

# the BRIDGE

*Environmental Connections Start Here*

June 1, 2024 | Summer - Volume 24.2



## 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 Barbara Weedon

Hard to imagine that we are heading into summer already. This is the time of year that PAEP is gearing up for our Annual Conference. This year's conference is packed full of interesting talks and presentations. You will be seeing registration information coming out in June! So, mark your calendars for September 11-13, 2024, and join us at the Penn Stater in State College. We look forward to seeing everyone and providing another informative and exciting conference this year.



The pre-conference Wednesday Workshop is going to be an exciting one. So even if you cannot stay for the entire conference, don't miss out on this opportunity to hear from a few of our industry's leading experts on the National Environmental Policy Act.

***Buckle Up and Learn to Navigate the Twists and Turns of NEPA in Transportation! Presenters for this workshop are Virginia Bailey, McCormick Taylor; Jon Crum, Federal Highway Administration; and Diane Nulton, HDR.***

We will have a special presentation by Dave Goreman from DEP. He will be updating us on the Proposed Compensation Guidelines for determining mitigation for aquatic impacts. We have a couple of talks on Climate Change and Resiliency. We will have a special event titled "Preservation Jeopardy: Test Your Historic Preservation Knowledge". And as always, we will welcome our State and Federal agency representatives for regulatory updates: USFWS, USACE, USFHWA, PADEP, and PennDOT.

Also new this year is a career fair for young professionals and college students and recent graduates. When conversing with colleges, whether you are with a consulting firm or an agency, it is difficult to find new hires. So, this year PAEP is going to hold a career fair on Wednesday evening from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. This will be an opportunity for students, graduates, and young professionals alike to speak with representatives from consulting firm and talk about job opportunities and career paths. If you know someone who is going to graduate or is recently graduated and wants to get into some aspect of environmental consulting, or just wants to find out more about environmental consulting, pass along the Career Fair information.

Last but not least, PAEP has revamped the organization committees, and provided details about what each committee does. The revised committees and their descriptions are on the PAEP website. Consider volunteering for one or two of our committees and help us grow our organization and get the word out about how PAEP can support our community.

**Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual conference!**

Thank you,  
Barbara Weedon, PAEP President

"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!

Thanks to all our existing members for your continued interest in PAEP. We have seen several new members enroll during the past quarter. They are:

### Students & university

Alexa Adams, Penn State UP  
Emma Chaplin, Penn State UP  
Valerie Davidheiser, Kutztown  
Rebecca Durbin, Penn State UP  
Keria Early, Drexel  
Ava Esterly, Kutztown  
Karli Faraldo, Drexel  
Kiara Fox, Shippensburg  
Emilee Fulkroad, Shippensburg  
Godavarthy Geetika, Pittsburgh  
Bramley Hawkins, Gettysburg  
Isabella Hollcraft, Drexel  
Abigail Holmberg, Drexel  
Mina Kimak, Pittsburgh  
Neeharika Kolli, Pittsburgh  
Ty Laughlin, Washington & Jefferson  
Olivia Lesinski, Ursinus  
Sophie Meyer, Pittsburgh  
Haylee Myers, Duquesne  
Rose R, Penn State Brandywine  
Ranjit Rajapakse, Central Bucks East  
LaGrosse Renee, Allegheny  
Katherine Seidel, Penn State UP  
Jayden Silver, Eastern

### General & Government

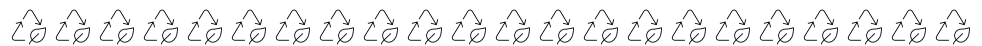
Abigail Koenig, A.D.Marble and Company  
Chantal Sisko, Lehman Engineers  
Edward Smith, Rettew Associates  
Kelly Rieger, CEC Civil & Environmental Consultants  
Ksham Harpankar, Lebanon Valley College  
Melanie Attieh, A.D.Marble and Company  
Todd Heintzelman,  
Erik Johnson,

Join us in welcoming these recent members to our association and encourage each of you to be involved with our programs and outreach.

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!

# Check it out - Get Involved!!!

PAEP has revamped our [committee names](#) and provided details regarding [the purpose of each committee](#). If you have been thinking about getting involved with PAEP and were not sure how you wanted to get involved, joining a committee would be the ideal first step. Our committees do not require a large commitment of time or energy. Some will meet once a month, some only once a quarter. It will depend on the goals. Our organization depends on our volunteers to bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the table so that our organization can grow. So, skip the social media surfing at lunch today and visit <https://www.paep.org> and consider getting involved with PAEP!!



## A reminder to PAEP corporate members, non-profit members and government entities:

**Take advantage** of PAEP's free service to you to post career opportunities with your firm. You can submit opportunities for full-time, part-time and temporary positions and internships.

Remember, students are always looking for practical experience to add to their resumes. Working as an intern provides them with this opportunity while showcasing you - as an employer - to new talent you can recruit in the future.

The form can be found at [Post a Position | \(paep.org\)](#). If you have questions, contact the PAEP Business Office ([info@paep.org](mailto:info@paep.org)).

Thank you for your continued support of PAEP, which allows for development of these beneficial services.

## Environmental News Releases

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](#)

*"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

## Our Corporate Members:

(as of June 1, 2024)

ACT Engineers

A.D. Marble and Company

ASA Analysis & Communication, Inc.

CDR Maguire Engineering

ERIS

Ernst Conservation Seeds

Navarro & Wright Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Rettew Associates

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!

## New Advances in Environmental Technology

There has been a plethora of new and promising technologies being advanced this year. Each "promises" to be game changers on energy use and environmental impacts. Some innovations improve existing technologies while others tout themselves as total replacement solutions for existing technologies and others propose completely novel approaches to our world's ever-growing needs. Here's just a few of these we should watch closely:

- [Enhanced Geothermal applications](#)
- [Improved Solar Cell efficiencies](#)
- [Silicon-carbon batteries poised to overtake Lithium-ion batteries](#)
- [100% Recycled plastic - rPET impact benefits/drawbacks](#)
- New automobile motors using alternate fuel sources
  - [Hydrogen combustion](#)
  - Fuel cell fed by hydrogen
  - [On-board hydrogen-generating fuel cells](#)
  - [Water and ethanol](#)
  - [improved batteries](#) for Electric vehicles – [lithium-ion alternative](#)

Share your research findings on other breakthroughs on the technology front with us.

Send article links/technology news to [PAEP business office](#).

## Since we last chatted...



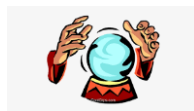
Check out our free webinars available to all our members, on the [PAEP website](#). They can be used to satisfy your PDHs. Not a member? You can view any of our webinars for \$25.

### Past Monthly Webinars – March thru May, 2024:

- March 12, 2024 - **Achieving A Sustainable Future Together: The Future of District Energy for Achieving Carbon Reduction Goals**, presenters are Jessica Hartley and Jeannie Morris, VP of Government Affairs for Vicinity Energy.
- April 24, 2024 - **Protecting Pennsylvania's Aquatic Ecosystems from Thermal Discharges in an Era of a Warming Climate**, presented by Chris Gurshin, Vice President and Principal Scientist at ASA Analysis & Communication, Inc.
- May 2024 – **An Economist, a Chemist and an Engineer are Stranded on a Desert Island: what Good is the Economist?**, presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Wakefield, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Remember, all webinars are free to members, but you must register. Go to [paep.org](#) and sign up!

This year, PAEP started issuing Continuing Education Credits for those who register and listen to the full live webinar. You need to email [info@paep.org](mailto:info@paep.org) to request a certificate.



## Looking ahead...

### Upcoming Webinars:

- June 18: **Integrating Climate Change into Design & Decision-Making: A Journey in the Transformation of Building Individual and Institutional Capacity**, Daniel Kreeger, Executive Director of the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO)
- July : a presentation by A.D. Marble (to be announced)
- August: to be announced
- September: no webinar (Annual Conference Sept 11-13)

### Upcoming Events:

- September 11: Pre-conference Workshop with John Crum, Virginia Bailey and Diane Nulton
- September 11: Evening Job Fair with interested students and environmental firms willing to share their insights into the environmental career markets.
- September-ish: the Eastern Section is planning a joint event with the southeast chapter of SWEP to tour Grace Ferry, Philadelphia. More to follow...

Watch your emails for announcements when other upcoming events are scheduled.

If you have an idea for a future webinar you would like to have offered or a type of event you'd like to attend, contact PAEP at [info@PAEP.org](mailto:info@PAEP.org).

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 / interests!** [info@paep.org](mailto:info@paep.org)

### Become a Corporate Sponsor for the next Volume of the Bridge

Just \$25 will ensure your company's logo place in the next edition, which is distributed to all members! Contact the [Business Office](#) for details and to register your company. (First come, first served. Only 6 companies can sponsor each quarterly issue).



# Mark Your Calendar!

## PAEP

will hold its

2024 Annual Conference

from September 11 thru 13

at the

Penn Stater Hotel and Conference

Center in State College.

### 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](mailto:info@paep.org).

### PAEP BOARD

**Barbara Weedon** – President

**Joe Musil** – Vice-President

**Radhika deSilva** – Secretary

**Deb Poppel** – Treasurer

**Ryan Szuch**

**John R. Smith**

**Joe Snavely**

**Jan Warnick**

**Alyssa Lynd**

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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 **Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*), is one of the smallest wrens, 4½ inches long and a wingspan of six inches. Due to their size and colorings, they are hard to spot in the dense grass they prefer for their nesting. "The best way to detect this miniature marsh-dweller is by its voice." (Gross, 2014)

Their habitats, damp meadows and marshes, have been reduced over the years, landing them on both the Pennsylvania Endangered Species list as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird of Conservation Concern in the Northeast list.

For additional information see:

[Sedge Wren \(pa.gov\)](http://pa.gov)



## Pennsylvania Invasive Species Series

Native to Europe and Eurasia, **Black and Pale Swallow-worts** (*Vincetoxicum nigrum* & *V. rossicum*) were successfully introduced as an ornamental plant in New York, Massachusetts, and Illinois. From those innocuous beginnings, it has been able to establish itself across numerous states.

These are identifiable by their twining vine structure that will cover the ground and climb the stems of other plants.

They pose a problem to Monarch butterflies, killing the larvae that encounter them. Deer and livestock cannot tolerate the toxins they release. They also release biochemicals into the soil, preventing other desirable plants from establishing. They are prolific replicators, producing large amounts of seed that are wind-borne to new areas, crowd out native plant species, multiply through their root systems and are extremely difficult to eradicate.



*Black Swallow-wort*

Photo by Minnesota Department of Agriculture



*Pale Swallow-wort*

Photo by Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Sources/Additional readings:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/weeds/black-swallow-wort.htm>

<https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wgw/blackswallowwort.pdf>

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/black\\_and\\_pale\\_swallow\\_worts](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/black_and_pale_swallow_worts)

