



PPL helping preserve stream banks

PPL's donation of \$50,000 will help the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association complete two environmental preservation projects in Lower Mount Bethel Township.

The association has partnered with the Lehigh Valley Greenway Initiative to repair eroding stream banks on Martins Creek and Little Martins Creek.

In addition to funding from PPL, the projects also received a \$50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Land Studies Inc., an environmental engineering firm based



in Lititz, Pa., will work with the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association and two private landowners to complete the preservation projects.

The projects are expected to be completed by this summer.

Models of the two designs will be on display in the community center planned in Lower Mount Bethel Township to help other landowners learn about stream projects.

PPL Martins Creek lauded for health and safety efforts

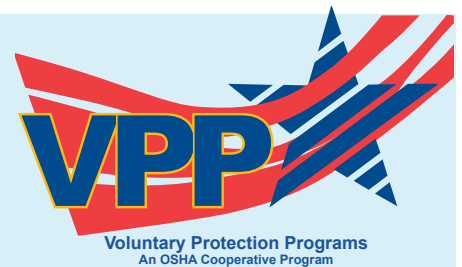
The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration recognized the outstanding health and safety programs of PPL's Martins Creek power plant.

In November 2007, OSHA recommended the plant be recertified as a "Star" facility under the federal Voluntary Protection Program. VPP recognizes companies that go beyond compliance to protect

worker health and safety. The VPP Star certification is the highest safety achievement given within the program.

Safety has always been a priority at PPL, and the continuing success of Martins Creek's health and safety programs shows that employees share that commitment.

This is the plant's second recertification inspection. Since receiving VPP recognition, employees at the plant have



continued to improve safety at the plant, most recently celebrating 511 days without an OSHA-recordable event.

To determine if a facility is worthy of Star status, OSHA evaluates these components of a safety and health program: management leadership,

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Drills help prepare community groups for pipeline emergencies

Federal, state and local emergency management agencies were able to practice their response to a simulated pipeline emergency in November, thanks to a drill sponsored by PPL Interstate Energy Company.

Interstate Energy Company, PPL's oil and natural gas pipeline company, operates and maintains an 84-mile pipeline that transports oil and natural gas from Marcus Hook, Pa., south of Philadelphia, to PPL's Martins Creek and Lower Mount Bethel power plants in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Pa.

The company must perform annual drills to comply with federal regulations. According to Drew Cummings, manager of operations, safety and environment at PPL Interstate Energy, the drills also give the company a chance to network with emergency management staff who would respond to actual emergencies.

"Exercises like these give us the chance to support the people

who are training to respond to any incidents along the pipeline," Cummings said. "They also give us a chance to practice and fine-tune our emergency response plan along with the federal, state and local agencies that would be involved in incidents involving our facilities."

PPL Interstate Energy Company rotates the location of the annual drills so that they can benefit all the counties in which the company's facilities are located. The most recent drill in Northampton County was held in 2006.

"We appreciate any chance we get to work with the community to make sure we are all prepared in the event of an emergency," Cummings said.

The last drill was held at Delaware County's Emergency Services Center as part of Delaware County Community College's Emergency Management and Planning Curriculum.

Safety efforts

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employee involvement, work-site analysis, training, and hazard prevention and control.

The Martins Creek plant initially earned Star status in 1999. It was the first PPL facility to do so and the first electric utility site to achieve certification in OSHA Region III, which covers Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Twelve PPL facilities now hold VPP Star status.

Every three to five years, OSHA re-evaluates VPP Star sites for recertification to check for continued improvement in their safety and health programs.

Companies that qualify for VPP status view OSHA standards as a minimum level of safety and health performance and set their own, more stringent standards for effective employee protection. VPP participant sites generally experience 60 percent fewer lost workday injuries than would be expected of an average site for its industry.

Earth Day programs help change take flight

To mark Earth Day, PPL will be sponsoring events at all of its environmental preserves to empower you to make a difference.

At Martins Creek, a special program will celebrate the success some bird species have experienced thanks to the dedicated efforts of conservationists.

We'll also discuss bird species living on the edge of extinction and what concerned residents can do to help.

Kathy Uhler from the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will be on hand with live birds to talk about their natural history and rehabilitation.

Paul Karner, a federally licensed bird bander, will explain the habitats and nesting requirements of birds that hold special concern.

The program, "Success and Concern: Earth Day Birds," will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 20, at the Cedars Pavilion on Foul Rift Road.

To find out about more Earth Day programs at Martins Creek and elsewhere, please visit www.pplpreserves.com.





Bird enthusiasts started counting birds before the crack of dawn in the hopes of spotting owls. They were able to observe six roosting short-eared owls, like the one above.

Birders spot 63 species during count at Martins Creek Preserve

Birders at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve spotted 135,000 snow geese, 16 red-tailed hawks, one female kestrel, and numerous cardinals, juncos and sparrows.

The only thing missing from the Christmas Bird Count was a partridge in a pear tree.

“It was a great year for owls for us — we identified five different owl species,” said John Drabic, supervisor of safety, health and environmental resources at Martins Creek. “We spotted many bird species for the first time during this count including a saw-whet owl, a blue-winged teal and a northern shrike.”

Martins Creek Environmental Preserve hosted the Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, Dec. 30.

Twelve participants observed more than 138,000 birds and 63 different species during the count, which lasted from 4:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Organizers of the event started before dawn to look for owls. The group spotted one saw-whet owl, four eastern screech owls and five great horned owls before the sun came up.

Drabic also noted that the group located two roosting long-eared owls and six roosting short-eared owls.

“It’s great to see the wildlife enjoying the varied habitats around the Martins Creek power plant,” he said.

Plans for walking trail, community center moving forward

Residents and visitors of Lower Mount Bethel Township could be enjoying a community center and walking trail before the end of the year, thanks in part to a donation from PPL.

Last year, PPL donated 9 acres and pledged a total of \$75,000 to help the township build the center, which will be an important community resource.

For several years, PPL has conducted educational programs on energy, nature and the environment both outdoors and at the Martins Creek power plant. The new center will give PPL an opportunity to increase the number of public

programs it offers.

PPL also granted Lower Mount Bethel the rights to use company property between DePues Ferry Road and Del Haven Road for a 2.5-mile hiking trail.

PPL’s support of the community center and hiking trail are examples of the company’s commitment to improving wildlife habitat, land preservation and public recreation.



PPL Martins Creek
6605 Foul Rift Road
Bangor, PA 18013-4857

Explore nature at the Martins Creek learning center

The Martins Creek Environmental Preserve has plenty to offer nature enthusiasts. In addition to hiking trails, scenic views and wonderful bird-watching opportunities, the preserve serves as a learning center, offering programs throughout the year.

Take advantage of some of the programs this spring:

Wildlife Tracking 101

1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, March 9

Join PPL naturalist Fred Gast for an introduction to basic wildlife tracking. We'll start at the pavilion with an overview and then head out on the Tekening Trails to look for signs of wildlife. Dress warmly and wear waterproof shoes.

Shad on the Delaware

1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, March 16

We'll walk along the banks of the

Delaware to learn the natural and cultural history of American shad. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear.

Wildflowers and Trees

2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27

Noted naturalist and author John Serrao will lead participants on a trek along the Tekening Trails to explore the incredible variety of flora in the beautiful Foul Rift Natural Area. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes for this outing.

Early Migrants

8:30-10 a.m. Sunday, May 11

On this early morning walk, you'll learn about the various "early birds" that make their way back up north first. Maybe you'll even catch a glimpse of some mourning cloaks, tiger swallowtails, purple finches, tree swallows or eastern phoebes. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear.

Spring Walk-n-Talk

1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, May 18

What says springtime to you? Buds and blossoms? Goslings and fawns? Insect hatches and leaping trout? Join Bud Cole of the Three B's Nature Center for a walk along the Tekening Trails to observe spring's secrets. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear.

All programs are free and will be held at the Cedars Pavilion on Foul Rift Road. Registration is required.

For more information about the programs PPL is offering and to register, contact us at 570-251-6196 or pplpreserves@pplweb.com.

To learn more about the programs and activities available at PPL's environmental preserves, visit www.pplpreserves.com.