

Winter 2010



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# Cleaner Ways



Empowering Pennsylvanians to  
clean up over 10,000 tons of trash  
from their communities

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# Letter from the President

I trust the arrival of our latest edition of *Cleaner Ways* finds you and yours rested and rejuvenated for the New Year! It was nice to take a few days off over the holidays to spend time with family and friends but also to reflect on the past 12 months.

If I had to identify a theme for 2009 that was relevant to most of us it would be, *finding ways to do more with less.*

Last year at about this time, the PA CleanWays Board chartered our staff with exactly that mission. Our Board of Directors has always valued partnerships as they are at the core of our community based approach. When evaluating the current and future economic realities of needing to do more with less, it only made sense to apply our local strategy to the state and even national level. With that charge, we spent most of 2009 exploring strategic alliance opportunities with several of our partners, evaluating everything from shared governance models to shared accounting services. We looked nationally, regionally, and locally. We sought out existing programs that were relevant and proven that we could implement within Pennsylvania to advance our mission. Throughout this process, we had three guidelines to measure each opportunity. Each had to be sustainable, they had to strengthen our mission, and they had to increase tools and resources for our network.

I am pleased to share with you that after 12 months of discussions, the PA CleanWays Board of Directors unanimously voted to merge with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and align PA CleanWays with Keep America Beautiful as the new Pennsylvania state affiliate.

In the beginning of this New Year, we welcomed five new board members from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful including Dave McCorkle, CEO of Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Tony Crisci, Crisci and Associates representing the Pennsylvania Beverage Association, Bill Heenan, President of the Steel Recycling Institute, Maitreyi Roy, Vice President of Programs for the Philadelphia Horticultural Society, and Dick Ebeling, Manager, Highway Beautification Program for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. These individuals represent various stakeholders in the fight against litter and illegal dumping and are valuable additions to the PA CleanWays Board. In 2010, the PA CleanWays Board will charter a new course for our organization.

In early spring, PA CleanWays along with Keep America Beautiful will co-host a roundtable to bring the existing PA CleanWays and Keep America Beautiful chapters and affiliates together to share resources and experiences, and to explore opportunities to bring the two structures together that make sense for Pennsylvania.

Again, our goal is to do more with less and by aligning ourselves with Keep America Beautiful we will be able to do just that. This new relationship consolidates governance boards, management, and programming while making available the wealth of resources of Keep America Beautiful to our network which will benefit communities across Pennsylvania. Additionally, by aligning with Keep America Beautiful, PA CleanWays chapters and affiliates will join a vast, diverse, and growing national network of over 600 state and local like-minded organizations across the country. I encourage you to visit [www.keab.org](http://www.keab.org) to learn more about Keep America Beautiful.

2010 promises to be a very busy year for PA CleanWays and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful! I am looking forward to the many opportunities ahead for our shared mission as we continue to build what will prove to be a stronger, more effective and sustainable organization for Pennsylvania citizens and our environment.



Shannon Reiter, President  
PA CleanWays  
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful



# PA CleanWays Celebrates Volunteers at Annual Dinner

The PA CleanWays Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at the Fred Rogers Center in Latrobe. Jane Hallinan was recognized as the recipient of the Sue Wiseman Scholarship. The Affiliate and Chapter Volunteer Achievement Awards were presented to the following volunteers who received an engraved walking stick in recognition of their volunteer efforts:

Mike Sturges – Allegheny CleanWays; Bobs Creek Stream Guardians – PA CleanWays of Bedford County; Lisa Purcell – PA CleanWays of Blair County; Laurel Conservation Club – PA CleanWays of Butler/Lawrence Counties; Rich Best – Clinton County CleanScapes; Mike Onofrey – PA CleanWays of Cumberland County; Emily Leithner – PA CleanWays of Elk County; Crystal Miller – PA CleanWays of Fayette County; Clearance (Sonnie) Weicht – PA CleanWays of Fulton County; Tracy Garthe – PA Cleanways of Huntington County; Gary Falk – PA CleanWays of McKean County; Don Baker – PA CleanWays of Mifflin County; Nevin Rice – PA Cleanways of Perry County; John H. Brown – PA CleanWays of Royal Gardens in Morris Park, West Philadelphia; Susan Hileman – PA CleanWays of Venango County; Russ Salandro – Westmoreland Cleanways



The evening concluded with the President's Award. Initiated in 2007, the President's Award honors volunteers who have demonstrated a sustained commitment and exceptional contributions on behalf of PA CleanWays to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Pennsylvania. This year's recipient was Glenn Witherspoon. Glenn's relationship began with

PA CleanWays in 1997 when he began volunteering at recycling events organized by the Westmoreland County Chapter. Over time, Glenn became involved in many areas of the organization. He is best known for his design, maintenance, and updates of the Litter IQ Board and Recycling IQ Board. Over 100,000 adults and children have used the IQ boards Glenn has built.

## 2010 Great American Cleanup of PA



The 2010 Great American Cleanup of PA will once again start on March 1<sup>st</sup> and continue through May 31<sup>st</sup>. In partnership with Keep America Beautiful, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, DEP, and PennDOT, this three month event offers many resources to groups that want to clean up the

Commonwealth. As in previous years, coordinators of registered events will be able to get gloves, vests, and bags from local PennDOT District offices. The Let's Pick It Up PA – Everyday aspect of this event will occur April 17<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>, with the focus day being April 24<sup>th</sup>. It is during this two week period that trash collected at registered events can be disposed free of charge at participating landfills.

In 2009, 4,837 events were held with 171,940 volunteers collecting 6,880,420 pounds of trash. They cleaned 16,498 miles of roads, railroad tracks, trails, waterways, and shorelines. Volunteers also planted 6,264 trees, bulbs, and plants in an effort to keep Pennsylvania beautiful. In December, Keep America Beautiful recognized Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful as 1 of 3 states that achieved 100% county participation in the 2009 Great American Cleanup. They also awarded PennDOT with an Outstanding Partnership Award.

To register your event, or to get more information on the Great American Cleanup of PA, go to [www.gacofpa.org](http://www.gacofpa.org).

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**PA CleanWays' mission  
is empowering people  
to eliminate illegal  
dumping and littering  
in Pennsylvania.**

# Chapter & Affiliate Highlights

## PA CleanWays Chapters

PA CleanWays of Bedford County  
PA CleanWays of Blair County  
PA CleanWays of Cambria County  
PA CleanWays of Cumberland County  
PA CleanWays of Elk County  
PA CleanWays of Fayette County  
PA CleanWays of Fulton County  
PA CleanWays of Huntingdon County  
PA CleanWays of McKean County  
PA CleanWays of Mifflin County  
PA CleanWays of Perry County  
PA CleanWays of Royal Gardens in Morris Park - West Philadelphia  
PA CleanWays of Somerset County  
PA CleanWays of Venango County  
PA CleanWays of Washington County

## PA CleanWays Affiliates

Allegheny CleanWays  
Clinton County CleanScapes  
PA CleanWays of Butler-Lawrence Counties  
PA CleanWays of Greene County  
Westmoreland Cleanways

*For more information about a chapter or affiliate or to contact a chapter or affiliate go to [www.pacleanways.org](http://www.pacleanways.org).*

## Pittsburgh Prepares for the G-20 Allegheny CleanWays



In September of 2009, Pittsburgh and surrounding Allegheny County hosted the Summit of the G-20 Economies. The Summit brought about 1,800 attendees and over 2,500 media from all over the world to Western Pennsylvania. With so many international visitors and dignitaries coming to Pittsburgh, it was important to make a great first impression.

When the G-20 Partnership realized how many places beyond downtown needed attention, they turned to Pennsylvania Resources Council, the Clean Pittsburgh Commission, and Allegheny CleanWays to aid in the project. After many weeks of planning, they were able to coordinate over 1,000 volunteers at 22 venues without any major hitches.

Allegheny CleanWays' charge was challenging to say the least. They were going to clean up 8 miles of busy PA 885 from the County Airport in West Mifflin to the South Side, and 16 miles of the Parkway West (I-376) from the Pittsburgh International Airport to the Fort Pitt tunnels. A major call for volunteers went out through Allegheny CleanWays' database, Pittsburgh Cares, and the several hundred people who had already signed up on the G-20 Partnership website. They recruited Port Authority Transit buses to drop off teams of 2-3 volunteers every 1/8 mile along the corridors. Then the buses circled around, picking up the volunteers after they cleaned their 1/8 mile, and piggy-backed them ahead to the next section. Every bus had an Allegheny CleanWays board member on it as the official Bus Monitor.

Safety was the first concern. Everyone was given a bright neon green t-shirt and vests were available for those who wanted them. PennDOT set up large "litter crew ahead" signs and flags and had their backs with large dump trucks with lights flashing (see photo).

In a few short hours it was mission accomplished as 2.4 tons of trash was removed from the roadsides. Afterwards, some of the volunteers helped out with the beautification projects going on at the County Airport and along the Parkway West.

## Green Expo PA CleanWays of Mifflin County

PA CleanWays of Mifflin County and the Mifflin County Solid Waste Authority hosted the area's first annual Green Expo. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, vendors exhibiting green products and crafts, and information booths providing facts on how and where to recycle, were set up at the Mifflin County Youth Park in Reedsville. Environmentally friendly exhibitors were available to discuss their varied products such as solar panels and wood burners, and the Mifflin County Master Gardeners led a composting workshop.

The event also provided residents with a vehicle for disposing an assortment of electronics. Seven hundred and eighty-nine pounds of electronics including scanners, printers, keyboards, monitors, and towers were diverted from the landfill at this event. Pam Sechrist, Administrator for PA CleanWays of Mifflin County said, "If more people recycled there would be less trash, especially in illegal dumps."

The chapter is planning the next Green Expo for summer 2010.

# News and Notes

## PA CleanWays Chapters & Affiliates

### PA CleanWays of Butler-Lawrence Counties

Jerry Zona was promoted as the new Director of Recycling and Solid Waste of Lawrence County! In addition to that position, Jerry is the Executive Director of the Butler-Lawrence Affiliate and has been a part of PA CleanWays in some way or another since the early 1990's.

### Allegheny CleanWays



Bob McKinley is the new Executive Director of Allegheny CleanWays. Bob has a strong mix of nonprofit and for-profit experience in fundraising, management, and project development. He formerly served as the manager of the Regional Trail Corporation, overseeing construction of 50 miles of two rail-trail projects with four more projects in feasibility, acquisition, or design stage.

### PA CleanWays of Perry County

The PA CleanWays of Perry County chapter received a \$10,000 grant from the PA Office of Attorney General, Environmental Crimes Section. The funding will be designated for cleanups and other chapter activities. Established in March of 2009, PA CleanWays of Perry County has held four illegal dumpsite cleanups removing and properly disposing 8.66 tons of trash. In addition, the chapter has removed and properly recycled 954 tires.

### PA CleanWays of Cambria County

PA CleanWays of Cambria County received a \$2,500 grant for its Fugitive Tire Program from the Penelec Fund for the Future of Greater Johnstown and Robert Waters Charitable Trust, through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. The goal of this project is to remove at least 1,000 illegally dumped tires from Cambria County. Two already identified Boy Scout troops have agreed to participate; Boy Scout Troop 11 and Boy Scout Troop 115. Planning will commence this winter with the tire cleanups to begin early this spring. PA CleanWays of Cambria County has committed to providing the bounty of \$0.50 per tire to each troop. Funding from the grant will pay for proper tire disposal costs at a DEP approved facility.

### PA CleanWays of Mifflin County

PA CleanWays of Mifflin County received two grants from Wal-Mart through their State Giving Program. The first grant of \$1,000 was presented at the Green Expo and will be used for illegal dumpsite cleanups in Mifflin County. A few weeks later, the chapter received a second grant of \$500 from Wal-Mart for their volunteer time with the chapter at the Green Expo (see page 4).

### PA CleanWays of Royal Gardens in Morris Park, West Philadelphia

PA CleanWays of Royal Gardens in Morris Park, West Philadelphia, received a grant of \$5,020 from Comcast. The grant was awarded for the amount of Comcast employee volunteer time at the chapter's Comcast Cares Day in the spring. The funding will go towards the chapters cleanup and beautification efforts. This is the second year in a row the chapter has received funding from Comcast.

### PA CleanWays of Washington County

PA CleanWays of Washington County was awarded \$4,000 through the 2009 Anheuser-Busch Environmental Grant Program through Keep America Beautiful. This funding will be applied to cleanups within the county this spring and fall.

## Chapter & Affiliate Accomplishments

*October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009*

- Allegheny CleanWays collected over **102.8** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Bedford County collected **18.9** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Blair County collected **8.92** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Butler/Lawrence Counties collected **54.7** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Cambria County collected over **2,100** tires
- Clinton County CleanScapes collected **23.5** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Cumberland County collected **33.6** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Elk County collected **9.4** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Fayette County collected over **113.8** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Fulton County collected **5.9** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Greene County collected **40** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Huntington County collected **500** tires
- PA CleanWays of McKean County collected **2,804** tires
- PA CleanWays of Mifflin County collected **79.5** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Perry County collected **954** tires
- PA CleanWays of Venango County collected **20.3** tons of trash
- PA CleanWays of Washington County - **5,000** Litter IQ Board users
- PA CleanWays of Westmoreland County collected **51.22** tons of HHW
- PA CleanWays of Royal Gardens in Morris Park, West Philadelphia collected **156** tons of trash

# Cleanup Highlights

For a comprehensive list of cleanups completed from June 1 through November 30, 2009, see page 8. For a list of cleanups happening in your area go to our website's Calendar of Events at <http://www.pacleanways.org/calendar.html>.



## Woomer Divide Road, Curtin Township, Centre County

Located on State Game Lands 92, the Woomer Divide Road site was a large trash dump that included a variety of large items. On November 21<sup>st</sup>, a crew of 23 young volunteers filled a 30-yard dumpster and two pickup trucks with over 4 tons of trash and 126 tires. Curtin Township is home to Sproul State Forest, Bald Eagle State Park, and State Game Lands. Volunteers and sponsors included Centre County Adult Probation, Centre County Juvenile Probation, Centre County Zerby Gap Group Home, Centre County Solid Waste Authority, and PA Game Commission. *Funded by Utilities Programs, United States Department of Agriculture.*



## Devils Den, Hanover Township, Washington County

PA CleanWays of Washington County and 7 local volunteers spent the morning of October 17<sup>th</sup> removing 385 tires from two illegal dumpsites along Devil's Den Road. At the first site tires lined a small creek. Volunteers used ropes to safely reach the bottom of the second site that contained tires and trash. The area is an important greenway and offers the only cold water fishery, Kings Creek, in Washington County. Leichters Towing, Hanover Township, and Danny's Restaurant sponsored the cleanup. Future cleanups will be held to remove the remainder of tires and trash. *Funded by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.*



## Blue Mountain Tire Pile, Plainfield Township, Northampton County

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 23 volunteers from Wildlands Conservancy, Northampton Adult & Juvenile Probation Department, and local residents worked to gather 398 illegally dumped tires and 1 ton of trash. All the tires were taken to Mahantango Enterprises and will be recycled and made into mulch for landscaping, aggregates for septic, drainage, foundation and asphalt, horse turf, tire derived fuel chips, crumb rubber for mat manufactures, raw materials for manufacturing, and recycled wire for the steel industry. The cleanup was supported by Giant, Subway, and Plainfield Township. *Funded by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.*

### PA CleanWays Statewide Statistics 1990 - November 30, 2009

11,635	Tons of Trash Properly Disposed
401,490	Tires Properly Disposed
25,743	Appliances Recycled
2,224	Tons of Scrap Metal Recycled
50,643	Number of Volunteers
220,547	Number of Volunteer Hours



**Century Road and Mill Street, Fayette County**

November 17<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, 36 volunteers and sponsors from Brownsville Area High School Interact Club, Local Residents, PA CleanWays of Fayette County, Brownsville Borough, Brownsville Bus Lines, Brownsville Township, Lawver Tire Disposal, Lee's Plumbing & Excavating, Herald Standard, Veolia ES, and Chestnut Valley Landfill worked to remove 193 tons of trash and 177 tires. Funded by Wal-Mart Foundation.

*We didn't have the money or resources to clean this site. We appreciate the help of PA CleanWays in getting this site cleaned up.*

*Jim Lawver, Brownsville Borough  
Century Road & Mill Street,  
Fayette County  
November 17, 2009*



**Concord Church, Perry Township, Clarion County**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 18 volunteers from Training Toward Self-Reliance, a program that teaches job skills to disabled adults, along with the Clarion County Probation Department and local residents gathered to load 3.92 tons of tires. A phase II cleanup is planned for the spring. Funded by the Utilities Programs, United States Department of Agriculture.

*The experience of cleaning up an illegal dumpsite was very rewarding. For me, it really drove home two truths: one person can make a difference, and great things can be accomplished when people work together.*

*Ashley Lenig, Volunteer,  
Boots Hollow Road, Perry County  
October 30, 2009*



**Dominion Road, Stoneycreek Township, Somerset County**

The Dominion Road site in Somerset County was a large historical dumpsite located in an old mining pit. A contractor was on site to remove the majority of the large items of trash. The remaining items, including 115 tires, were removed by a group of 15 volunteers from Somerset County Juvenile Probation. The cleanup took place over four days in October and November. Funded by Utilities Programs, United States Department of Agriculture.



**Four Mile Run Road, Allegheny National Forest, Mead & Sheffield Townships, Warren County**

On two beautiful fall days in October, PA CleanWays and Forest Service employees gathered to tackle two active sites in the Allegheny National Forest. Four volunteers spent 20 volunteer hours to collect 2.25 tons of trash that was impacting several recreation destinations including Kinzua Dam, Allegheny Reservoir, and Clapman Dam State Park. Funded by the Utilities Programs, United States Department of Agriculture.

# Cleanup Highlights

## PA CleanWays Cleanups - June 1 through November 30, 2009

<b>Adams</b> Adams County Tire Pile, Adams and Franklin County SR 16, Liberty Twp.	<b>Fayette</b> Derry Hill Rd., Georges Twp. Baker Hill Rd., German Twp. Allison Rd., Davidson Siding & East Ave., Luzerne Twp. Colvin Rd., Redstone Twp. Hawkins Hollow, Springhill Twp. Fallen Timbers Rd., Springhill Twp. Century Rd., Brownsville Borough Barton Hollow/Mud Pike, Georges Twp.	Ort Valley Rd., Derry Twp. Jack's Creek Rd., Derry Twp. Musser Run & Juniata River Tire Rescue, Oliver Twp.
<b>Allegheny</b> Ridge Rd. and McCorkle Rd., South Park Twp. Tireless Friday - Chateau segment of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, Pittsburgh City Tireless Event - Lawrenceville Riverfront, Pittsburgh City Tireless Event - Sycamore Island, Pittsburgh City Tireless Friday - Chateau Trail, Pittsburgh City Wild Art, Wild Trails Hillside Cleanup, Pittsburgh City Negley Run Blvd., Liberty Borough Tireless Friday - Duck Hollow Trail, Pittsburgh City Kennard Park Cleanup, Pittsburgh City G-20 Cleanup and Beautification, Pittsburgh City Mount Washington, Pittsburgh City National Trails Cleanup Day, Pittsburgh City Frankstown Rd., Pittsburgh City Tireless Friday - Barking Slopes, Plum Borough Tireless Event - Sharpsburg, Sharpsburg Borough Tireless Friday - Chartiers Creek, Upper St. Clair Twp.	<b>Forest</b> Jughandle Rd., Kingsley Twp. <b>Fulton</b> Frank Rd., Thompson Twp. Schenck Rd., Wells Twp. <b>Greene</b> Turkey Knob Rd., Greene Twp. Big Shannon, Perry Twp. WW RailRoad Dump, Morris Twp. <b>Huntingdon</b> Coalmont, Carbon Twp. Hogan Rd., Shirley Twp. <b>Indiana</b> Lloyd Street, Burrell Twp. Hoodlebug Trail Extension, Center Twp. Bethel Church Rd. and Hilltop Rd., Center Twp. Bethel Church Rd. & Ream Rd., Center Twp. Barkley, Swisco, & Kennedy Rds., Conemaugh Twp. Deckers Point Rd., East Mahoning Twp. Pepley Rd., Washington Twp. Hoodlebug Trail (between Rose Street and Indian Spring Trail), White Twp. McHenry Rd., White Twp. Martin Rd., White Twp. Hilltop Rd., White Twp. Butterbaugh Rd., Grant Twp. North Elkin Rd., North Mahoning Twp.	<b>Northampton</b> Blue Mountain Tires, Plainfield Twp. <b>Northumberland</b> Bunker Hill Ballfield, Coal Twp. Renn Rd. (T533), Upper Augusta Twp. <b>Perry</b> Iron Mountain Rd., Greenwood Twp. Route 74, Saville Twp. Boots Hollow Rd., Saville Twp. <b>Philadelphia</b> Global Citizens Day, Philadelphia City Temple University Inbound Program, Philadelphia City Hackley School Student Event, Philadelphia City International Coastal Cleanup, Philadelphia City 75th, Lansdowne Ave, 68th, and Malvern Streets, Philadelphia City Papa's Ballfield & Playground - 68th and Lansdowne Avenue, Philadelphia City KPMG, Philadelphia City Haverford College & University of Pennsylvania & PYAP, Philadelphia City Bryn Mawr College Volleyball Team, Philadelphia City Robert Saligman Middle School & Haverford College, Philadelphia City Villanova Connections Retreat, Philadelphia City Zhang Sah Martial Arts Summer Camp, Philadelphia City <b>Somerset</b> Dominion Rd., Stonycreek Twp. <b>Warren</b> Panther Gap Rd., Freehold Twp. Brown Run Rd., Mead Twp. Four Mile Run, Sheffield Twp. <b>Washington</b> Briggs Street, Allenport Borough Dog Run Rd., Donegal Twp. Devil's Den Rd., Hanover Twp. <b>Westmoreland</b> Thompson Rd., Donegal Twp. Gaither Way, Greensburg City Third Street, Monessen City Borough of Mt. Pleasant, Mount Pleasant Borough Willow's Park, Mount Pleasant Borough Calumet-Mammoth Rd./Klejka Rd., Mount Pleasant Twp. Sardis Rd., Murrysville Borough Tarr Hollow/Bulltown Rds., Murrysville Borough Hills Church Rd., Murrysville Borough Pleasant Valley Park, Murrysville Borough Ridge Rd., Penn Twp. Meadowbrook Rd., Penn Twp. Old William Penn Highway, Salem Twp. Brouwers Drive, Unity Twp. Lewis Rd., Unity Twp. Mt. Thor Rd./Seton Hill University, Hempfield Twp. Saint Vincent College - Fred Rogers Center, Unity Twp.
<b>Armstrong</b> South Long Run Rd., South Bend Twp.		
<b>Bedford</b> Martin Farm Rd., Broad. Top Twp. Six Mile Run Rd., Broad. Top Twp.		
<b>Blair</b> Fisher's Path in Canoe Creek State Park, Frankstown Twp.		
<b>Butler</b> Ritts Park, Butler City		
<b>Cambria</b> Patterson Rd., Barr Twp. Hinkston Run Dam Area, Middle Taylor Twp. Walnut Avenue, Susquehanna Twp.		
<b>Centre</b> Woomer Divide Rd., Curtin Twp. Gillentown Trailhead, Snow Shoe Twp.		
<b>Clarion</b> Amsler/McElhatten, Beaver Twp. Black Fox Rd., Perry Twp. Concord Church Rd., Perry Twp.		
<b>Clearfield</b> Mountain Run Rd. - T 338, Huston Twp.		
<b>Clinton</b> 2nd Annual 2 Rivers Event, Woodward Twp. 6th Annual West Branch Susquehanna River & Roadway Event, Woodward Twp.		
<b>Cumberland</b> Adams Rd. & Burnthouse Rd., Dickinson Twp. Oak School & Adams Rd., South Middleton Twp. Forest Pools Preserve 6 & 7, Dickinson Twp. Lisburn Community Fire Co., Lower Allen Twp.		
<b>Elk</b> Jackson Rd., St. Marys Borough Jay Twp. Dump, Jay Twp.		
<b>Erie</b> Rand Farm, McKean Twp.		

## PENNVEST - Reducing Runoff

PA CleanWays is partnering with Fairmount Park, Philadelphia's Park System, to reduce stormwater runoff to Indian Creek, a tributary of Cobbs Creek. The project will reduce runoff through urban reforestation and riparian/forested buffers by removing non-native and invasive flora from the area and replanting with native species trees. The project areas are in the Overbrook section of West Philadelphia near Morris Park. The project is being funded by a grant through PENNVEST. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania received approximately \$220 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds this year to distribute to communities for drinking water and wastewater projects.

## International Coastal Cleanup

PA CleanWays partnered with the Ocean Conservancy for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual International Coastal Cleanup. For the 4<sup>th</sup> year, PA CleanWays served as cleanup coordinator of the states southeastern region and coordinated cleanups in the following counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia. A total of 26 community cleanups were held in the Delaware Estuary. Six hundred and twenty-five volunteers worked along various waterways to remove 21.57 tons of tires and trash that makes its way to the Delaware River and eventually the Atlantic Ocean. These cleanups were part of a world-wide effort to clean up our coastal communities. Visit our website to find out more about the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.



# Adoption, Volunteer, Education

## Long-Term Solutions Block Adoption, Blair County

In 2001, Bonnie and Wayne Weierick, initiated the adoption of 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Street blocks and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the City of Altoona in the name of a local bar called the Victory Lane Saloon. The saloon patrons, and later the neighbors, performed regular litter pickups. As the years passed, PA CleanWays received cleanup reports with messages like, “there is tremendous improvement, we do not find large objects like tires and shopping carts anymore” and “it’s not nearly as bad as it used to be.” The adoption program was working!

In April 2008, Bonnie transferred the adoption to Dave Thomas, a longtime friend of PA CleanWays. Dave has reported that the improvement has continued. “It’s not the same neighborhood anymore. People started taking care of their yards and property, new businesses have moved in, and a neighborhood watch was even started.”

Can all of these improvements be attributed to the PA CleanWays adoption? Maybe not, but we would like to think that the individuals who took pride in their community and made an effort to keep it free of litter had something to do with it. Ironically, the bar that was at the center of the adoption has since been torn down. Dave has said that organized cleanups aren’t needed anymore; picking up litter has just become a way of life for the locals.

## Volunteer Spotlight Evelyn Genkinger, PA CleanWays of Butler-Lawrence Counties



Jerry Zona presents Evelyn with volunteer award.

Evelyn Genkinger remembers getting involved with PA CleanWays six years ago when she responded to an article in the local New Castle paper soliciting volunteers for the cleanup of a section of the Neshannock River. Then a nursing student, Evelyn looked forward to engaging in hard, physical work that cleanups require with the satisfaction of knowing that it was also helping to improve the environment.

Evelyn has been a regular at chapter events ever since. She is known for her passion for the environment as well as for the local community. “One of the benefits of volunteering with PA CleanWays is that it lets you make new friends while renewing the earth. When I first volunteered for a cleanup, I wasn’t expecting to meet such a fun, enjoyable, eclectic group of people,” says Evelyn.

Evelyn was recognized at the affiliates annual dinner for participating in the most events throughout the year. “She is a model volunteer. She isn’t afraid to get her hands dirty or move heavy appliances around,” says Jerry Zona, Executive Director, PA CleanWays of Butler-Lawrence Counties. Evelyn also volunteers her time to Habitat for Humanity.

## Illegal Dump Cleanup Trainings

In conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection and their Community Illegal Dump Cleanup Grant, PA CleanWays presented illegal dump cleanup trainings in Armstrong, Cumberland, Monroe, and Montgomery counties throughout the month of November. Attendees learned: how to assess and reduce the amount of solid waste that is discarded illegally within their own communities, how to interpret PA CleanWays’ county based illegal dump surveys which documents and measures the state of illegal dumping by municipality complete with GIS maps and inventories of existing dumpsites, how to coordinate a successful cleanup based on the PA CleanWays Cleanup Work Plan, and how to access and utilize PA CleanWays’ program and educational tools and resources to abate illegal dumping in their communities.

## Youth Programs

**Sue Wiseman Scholarship** - The Sue Wiseman Scholarship, named for PA CleanWay’s founder, is open to Pennsylvania youth, ages 16-21, who have initiated and carried out a personal project that addresses littering or illegal dumping prevention, recycling, proper disposal, beautification, or education. An education and beautification project must address one of the other topics listed. Applications must be postmarked by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Litter Hawk Youth Award** – The Litter Hawk Youth Award Program includes two age groups, 10 and under and 11 to 18, and addresses Pennsylvania Department of Education academic standards. This program gives youth and teens a chance to illustrate their concern about environmental issues through visual arts, language arts, and community outreach. Projects must be received by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Learn more about these programs by visiting our website at [www.pacleanways.org](http://www.pacleanways.org) or calling our office at 724-772-3673 ext. 104.

# Survey Highlights

## Illegal Dump Survey – A Barometer of Progress

This past summer PA CleanWays released the findings from 14 surveys, 13 counties along with the City of Pittsburgh. Since the program began in 2004, PA CleanWays has now surveyed 37 of the 67 counties in the Commonwealth. With over half of the counties surveyed, it felt like a prudent time to take an examination at the process, progress, and results.

### Overview

Surveying a county for illegal dumpsites is no easy task. It is a year long process that starts in July when PA CleanWays contacts municipalities and key stakeholders to share information and ends in June when the final report of the survey is published. In between, surveyors are hired and trained, locations of known dumpsites are gathered, surveyors drive every public roadway collecting information on known and unknown sites, data is entered into a database and verified, and reports are written. To the knowledge of PA CleanWays, this is the first such comprehensive illegal dump survey of a state ever performed.

The capability of doing surveys has increased as the program has moved forward. In 2005, PA CleanWays published two survey reports. As mentioned, 14 surveys were completed last year. Ten surveys are currently underway. Challenges have been overcome, such as 15 inches of snow in Warren and Forest Counties in mid-November or having to drive over 12,000 miles in Lancaster County. PA CleanWays has also adapted its approach, as in 2009 contracting the Centre County surveying out to the Solid Waste Authority and this year contracting five surveys out to similar organizations.

The results show the state has a problem with illegal dumping and it is ongoing. A total of 4,159 dumpsites have been identified containing an estimated 14,493 tons of trash (these numbers do not include private or farm dumps). Seventy-eight percent of the sites were considered active.

### A Closer Look

With 55% of the counties surveyed, and enough data to begin to capture some of the finer details of the results, PA CleanWays turned to The Center for Rural Pennsylvania for help with analysis. What they found was that 51% of municipalities surveyed had at least one dumpsite, 29% were in or within 50 feet of a waterway, and 15% of dumpsites have 71% of the total tonnage. Not surprisingly, municipalities with dumpsites tend to be rural.

It is that fact that made The Center for Rural Pennsylvania take a closer look at the data collected from rural municipalities. Their findings produced 4 noteworthy outcomes. First, illegal dumping is largely occurring in rural townships as 70 percent of all dumpsites and 75 percent of the total trash tonnage identified were along roadways in rural townships. Second, dumpsites are contagious. Of municipalities with dumpsites, only 22% have just one dumpsite. Third, among rural municipalities, availability of trash collection and/or curbside recycling is not a strong predictor of dumpsites. They concluded that “stopping illegal dumping will require a more nuanced and multi-pronged approach.” Fourth, tires are a significant problem in dumpsites. Sixty-six percent of rural dumpsites had dumped tires (unfortunately, urban dumpsites were even worse at 73%). To get the complete report done by The Center for Rural

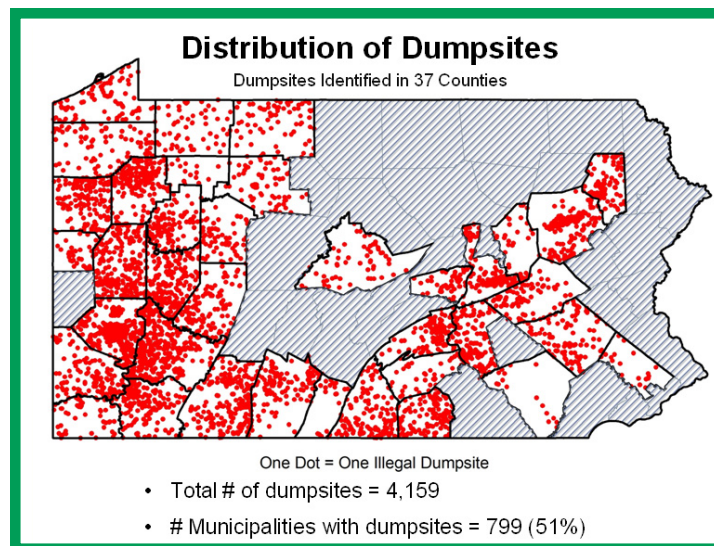
Pennsylvania, go to [http://www.ruralpa.org/Illegal\\_Dumpsites09.pdf](http://www.ruralpa.org/Illegal_Dumpsites09.pdf).

### Conclusions

PA CleanWays' illegal dump surveys are being used on the local, county, and state levels. PA CleanWays, and its affiliates and chapters, along with other environmental groups and government entities have been using the survey to prioritize cleanups and educate the public. Organizations are using the survey to leverage funding for cleanups as they are now able to show that illegal dumping

is a problem in their community, county, or watershed. New resources have evolved so that people can take action against illegal dumping, such as cleanup trainings held across the state and the formation of the DEP Illegal Dump Cleanup Grant initiative. Through partnerships, several counties have made it their goal to get every dumpsite remediated.

Committed funding for the Illegal Dump Survey Program has been a strong component to its success. The Department of Environmental Protection has funded surveys statewide. The Richard King Mellon Foundation and the Foundation of Pennsylvania Watersheds have funded surveys in the western half of the state. Funding on the local level is critical. Funders for individual counties include the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Community Foundation of Westmoreland County, Elliot Company, Indiana County Endowment of The Pittsburgh Foundation, Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Laurel Foundation, PA CleanWays of Somerset County, and the Robertshaw Charitable Foundation.



To see if your county has been surveyed, and to review the report, go to [http://www.pacleanways.org/IDS/ids\\_index.html](http://www.pacleanways.org/IDS/ids_index.html).

# Donors, Supporters, and Members

PA CleanWays thanks the following donors, supporters, members, and funders for helping to make our programs possible across the state of Pennsylvania. Thanks to you, we can all enjoy a cleaner and greener Commonwealth. This list reflects donations, cleanup support, and memberships received June 1 through November 30, 2009.

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*\*Affiliates recognize donations, cleanup support, and memberships to their organizations separately.*





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## Clean & Green Fund

Want to help in a substantial way? Donate to the PA CleanWays Clean & Green Fund! The Clean & Green Fund enables PA CleanWays to allocate your donation where it is needed most. PA CleanWays' community based approach involves building community partnerships. Our grassroots network spends a considerable amount of time and resources soliciting local support for direct cleanup costs. A portion of your donation to the Clean & Green Fund goes directly to help our grassroots network pay for services that are often difficult to get donated, such as tire disposal, landfill space, and freon removal.

Join others like yourself who care about making our state a cleaner and greener place to live. Consider making a contribution to the Clean & Green Fund. An addressed envelope is provided for your convenience.

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### Invest in a Cleaner, Greener, and Safer Community....Become a Member of PA CleanWays

If you are interested in supporting PA CleanWays, please fill out and return the form below to:

**PA CleanWays**  
**105 West Fourth Street**  
**Greensburg, PA 15601**

In areas where a local chapter exists, your membership will directly support that local chapter unless otherwise stated by you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Select a Membership Amount:**

- Student \$10
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- Individual \$15
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Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
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