



Moshannon Sierra News

Pennsylvania Chapter of The Sierra Club

Earth Day Issue

Earth Day celebrates 30th anniversary

The idea for Earth Day evolved over a period of 7 years beginning in 1962. The state of our environment was simply a non-issue in the politics of the country, but in November 1962, Senator Gaylord Nelson had an idea that would put the environment in the political limelight once and for all. The idea was to persuade President Kennedy

Senator Nelson continued to speak on environmental issues to a variety of audiences. All across the country, evidence of environmental degradation was apparent, and everyone noticed except the political establishment.



The environmental issue simply was not to be found on the nation's political agenda. The people were concerned, but the politicians were not.

Earth Day evolved 6 years later as an effort to thrust the environment into the political mainstream. In the summer of 1969, anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, called "teach-ins," had spread to college campuses all across the nation. Suddenly, Senator Nelson

was struck with an idea — Why not organize a huge grassroots protest over what was happening to our environment?

He hoped to tap in to the environmental concerns of the general public and infuse the student anti-war energy into the environmental cause to generate a demonstration that would force this issue onto the political agenda. It was a big gamble, but worth a try.

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EARTH DAY 2000
April 22

to give visibility to this issue by going on a national conservation tour. The President began his 5-day, 11-state conservation tour in September 1963. For many reasons the tour did not succeed in putting the environmental issue onto the national political agenda. However, it was the seed of the idea that ultimately flowered into Earth Day.

What's happening

April 8: ADP Gathering at the Wesley Student Center from 3 to 8 p.m.

April 16: Hike in Bear Knob Quadrangle (4 to 6 hours moderate to strenuous hiking). Contact Gary Thornbloom.

April 18: General meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Schlow Library. Speaker: Darlene Weiner of the ClearWater Conservancy.

April 22: Earth Day Noon to 9 p.m. on the HUB Lawn, Penn State Campus. Keynote speaker: Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*. Headlining band: Deep Banana Blackout around 7 p.m.

April 29: ClearWater Conservancy Annual Spring Creek Cleanup by canoe. Contact Dave Coleman.

April 29: National Arbor Day **May 16:** General meeting. Ralph Seeley will speak on volunteer-maintained trails with slideshow.

May 20, 21: Scenic cruise by canoe on west branch Susquehanna and overnight primitive camping. Contact Dave Coleman.

See Page 6 for more!

Main objective of Earth Day is to celebrate, educate and take action to spark change

Why Earth Day? Because it works. Annual occasions throughout history and in all cultures provide meaningful opportunities for celebration, education and action. Earth Day includes all social sectors, nationalities and cultural groups. Earth Day is a successful catalyst for ongoing environ-

mental education, action and change, such as the birth of the environmental movement and the first environmental legislation, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Earth Day activities provide important opportunities to address worldwide environmental concerns as well as the chance for individuals and communities to focus on their local environ-

mental problems. Because Earth Day observances broaden the base of support for environmental programs, renew public commitment, and enroll participation from every social and business sector, they implement wide-scale programs that bring people together to act for the common good.

Recycling is not enough! Buy recycled products, create less waste

By Jennifer Eck

The best thing you can do for Earth Day and for every day is **recycle**.

You can help the environment in two important ways: Reduce the amount of overpackaged and disposable products you buy, and reuse or recycle whatever you can.

Essentially, you are buying trash every time you buy overpackaged or disposable products. To prevent a lot of this waste, reduce the amount of overpackaged and disposable products you buy, and reuse more of what you already have. Also when you shop, check the label for post-consumer recycled content. You can buy cereal, crackers and shoes in boxes made from recycled paper. Some household cleaners, dishwashing liquids, shampoos and other products can be found in bottles made of recycle material. You can buy toilet paper and facial tissue from recycled paper.



You might be buying products with recycled content without knowing it! About half of the aluminum used in soda cans comes from used cans. Nearly 1/4 of the glass in bottles and jars has been used before. About 1/4 of the content of "tin" cans is recycled steel. Gray or

brown cardboard egg cartons, fruit trays and flower pots are made from recycled paper.

By avoiding excessive items, buying recycled products and recycling what we can, we not only reduce what we send to landfills and incinerators, we also reduce the amount of energy expended, the natural resources consumed and the pollution created by manufacturing in the first place!

Litter is a serious problem, but we can prevent it if everyone works together and always remembers what goes around comes around!

Recycle, reduce and reuse!

DID YOU KNOW?

- A ton of paper made from 100% recycled paper saves the equivalent of:
 - 4,100 kwh of energy.
 - 7,000 gallons of water.
 - 60 pounds of air emissions.
 - 3 cubic yards of landfill.
- \$10 billion was spent in the U.S. to dispose of trash in 1990.
- Recycling 1 glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.
- 5 million homes could be heated for 200 years with the wood and paper thrown away in the U.S. each year.
- Packaging accounts for almost half of the municipal solid waste disposed of in the U.S. today.

Do you know what you're breathing? Just ask Nancy Parks

By Kelly Spevak

At the last Moshannon Group general meeting, Nancy Parks, our Sierra Club State Chapter chair for air quality, talked to us about the facts and health effects of the air we breathe. While cars cause a large portion of the problem, air pollutants that travel long distances were the focus of the presentation. These are largely created from power plants. In the Eastern U.S., sulfates and sulfur dioxides coming from upwind areas combine with local air pollutants to make acid rain and the most polluted air in the nation. Pennsylvania is responsible for 1/4 of the air pollutants in the Northeastern states.

There is a program in the 12 Northeastern states approved by the EPA to control nitrogen oxide output, which causes ozone smog, by limiting the air pollution created by 22 upwind states. In fact, New York state is suing upwind states for the air pollution that in combination with local pollution makes it impossible for the state to stay within EPA regulations.

In addition to creating ozone smog and acid rain, power plants discharge heavy metals like mercury, enormous amounts of

"Pennsylvania is responsible for 1/4 of the air pollutants in the Northeastern states."

greenhouse gases, and use much landfill space to dump ash created from scrubbing and precipitating the stack gasses. These tall smoke stacks, made to limit dumping the air pollution on the immediate area, are responsible for 33% of all air pollution. However, the government gives credit incentives for every ton of pollution below regulation a power plant produces. In turn, these credits are saved so future plants can violate regulatory limits for a few years, or sold to the highest bidder that violates the law. As it is, the law may be broken 4 times before punishments are administered.

In addition to acid rain and global warming, air pollution causes many health problems. While air pollution does not **cause** cancer or asthma, small particles become ingrained in the lungs and irritate them, making most health problems worse. Even running becomes a painful struggle with burning lungs. In areas with air pollution, the risk of cancer

rises from 1 in a million to 280 in every million of population. We need to gather community individuals together to combat air pollution. Power plants and cars may seem like impossible problems, but small shops like shoe stores and Laundromats are often responsible for more than half the air pollutants of a local area. In the 1970s, when air pollution problems were first made a public issue, fishermen, businesses, religious groups and others worked closely with lawmakers to halt air pollution. We need that enthusiasm and bravery back in our communities today if we expect to continue breathing healthy, clean air.

What you can do: Contact your state representatives and let them know that you want them to do everything in their power to limit air pollution!

Write to your elected local, state and national government officials, as well as world leaders!

Use the PA Consumer Action Network page at <http://members.aol.com/paconsumer/activist.html>

Think globally. Act locally!

Agriculture and livestock waste contribute to environmental damage

By Jennifer Eck

Sprawl. It's an ugly word. We've all heard of it. We all know it's bad. Unplanned development is bad news for everyone. They're cutting down our forests, they're taking away our farmlands... But wait, how detrimental are our farmlands to the environment?

Of course, most of us would rather look at a meadow full of cows than a parking lot full of cars, but farmland hurts our environment, too. Agriculture, especially animal-based agriculture, is a large contributor to environmental destruction.

DEFORESTATION

In the U.S., for every one acre of trees felled for urban sprawl, about seven acres are cut down for grazing or growing crops for cattle. Animal agriculture accounts for more than 80 percent of annual world deforestation.

WATER POLLUTION

In 1996, agricultural water pollution incidents — the most common being the effects of cattle slurry — made up 10% of the total reported agricultural water pollution incidents. Slurry enters water courses, contributing to fish deaths, deoxygenation and algae blooms. Animal waste in waterways killed more than 11 million fish from 1995 to 1997. The EPA reports that about 1/3 of all agricultural nonpoint source water pollution is due to ani-

mal production operations.

AIR POLLUTION

Ammonia (which wafts out of stock housing and, along with industrial pollutants, reacts with water and sunlight to form **acid rain** — a lethal tree- and lake-destroying mix of sulphuric and nitric acids) emissions from manure can settle on plants and soil, resulting in toxicity and biodiversity loss; manure can accumulate heavy metals, contaminating crops and increasing health risks; spreading manure on land can lead to nitrates in groundwater, posing health hazards.

The greenhouse effect, caused by rising levels of greenhouse gases is expected to produce temperatures high enough to cause severe flooding and crop failures in 25 to 100 years. Methane, a greenhouse gas, produced by livestock and their manure contributes to global warming.

RESOURCE USE

World population is around 6 billion. Feeding such a fast-growing population raises two broad challenges: raising food production levels and distributing food to those in need — 1.5 billion are malnourished, 40,000 children die daily due to malnourishment and/or disease and 2 billion live in poverty.

More than 99% of the food we consume is produced from the land; however, growing land degradation — in-



DID YOU KNOW?

- Nationwide 130 times more animal manure is produced than human waste — five tons a year for every U.S. citizen!
- U.S. livestock consume more than 6.5 times as much grain as the entire population U.S. human population consumes directly.
- More than 70% of U.S. grain is fed to farmed animals.
- It takes almost 7 lbs. of corn and soy to produce 1 lb. of pork.

cluding water, wind and soil erosion — threatens the worldwide supply of both crops and pastures.

Improper grazing has caused extensive environmental damage and rangeland degradation in the Western U.S.; topsoil erosion is a serious problem in the U.S. and to a large extent is caused by the monoculture of corn and soybeans for animal industries.

Topsoil is being lost to erosion 20 to 40 times faster than it is being replaced and, worldwide, soil erosion equates to around 30 tons per hectare per year — yet it takes 500 years for an inch of topsoil to form under agricultural conditions.

Hollywood abused a Thailand national park to make movie *The Beach*

By Jennifer Eck

20th Century Fox filmed a movie called *The Beach* on Phi Phi Leh Island, a beautiful national park in Thailand. Parts of the film, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, were shot on Maya Beach, one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. But in order to create an idyllic beach football scene, the film company bulldozed large portions of the beach, removed much of the natural vegetation and planted non-native coconut

palm trees.

The removal of beach grasses has already caused erosion, and local Thai activists fear that the monsoons could destroy much more.

20th Century Fox reportedly paid the Thai government 4 million Baht (about \$120,000) for permission to film on the



island. Local Thai activists have filed lawsuits, and are now asking Americans to boycott the film.

Destruction of the environment is not entertaining, so why does the entertainment industry go to such lengths to destroy our Earth simply for a movie? Phi Phi Leh Island is a

preserved area that has been partially destroyed by Americans for the sake of a film. Do not support this action by going to or renting this movie. Let the film industry know we do not condone this behavior by refusing to watch their movie. Write to Fox demanding they never allow this to happen again.

Or soon all we will have left of these beautiful untouched places is what we see in the movies.

PennFuture finds tax system promotes poor environmental health

Spring is here. Time to pay taxes. No matter how odious the process or how high the price, paying taxes does serve to concentrate the mind. For example, concentrate on the money you will send — or have already sent, via withholding taxes — to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania this year.

Take a look at Line 13, "Total Pennsylvania Tax Liability." That's how much the state is going to get from you this year. At this point, most people complain about how the money is spent. They might do better to question what was taxed and what wasn't, and whether our tax system provides incentives for a prosperous future in the fair lands of Penn's Woods.

A study just completed by PennFu-

ture indicates **our current tax system actually encourages the bad**, such as sprawl, sluggish job creation and environmental degradation (www.pennfuture.org). The perverse reverse is also true: The tax system discourages desirable conduct by denying tax advantages to the good, such as cleaning up the environment in order to spur economic development.

The report looks beyond the numbers to gauge the way tax policy affects our state's environment and economy. The truth is that both suffer. Pennsylvania has the 2nd-highest rate of sprawl in the country, the 4th-dirtiest air and the 4th most toxic substance releases. A total of 3,200 miles of streams have been lost to acid mine pollution, and

Pennsylvania experiences the most acid rain in the nation. Our power plants emit the 2nd-highest amount of sulfur dioxide in the nation and lead the country in mercury pollution. To make matters still worse, Pennsylvania is becoming America's dumping ground, as we import and landfill more trash than any other state. Pennsylvania also ranks 13th from the bottom in job creation.

If sprawl, dirty air and foul water powered today's economy, Pennsylvania would lead the nation in economic growth. But it doesn't, so the one-time Keystone of the Industrial Revolution is now a laggard in the New Economy.

Courtesy of PennFuture Facts

Hey, Senator Specter: Roadless areas are important to Pennsylvanians!

Senator Arlen Specter has not come out in support of the President Clinton's roadless plan. This does not mean he does not support it — it simply means he has not come out publicly with an opinion on it. We would like Senator Specter to support the plan, which will affect 25,000 acres of roadless areas in the Allegheny National Forest, and to vote against a proposed rider by Senators Craig and Gordon to delay the roadless plan.

According to Senator Specter's aide, **Specter believes forest issues are not a big deal for Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians do not care about the roadless plan.**

We must prove him wrong. Here is a letter to Sen. Specter. Please copy or rewrite this letter or write your own and send it soon. Also, get your family and friends to send this letter, take it to your office to encourage coworkers, and ask local businesses and organizations to support it. When signing, include your name/title, organization and full address.

Thanks for your support in protecting Pennsylvania's forests!



The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

_____, 2000

Dear Senator Specter,

I am writing to urge you to support President Clinton's policy to protect our nation's magnificent wild lands. Although roadless areas represent less than 1 percent of the land mass in the country, they serve as a harbor for important ecological values. In Pennsylvania, less than 25,000 acres of inventory roadless areas exist within the more than 516,000 acres of the Allegheny National Forest. Presently more than 95% of the Allegheny National Forest is accessible by roads.

It is of great importance that Pennsylvanians safeguard scenic wild areas such as these that provide premier habitat for fish and wildlife, protect diverse plant life, and offer abundant supplies of clean drinking water and unique opportunities for outdoor recreation. Roadless areas help recharge aquifers and are often in the headwaters of municipal watersheds, providing the cleanest water and resulting in lower water treatment costs

for local residents. More than 80% of our nation's water supply comes from national forests providing more than 60 million Americans with clean drinking water.

Roadless areas are important sources of biodiversity. Academic and agency scientists throughout the country argue that existing roadless areas — irrespective of size — contribute substantially to maintaining biodiversity and ecological integrity on the national forests. Biodiversity provides many opportunities for the discovery of medicinal plants and cures for human disease. Currently about 25% of prescription medicines sold in the U.S. contain at least one compound originally derived from a plant; examples include fox glove for heart disease, pacific yew tree for ovarian cancer, penicillin from mold and aspirin from the bark of the willow tree.

Senator Specter, I request that you support roadless area protection by writing a letter to President Clinton supporting the roadless policy and by voting against any riders that work against this protection.

Sincerely,

READER'S CORNER



Let us leave a better world to our great-grandchildren

About 5 years ago, browsing amid the stacks of the public library, I found a book, *The Dying of the Trees* by Charles E. Little. I thought that it was as important as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Mr. Little tells us that the forests are declining throughout the country. He describes problems of the sugarbush in the Northeast, the dogwoods of the Catoctin mountains, the forests of Appalachia, the hardwoods of Michigan, the logging of the mountains of the West, and a host of maladies caused by humans. Very little has been accomplished since then to protect the environment. If anything, we have been backsliding, especially the personal auto manufacturers. Is it true that if your personal auto is as big as a truck and looks like a truck, it is exempt from all federal and state emission and gasoline mileage requirements? Which company will be first in building Orca, the killer car? Or is it already on the highways? I feel it is necessary to shock people to make them observe what they are permitting to happen. Here is a short poem that may help.

This was the forest primeval
The dying spruce, the chestnut
The dogwood, and the Mixed Mesophytic Forest.
Their feet smothered by the soles of their
Sisters of Devonian times.
Their breath poisoned by ozone and smog
Emissions produced by overweight and
Overpowered muscle cars that deprived
Overweight people of the benefits of walking.
Their lifelong moisture diverted quickly to the sea
By culverts and four-lane rivers of concrete.
Burnt by acids from electric generators
Powered by energy from the Pennsylvania Epoch.
People cooled by air conditioners in an attempt
To be cool that increases the total temperature.
Ignored by the callus indifference and denials of
Professional people paid to protect the environment.
The green of their leaves cannot compete
With the green of money.
What will the world be like when we are all gone?
Can you envision a world in various shades of brown?
Like Tiananmen Square.
God may forgive,
But nature cannot.

By Walter Braun State College, PA

Drunk on Leachate? Taking out the trash in Pennsylvania

By Elisa Beshero-Bondar

It's too easy to "toss out the trash" and assume that it vanishes off the face of the earth when the garbage truck collects it. As long as it's out of sight, it's out of mind, and the sooner we're rid of the unimportant detritus, the better, thinks the proverbial "ugly American," who'd rather not "waste" time with the details of rinsing out a can, and who'd much prefer an uncluttered garage or kitchen than make room to separate recyclable materials.

Into what seething inferno does our trash vanish when it departs from the curbs of the known world? Throughout much of Pennsylvania, it goes off to the local land-fill. Or it might go first to an incinerator, where some of its components are released into the air and the rest are concentrated into toxic ash, which is then deposited in the local landfill, that sad repository of the unkeepable and unspeakable — all that is best forgotten and repressed, carefully sealed away from the human senses.

So, what is a landfill, exactly? A landfill is literally a large basin into which garbage of all kinds is dumped indiscriminately in order to separate it from (first of all) us and (second of all) the natural environment outside the basin. The fact that we in effect shrinkwrap our garbage in plastic bags means that much of it doesn't decompose

inside the landfill basin. What does happen is that fluids inside the trash permeate through the bags and mix with each other and rainwater, pooling into a savory liquid called leachate, filled with carcinogenic chemicals in deadly combinations. Municipal landfill leachate contains more hazardous materials than anyone likes to consider — more than even the industrial hazardous waste facilities, which contain, at least, known quantities of known substances. In the municipal dumping basin, poisonous household chemicals blend together to form a substance more deadly than its individual components, a devastating and ultimately uncontainable, highly acidic blend of oils, detergents, bleaches, paint solvents, degreasing compounds, herbicides, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, just to name a few.

Landfills are designed with a bottom liner and a cover made of clay, cement, or plastic. These containing materials, combined with a leachate collection system, only temporarily prevent this toxic fluid from seeping through or overflowing the basin into the soil and groundwater outside. The basic idea is to package our waste as tightly as possible to isolate it from our living environment. However, landfill packaging cannot hold up indefinitely under the ever-

increasing onslaught of acidic leachate. Such packaging cannot prevent rainwater from eroding away the rocky soil piled over the cover, and from streaming through inevitable pores, gaps and cracks. Even landfills designed with a series of packaging layers cannot prevent leachate from entering the surrounding soil. The forces of gravity and chemical interaction are, after all, forces of nature. Like the Malebolge, the "Evil Pocket" of Dante's Eighth Circle of Hell, landfills comprise an inferno built by and for a superficial materialist culture whose practices consume the consumers.

The "leachate collection" system is a similar study in cyclical Dantean futility. A pumping mechanism, the "collection" system moves leachate from the landfill liner into a wastewater treatment facility, which extracts water leaving oily solid residues — which then return to the landfill, or are shipped off to another landfill.

Only ceaseless vigilance of the soil and groundwater near landfills can alert hydrogeologists that a landfill is overflowing its leachate. It's unlikely the PA DEP is up to the gargantuan task. If monitoring landfills is currently so difficult, how will future generations cope with the impact of today's leaky seals? How long will we continue to fill up basins brimming with poison?





Announcements

A chance to be counted

Moshannon Group is supporting the Thompson Woods Park project (see enclosed brochure) and we need your individual help.

We all talk about preserving open and green space, especially in metropolitan areas like State College. This is a chance to do just that. Unfortunately, the land doesn't come cheap.

About 3/4 of the \$1 million cost will come from state and local grants, but that still leaves \$250,000 to be raised by individuals — **you and me.**

The 45-acre tract is the last large, undeveloped forested area adjacent to central State College. You can easily walk or bike to the area. Bird life and small mammals abound. It's truly an oasis in a paved world.

Please be generous with your contributions. Yes, they are tax deductible, and, yes, you can make stock donations (very favorable to the donor).

Questions? Call Joe Banks in State College at (814) 234-4266 from 9 a. m. to noon Monday through Friday, or follow the instructions in the brochure.

Mother Nature says "Thanks!"

"If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem."
— Anonymous

Bring your unwanted tree seedlings to the Earth Day celebration!

Don't mow over sprouting trees! Help your lawn and the Earth to be healthy and beautiful. The Sierra Club Earth Day table will be collecting seedlings and distributing them to anyone who wants to plant them.

Carefully dig out the roots of any tree seedling under 3 feet tall, wrap up the roots and write down the type of tree, if known. Then bring the seedling to the Penn State HUB Lawn on April 22 for Earth Day.

Whatever we don't give away, we'll take home to plant.



Save a tree!

If you are a Sierra Club member with Internet access and you would rather receive this newsletter via email, please inform Kelly Spevak at kms289@psu.edu and we will send it to you as a PDF file. This will save us time and money — not to mention a lot of paper!

Earth Day Kids Contest How do you care for the Earth?

To celebrate Earth Day, Moshannon Group is holding its first annual **Earth Day Kids Art Contest**. Children in kindergarten through 3rd grade are invited to submit a picture, or a picture and a message, which answers the question, "How do you care for the Earth?" Crayons, markers, paint or anything may be used, so be creative!

Teachers and parents, this is a wonderful opportunity to discuss with your children the meaning and importance of environmentalism, and to celebrate kids' creativity as an integral part of Earth Day.

Entries may be mailed to the Moshannon Group, Children's Art Contest, P.O. Box 513, State College, PA 16804, postmarked by 4/19. Or you may bring entries to our table on the HUB Lawn between 11 a.m. and noon. We will display all entries and passersby will vote for the best 3. The winning entries will be published on our website and summer newsletter.

Help reforest Sproul State Forest with Penn's Woods Tree Planting Ramble

Want to do something that will last beyond your lifetime? Come plant trees with the Penn's Woods Ramblers! They are continuing efforts to replant the area devastated by the Two Rock Run Fire, which occurred in the Sproul State Forest in 1991.



They invite you to join them this year. Beginning Friday, May 5, you can come to the camp site where dinner will be ready at 6 p.m. They will plant trees all day Saturday, May 6, and camp out again that night.

They have been planting every spring with the help of volunteers to reforest the damaged area. Because of the large deer herd, the group plants using tree shelters.

You may come Friday afternoon, Friday evening or Saturday morning. They will only be planting trees on Saturday. **All meals will be provided free of charge.**

Interested? You'll need a tent, sleeping bag, work gloves, and rain gear. Include your name, address, and phone number, as well as which meals you want (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and dinner, Sunday breakfast). Mail to **PFA, 56 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 766-5371.**

Questions? Call Norm evenings at (717) 652-4079. He will mail you a map and directions two weeks prior to the ramble.

Earth Day history continued

From Page 1

At a conference in Seattle in September 1969, Senator Nelson announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment and invited everyone to participate. The news wire services carried the story from coast to coast. Telegrams, letters and telephone inquiries poured in from all across the country. The American people finally had a forum to express their concerns about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes and air — and they did so with spectacular exuberance.

It was obvious that they were headed for a magnificent success on Earth Day. And Earth Day continues to be a success with the help of environmental organizations, community groups and individual effort all working to promote Senator Nelson's ideas of protecting the land we have and preventing the further destruction the world. Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. They had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. But that's what happened. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day — it organized itself.

Courtesy of www.earthday.wilderness.org

Try these tips to celebrate **Earth Day** and care for the planet all year long:

- Participate in the Earth Day Energy Fast. Take shorter showers, make meals large enough to last the entire week, turn lights out when not necessary, let your hair dry naturally instead of using a hair dryer, anything that saves energy!
- Get your kids involved. There are many activities online and in your local newspapers to will teach kids about the planet and keep them entertained. One website to try: www.planetpals.com
- Start a seedling collection. Ask community members to bring unwanted tree seedlings to your Earth Day site and either make them available to the public or have a community tree planting.
- Gather the neighborhood kids and have a community cleanup — it's a great way to unite with neighbors.
- Turn your family on to organic foods and see how healthy it is to be green!
- Begin your own compost pile. **Do** shred organic wastes to speed up decay, pick a good location in a convenient area protected from overexposure, add nitrogen, such as grass clippings and manure, to accelerate composting and keep the pile well ventilated. **Don't** compost diseased plants or leaves; persistent weeds like poison ivy, multiflora rose, bindweed or quackgrass; meat, dairy products or vegetables cooked with animal fats; plants that have gone to seed.

Moshannon Group looking to recruit new newsletter and website editors

HELP! Our current editors, Jan Filiaggi and Elisa Beshero-Bondar, will be out of town for most of the summer and fall this year, and Elisa will likely be moving away from State College next year. We are seeking environmentally minded people with computer experience to take charge of our group's newsletter and website. Penn State's English Dept. has been supplying student interns to help with newsletter and web production. The intern(s) and other group members can do much of the nitty-gritty work of researching and writing articles, but need guidance from you, who would be acting, in effect, as editor in chief — setting assignments, suggesting revisions, proofreading drafts. As many of our article topics come from the group mail, the Newsletter Editor will check the Moshannon Group mailbox at the State College Post Office, and also will need to distribute important announcements and messages to ex-

ecutive committee members at monthly meetings.

The web editor should be experienced with web page design and FTP. Like the newsletter editor, your role would be supervising student interns and group members in constructing web pages and designing the site. You would work with the newsletter editor to build a web archive of newsletter files. Since our web space is free and much less time-consuming to produce, we can publish more articles and make more announcements online, so your role will be to supplement and expand on topics introduced in the newsletter, keep a calendar file up to date and find ways to attract webservers to join the group. You would work with student interns and group members in building webpages and designing the site, suggest revisions, assign tasks, proofread pages (checking for broken links, miss-



ing images, etc.), and upload files to the sier-raclub.org server.

Both the newsletter and web editors will need to attend Moshannon Group executive committee and general membership meetings at 7 p.m. on

the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Schlow Library in downtown State College.

These positions are vital to connecting all of us together as a group — keeping us all up to date on local and regional environmental issues. This can be a wonderfully rewarding and educational experience — depending on your energy and motivation. Elisa and Jan will be glad to meet with prospective editors to familiarize them with our newsletter and website.

If you're interested in either position, please contact Elisa Beshero-Bondar at eeb4@psu.edu.

**Pennsylvania
Chapter of The
Sierra Club**

P.O. Box 513
State College, PA 16804

**Non-Profit Organization
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**We're on
the Web!**

[http://
pennsylvania.
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One Earth, One Chance

MOSHANNON GROUP DIRECTORY

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*members of the Executive Committee

Send newsletter contributions to: *kms289@psu.edu*