



PRC West
64 South 14th St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

412.488.7490
412.488.7492 fax

PRC East
3606 Providence Rd.
Newtown Square, PA 19073

610.353.1555
610.353.6257 fax

www.prc.org
www.litterbug.org



Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc.

"Working to protect the environment since 1939"

Winter 2004/2005

Environmental Living



PRC's Annual Awards Dinner, Philadelphia. From left to right: the Litterbug, PRC past president Howard Wein, DEP Secretary Katie McGinty, Fox Calhoun award winner Larry Schweiger, PRC president Brian Clark, and PRC executive director Larry D. Myers

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Welcome New Board Members

Diane Alwine



Diane is Director, Environmental and Safety Compliance for Hershey Foods Company. She has served in various environmental, safety and compliance positions during her 26 years with the company. She has also served previously on PRC's Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Board. Diane holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Biology from Clarion State University and an M.S. in Environmental Pollution Control from Penn State University.

Jacquelyn Bonomo



Jackie has served as Western Pa Conservancy's Vice President of Resource Conservation since joining the organization in 1999. In that position she is responsible for budgeting, planning and administration of the largest natural resource conservation programs in the region. Prior to WPC, she held numerous positions with the National Wildlife Federation in Oregon and Washington D.C. Jackie has a B.A. in English as well as Paralegal Certification, both from the Pennsylvania State University.

Jacqueline A. Davies



Jackie is President of the Garden Club Federation of PA for 2003-2005, and serves on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Nominating Committee for 2005-2007. Jackie has been a member of the Wyomissing Area Garden Club for 25 years serving as its president, vice president, and secretary, and has chaired several Flower Shows. Jackie served as Director of District II, was on the State Board of Directors of the GCFP for 13 years, chaired the Flower Show School and two symposiums, and was State Convention Vice Chairman in 1997.

Walter R. Hufford



Walt is the Business Portfolio Manager at the Atlantic Richfield Company in Exton, PA. He has over 20 years of experience in the energy industry dealing with complex environmental matters. He has supported company environmental initiatives through policy and guidance decisions, and has expertise working with such issues as Superfund sites, EPA requirements, permitting issues, underground storage tank programs, and cost recovery actions. His B.S. is from Middle Tennessee State University; he holds a Master of Science degree in geology from Texas A & M and a Master of Management/Business Administration from Penn State University.

PRC Staff Grows with the Addition of Two Individuals



Autumn Greetings from PRC East and Sue Cochrane, new Manager of Environmental Education. I came on board full time June 1 and my feet have not hit the ground yet! I inherited an advertised summer camp program and scrambled to pull off five highly successful weeks of "Hands-on the Environment" programs for 75 campers. I've spent the first five months rewriting many of the education programs and adding new titles to our offerings. Education programs are now occurring on a daily basis, either at schools or on-site at the Environmental Living Demonstration Center (ELDC). We even have one upcoming day when 116 7th graders will descend, en masse, on the ELDC to learn about watersheds.

I hold a Masters in Environmental Studies with an environmental education concentration from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Temple University. I'm excited and delighted to be on-board the "PRC train": new things are happening constantly and our growth potential is unlimited.


Hello, my name is Corinne Ogrodnik, Environmental Education Specialist I, and it has been an exciting first couple of months here at PRC's western office. I came onboard in September with PRC's activities in full swing. My main area of focus with PRC is backyard and worm composting education; however, I will also be involved in many of PRC's environmental awareness programs. I have already had the opportunity to teach numerous community composting classes this fall, and I am looking forward to participating in our resource conservation and recycling awareness programs, as well as many others.



My background in environmental education began years ago through much work experience and personal interest. In college, as an Environmental Studies student, I worked as a student educator on environmental issues, and afterwards, at a hands-on environmental center for children. I also have many seasons worth of experience working on organic farms around the country. It is an incredible opportunity for me to be working with PRC, and I am so excited to continue teaching and working for what I believe in.

Letter from the Executive Director

Like many of you, when our children were growing up, my wife and I encouraged them to volunteer their time helping others and participating in community projects. We tried to instill a sense of civic duty and moral obligation. Because of my special interest in the outdoors, I typically promoted environmental stewardship projects with our local watershed organization, the annual RiverSweep or Earth Day events like picking up litter or doing maintenance at the Jennings Environmental Center. I wanted our children to understand that they need to take ownership of our natural resources and not simply expect government agencies or someone else to do the work. We also taught them that by participating in organized activities and special interest organizations, their efforts and accomplishments could be magnified many fold.

We all have our passions and special causes we like to support. If you're reading this newsletter, you too most likely have a special interest in preserving our natural resources, because that's what Pennsylvania Resources Council is all about. Some of us make it a point to enjoy our natural resources every opportunity we get. But whether hiking the mountains, canoeing a river, enjoying a local park or simply driving down our neighborhood streets, there are ample opportunities to enjoy nature's beauty. As residents of Pennsylvania, we have much to be thankful for in terms of natural resources. We have over 83,000 miles of rivers and scenic streams, 17 million acres of forests, and 116 state parks in the Commonwealth. And while we still have much room for improvement, our air is the cleanest it's been in decades. Each one of us has lifestyle choices we can make to minimize our footprint on the environment. And most everyone has either time, talents or treasures that can be shared to help make a positive difference. As we enter the holiday season and contemplate New Year resolutions, please take a moment to consider how you might help protect the natural resources you enjoy. 

From the staff at the Pennsylvania Resources Council, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!




Pete Previte

Members' Corner


Keeping Allegheny County's Recycling Efforts on Track

Working behind his desk at the Health Department, volunteering at an HHW collection event, delivering compost bins or organizing old phonebook collections, Allegheny County Recycling Coordinator Pete Previte has his finger on the pulse of recycling in the County. Since becoming the County's recycling coordinator in 1997, Pete has worked diligently to make sure residents have access to the most up to date recycling opportunities, information and education possible. Whether chairing the County's Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC), serving on the board of the Professional Recyclers of PA (PROP), chairing PROP's Markets Committee or participating as a member of the SW PA HHW Task Force, Pete represents the residents of Allegheny County when it comes to recycling/waste issues.

Pete began working with PRC shortly after becoming the County's recycling coordinator. As one of many county coordinators with limited outreach/education staff, he saw the benefit of partnering with PRC to provide education services and outreach to residents of Allegheny County. Working with PRC staff, Pete has implemented in-classroom and assembly programs for students on topics including recycling, resource conservation, litter prevention, waste minimization and composting. He has brought assistance to business owners through the WasteCap program and to residents through the DeBug D'Burgh Anti-Litter Campaign and HHW, Hard to Recycle, Phonebook and Recycling in the Park Collections, as well as the backyard composting and vermicomposting classes. To date these programs, classes and workshops have reached tens of thousands of County residents and have added to the quality of life and environmental health of Allegheny County.

Pete had this to say about partnering with PRC: "It is a win-win situation. Through the PA DEP grant program and PRC, the County has been able to offer an array of environmental programs that otherwise would not be possible from a one-person office. PRC is great to partner with and provides top-notch services." 

PRC Offering Assistance to Businesses and Institutions

PRC currently has state and local funding for its WasteCap program to conduct free waste assessments at small to mid-sized businesses and institutions throughout Allegheny County. PRC's assessments consist of an on-site interview and facility walk-through to identify waste streams and operating procedures. PRC assessors then generate a report including findings, recommendations, and available resources to help businesses implement voluntary recycling, waste minimization, and environmentally preferable purchasing programs. Fee for service work and ongoing support are also available. Call (412) 431-4449 ext. 213 for more information. 

It's Win, Win, Win, With the EITC

There aren't very many situations in our world today where everyone wins. Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program might be one of the few exceptions. In 2001, the Public School Code was amended by Act 4, which allows for tax credits to be awarded to businesses that contribute funds to approved "educational improvement organizations." Here's how the program works.

The First Win

A business or corporation applies to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to become eligible for tax credits. A pre-determined amount of tax credits is available each tax year, distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The tax credits provide the business with tax relief equal to 75% of its contribution to eligible educational organizations.

The Second Win

An educational organization, such as PRC, applies for eligibility to receive the EITC contribution from the business entity. The application must prove that the organization provides educational services that are innovative and that enhance a public school's standard curriculum. PRC was accepted as an educational improvement organization this past summer.

Once the contribution is made, both the organization and the business must keep careful records to document that the funds are being expended on educational enhancement for public schools. The business receives the tax relief, and the organization receives much-needed funding that allows it to fulfill its educational mission. That's two "wins."

The Third Win

Because PRC needs to document that its educational programming helps public schools meet specific academic standards, all the funding directly benefits the students. PRC's environmental education programs cover concepts that are required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, but they are often topics in which teachers have had less extensive training. They are lessons that may require specific equipment that the schools do not own or that are best taught in a setting other than a classroom. So the third "win" is received by the schools, teachers and students—the most important "win" of all!

And here's specifically how the EITC program worked recently at PRC East. Through a generous EITC contribution from Waste Management, Inc., Sue Cochran, the Environmental Education Manager at PRC's Ridley facility, was able to develop a relationship with Marple-Newtown School District. She reviewed its district-wide curriculum schedule and determined that all fourth grade students are scheduled to study "land and water," including recycling, littering, pollution and resource conservation—all topics that PRC addresses very effectively. The EITC contribution from Waste Management will allow PRC to bring these programs into the Marple-Newtown schools at no charge to the school.

PRC encourages businesses and corporations to investigate the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. If a business is interested in helping to bring PRC's important environmental message to school children throughout the state—and gaining the tax benefit at the same time—let PRC know. After all, the future depends on youth receiving that message, and with the EITC, everyone wins!!



Waste Management presents PRC with a generous contribution through the EITC program. Left to right, Larry Myers and Barley Van Clief, PRC, and Mike Dougherty and Judy Archibald, Waste Management.

Knocking Down PRC's Doors for Compost



PRC's Corinne Ogradnik teaches a backyard composting class.

With waiting lists consisting of over one hundred community members, PRC hosted another exciting round of Backyard Composting Classes this fall in response to the overwhelming interest! People can't seem to get enough of learning about those "creepy crawlers" and what they can do with garbage. Word has spread all over the community, and positive feedback continues to pour in. As one class member exclaimed, "The composting class was a wealth of information. I learned so much!" Enthusiasm is also spreading for the worm composting classes, and PRC is planning to host a number of those this winter. For more information, or to sign up for backyard or worm composting classes, call Corinne Ogradnik at (412) 431-4449 ext. 325, or email corinne@ccicenter.org. Residents of Eastern PA should call Rosemary Kesling at (610) 353-1555 ext. 228 or email at kesling@prc.org. Individuals can also register online at www.prc.org.




PRC Promotes Residential Recycling in the City of Pittsburgh

The City of Pittsburgh recently discovered that an alarming number of residents were flying under the radar of its curbside recycling program. Pennsylvania's Act 101 mandates the Commonwealth's larger municipalities to recycle—that applies to residents, businesses, and institutions.

Fortunately, the City knew where to go for assistance. Where else but to the unshakeable, undefeatable, #1 recycling educator, the Pennsylvania Resources Council? Quick to the rescue, PRC called upon graphic designer extraordinaire, Eddie Heal, of OMNI Associates, who designed an eye-catching, informative display. Armed with OMNI's creation and PRC's expertise, staffers fanned out across Pittsburgh. The formidable recycling team spread the word about recycling—how, what, when, where and why.

Hundreds of residents were drawn to PRC's display at community festivals, farmers' markets and community events where staff members gave presentations on recycling. The message was loud and clear: everyone's participation is needed!

Why? The Commonwealth's goal is to reduce municipal waste generation, to recycle at least 35% of waste generated, to use recycled and recyclable materials in state agencies, and to educate the public as to the benefits of recycling. For every ton recycled the City gains \$25 in recycling funding. By diverting one ton of recyclable material from the landfill, Pittsburgh saves \$20 in landfill fees. Other benefits include saving landfill space for materials that cannot be reused or recycled, a reduction in landfill-associated problems (i.e. loss of habitat and pollution risks), conservation of resources and reduced disposal costs.

PRC distributed neighborhood recycling schedules, refrigerator magnets, and recycling bags. Responses were overwhelmingly positive; residents seemed eager to participate. After all, it's the right thing to do! 

PRC Takes Action on Health and the Environment

Newsletter readers have seen quite a few articles these past couple issues on household hazardous waste (HHW), all of which center on the collections hosted by the Southwestern PA HHW Task Force. However, proper disposal of HHW, which includes products that have the words "Caution", "Toxic", or "Flammable" on the labels, is only one component of properly managing this waste.

Through support from the Heinz Endowments and the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, PRC is working on a two-pronged approach to educating the public on HHW. The program centers on five major points: what is HHW and how to identify it, what are the health risks, how to minimize its generation, safe and proper disposal, and non-toxic alternatives. The program includes a series of demonstrations that illustrate the cleaning ability of a non-toxic cleaner versus a leading brand cleaner, the distribution of informative, high quality booklets, media outreach, and displays.

Increasing scientific evidence points to a relationship between environmental factors and diseases. A number of studies have shown that, for example, pesticides may lead to infertility, air pollution to asthma, and solvents to cancers. PRC has made inroads towards the establishment of partnerships with prominent leaders in the fields of public health and the environment. Working with groups like the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and the Learning Disabilities Association of America, both of which are members of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment in Pennsylvania, has proven to be a major step in PRC's project implementation.

The goals of PRC's HHW education program include the enhancement of public awareness and understanding of HHW issues and problems, the reduction of HHW purchases and use, and ultimately the expansion of the program's reach throughout southwestern PA.



PRC Holds Awards

Phil Hinerman, PRC vice president, presents the award for sustainable building to Chris Pastore (left) and Rob Fleming, Engineering and Design Institute, Philadelphia University.

About 200 nonprofit, government, and business leaders assembled at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia

on the evening of November 9th for PRC's annual awards dinner. The theme this year was "Sustainability through Education: Celebrating 65 Years of Success." As always, attendees enjoyed an opportunity to network at the reception before the dinner began, but this year, for the first time, many elected to attend a special VIP wine tasting reception. While visiting with the program's speakers and honorees, guests compared special wines. The event, organized by PRC vice president and dinner committee chair Philip Hinerman and sponsored by The Hankin Group, was a fun start to an interesting evening.

James M. Seif, Vice President, Corporate Relations, for PPL Corporation served as honorary dinner chair. Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, was the keynote speaker. She updated the attendees on the Department's latest activities and new initiatives, and lauded the Commonwealth for its cutting edge environmental programs that have brought it national recognition.

This year PRC's board of directors voted to present the organization's prestigious Fox Calhoun Award. The award has been bestowed only seventeen times in PRC's history-to individuals who have demonstrated uncommon leadership and made an exceptional contribution toward the conservation of natural resources and environmental protection in the Commonwealth. The awardee was Larry J. Schweiger, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, and former President and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Schweiger has been influential in shaping public policy on environmental issues throughout his career. In accepting his award, Larry related personal experiences that have convinced him to be active in the environmental field, especially in the global warming fight, and he encouraged audience members to join with him in his efforts to protect the environment.

Other award winners were the following:

- o Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, for its leadership in sustainable partnerships. The nonprofit organization was formed in 2003 to promote and protect Pennsylvania's natural and community environments. Its members include state agencies, local governments, other nonprofit organizations (including PRC), business groups, and community groups. Bill Heenan, KPB co-chair, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

- o Patricia L. Vathis, for her leadership in sustainable education. She serves as the curriculum and assessment advisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the field of Environment and Ecology and has guided the state's environmental education movement for decades.


- o The Engineering and Design Institute at Philadelphia University, for its leadership in sustainable building. The Institute develops innovative green building materials, assists with the design of sustainable buildings, and provides community outreach and educational programs. Rob Fleming and Chris Pastore, founders of the Institute, accepted the award.

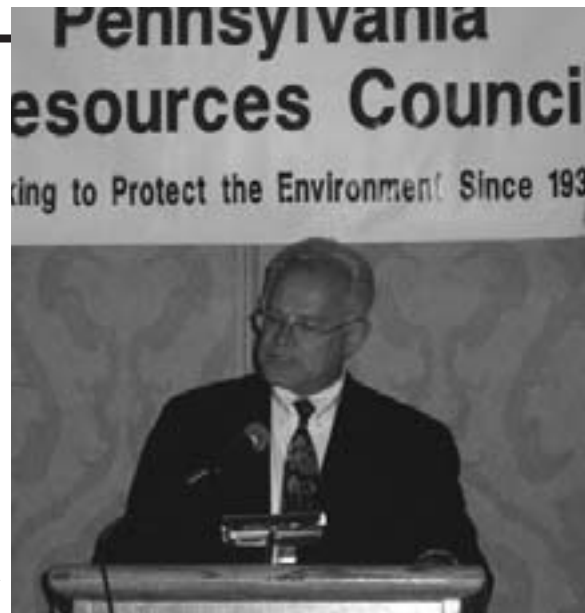


DEP Secretary Katie McGinty, Keynote Speaker at 2004 Awards Dinner

the 2004 Annual Dinner

PRC thanks all of its table sponsors: Aqua Pennsylvania; Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP; Exelon; FirstEnergy; Unisys; Waste Management; Wawa, Inc.; Allied Waste; American Geosciences; Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP; Buchanan Ingersoll PC; Domino Salvage; Environmental Standards; ERM; Fox Rothschild, LLP; Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling PC; Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.; Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP; Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association; Philadelphia University; and Verizon. It also thanks Groundwater Sciences Corporation; Sheetz, Inc.; RT Environmental Services, Inc.; and Eagle Industrial Hygiene Association, Inc. for advertising in the dinner program book.

PRC is already planning next year's dinner. It has been scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2005. Mark your calendars now! 



*Pictured right:
Larry Schweiger,
2004 Fox Calhoun Award Winner*



Pictured left: Patti Vathis, awardee in the category of sustainable education, with award presented to her by Don Welsh, EPA Region 3 Administrator



Pictured above: The Litterbug; DEP Secretary Katie McGinty; Bill Heenan, President of the Steel Recycling Institute and co-chair of KPB; Julia Marano, Executive Director of KPB; PRC President Brian Clark, Esq.; Larry Myers, Executive Director, PRC

Knot the

NAUGHTY


Plastic Bag

(Excerpted from a 10/21/04 Newhouse News Service article by Margie Wylie: THE BATTLE OVER PLASTIC BAGS)

Alaskans call them "tundra ghosts" and "landfill snowbirds". In China, they're "white pollution". South Africans have sarcastically dubbed them their "national flower". Snagged in treetops in Ireland, they become "witches' knickers". Since their introduction in the 1970s, handled plastic bags have become the world's favorite way to tote purchases. Light, cheap, strong, waterproof and durable, as many as 1 trillion are used each year. Most are trashed, a tiny fraction are recycled and a good many are littered or break free of waste bins and landfills. It's a propensity that has led some countries to enact taxes and outright bans. Critics say the bags are not just a blight, but are wasteful, kill wildlife, pollute oceans and may be insinuating toxins into the food chain. Americans used 1.3 billion pounds of plastic bags in 2001, according to Mastio & Co., a market research firm in St. Joseph, Missouri. That's 100 billion bags, or 360 per year for every man, woman and child in the country.

According to Charlie Rice, President of the Pennsylvania Host Municipal Inspectors, the PA Departments of Transportation and Environmental Protection each spend \$10,000,000 a year on litter retrieval. Pennsylvania's waste industry spends over \$5,000,000 each year on the problem. According to Charlie, "The easiest way to combat this growing problem is to Knot the Naughty Plastic Bag, then it cannot become airborne. Gravity holds it to the ground and it becomes manageable."

Judy Archibald, Director of Public Affairs, Waste Management and member of PRC's Board of Directors, notes, "Fugitive plastic bags are a major litter problem across the country. Yet it is one that could be easily solved by everyone simply knotting the bags one time before throwing them in the trash. It's a solvable problem if the public was just more aware of it and understood how they can be a part of the solution with little effort and no cost to them."

As a step in the right direction, PRC has added an exercise to its litter-control lesson plans to demonstrate to students the problem and how easily it can be fixed. But rather than disposing of them after they've been knotted, PRC recommends they be recycled. Better yet, bring reusable canvas bags (preferably made from recycled materials) into the store with you! 


SunFire Institute - Announcing Low-Impact Lawn and Garden Care



SunFire Institute

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, "the use of pesticides and fertilizers on lawns and gardens is responsible for nearly 10 percent of the common water pollution attributable to consumers."** One of the most effective ways to reduce the ecological impact of our landscaping practices is to make our lawns smaller. But how can we be more conscientious about the upkeep of the lawn areas we do have? What products and techniques are considered to be the most beneficial environmental choices?

On February 2 and 3, PRC East will be the host of the Fifth Annual SunFire Institute, an in-depth seminar about organic lawn care, the use of native plants, green building and landscaping concepts, and related natural health issues. In a series of presentations by experts in all these fields and more, the SunFire will provide something for everyone, from homeowners to professional land management personnel. And best yet, PRC members will receive a discount on the registration fee! Registration by December 31, 2004, will be appreciated.

For more information about the Institute or to download the registration form, visit www.sunfireinstitute.com or call (610) 459-4644. 


**from *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices* by Michael Brower, Ph.D., 1999. Three Rivers Press

School Students Invade Ridley Facility

Autumn has settled in at PRC East and the staff is preparing for winter - but certainly NOT a long winter's nap! Since the start of school, PRC's education staff has been very busy conducting programs in schools and on-site at the Environmental Living Demonstration Center (ELDC). Generous funding from PA DEP Growing Greener has allowed the staff to present numerous "Watershed Awareness" programs. Some months are almost fully booked with programs scheduled through May 2005! Students and teachers enjoy using the EnviroScape to learn about point and non-point source pollution, and those classes attending field trips to the ELDC have experienced water testing in PRC's pond and rolling giant raindrops through PRC's mini-watershed.

Equally as popular as watershed education programs are PRC's litter and recycling presentations. Even the youngest of students can actively participate in a rousing discussion on the "evils of litter" and can try to convince the visiting litterbug mascot to change his trashy ways!


New for this year is PRC's curriculum series titled "Environmental Footsteps" that encourages teachers to schedule multiple programs to be held during the school year. Programs cover a variety of environmental topics ranging from forest and stream ecology, watersheds and energy conservation, to litter/recycling, greener lifestyles, and organic gardens and composting. Many of the programs utilize the facilities of the ELDC. The series is proving to be popular, and many schools have enrolled in the entire curriculum.

PRC East has also announced a series of community-based programs designed to combine learning with fun workshops for the entire family. Programs are held evenings or Saturdays at the ELDC and are open to members and non-members ages five and up. See the PRC website (www.prc.org) for more information about our Community Classes. 



Once again, the Education Staff of PRC West is presenting the Resource Conservation Program in schools throughout southwestern PA, and magician Dan Kuniak has again begun performing the "Recycling and Magic" Show for eager audiences of elementary and middle school students. The show is designed to educate students on the importance of "Closing the Recycling Loop" in a fun and entertaining fashion. For more information on these programs contact: Hal Kaufman at (412) 431-4449 ext. 246 or by email at halk@ccicenter.org. In this photo, Dan invited three students to help him perform a magic trick.

East Staff Member Speaks at National Conference

Lynn McConville, billboard control project manager for PRC, attended the seventh annual education conference of the National Association of Highway Beautification Agencies last month in Salt Lake City, Utah. She had been asked by the conference organizers to give a presentation on the "scenic movement" with the establishment of Roadside Councils such as PRC in the 1930's, and their involvement in the establishment of the national scenic byways program. Lynn's talk focused on the establishment of roadside councils as outgrowths of community concerns on the adverse esthetic impacts of roadway construction, and the fight waged by PRC and other councils against billboard proliferation, spreading junkyards and litter, and roadside blight. Many of the people attending the conference were well aware of the fight for the passage of the Highway Beautification Act in the 1960's, but were surprised to learn that roadside councils and garden clubs had been active in these issues since the 1920's. The conference provided a great opportunity to meet with Department of Transportation personnel from a number of states, and to talk to them about their state programs in scenic byway development, billboard control and litter control programs. 

PRC Wraps Up 2004 Collection Event Schedule

PRC completed its 2004 collection schedule by holding the final collection for hard to recycle/dispose of items on September 18th. After completing their third consecutive year of collections for items such as tires, electronics, latex paint and appliances, PRC staffers declared this year's events a resounding success! The 2004 events kept out of local landfills a total of seven tons of electronics, 18,000 pounds of latex paint, 560 tires and 250 appliances. More than 500 residents from around the region participated in this year's events.


New this year was an arrangement with Verizon Wireless' Hopelinesm program. As a participant in the program, PRC sends all of the cell phones it collects to the HopeLine program, which refurbishes or recycles them with all proceeds benefiting victims of domestic violence.



Even in the rain, volunteers still found something to smile about while stacking cans of latex paint at the July collection for hard to recycle/dispose of items.


PRC thanks its sponsors and partners: Office Depot, Allegheny County Health Department, the City of Pittsburgh, Construction Junction, Pittsburgh Cares, the Appliance Warehouse, Reclamere, Square Café, Verizon Wireless and all of the volunteers who made these events so successful. Be sure to check PRC's website at www.prc.org for information about the 2005 Hard to Recycle/Dispose collection events.

PRC also concluded participation in the 2004 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections with events in Butler and Westmoreland counties. As the Administrators for the Southwestern PA HHW Task Force, PRC facilitated five HHW collections in 2004. In addition to the Butler and Westmoreland events, collections were held in Allegheny, Armstrong and Lawrence counties. More than 3,700 households dropped off over 272,000 pounds of HHW materials. That's an average of 73 pounds of HHW materials dropped off from each participating household!

Thanks to sponsors like the Dominion Foundation, the Heinz Endowments, ERM Foundation, Bayer Polymers, Citizens Bank, Sunoco Chemical, Nova Chemical, Carnegie Mellon University and others for making this year's events possible. Planning is underway for the 2005 collection schedule, starting with Allegheny County in May. Be sure to check the HHW website at www.swpahhw.org for details about upcoming HHW collections in your area. 

Bookworms Meet Redworms at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library

PRC's worm composting class inspires library officials to set up their own worm bin. *By Rita Levine, Administrative Assistant, Mt. Lebanon Public Library*

Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Pittsburgh, began a worm composting project in June 2004 after librarian and project coordinator Elizabeth Krebs (shown in photo with patron Kush Purohit) learned that it is an efficient and effective method for turning kitchen waste into rich garden compost. We maintain a small bin with 750 redworms near the adult reference desk. They live in a shredded newspaper nest, to which fruit scraps and coffee grounds are periodically added. The worms have a life span of about one year and reproduce continuously. Patrons can follow the composting progress with weekly pictures and educational updates on the Library's web page. We plan to add the compost to one of our identically planted garden urns in the library's courtyard, to compare growth rate with and without compost. Our worm story may be found at www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/worms.htm. 



Hard at work checking materials at the Butler County collection are HHW Task Force members Bob Popichak (DEP) and Dennis Culley (Dept. of Agriculture).

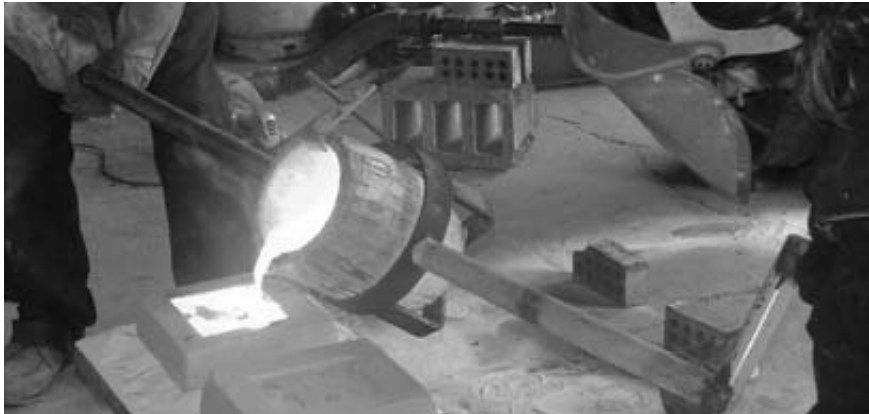


We could use a few things..


Everyone needs a little help now and then - and the Eastern Office would be grateful for the following (by the way, donations are tax deductible):

Assorted Scissors **Skilled Volunteer Help** (carpenter, stone mason, painter, electrician, tree surgeon) Wood chipper (donation of, or the use of one) **Picnic table** Working 24" TV **Four-foot conference table** Please contact Rosemary Kesling at (610) 353-1555 ext. 228 or by email at kesling@prc.org to make arrangements.

SALVO Festival Results in Success




Pouring hot metal into molds at the Festival of the Salvage Arts

The SALVO (Salvage Artists Linking Venues and Opportunities) project's second annual Festival of the Salvage Arts was a tremendous success. On October 2nd, over 1100 people participated in 15 artist workshops and visited the SALVO Art Gallery Show. Festival highlights included the second "salvage" fashion show and a hot metal casting workshop by artist Carley Hill. This workshop involved melting salvaged copper pipe which was then poured into molds created by festival goers. Other workshops utilized scrap wire, broken tile, and old lamps to create unique sculptures. The SALVO Art Gallery show included over 250 works of art created by 70 regional artists from cast off/used materials. The gallery show, which ran through November 5th, received rave reviews from festival goers and Construction Junction patrons. 

PRC Proud of Partnerships

What do you think of when you hear the word partner? Team player? Ally? Assistant? Being a partner is a two-way relationship involving continual giving, taking, and working together. PRC has been especially fortunate to work with a number of partners, be it non-profits, government agencies, businesses or community groups. The fact is, it feels like PRC has been everywhere recently because of its connection to its many partner organizations. Special interest circles from across the state have heard of or worked with PRC, whether it's been urban farmers, architects, schoolteachers, neighborhood groups, foresters, city employees, or even the news media.

We're getting around.

In future newsletters, we plan to showcase PRC's various partners and highlight how our work complements theirs. Recently, PRC formed a partnership with Pittsburgh Cares, Pittsburgh's organization for promoting volunteerism; additionally, PRC continues its relationship with the Pittsburgh Clean Neighborhood Collaborative, a network of city departments, non-profits, businesses, and community groups working to make Pittsburgh a cleaner and more beautiful city. These are just a few of PRC's associations. Join us next time as we highlight more of PRC's unique partnerships. 

2005

Calendar of Upcoming Events

For a description of these programs, please visit the PRC website at www.prc.org.

January

8 - **PRC West** Christmas tree collection at Construction Junction

19 - **PRC East**

"Natural Lawns" workshop

22 - 18th Annual Mascot Skate (Pittsburgh)

February

2-3 - **PRC East** "SunFire Institute"

9 - **PRC East** "Watershed Awareness for Everybody"

16 - **PRC West** Worm Composting Class

March

2 - **PRC East** Composting Class

16 - **PRC East** "The Organic Perennial Garden" workshop



Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc.

Working to Protect the Environment Since 1939
3606 Providence Road
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PRC's Mission Statement

Pennsylvania Resources Council's mission is to promote conservation of our natural resources and protection of scenic beauty through public education and outreach in a collaborative effort with government agencies, business, charitable foundations and other nonprofit organizations.

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REMEMBER PRC IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT US IN OUR MISSION BY MAKING GIFTS TO PRC DURING YOUR LIFETIME OR UNDER THE TERMS OF YOUR WILL THROUGH PLANNED GIVING.

JOIN PRC TODAY!

Join PRC and become an active partner in an organization which has worked for more than half a century to protect the environment for you, your children and future generations.

General Membership

- Student/Senior \$10
- Individual \$30
- Family \$40
- Organization \$40
- Municipality \$100

Business Membership

- Platinum \$1000
- Gold \$500
- Silver \$250
- Bronze \$100*

*Open to businesses with fewer than 25 employees

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name/Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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