



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, DEP SECRETARY

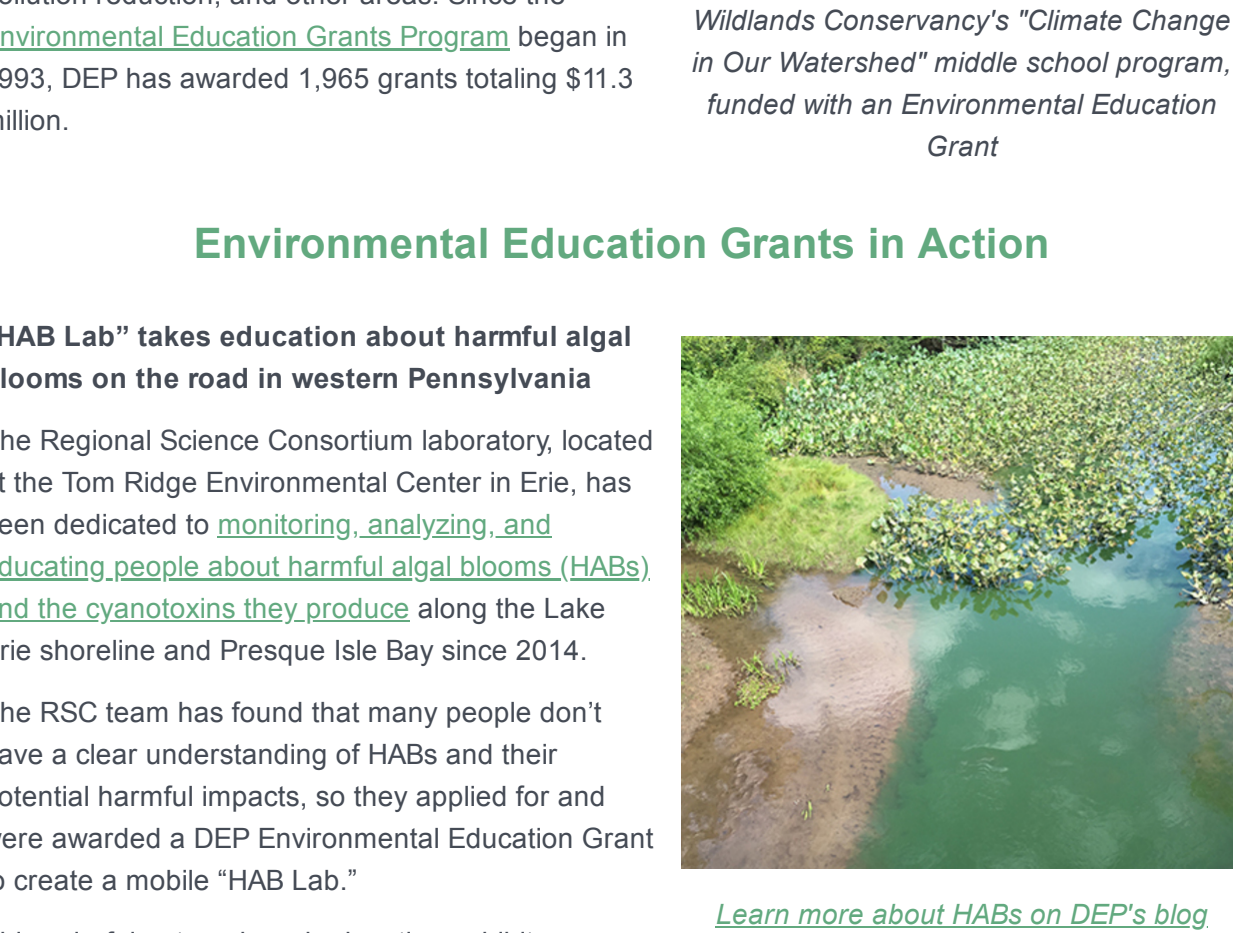
## Welcome, Educators!

With this issue of *Teaching Green*, we aim to bring a bit of fresh air into your plans and activities this spring and beyond. Thank you for all you do to foster environmental literacy and stewardship in Pennsylvania. Have comments or suggestions for content? Drop me a line at [gmeyers@pa.gov](mailto:gmeyers@pa.gov). — Bert Myers, Director, Environmental Education and Information Center, DEP



## Climate

April 22 is the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day in 1970, perhaps the biggest environmental civil event in history and one that continues to drive efforts to protect our planet. The theme of Earth Day 50 is Climate Action. Numerous state government-led initiatives are taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change in Pennsylvania, even as we adapt to changes already happening. Learn more and bring a state perspective to your climate education at the [DEP Climate Change web page](#).

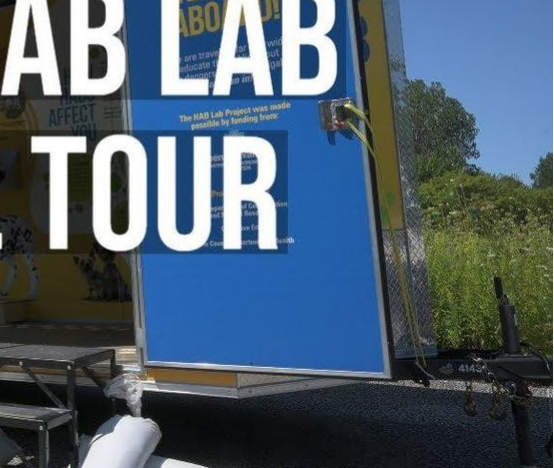


Learn more about actions you can take to help slow climate change by visiting [DEP's Climate Change Story Map](#).

## Grants

### Environmental Education Grants to be Announced in April

At the DEP Environmental Education Center, we're engaged in the insular task of reviewing applications and selecting projects for 2020 Environmental Education Grants. We'll announce this year's recipients the week of April 20, in relation to Earth Day 50. Large-scale projects may receive up to \$85,000; local projects may receive up to \$3,000.



Wildlands Conservancy's "Climate Change in Our Watershed" middle school program, funded with an Environmental Education Grant

It's an honor to support the tremendous work that many Pennsylvania environmental educators are doing in climate change, environmental justice, water pollution reduction, and other areas. Since the [Environmental Education Grants Program](#) began in 1993, DEP has awarded 1,965 grants totaling \$11.3 million.

### Environmental Education Grants in Action

#### "HAB Lab" takes education about harmful algal blooms on the road in western Pennsylvania

The Regional Science Consortium laboratory, located at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie, has been dedicated to [monitoring, analyzing, and educating people about harmful algal blooms \(HABs\)](#) and the cyanotoxins they produce along the Lake Erie shoreline and Presque Isle Bay since 2014.



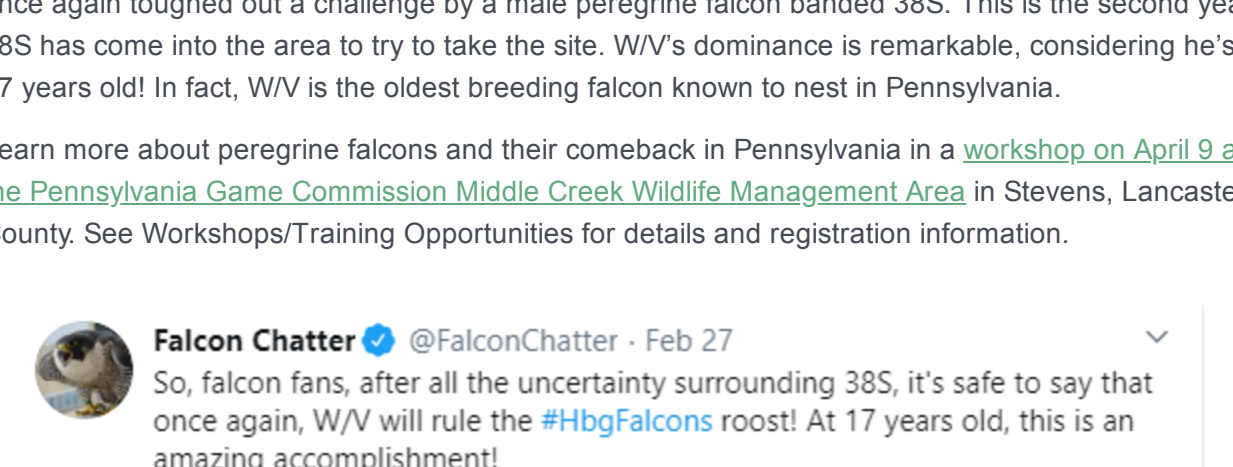
Learn more about HABs on DEP's blog

The RSC team has found that many people don't have a clear understanding of HABs and their potential harmful impacts, so they applied for and were awarded a DEP Environmental Education Grant to create a mobile "HAB Lab."

This colorful outreach and education exhibit on wheels travels not only in the Erie area but also throughout western Pennsylvania to educate the public on HABs.

HABs happen when the water is warm, stagnant, and full of nutrients. Blooms usually occur during the summer and fall, but can occur any time of the year. When they produce toxins, these blooms can become dangerous. Humans, dogs and other pets, livestock, and wildlife can experience sickness, paralysis, or even death if they touch or ingest HAB toxins.

The RSC team collects weekly water samples in many locations and analyzes them for HABs. When cyanotoxin concentrations are high, beach and shoreline managers post signage warning of concerns for dogs and/or humans.



## Funding Available

### "Driving PA Forward" Rebates for Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Organizations and businesses are increasingly installing Level 2 (light duty) electric vehicle charging stations to support clean energy transportation choices and healthier air quality. If your educational institution plans to install a Level 2 charger, the Driving PA Forward program can help defray your costs with a rebate.

Up to \$4,500 per plug is available. Eligible projects include Level 2 chargers in a workplace, public space, or multi-unit residential building for employee, fleet, and/or public use.

For details and application instructions, visit [Driving PA Forward](#). Under "Grant and Rebate Programs," click on "Level 2 EV Charging Rebate Program."

Driving PA Forward has approximately \$7.7 million from Pennsylvania's Volkswagen settlement available for rebates for Level 2 chargers over a 5-year period that began in 2018. Have a question about the rebate program? Email DEP at [ra-epwvmlligation@pa.gov](mailto:ra-epwvmlligation@pa.gov).



If your educational institution plans to install a Level 2 charger, the Driving PA Forward program can help defray your costs with a rebate.

## Harrisburg Falcons

February brings the start of nesting season for many raptors, and in some cases, this means first competing for a prize nest site. Followers of the [peregrine falcon nest at the top of the Rachel Carson State Office Building](#), here in Harrisburg, watched on FalconCam as W/V, the longtime resident male, once again toughed out a challenge by a male peregrine falcon banded 38S. This is the second year 38S has come into the area to try to take the site. W/V's dominance is remarkable, considering he's 17 years old! In fact, W/V is the oldest breeding falcon known to nest in Pennsylvania.

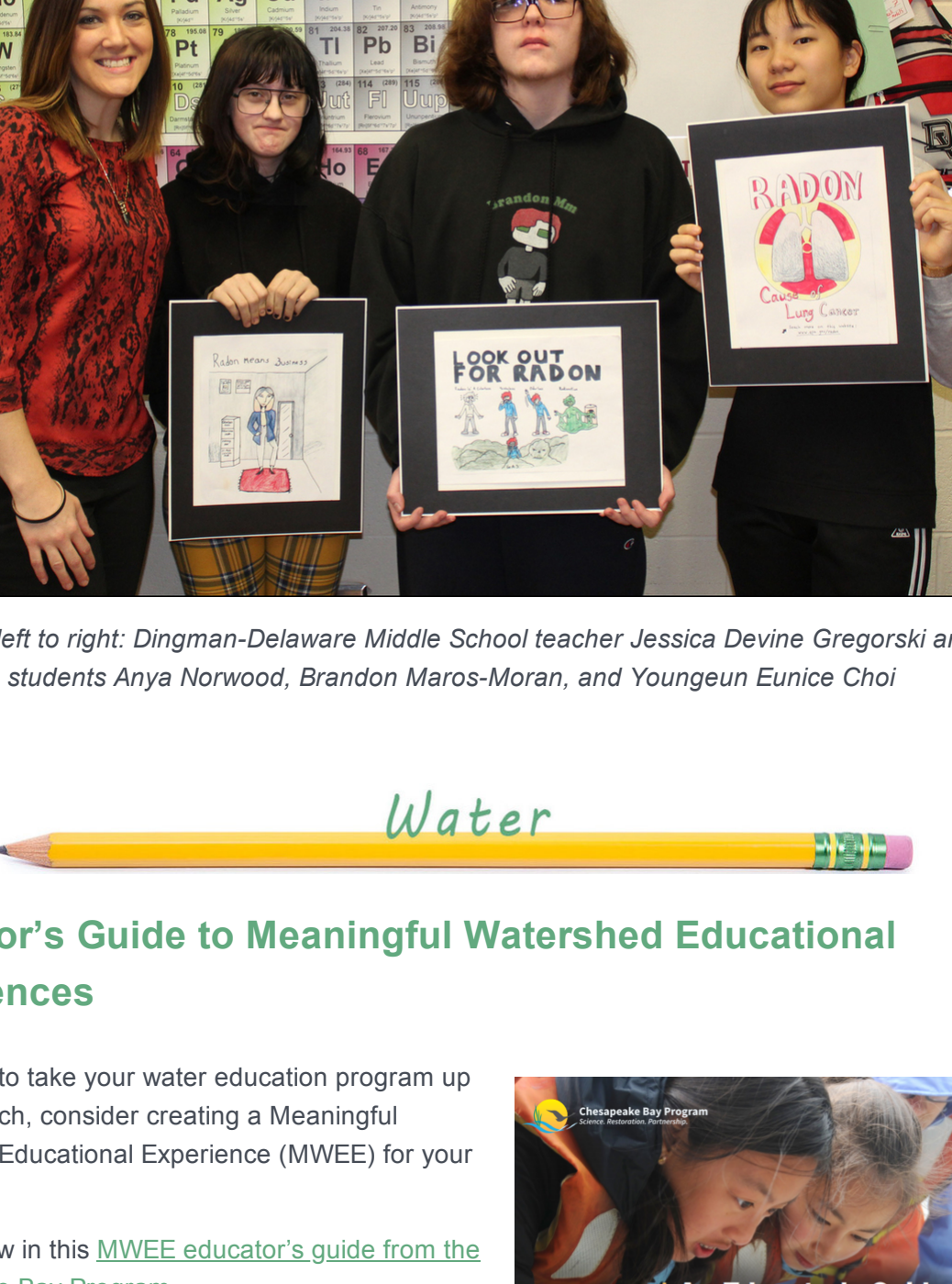
Learn more about peregrine falcons and their comeback in Pennsylvania in a [workshop on April 9 at the Pennsylvania Game Commission Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) in Stevens, Lancaster County. See [Workshops/Training Opportunities](#) for details and registration information.

**Falcon Chatter** @FalconChatter · Feb 27

So, falcon fans, after all the uncertainty surrounding 38S, it's safe to say that once again, W/V will rule the #HbgFalcons roost! At 17 years old, this is an amazing accomplishment!

Learn more on Falcon Wire and stay tuned to Falcon Cam!

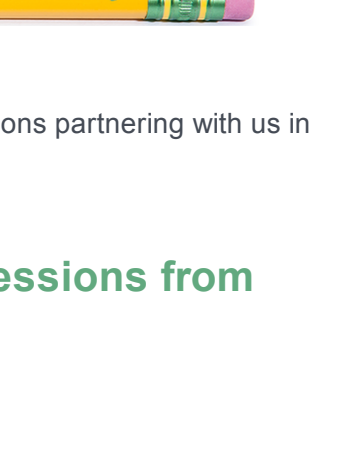
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## Land

### Develop litter prevention leaders; participate in Pick Up Pennsylvania this spring

There are over 502 million litter items in Pennsylvania, according to [new research by DEP, PennDOT, and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#), with 67 percent being cigarette butts and plastics. If you're looking for a great activity to include in your education on plastics pollution, enlist your school or group to join in the annual statewide [Pick Up Pennsylvania](#) campaign, March 1 – May 31.



Be sure to register your cleanup events with [Pick Up Pennsylvania](#)!

Simply organize a local litter cleanup event and register it with Pick Up Pennsylvania, or join a PUP event already organized by another member of your community. All registered events can get free cleanup supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and vests donated by PennDOT, DEP, and Keep America Beautiful. Registered events also have access to free or reduced-cost disposal from April 1 to 30, sponsored by DEP, the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, and participating landfills.

In addition to litter cleanup, options include holding recycling events for hard-to-dispose of items, such as tires and appliances; creating green areas by planting trees, shrubs, and flowers; and removing or painting over graffiti that devalues your neighborhood.

Schools and youth groups, community and civic associations, families and friends, business employees, hunting and fishing clubs, conservation organizations, sports teams, and others all participate in Pick Up Pennsylvania. Join in!

Last year over 92,300 volunteers joined in 5,356 events to recycle more than 1.2 million pounds of materials and dispose of over 6 million pounds of trash.

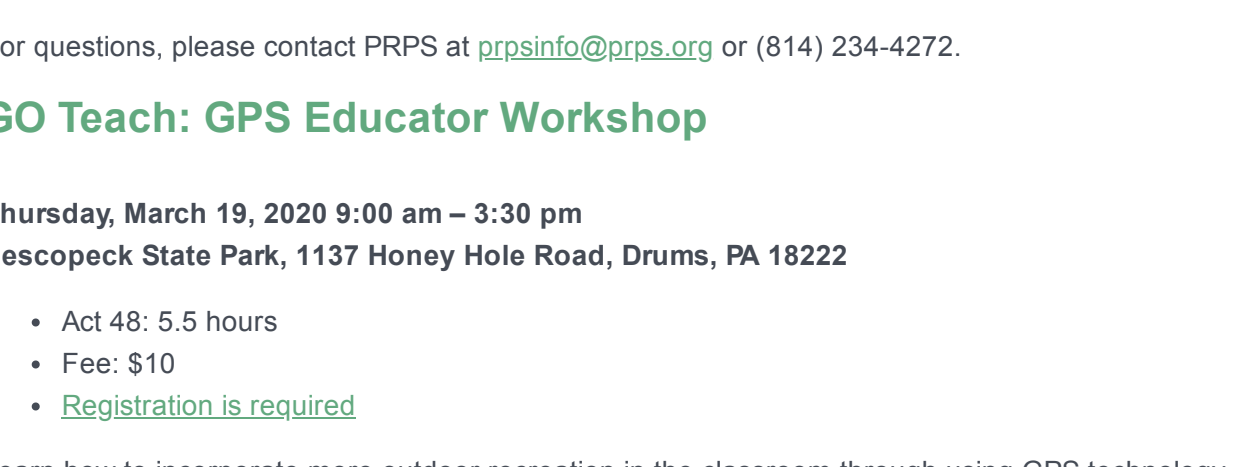
## Radon

### Radon School Poster Contest: A Sweep by Dingman-Delaware Valley Middle School

Three students won a recent statewide school poster contest held by the DEP Radiation Protection Program to help spread awareness of the health risk of radon, an invisible, odorless gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

Congratulations to Brandon Maros-Moran, who won first place; Youngeun Eunice Choi, who won second place; and Anya Norwood, who won third place. All are eighth graders at Dingman-Delaware Valley Middle School in Dingmans Ferry. The winning entries were submitted by their teacher, Mrs. Jessica Gregorski, and the students earned Amazon gift cards.

About 40 percent of Pennsylvania homes have elevated levels of radon, which enters through cracks in the foundation. Doing a simple canister test is the only way to detect radon in the home. For more information, visit the [DEP radon website](#) or contact Maria Coons, Radiation Protection Program, at [mcoons@pa.gov](mailto:mcoons@pa.gov).

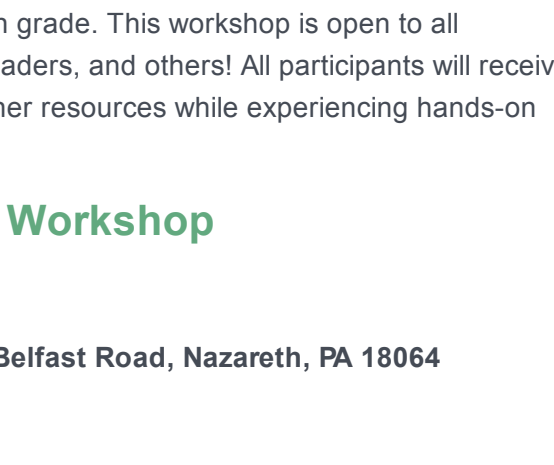


From left to right: Dingman-Delaware Middle School teacher Jessica Devine Gregorski and students Anya Norwood, Brandon Maros-Moran, and Youngeun Eunice Choi

## 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.



An Educator's Guide to the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)

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 watershed 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

These upcoming workshops are offered either by DEP or by organizations partnering with us in environmental education initiatives around the state.

### Maple Sugaring Distance Learning Skype Sessions from Parker Dam State Park

**Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays in March**  
Online

- Cost: Free
- Pre-registration is required; please contact the park office at (814) 765-0630 or [parkerdamsp@pa.gov](mailto:parkerdamsp@pa.gov)

Parker Dam State Park offers distance learning sessions for classrooms and other organized groups from the park's maple sugaring operation. These sessions are offered only in March during our sugaring season. Our education staff host interactive Skype sessions with audiences that have computer video/audio capability.

#### Wild About Turkeys

**Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
Elk Country Visitor Center, 950 Winslow Hill Road, Benzette, PA 15821

- Act 48: 5.5 hours
- Fee: Free
- Pre-registration is required; please call (814) 787-5173 by March 6

Explore the eastern wild turkey, its natural history, management, and how turkeys are banded for research. This [workshop](#) is open to both formal and nonformal educators who teach grades 6-12. Please dress to be outdoors for a portion of the day.

### Growing Up WILD and Getting Little Feet WET Facilitator Training

**Tuesday, March 17, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm**  
Powdermill Nature Reserve, 1795 Rt. 381, Rector, PA 15677

- Act 48/POAS: 7 hours
- Fee: \$50 for PRPS/PAEE members; \$65 for nonmembers (includes lunch, curriculum guides, CD, & more)
- Pre-registration is required; please create an account and register here

This is a pre-workshop for the 2020 Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators and Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society (PRPS) Conference, but you do not need to attend the conference to attend this training.

Developed for teachers working with young children (ages 3-6), [Getting Little Feet WET](#) contains 11 interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water. Growing Up WILD is a national, award-winning, standards-based early childhood (ages 3-7) education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature in a wide range of learning activities and experiences.

Workshop participants receive the Growing Up WILD Activity Guide, which includes 27 field-tested activities; the Getting Little Feet Wet Early Childhood Curriculum and Activity Guide; and a companion children's music CD.

For questions, please contact PRPS at [prpsinfo@prps.org](mailto:prpsinfo@prps.org) or (814) 234-4272.

### GO Teach: GPS Educator Workshop

**Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**  
Nescopeck State Park, 1137 Honey Hole Road, Drums, PA 18222

- Act 48: 5.5 hours
- Fee: \$10
- Registration is required

Learn how to incorporate more outdoor recreation in the classroom through using GPS technology at the [GO Teach: GPS Educator Workshop](#). Participants will receive the GO Teach GPS Curriculum, written with middle school students in mind. Aimed at non-formal and classroom teachers alike, this cross-curricular guide takes the mystery out of using a GPS unit and introduces students to the popular recreational activity of geocaching. Light snacks will be provided, but please bring a lunch. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

### Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop

**Saturday, March 21, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm**  
Moraine State Park Office, 195 Park RD, Prospect, PA 16052-2013

- Act 48: 6 hours
- Fee: \$20
- Register: Pre-registration is required. Contact Moraine State Park at [Morainesp@pa.gov](mailto:Morainesp@pa.gov) or 724 368-8811 to register.

[Project Learning Tree \(PLT\)](#) is an award-winning environmental education curriculum designed for educators working with students in pre-K through eighth grade. This workshop is open to all educators, from formal teachers, to naturalists, scout leaders, and others! All participants will receive the PLT Environmental Education Activity Guide and other resources while experiencing hands-on activities in the park.

### Pennsylvania Songbirds Educator Workshop

**Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, 400 Belfast Road, Nazareth, PA 18064

- Act 48: 7 hours
- Fee: \$25
- Pre-registration is required; please register here

[Pennsylvania Songbirds](#) is a hands-on, interdisciplinary K-12 teachers' resource and activity guide about Pennsylvania-specific songbirds, with topics ranging from "what makes a bird a bird" to interactions of people and songbirds.

### From Land to Stream: Early Childhood and Elementary Educator Workshop

**Thursday, March 26, 4:30 - 7:30 pm**  
Millersville University's Creek Lodge, 198 Creek Drive, Millersville, PA 17551

- Act 48: 2.5 hours
- Fee: \$25 for classroom and nonformal educators; free for pre-service teachers (pizza dinner provided)
- Pre-registration is required; please register here

**Thursday, March 26, 4:30 - 7:30 pm**  
Kutztown Elementary School, 40 Normal Ave., Kutztown, PA 19530

- Act 48: 2.5 hours
- Fee: \$25 for classroom and nonformal educators; free for pre-service teachers (pizza dinner provided)
- Pre-registration is required; please register here

Are you looking for new ways to engage early childhood or elementary students (from pre-K to 5th grade) in environmental and watershed education? Explore hands-on activities and discover resources from Stroud Water Research Center and Pennsylvania State Parks designed for the littles learners! We'll also introduce the nationally acclaimed [Getting Little Feet WET](#) and [Growing Up WILD](#) curricula. The [workshop](#) will be held partly outdoors, so please dress for the weather and wear walking shoes. For any questions, contact Mandy Nix at [mnix@stroudcenter.org](mailto:mnix@stroudcenter.org) or (610) 268-2153 x 311.

### Project WILD Educator Workshop

**Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm**  
Parker Dam State Park, 28 Fairview Rd., Penfield, PA 15849

- Act 48: 6.5 hours
- Cost: \$10
- Preregistration required; please contact Carey Huber at [cahuber@pa.gov](mailto:cahuber@pa.gov) or (814) 765-0630

In this [hands-on workshop](#), participants will be introduced to the Project WILD curriculum, guided in its use, and shown the resources available through Project WILD and the Bureau of State Parks to help implement it in their classrooms. You'll also receive the Project WILD Activity Guide.

### Wild About Falcons Raptor Education Workshop

**Thursday, April 9, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
Pennsylvania Game Commission Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA 17578

- Act 48: 5.5 hours
- Cost: Free
- Pre-registration is required by April 3; please contact the DEP Environmental Education and Information Center at (717) 705-3767 or [ra-epcleaningcenter@pa.gov](mailto:ra-epcleaningcenter@pa.gov)

You'll explore endangered species concepts; the successful peregrine falcon reintroduction in Pennsylvania; and peregrines' natural history, including their numerous adaptations. You'll have the opportunity to observe a live falcon and spend time in the field honing raptor identification skills. This workshop is sponsored by DEP and the Game Commission, in cooperation with ZOOAMERICA North American Wildlife Park and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

### Getting Little Feet Wet Early Childhood Educator Workshop

**Thursday, April 16, 4:00 - 7:00 pm**  
Millersville University's Creek Lodge, 198 Creek Drive, Millersville, PA 17551

- Act 48: 3 hours
- Fee: \$15 for classroom and non-formal educators; free for Millersville University pre-service teachers. Snacks and beverages provided.
- Pre-registration is required; please register here

Developed for teachers working with young children (ages 3-6), [Getting Little Feet WET](#) contains 11 interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water. By utilizing the hands-on, phenomena-based, cross-cutting activities, educators can help students foster responsible actions towards water. Designed to complement existing curricula rather than displace or add more concepts, Getting Little Feet WET activities address PA State national education standards.

### Project WILD Educator Workshop

**Saturday, April 18, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm**  
Millersville University's Creek Lodge, 198 Creek Drive, Millersville, PA 17551

- Act 48: 5 hours
- Fee: \$15 for classroom and non-formal educators; free for Millersville University pre-service teachers. Snacks and beverages provided.
- Pre-registration is required; please register here

[Project WILD](#) provides wildlife-based environmental education activities that are hands-on, easy to use, and fun. This award-winning curriculum teaches the fundamentals of wildlife ecology while developing ecological knowledge and critical thinking skills.

This workshop is open to all K-12 educators. Participants will be introduced to activities that focus on Pennsylvania-specific wildlife and habitat, and will receive innovative, interdisciplinary, and ready-to-use classroom and outdoor activities, including the newly revised Project WILD K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide.

This workshop is provided by the Watershed Education Training Institute with support from the National Science Foundation and presented by professional Project WET Facilitators from DCNR – PA State Parks.

### Project WET Educator Workshop

**Friday, April 24, 2020, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
Codorus State Park, 2600 Smith Station Rd, Hanover PA 17331

- Act 48: 5.5 hours
- Fee: \$10
- Pre-registration is required; please contact the Codorus State Park office at (717) 637-2816 by April 20

Participants will receive the new Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide, Generation 2.0 (revised in 2014) which is filled with hands-on, interdisciplinary lessons that make all facets of water education accessible to all. The workshop is open to formal and non-formal educators of students in grades K-12.

### Save the Date: Fifth Biennial Dive Deeper Summit

**Thursday, October 1, 2020**  
Harrisburg, PA

The [Dive Deeper Summit](#) is a multi-state environmental education conference hosted by Penn State Extension to spotlight innovative teaching about water. Anyone interested in educational tools and resources to teach youth about water as well as current and emerging water issues in the mid-Atlantic region will find it informative and inspiring. The all-day event is filled with hands-on workshops, a networking lunch, and guest speakers.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17101



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