



WINTER 2010 Environmental Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION*	TIME
Thur., Jan. 14	Birds of Prey at PPL	HEC	7 – 8:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 20	Basic Boating Safety Course <i>Registration required by Feb. 16</i>	HEC	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat., March 6	Bluebird Box Management	HEC	2 – 3 p.m.
Tues., March 23	Native Americans First Encounter	HEC	6:30 – 8 p.m.
Sat., March 27	Garlic Mustard Pull at Shenk’s Ferry Wildflower Preserve	SF	1:30 -3:30 p.m.

* **Location Code:** HEC – Holtwood Environmental Center SF –Shenk’s Ferry Wildflower Preserve

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.pplpreserves.com
call 1-800-354-8383 or e-mail pplpreserves@pplweb.com.

For information on the current river conditions, call the Lower Susquehanna Hot Line at 1-800-692-6328.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved the expansion of the Holtwood hydroelectric plant. Holtwood currently generates 108 megawatts using the power of the water held back by our 55-foot high dam. The estimated \$440 million project would improve fish lifts that enable migratory fish to reach spawning areas upstream, create nearly 200 construction jobs and generate an additional 125 megawatts of clean, renewable electricity at the plant. That’s enough energy to provide power to 100,000 homes. That’s a pretty impressive figure for a dam that was built way back in 1910.

For safety reasons, fishing and boating access will be restricted at the Holtwood Dam for the duration of the construction. The Holtwood expansion will result in improvements to recreation facilities, including improved access for fishing, parking and a new fishing pier. Shoreline fishing will remain available nearby at Safe Harbor and Muddy Run.



Additional program details can be found on the Calendar of Events at www.pplpreserves.com

BIRDS OF PREY AT PPL

Thursday, Jan. 14

7-8:30 p.m.

Holtwood Environmental Center

Presented by: Jim Smith, PPL Naturalist

There was a time a few decades ago, when ospreys, peregrine falcons and eagles were a rare sight in Pennsylvania skies. But thanks to the many efforts by PPL and other conservation groups to help restore these raptors, they are becoming much more common.

Come enjoy a lecture presented by Jim Smith, a PPL naturalist who has been monitoring the eagle population at the Holtwood Environmental Preserve since 1999. In that time, the tower nest has fledged 20 eaglets. Holtwood is also home to ospreys that nest near the dam. Smith's presentation will cover how these animals live, efforts to restore their populations and how to identify these beautiful raptors.

PPL has been a longtime supporter of efforts to enhance habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife, and works with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and other conservation groups to monitor their progress. Check out some of our successes with the birds of prey at PPL's preserves at www.birdsofpreyatppl.com.

This free program will be held at the Holtwood Environmental Center, 9 New Village Road, Holtwood, PA 17532. The GPS coordinates are N39 50.333 W76 19.080. For more information contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274 or kament@pplweb.com.

This program will be canceled in case of bad weather.



There are nine eagle nests located within the PPL Holtwood Environmental Preserve.

BASIC BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Saturday, Feb. 20

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holtwood Environmental Center

Presented by: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Registration required by Feb. 16

Get an early jump on the boating season by taking a safe boating course at the PPL Holtwood Environmental Preserve.



The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission boating safety class gives boaters practical information so they can make more informed decisions on the water. Topics include boat terminology, legal requirements, water activities, and safety and rescue. Boater safety education certificates are required for all operators of personal watercrafts and for boat operators born after Jan. 1, 1982, who operate motors of 25 horsepower or greater.

Students who successfully complete this course may apply for a boating safety education certificate from the commission for \$10. Participants must be at least 12 years old. PPL will start you off with coffee and donuts. Bring your own lunch.

Registration is required by Feb. 16. The free course will be held at the Holtwood Environmental Center, 9 New Village Road, Holtwood, Pa 17532. If you have any questions or to register, contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274, or kament@pplweb.com.

*In case of bad weather,
this program will be held March 13.*



BLUEBIRD BOX MANAGEMENT

Holtwood Environmental Center
Saturday, March 6
2-3:30 p.m.

Over the years, natural habitats for bluebirds have been disappearing as land is cleared for housing and highways. Holes in wooden fence posts were a decent substitute for years. But as wooden fences are being replaced by metal posts, the supply of suitable breeding sites for bluebirds and other cavity nesters has been greatly reduced. Because of this, providing an artificial nesting box for these birds can be the difference between a healthy breeding population and no population at all.

Join us as we work on maintaining and relocating some of Holtwood's many bluebird boxes. Along the way, you'll find out what you need to do to establish your own box from construction on up through management and monitoring.

This program is free to the public. Please dress for outdoor weather. We will begin with an indoor presentation at the Holtwood Environmental Center, 9 New Village Road, Holtwood, PA 17532. The GPS coordinates are N39 50.333 W76 19.080.

For more information, contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274 or kament@pplweb.com.

*In case of bad weather,
this program will be held at 2 p.m. March 7.*

GARLIC MUSTARD PULL
Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve

Saturday, March 27
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

The Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve is one of the most impressive wildflower sanctuaries in the eastern United States. The 50-acre sanctuary contains extensive native flowers, ferns and foliage. It also contains an alarming number of introduced or "invasive" plants.

You can help this area thrive by keeping invasive plants at bay. Assist the Millersville University Biology Club as we pull garlic mustard plants by hand to help remove this weed from the glen.

Garlic mustard spreads rapidly and displaces native woodland wildflowers. This biennial herb ranges from 12 to 48 inches in height. The leaves and stems emit a distinct odor of onion or garlic when crushed. It is the only plant of this height in our woods with white flowers in May. Each plant produces hundreds of seeds, which can lie dormant for 20 months before germination and may remain viable for five years.

The garlic mustard pull will meet at the trail head entrance next to Grubb Run. Dress for outdoor weather. Directions from Lancaster: Take New Danville Pike to Conestoga; veer left onto River Corner Road at the post office. Go across River Road, continue west on Shenk's Ferry Road and go to the stop sign. Turn left on Green Hill Road. Follow the gravel road through the tunnel and bear left. The GPS coordinates are N 39 50.728 W 076 20.635. For more information, contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274 or kament@pplweb.com.



Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an invasive plant that displaces native woodland wildflowers.

NATIVE AMERICANS FIRST ENCOUNTER

Tuesday, March 23

6:30-8 p.m.

Holtwood Environmental Center

**Presented By: Stephen Runkle,
Susquehanna River Basin Commission**

Local historian Steve Runkle brings his meticulous research to Holtwood to discuss one of the pivotal moments in world history: the moment when the Old World and the New encountered each other for the first time, and how that event shaped and was shaped by the indigenous cultures and geography of the Susquehanna River Basin. Our river played a vital role in the lives of the Native Americans who lived here and in the competition that erupted between the European colonial powers.

Let Runkle take you back to that turbulent period through the eyes of the various participants to get a sense of how central the Susquehanna was to this period. Many well-known historical personalities make guest appearances in this story, including Giovanni da Verrazano, Captain John Smith, Pocahontas, Samuel de Champlain, Etienne Brule, Thomas West, William Penn, Thomas Penn, Conrad Weiser and Shikellamy.

The presentation will also include a recording of Iroquois songs and a hands-on display of wildlife furs and war clubs used by the region's Eastern Woodland Native Americans.

This free program will be held at the Holtwood Environmental Center, 9 New Village Road, Holtwood, Pa. 17532. For more information, contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274, or kament@pplweb.com.

To see what is happening at PPL's preserves, visit our Web site at www.pplpreserves.com. You'll also find our blog by clicking on "Preserve Press." Listen to senior naturalist Jon Beam in his "Nature Notebook" broadcast for WVIA. Or check out www.birdsofpreyatppl.com for photos and information about raptors at company facilities.



Petroglyphs, or Native American rock art, are described to a group of kayakers by PPL's naturalist on Circle Rock in Lake Aldred.

Directions to Holtwood Environmental Preserve:

From Lancaster: The Holtwood Environmental Center is on the right before Old Holtwood Road. Take Route 272 south to Buck, and turn right onto Route 372. Take 372 west for 6 miles and turn right onto River Road. Go a half-mile and turn left onto Old Holtwood Road. Go a half-mile mile and turn left onto New Village Road. The Holtwood Environmental Center is the first building on the left.

From York: Take Route 74 south. Turn left onto Route 372 and go across the Susquehanna River. Make your first left onto Pinnacle Road. Follow this for about 1 mile. It becomes New Village Road. The Holtwood Environmental Center is on the right before Old Holtwood Road.

www.pplweb.com/holtwood/contacts+and+directions/directions.htm

GPS coordinates are N39 50.333 W76 19.080

About Holtwood Environmental Preserve

PPL's Holtwood Environmental Preserve is operated in connection with the Holtwood hydroelectric plant on the Susquehanna River.

The preserve provides lakeside recreational opportunities and facilities for camping, hiking, picnicking, boating, sightseeing, fishing and hunting on more than 5,000 acres in Lancaster and York counties.

The Holtwood hydroelectric plant and Lake Aldred demonstrate the successful combination of power generation, recreation, environmental education and land management.