

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
1721 North Front Street • Harrisburg, PA 17102-2391 • www.srbc.net

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CONTACT: Mattie Buskirk
SRBC Marketing and Communications Specialist
Office: (717) 238-0423, ext. 224

Jerry Zona
PA CleanWays Project Manager
Office: (724) 654-2129

**FREE SUSQUEHANNA BASIN STREAMSIDE CLEANUP
TRAINING ACADEMY WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD**
SRBC and PA CleanWays Teach Steps To Organize a Cleanup Event

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and PA CleanWays today announced that they will conduct several workshops through the *Susquehanna River Basin Streamside Cleanup Training Academy*. The workshops are part of SRBC’s on-going efforts to help non-profit organizations, municipalities, and county conservation districts conduct streamside cleanup projects in the Susquehanna basin. Funding for the academy is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener Program and by PPL Corporation.

The workshops will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the following dates, and at the following places:

- October 21 – Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, Pa.
- October 26 – Earth Conservancy, 101 South Main St., Ashley, Pa.
-- This workshop is co-sponsored by the Earth Conservancy and the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- October 27 – Langone Center, Bucknell University, Corner of 7th St. and Moore Ave., Lewisburg, Pa.
-- This workshop is co-sponsored by Bucknell University and Union Conservation District

Workshop registration materials and additional information are available at <http://srbc.net/sc-training.htm>. The registration deadline is October 8, 2004.

Workshop participants will receive a free sample kit of materials to use during their cleanup.

Paul Swartz, SRBC Executive Director said, “Keeping our waterways clean is an enormous undertaking, with nearly 32,000 miles of streams in the Susquehanna basin. These training sessions educate local groups about the benefits of keeping their waterways clean, and teach them the key steps involved in engaging the public in a cleanup event.”

In order to provide guidelines for organizing a successful streamside cleanup event, the workshops will focus on several key issues including:

- How to raise funds and obtain donated services for a cleanup
- How to recruit volunteers and plan for their safety
- How to dispose of and recycle items collected during a cleanup
- How to highlight the education and community outreach benefits of the cleanup, to potential participants
- How to monitor the cleanup sites and dissuade future dumping there

Jerry Zona, PA CleanWays Project Manager said, “These workshops are great opportunities for anyone who is interested in learning about the simple things they can do to cleanup their environment and get involved as active stewards for their communities.”

In 2001, SRBC and partners including the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition (WVWC), a project of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), conducted a workshop and subsequent cleanup of four streams in the Wyoming Valley. Building on that, the WVWC now coordinates local, annual cleanups each year. Said PEC Vice President, Northeast Region, Ellen Alaimo Ferretti, “The people who join the coalition's cleanups over the years have really enjoyed being outside and helping our local environment. They come back year after year!”

SRBC and the PPL Corporation (PPL) first partnered in streamside cleanup efforts in 1999, and their efforts were enhanced to include funding and training sessions for local cleanup events. This program is called the *Susquehanna River Basin Cleanup Training Academy and Assistance Program*. PA CleanWays, the Pennsylvania Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Conservation and Natural Resources have joined the partnership. The program is funded largely by a grant from DEP’s Growing Greener Program, and a generous donation from the PPL Corporation.

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