

BOFDAC news

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Showcasing Conservation: Nature Inn Receives Green Building Council Awards

Article by Michael Twigg, R.A., LEED AP

The Green Building Council of Central Pennsylvania has presented DCNR's Nature Inn at Bald Eagle with two of their 2011 Green Building Awards. The Nature Inn received awards for Water Efficiency and Material and Resources.

In presenting the award for Water Efficiency the Green Building Council recognized the building's nearly 50% expected water use reduction through the use of native landscaping, low-flow plumbing fixtures, dual-flush toilets, and a rainwater collection system that supplies water for toilet flushing. They also commended the project for making these features very visible to the guests and visitors and for providing interpretive elements describing the features and the specific benefits that are being gained through their use. They congratulated the Department and design team for not just implementing water saving features, but for teaching people about them.

The Materials and Resources award was given for the wide use of both recycled content and regional materials, many of which were obtained from Pennsylvania sources. The Green Building Council also commended the project team for the extensive use of both Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood and Pennsylvania wood throughout the building structure, finishes, and furnishings. More than 80% of all the wood used in the construction is certified by the FSC, and Pennsylvania ash, oak, hickory, and maple are featured on the ceilings, walls, floors, beams, and columns throughout the facility.

The Green Building Council of Central Pennsylvania was formed in 1997 by design and construction professionals with the mission of promoting environmentally responsible design, planning, construction, and operation of the built environment. This year's awards represent the fifth year for the program and the second time a DCNR project has been recognized.

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Bureau Notes

This issue finds us very busy helping to get facilities back on-line for the upcoming high-use season as well as the execution of contracts including those for several large and significant projects such as the fountain rehabilitation at Point State Park and the new (replacement) Laurel Highlands hiking trail bridge over the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Laurel Ridge State Park and Forbes State Forest.

The Bureau came together for its annual meeting this May and many of us also attended the retirement celebration of former Bureau Director, Eugene Comoss. The celebration was held outside at Little Buffalo State Park. The picnic was definitely an "event" to be remembered with over 100 well-wishers in attendance. Gene is currently working as an annuitant and lends his expertise to the Department part of each week (between tee times!).

Congratulations to our bureau employees who were honored at the recent DCNR awards ceremony: Andy Evans for his excellent work on the Elk Viewing Center and Mike Twigg and Gair Terrette for their design and construction of the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park.

Green Building AwardsContinued

The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle has also been named a Finalist in the *Environmental Design + Construction Magazine's* 2011 Excellence in Design Award program and received the Associated Builders and Contractors of Central PA's Excellent in Construction award this past October.

For more information about the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle visit www.NatureInnAtBaldEagle.com

Flooding Again Impacts Delaware Canal

Article by Lisa Dorman, P.E. & Jim Kalp, LEED AP

In March of this year, Delaware Canal State Park once again felt the impact of the flooding Delaware River. Last July, after three years and approximately \$28 million in major reconstruction, a ceremonial grand opening was held to celebrate the long-awaited repairs from major flooding events that occurred in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Less than a year after that celebratory milestone, trail users, residents and park personnel can only be thankful that the damage incurred during the March 11 and 12 flooding is small in comparison to those previous events.

During the major reconstruction efforts, BOFDAC engineers implemented design/construction technologies and strategies that were intended to minimize the impact of future flooding events. Certain stretches of the towpath that required a complete rebuild were reconstructed with a system using gabion baskets, bentomat lining and a stabilized turf surface. This system seems to have performed well in the most recent flooding, especially where the stabilized grass surface has had a chance to really establish its root system. Damage was also minimized by implementing some new maintenance strategies. Perhaps the most significant is the practice of fully filling the canal prior to forecast high water events. In doing so, this practice helps minimize/attenuate the energy of flood water flowing into or out of the canal.

Given its location adjacent to the Delaware River, the canal has had a long history of floods. Although many times mistaken for a flood control



The Delaware River over tops the canal near the Lumberville foot bridge causing significant erosion damage to the towpath

structure, the man-made canal was never intended to function as such. It does not have the available volume to make any flood control impact. It was built to transport coal, lumber and other cargo. At the time, this was more economical than other methods of transport.

The canal can serve as a good example of the impacts of land development. Over the last several decades land development along the canal and Delaware River has increased. As development has increased so has the volume of storm water runoff entering the watershed. Historical records would suggest that as development within the watershed has increased so has the damage to the historical canal. Much of the damage occurs in areas where the river overtops the towpath, pouring into the canal or vice versa. The volume and velocity of flow erodes away the earthen towpath and undercuts many of the manmade structures causing them to collapse.

Most of the recent damage occurred in the northern sections of the canal. Preliminary site assessments suggest damage repairs will include towpath work, stone wall repair, seeding, and resetting of some gate structures at a budgetary cost of approximately \$2 million. BOFDAC staff will be performing more definitive cost estimates as each area of damage is fully evaluated and a detailed action for repair is developed.

For updated reports on activities associated with the Delaware Canal, visit The Friends of the Delaware Canal website at

<http://www.fodc.org/breaking-news.html>

Annual Bureau Meeting at Little Buffalo State Park

Article by Rhonda Dolen



Shoaff's Mill Tour by Ben Ranney, Environmental Education Specialist at Little Buffalo State Park

The annual Bureau meeting was held March 12 at Little Buffalo State Park for employees from central and regional offices. The meeting was a time for employees who do not often meet to all be together at one meeting, to their benefit. The meeting included opening remarks from the newly retired Bureau Director, Gene Comoss, regarding the state of the bureau and of funding. This was followed by a presentation of land use involving organic farming versus conventional agriculture, a presentation by the Pennsylvania Employees Credit Union (PSECU) on financial literacy and success, a presentation on how to prevent and treat Lyme disease, a tour of Shoaff's Mill at Little Buffalo State Park, and presentations on two of the Bureau's signature "green" design projects, highlighting the bureau's design accomplishments in this area.

The agricultural land use presentation speaker was Dennis Hall, chief of the Division of Economic Development in the Bureau of Market Development at the PA Department of Agriculture. He gave a presentation on various aspects of organic farming versus conventional agriculture. Pennsylvania is third in the country in sales of organic agricultural products; however, it's still only a small percentage of Pa. agriculture. He presented the positives and negatives of aspects of both forms of farming. Organic agriculture can be defined as agriculture using less synthetic chemicals than conventional agriculture. It has higher production costs than conventional

agriculture and its products may cost more than those produced conventionally. Forty-four percent of organic products in Pennsylvania are sold within 100 miles of where they are grown. The Department of Agriculture encourages all forms of agriculture – conventional, organic and sustainable, believing consumers should have a choice regarding which they prefer.

Mary Oliveira, business development manager of marketing from PSECU, gave a presentation, Ten Steps to Financial Success. This presentation was regarding financial literacy and budget planning. Employees were asked to analyze what financial success means to them and learned how to create and follow steps to get there, and how to excel at budget planning.

Linda Allen, of the Bureau of Community Health Systems, Department of Health, gave a presentation on Lyme disease. Many employees in the Bureau are frequently in the field in our state parks and forests, inspecting projects or structures, visiting sites or surveying land and are, thus, at a higher level of risk than many people for contracting the tick-borne Lyme disease. Linda went over the basics of preventing Lyme disease and of what to do if you find a tick on yourself in order to reduce the risk for Lyme disease and when to see a doctor to seek antibiotic treatment. She passed out tick identification information and information regarding Lyme disease as well. Lyme disease can be serious, especially if it is not caught and treated early. However, it can often be prevented by proper tick removal within 24–48 hours. Not all ticks carry Lyme disease. Pennsylvania is one of 12 U.S. states



Linda Allen, Community Health Nurse, presents a PowerPoint on Lyme disease prevention.

Retirement of Gene Comoss

Article by Denise Kelly, P.G.



Mike Mumau, Park Manager, Laurel Hill State Park (l) and Gene Comoss (r) at Little Buffalo State Park.

Gene Comoss officially retired from Commonwealth service on Friday, April 22. An in-house reception was held on April 21 where Gene was presented with a citation from Senator Piccola and a coveted DCNR walking stick. Earlier in April, at Presque Isle State Park, Gene was presented with a citation from Representative Hornaman.

The retirement festivities continued on Friday, May 13 at Little Buffalo State Park where Gene was honored for his 40-plus years of service to the Commonwealth. Acting Secretary Richard Allan opened with remarks highlighting Gene's career, from his beginning in 1967 as an Engineering Technician intern with PennDOT through the start of his permanent career as a Civil Engineer Trainee in the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of State Parks and culminating in his becoming the first Bureau Director of Facility Design and Construction in 1993. It was noted that in the 18 years Gene was Bureau Director he had overseen nearly \$900 million of infrastructure projects for both parks and forestry – quite an impressive achievement.

Everyone at the picnic all joined together in appreciation both for Gene's dedicated work for the Commonwealth and in wishing him all the best as he begins this new chapter of his life.

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Annual Bureau MeetingContinued

that account for 93% of all reported cases of Lyme disease. The disease is most prevalent in the Northeastern U.S. Prevention efforts include wearing insect repellent with DEET, washing hair and skin after being outdoors, wearing long clothes, tucking pants into socks, wearing light colors to spot ticks and inspecting for ticks after coming indoors.

Around lunchtime, employees took a tour of Shoaff's Mill at Little Buffalo State Park, led by Ben Ranney, environmental education specialist. Employees saw the historic water wheel turn and were educated regarding how the mill operated.

After lunch, Michael Twigg, architectural supervisor in the Bureau, gave a presentation on the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park, explaining the sustainable features incorporated into its award-winning LEED design and construction. The presentation featured a PowerPoint photo tour of the building, and of aspects of its design and of various aspects of its sustainable features.

Andy Evans, landscape architectural supervisor in the Bureau, gave a presentation on the award-winning Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette at the gateway to the PA Wilds. He discussed the design of the building and trails and gave a photo tour of the popular attraction.



Inside Shoaff's Mill at Little Buffalo State Park

Questions – Comments?

We value our reader's feedback. Send your questions or comments to:

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Assistant Editor: Rhonda Dolen, rdolen@state.pa.us

Works in Progress



*FDC-414-961 - Promised Land State Park
Pickerel Point & Deerfield Campground Rehabilitation
Laying masonry foundation for Wash House*



*FDC-414-961 - Promised Land State Park
Pickerel Point & Deerfield Campground Rehabilitation
Placing concrete footing for a new 50,000 gal. storage tank*



*FDC-414-1150 - Promised Land State Park
Bridge Replacement & Spillway Rehabilitation Project
(Lower Lake) - Preparing for roadway realignment transition*



*FDC-414-1150 - Promised Land State Park
Bridge Replacement & Spillway Rehabilitation Project
(Lower Lake) - Spillway rehab construction under new bridge*



*FDC-410-4764 - Neshaminy State Park
Rehabilitate Pool Filtration System
New filtration system piping, valves & filters*



*FDC-410-4764 - Neshaminy State Park
Rehabilitate Pool Filtration System
New filtration system digital control panels*

Works in Progress



*FDC-018-6819 – Weiser State Forest – FD18
Bear Gap Fire Control Station Roof Replacement
Removing stone ballast & prepping existing roof*



*FDC-018-6819 – Weiser State Forest – FD18
Bear Gap Fire Control Station Roof Replacement
Installing gable trusses over existing flat roof*



*FDC-417-2824 – Ricketts Glen State Park
Rehabilitation of Water & Wastewater Treatment Facilities
Removing shingles on existing treatment building*



*FDC-417-2824 – Ricketts Glen State Park
Rehabilitation of Water & Wastewater Treatment Facilities
Applying bonding agent for concrete surface repairs*



*FDC-005-6487 – Rothrock State Forest – FD 5
Structure Rehab Bridge No. 05-0026
Placing concrete foundation*



*FDC-303-4508 – Caledonia State Park
Add Water Slide at Swimming Pool – Replace Trench Drain
Preparing foundations for new water slide*

Bidding Summary March '11

FDC-219-2239.1 – Laurel Hill State Park
Structure Replacement, Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail Bridge

Bid Price:	\$1,297,062.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Mosites Construction
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FDC-303-6966.1 – Caledonia State Park
Raise Manholes and Repair Erosion Damage

Bid Price:	\$13,595.62	Apparent Low Bidder:	Snoke's Excavating
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FDC-013-7161.1 - Elk State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 13-9025, Little Dents Road over Little Dents Run

Bid Price:	\$179,550.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Coleman Construction
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FDC-015-6088.1 – Susquehannock State Park
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 15-9001, Long Toe Road over Prouty Run

Bid Price:	\$200,955.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Coleman Construction
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FDC-013-3815.1 – Elk State Forest
Structure Replacement, Dents Run Road over Bear Hollow and Dents Run Road over Weatherboard Hollow

Bid Price:	\$320,320.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Francis J. Palo, Inc.
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FDC-020-6633.1 – Loyalsock State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 20-0017, Yellow Dog Road over Rock Run

Bid Price:	\$311,760.05	Apparent Low Bidder:	Lycoming Supply, Inc.
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FDC-020-7167.1 – Loyalsock State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 12-9018, Hillsgrove Road over Tributary to Pleasant Stream

Bid Price:	\$179,152.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Lycoming Supply, Inc.
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FDC-013-6969.1 – Elk State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 13-0045, East Cowley Run Road over East Branch Cowley Run

Bid Price:	\$302,418.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Coleman Construction
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FDC-420-7179.1R – Tobyhanna State Park
Campground Road Paving

Bid Price:	\$276,155.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Locust Ridge Contractors
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Bidding Summary Continued March '11

FDC-015-6639.1 – Susquehannock State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 15-9013, Nelson Run Road over Gas Well Hollow

Bid Price:	\$157,300.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	L. C. Whitford Company
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FDC-005-7173.1 – Rothrock State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 05-0018, Beidler Road over Laurel Run

Bid Price:	\$366,982.84	Apparent Low Bidder:	Wen-Brooke Contracting, Inc.
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Bidding Summary April '11

FDC-003-7174.1 – Tuscarora State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge Nos. 03-0017 & 03-0031, Meadow Road over Laurel Run

Bid Price:	\$536,063.24	Apparent Low Bidder:	Wen-Brooke Contracting, Inc.
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FDC-020-7182.1 – Loyalsock State Forest
Structure Replacement Bridge No. 20-9011, High Knob Road over Ketchum Run

Bid Price:	\$213,881.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Lycoming Supply, Inc.
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FDC-010-7159.1 - Sproul State Forest
Structure Replacement, Greenlick Road over Little Greenlick Run

Bid Price:	\$393,954.75	Apparent Low Bidder:	LTT Trucking, LLC
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FDC-006-6476.1 – Prince Gallitzin State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 06-0004

Bid Price:	\$257,182.50	Apparent Low Bidder:	Straw Construction Company
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FDC-009-6631.1 – Moshannon State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 09-0026 and 09-0029

Bid Price:	\$697,218.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Coleman Construction
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FDC-018-6632.1 – Weiser State Forest
Structure Replacement, Bridge No. 18-9000 & Bridge No. 18-9001

Bid Price:	\$280,183.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Flyway Excavating
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Bidding Summary April '11 Continued

FDC-004-7158.1 – Forbes State Forest
Structure Replacements, Bridge No. 04-0015, Bridge No. 04-0007, Bridge No. 04-0014

Bid Price:	\$678,862.75	Apparent Low Bidder:	Cottles Asphalt Maintenance
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FDC-427-6953.1 – Ridley Creek State Park
General Construction: Upgrades to Kitchen

Bid Price:	\$128,520.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	AWZ, LLC
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FDC-427-6953.2 – Ridley Creek State Park
HVAC Construction: Upgrades to Mansion Kitchen

Bid Price:	\$69,660.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	AWZ, LLC
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FDC-427-6953.3 – Ridley Creek State Park
Upgrades to Mansion Kitchen: Plumbing Construction

Bid Price:	\$48,400.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	AWZ, LLC
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FDC-427-6953.4 – Ridley Creek State Park
Upgrades to Mansion Kitchen: Electrical Construction

Bid Price:	\$92,398.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	Quaker Electrical Mechanical Construction
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FDC-316-7198.1 – Codorus State Park
Remove and Reinstall Fuel Systems at Marina and Maintenance Building

Bid Price:	\$45,000.00	Apparent Low Bidder:	G.G.E., Inc.
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Bidding Summary:

March Total Bids:	11
March Total Bid Value:	\$3,605,250.40
April Total Bids:	12
April Total Bid Value:	\$3,441,323.10



Employee Profile: Sandy Lewis

Sandy Lewis is the Administrative Assistant with the Division of Field Engineering, Eastern Engineering Office. She has worked in this position since 2000. Prior to her employment with DCNR, Sandy worked for DEP in the Division of Waterways Engineering and for the Bucks County Conservation District.

Sandy's daily activities include interacting with contractors on administrative issues including payments and change orders. She also serves as the office's timekeeper, and purchasing officer. She currently is heading up the training team.

After graduating from Delhaas High School in Bristol Pa., she earned her associates degree in 2006 from Bucks County Community College in Office Administration.

Sandy currently resides in Doylestown with her husband Wayne. Doing their part for conservation they have three hybrid cars in the family and have recently installed a solar array and are loving the zero dollar electric bills. She has two children, Kevin and Erin, who have graduated from college and are currently pursuing their careers.

Sandy enjoys crafting, flea marketing, going to the casinos and traveling. She is preparing for her Relay for Life Walk in June and is a 4H leader.

Bureau Mission:

To provide multi-disciplined technical support to the other bureaus in DCNR in the areas of project design, project inspections, construction management, contract administration, surveying and other technical advice and consultation.