



Lower Mount Bethel Township set to dedicate new Welcome Center

Lower Mount Bethel Township will dedicate its new Welcome Center and trail system with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. April 29 at 7701 Martins Creek-Belvidere Highway.

The 1,600-square-foot center was built on nine acres donated by PPL Corporation between DePues Ferry and Del Haven roads near the company's Martins Creek and Lower Mount Bethel power plants.

"We're excited that this center will become an important resource for our community and a place where families can learn about the rich environments along the Delaware River," said John Mauser, project manager with Lower Mount Bethel Township and the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association. "In addition to the activities that will be presented here, PPL will use the center to host free nature and environmental education programs for the public."

Built with an environmentally friendly design, the center's "green" technologies incorporate solar panels, a living roof planted with sedum, and a stormwater system that allows roof drainage to return to groundwater. A rain garden within the parking area and a wetlands area adjacent to the



Lower Mount Bethel Township Welcome Center will host a variety of nature programs. Top: PPL's Fred Gast leads a nature program at the new community center.

parking will handle stormwater runoff and avoid discharging runoff into the river.

The center has a meeting room to accommodate 50 people, lobby, kitchen and office space, and display cases with information about natural history, local history, environmental issues and tourism.

It is also near the north end of the Tekening Trails, a 5-mile network of scenic hiking trails on PPL property through the woods and along the Delaware River.

"The connection to the Tekening Trails complements the

215 acres PPL has set aside in the township for wildlife habitat, land preservation and public recreation," Mauser said. "This community center project would not have been possible without PPL's commitment."

The community center, which will be open on weekends, was a joint effort among PPL, the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, Lower Mount Bethel Township and the Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association.

Work advancing to close, re-vegetate ash basin at Martins Creek plant



Grasses thrive on one of the retired ash basins at Martins Creek. Work is now under way to close Ash Basin No. 4.

As part of the safe, responsible decommissioning of the Martins Creek coal-fired power plant, PPL is closing Ash Basin No. 4 along DePues Ferry Road.

About 115 million gallons of water is being gradually removed. Approximately 110 million gallons has been removed to date. The water is being filtered and treated when required, then pumped into an on-site retention pond before being returned to the Delaware River under guidelines set by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Through early spring, the basin will be covered with paper mulch and planted with grasses to help avoid erosion and help stabilize the ash surface over the next year.

“As the weather warms up, this area will become very green as the grass takes hold and thrives,” said Pete Giella, Martins Creek plant manager. “We’re doing this work to responsibly reclaim this land under the oversight of the DEP.”

The next step, to begin in spring 2010 and following DEP approvals, will involve creating a permanent layered cap composed of about a foot

of soil, an impermeable plastic cap, and a top layer of up to 2 feet of soil planted with grass and other vegetation, he said.

The two coal-fired units at Martins Creek were retired in September 2007 as part of a voluntary agreement with environmental agencies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions.

The units had been in service since the mid-1950s and were the smallest coal-fired units in PPL’s generation fleet at the time of their retirement.

Nighttime stack strobe lights back to normal at Lower Mount Bethel Energy plant

The lighting level has been reduced on the blinking strobes atop the twin stacks at PPL’s Lower Mount Bethel Energy plant.

“We replaced six faulty circuit boards, which kept the lights — three on each stack — blinking at daytime strength all the time, including at night,” said Adam Kochmaruk, plant manager. “We apologize for

any inconvenience this caused our neighbors. The problem has been corrected.”

Additional supplies have been ordered so they’re on-site in case of future needs with the strobe lights.

The blinking lights are required safety equipment at the plant to alert airplane pilots about the height of the stacks.

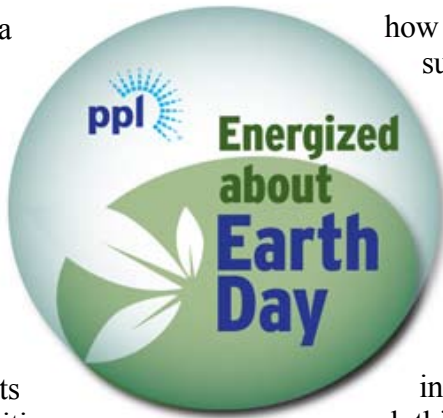
Celebrate Earth Day with friends and family at New Welcome Center

PPL will present a monthlong series of programs and opportunities in April to learn about nature and celebrate Earth Day.

PPL plans Earth Day activities each April around its Martins Creek facilities to share information with area residents about the environment, nature and energy. PPL is committed to producing electricity responsibly. Earth Day programs provide an opportunity to reflect on how we can work together to help preserve our natural resources.

On April 19, you can step back in time and explore the skills used by the Lenape, the Native Americans who lived in peace along the Delaware River.

“Earth Skills for Earth Day,” from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Lower Mount Bethel Welcome Center, will provide insights into how the region’s native people lived in harmony with the Earth and



how we can we learn sustainability from their practices.

Mike Dennis of Traditional Earth Skills of North America will explain the day-to-day activities of the Lenape, including their food, clothing and shelter, and display handmade items.

From 1:30-3 p.m. April 25, learn the truth about the wolf, a misunderstood animal that’s struggling to maintain its important niche in nature.

Hope Anwyll and Tom Nelson of the Pennsylvania Raptor & Wildlife Association will sort fact from fiction about the wolf, a species that stirs the emotions in humans, inspires folklore and myths, fear and love, good science and bad.

These programs are free at the Lower Mount Bethel Welcome Center, but registration is required. To register for either or both programs, contact PPL at 570-251-6196 or pplpreserves@pplweb.com.



PPL Interstate Energy recertified as top safety site

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration has approved PPL Interstate Energy Co. for continued participation in one of its most important safety programs.

“Reliable pipeline operations depend on a work environment where safety is a top priority,” said Dennis Levine, the company’s general manager. “Participating in the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program keeps our employees focused on safety.”

VPP recognizes and promotes effective safety and health performance. Before awarding the “Star” designation, OSHA looks at many components that make up a safety and health program, including management leadership, employee involvement, work-site analysis, training, and hazard prevention and control.

OSHA re-evaluates sites every three to five years to determine whether “Star” status should be continued. This is the third time PPL Interstate Energy Co. has received a VPP “Star” rating. The pipeline company was originally certified in 2001 and recertified in 2004.

IEC employees operate and maintain an 84-mile pipeline that transports oil and natural gas to the Martins Creek plant.

Check out the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve

PPL welcomes you to the picturesque landscapes and trails of the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve.

On the banks of the scenic Delaware River, the Lenni Lenape Indians named this land Tekening, meaning “in the wood.”

The preserve has five miles of wooded hiking trails with views of the middle Delaware River, which has been designated by Congress as a Wild and Scenic River. Hikers can view the woodlands, geological formations and wildflowers found on the west bank of the river.

The 215-acre environmental preserve borders PPL’s Martins Creek and Lower Mount Bethel power plants. It’s a prime example of how industry and nature can coexist.

Hiking trails and the boat access area are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. For questions about the preserve, call 1-800-354-8383.

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

Falcons scoping out Martins Creek plant

PPL employees have already spotted a pair of peregrine falcons soaring above the Martins Creek power plant.

If the pair nests, it would be the fifth year that a falcon couple set their sights on the plant to raise a family and another victory in PPL's efforts to help restore this endangered species in Pennsylvania.

Working in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Wildlands Conservancy and other conservation groups and naturalists, PPL has been helping restore falcons since the mid-1990s.

PPL also has installed nesting boxes on stacks at the company's Brunner Island, Montour and Martins Creek power plants. The falcons are attracted to power plants because they offer safe, sturdy ledges similar to perches they seek along mountain ledges. To learn more about the birds of prey at PPL facilities, visit www.birdsofpreyatppl.com.

