



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK McDONNELL, DEP SECRETARY

Welcome, Educators!



The summer sure flies by, doesn't it? Speaking of flying, this issue of Teaching Green shares a recap of the Harrisburg falcons' successful breeding season — all four hatchlings fledged in June! — as well as news of this year's Environmental Education Grant award recipients and announcements of many workshops and curriculum materials that will put the wind beneath your wings as you approach the school year. Have comments or suggestions for newsletter content? Drop me a line at gmyers@pa.gov. Thank you for all you do to foster environmental literacy in Pennsylvania.



— **Bert Myers, Director, [Environmental Education and Information Center](#), Department of Environmental Protection, Harrisburg**

Harrisburg Falcons



Falcon Watch and Rescue

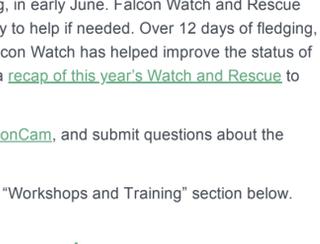
The Harrisburg peregrine falcons had another successful breeding season this spring. Four hatchlings, born in April to the adult pair that nest on a 15th-floor ledge here at DEP headquarters, were all flying high by the end of June.

We held our [annual livestream banding event](#) on May 17, hosting Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Dunn and students from Bethel Springs Elementary School in Delaware County and Immanuel Christian School in Luzerne County. Pennsylvania Game Commission biologist Art McMorris banded the three males and one female and determined all were healthy.

The young birds began their flight attempts, or fledging, in early June. Falcon Watch and Rescue volunteers were staked out on the ground below, ready to help if needed. Over 12 days of fledging, the volunteers made seven rescues. Did you know Falcon Watch has helped improve the status of the peregrine population in Pennsylvania? Check out a [recap of this year's Watch and Rescue](#) to learn more.

You can follow the Harrisburg falcon family on the [FalconCam](#), and submit questions about the peregrines on [Twitter](#) using #HbgFalcons.

For information about future raptor programs, visit the "Workshops and Training" section below.



Grant Awardees



Congratulations to the 2019 Environmental Education Grant Recipients!

DEP selected 45 projects in June to receive a total of \$205,000 in grants. Schools, libraries, conservation districts, and environmental and community organizations received funding.

Four projects with a broad or statewide reach received general grants totaling \$90,430. Forty-one projects with a local focus received mini-grants totaling \$114,570. The grants program has three priority topics:

- **Environmental justice:** Educate and empower disadvantaged communities to participate meaningfully in environmental and public health issues;
- **Climate change:** Educate the public on emissions reduction, energy conservation, renewable energy, and climate adaptation;
- **Water quality:** Educate local officials, business owners, homeowners, and the general public about reducing nonpoint source pollution, water quality monitoring, cold water habitats, and other aspects of water quality.

Each awarded project focuses on one or more of these topics. Among the mini-grant projects, 28 address water quality, 17 environmental justice, and six climate change. Among the general-grant projects, two address water quality, two climate change, and one environmental justice. [Learn more about the recipients.](#)



Locations of the 2019 Environmental Education Grant awardees

The [Environmental Education Grants Program](#) was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates setting aside 5 percent of the pollution fines and penalties DEP collects annually for environmental education in Pennsylvania.

Envirothon



Envirothon State Champs: Carmichaels High School

Congratulations to Pennsylvania Envirothon champion Carmichaels Area High School! The 36th annual state competition was held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and Windber Recreation Park on May 21-22. Students from 65 counties participated in field-oriented tests and oral presentations focused on soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, current environmental issues, and discovering energy.

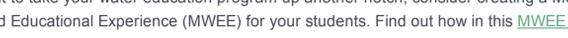
Carmichaels students scored 536 out of a possible 600 points, earning the honor of representing Pennsylvania at the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon, July 28 - August 2, for the second consecutive year.

DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell was honored to participate in the event and awards ceremony. DEP is a proud co-sponsor of this excellent environmental education program. For more information, visit [envirothonpa.org](#) or contact your county conservation district.



The Carmichaels Area High School champion Envirothon team, with DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell (third from right) and representatives from DCNR and the Department of Agriculture.

Water



Educator's Guide to Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences

If you want to take your water education program up another notch, consider creating a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) for your students. Find out how in this [MWEE educator's guide from the Chesapeake Bay Program](#). Students will enjoy hands-on learning experiences designed to foster a lifelong relationship with the watersheds they live in and a sense of environmental ethics and stewardship essential to the long-term sustainability of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and all watersheds.

Workshops and Training



State Museum Learn at Lunchtime: Return of the Peregrine Falcon

Join Bert Myers, Director of Environmental Education at DEP, for a talk about the natural history and recovery of the world's fastest animal: the peregrine falcon. Learn about the beloved Harrisburg falcons — pairs of peregrines that have nested on top of the Rachel Carson State Office Building for 23 years.

- **Friday, August 9 | 12:15 – 12:45 pm**
- State Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120
- Cost: free

Watershed Educators Institute

Do you teach grades 6-12? Enrich your curriculum with Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences that engage your students in local, relevant topics while meeting state standards and district expectations. Learn the Watershed Education curriculum of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Healthy Water/Healthy People curriculum from Project WET. Take home copies of both, along with field guides. Stroud Water Research Center will also provide training on a great set of online tools, including WikiWatershed, Model My Watershed, and Macroinvertebrates.org.

- **Monday – Friday, August 12 – 16 | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm**
- Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station, 94 Sanctuary Road, Lake Ariel, PA 18436
- Cost: \$275; includes lodging and meals for five days
- For more information, contact Jamie Reeger at Jamie.Reeger@lacawac.org

Project WET Curriculum Educator Training

This workshop from Stroud Water Research Center certifies formal and non-formal educators in the Project WET 2.0 curriculum. It's the first part of a professional development series that includes a watershed and canoe workshop (see below). Participants may attend one or both parts.

- **Wednesday, August 14 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**
- Stroud Water Research Center, 970 Spencer Road, Avondale, PA 19311
- Cost: \$35 per person (includes cost of the curriculum guide). Bring your own lunch.
- [Learn more or register now](#)

Educator Watershed and Canoe Workshop on Octoraro Reservoir

Experience the splendor of the 620-acre Octoraro Reservoir by canoe with the Stroud Water Research Center and Sultana Education Foundation. After an introduction to paddling, we'll explore the reservoir, learning about the history of the Octoraro, Susquehanna, and Chesapeake watersheds; conduct mapping and water chemistry testing; and make a shore stop to study marine life. This is the second part of a professional development series that includes Project WET curriculum training (see above). Participants may attend one or both parts.

- **Thursday, August 15 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**
- Meet at Jim's Live Bait & Tackle, 212 Spruce Grove Road, Kirkwood, PA 17536
- Cost: \$20 per person
- Trip will be limited to 32 educators
- [Learn more or register now](#)

Project WILD Educator Workshop

Project WILD provides wildlife-based conservation and environmental education activities that are hands-on, easy to use, and fun. We'll introduce activities that focus on Pennsylvania-specific wildlife and habitat. Each participant will receive the new Project WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide, which contains many innovative and interdisciplinary ready-to-use classroom and outdoor activities. This workshop is open to all K-8 educators.

- **Thursday, August 15 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**
- Frances Slocum State Park, 565 Mt. Olivet Road, Wyoming, PA 18644
- Cost: \$10 in advance
- To register, contact Kathy Kelchner at kkelchner@pa.gov or 570-696-9105

Weathering the Storm Workshop: Understanding Stormwater Runoff

Learn how to create Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) that provide your students the knowledge and skills to protect and restore their local watersheds by reducing stormwater runoff pollution. You'll gain a deep understanding of MWEEs as a vehicle for advancing environmental literacy and stormwater stewardship, while increasing student-based achievement. You'll also explore stormwater best management practices installed on site to learn how they reduce stormwater runoff in the Erie community. Information on the DEP Environmental Education Grant Program will also be included. Substitute stipends and Act 48 credit are available.

- **Wednesday – Thursday, August 21 – 22 | 8:30 am – 3:30 pm**
- Erie County Conservation District and Headwaters Park, 1927 Wager Road, Erie, PA 16509
- Cost: Free
- To register, contact Kathleen Banski at kbanski@pa.gov or 717-772-1857

Summer Interns



Takeaways from the Environmental Education and Information Center's 2019 Summer Interns

Sarah Cutshall, University of Pittsburgh

My greatest takeaway from my internship at the DEP Environmental Education Center is learning how others learn and learning how to teach others about the environment.

By helping to develop workshop and program content, presenting that content, doing hands-on projects with students in different settings, helping with the Harrisburg falcon watch and rescue program, and helping organize and revitalize parts of the Environmental Education and Information Center, I'm confident I've improved my abilities to communicate and educate about the environment.

Knowing how to communicate effectively about conservation and the environment is becoming increasingly valuable not only in education, but in other professions. People everywhere are facing local and global environmental issues. It's important to instill a sense of responsibility for the environment so that we can continue to benefit from it in the future.

Sarah Dropkin, Shippensburg University

As an intern at the DEP Environmental Education and Information Center, I participated in several educational programs for kids, including building solar cars, identifying macroinvertebrates, and an interpretative hike. As someone who was lucky enough to grow up appreciating nature, I was excited to make an impression, hopefully, on young students and get them interested in environmental stewardship.

I recently changed my major to sustainability, and this internship opportunity gave me a good idea of just how many job opportunities there are in the environmental field. Since the Center oversees DEP's Environmental Education Grants, it was also uplifting to see how seriously the state government is taking climate change by helping to fund projects throughout the state that can have a positive impact for everyone.

