennsylvania and promise to wreak havoc on livestock and the environment. The **wild boar** (*Sus scrofa* Linnaeus) aka "wild pig", has been migrating northward and now inhabits parts of two southern counties and Lackawanna County in the northeast. It has been able to expand its territory due to an ability to adapt to most environments with a lack of natural predators. Its greatest threat is the wolf. And another "**super pig**" is moving down from Canada. It reproduces at a quick rate, is imbued with survival skills of a wild Eurasian hog with the size and fertility of domestic pigs. They cause severe damage to agriculture, property and ecosystems. Check out the following references:

<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/vertebrates/wild-boar>.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/an-invasive-species-of-feral-canadian-super-pigs-could-spread-into-the-us/ar-AA1krzyZ>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/operational-activities/feral-swine>



Wild boars



A larger and more deadly tick is moving into the western part of the State. The **Asian longhorned tick** (*Haemaphysalis longicornis* Neumann) is spreading quickly across the eastern US. Unknown in our nation before 2017, it is now present in 17 states. **Pennsylvania** is one of those. This species can be lethal. Three cattle were killed by a swarm in Ohio in 2022. Their target seems to be domestic livestock, pets and wild animals, bypassing humans.

See the following articles:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/longhorned-tick/index.html>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/an-invasive-tick-that-can-clone-itself-is-spreading-across-the-us-threatening-livestock/ar-AA1kCMsw>

<https://www.newsweek.com/asian-longhorned-tick-cdc-warning-1844442>



Juvenile and adult Asian longhorned tick

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