



## Reintroduction

### HARRY ENSTROM CHAPTER

2019 is ending with our local, national and global environments under a continuous attack from global warming, industrial water and air pollutants and political greed. There has been a total disregard for the health and well-being of our friends and neighbors.

Our pledge states “To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources”. The battle to uphold each of these challenges requires the dedication of our members and their expertise. The chapter has been in existence for 77 years. It is comprised of members with 45 years of activity down to our newest members of 3 months.

Our members come from all walks of life. They are scientists, teachers, professors, insurance specialists, miners, postal workers and electronic technicians and more. They have degrees in biology, chemistry, electrical engineering, management, history, and environmental studies. They come from Cal U, Penn State, Pitt, W & J, Duquesne, Waynesburg and Georgia Tech. Many of our members are veterans of our armed forces having served in the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines.

I believe it is important to know the quality of the chapter members that are fighting for you each and every day.

Dallas Slagle, President

### WATER STANDARDS COMMITTEE

We have started a new committee to tackle the lack of drinking water standards for the new chemicals that are being found in our water. Ken Dufalla is the committee chairperson and there are 6 additional chapter members participating. We have worked on the abstract and the introduction. We have been researching the testing results from numerous water suppliers along the Monongahela River from Greene County down to Allegheny County. We are working with current Federal standards, World Health Organization standards and recommended health standards from the Environmental Working Group.



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#### DEFENDERS OF

- Soil
- Woods
- Water
- Air
- Woodlands



## WATER MONITORING

As you know, we have been doing water monitoring since 2011. We established excellent baselines at many locations within Greene County and Washington County. We identified many hot spots from acid mine drainage and we have also identified issues related to fracking. We have trained numerous members from the chapter as well as league members from West Virginia chapters and most recently in the newest chapter in Pennsylvania, Allegheny chapter.

Most recently, the chapter promoted

a monitoring day within the Earth Echo World Monitoring Guide. Our 1st Vice-President John Detisch worked tirelessly reaching out to watershed groups, schools and universities to encourage their participation. We are planning to work much earlier this year to promote the issue and get as much participation as possible.

Our past monitoring results are important to the newly formed committee on drinking water standards.

*“Prevention is the key to Preservation”*

### **ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE**

- AMD is a common form of water pollution in Pennsylvania and in other states where vast amounts of mining took place in the past
- There are several issues with abandoned mines that impact water quality.
- acid mine drainage (the most prevalent)
- alkaline mine drainage (this typically occurs when calcite or dolomite is present)
- metal mine drainage (high levels of lead or other metals drain from these abandoned mines)

### **UNCONVENTIONAL DRILLING (FRACKING)**

#### **Water Concerns**

- Nearly all natural gas extraction today involves a technique called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in which dangerous chemicals are mixed with large quantities of water and sand and injected into wells at extremely high pressure.
- Fracking is a suspect in polluted drinking water in many states where residents have reported changes in water quality or quantity following fracturing operations.

Pollution is not the only issue. The massive amount of water being used can cause water shortages and threatens local streams. The average amount of water required for 1 well is 4.4 million gallons.

#### **Contaminants of concern to drinking water include:**

- Fracturing fluid chemicals
- Naturally occurring materials in the geologic formation (e.g. metals, radionuclides) that are mobilized and brought to the surface during the hydraulic fracturing process.

•Storm water runoff

•Pesticides

Abandoned mine drainage



## AIR QUALITY

The Izaak Walton League supports federal programs that cut carbon and other pollutants from how Americans use energy – driving innovation, community growth, and broader collaboration.

America's coal-fired power plants release more than 386,000 tons of hazardous air pollutants each year, including lead, arsenic, and 48 tons of mercury. When mercury enters streams and other waters, it turns into methylmercury – a highly toxic form of mercury that accumulates in fish and other animals that eat fish. At high doses, mercury exposure in humans can cause tremors, inability to walk, convulsions – even death. For developing babies and children, it can impair neurological development.

Significant emission issues from fracking start with diesel and road dust emissions from trucks transporting water and equipment to the drilling sites and waste fluids away from the site. Combustion emissions from compressor stations are a large concern.

Southwestern Pennsylvania has long standing air quality problems. Even with the vast majority of the steel and coal industries shut down, the area air quality is some of the worst in the entire state.

Auto emissions continue to be a large contributor to the poor air quality in our cities.

Additional health related concerns: short-term exposure to criteria pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides has been linked to adverse respiratory effects.

Exposure to fine particulate matter (PM) and ozone .O3/ may increase respiratory-related hospital admissions, emergency room visits, and premature death.

## ALWAYS ON.....

The idea that we need a minimum number of traditional fossil-fuel power plants to meet our nation's minimum electricity needs – a system called "baseload power" – is becoming increasingly obsolete. The electricity system developed during the last half of the 20th century relied on large, centralized coal-fired, nuclear, and hydroelectric plants to supply cheap and reliable power to local regions.

A clean energy system that offers significant economic, health, and environmental benefits is already emerging. In "Always On: Reliable electricity in an age of coal plant retirement," the Izaak Walton League and Fresh Energy explain market forces that caused traditional baseload electricity sources to have less value in the 21st-century electricity system. The report demonstrates how current energy market forces are paving the way for cleaner, more efficient ways to meet our basic electricity needs.



## What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious, always-fatal disease that infects deer and elk in Pennsylvania. It is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). Other diseases in the TSE family include Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in cattle; Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans; and Scrapie in sheep and goats. It was first recognized in deer and elk in Colorado in 1967. The cause of CWD is believed to be an abnormal prion (proteinaceous infectious particle). Prions are concentrated in the brain, nervous system, and lymphoid tissues of infected animals. The disease causes death of brain cells resulting in microscopic holes in the brain tissue. CWD-infected deer, on average, do not display



## FISH AND WILDLIFE

Every animal needs a few things to survive: food, water, and a suitable place to live (habitat). By using our natural resources in a sustainable way and accepting our responsibility to live with the wildlife around us, we can ensure abundant fish and wildlife populations and maintain our wildlife-based traditions, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching.

The chapter has been stocking trout in the South Branch of Ten Mile Creek for many years. We usually stock twice in the Spring and once in the Fall. We have been blessed by grants from Greene County.

The stockings not only benefit local anglers, but have been a boost for our annual Kid's and Ladies Fish Day. We have been providing a free lunch and gifts for the past ten years. Concerns with water quality interrupted stocking and Kids Day at least once in the past.



## CWD IN PENNSYLVANIA

In Pennsylvania, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in four Disease Management Areas (DMAs): DMA 1 on a captive deer farm in Adams County during 2012 (DMA 1 has since been eliminated); DMA 2 in multiple free-ranging deer in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, and Fulton counties during 2012, and captive deer farms in Bedford, Franklin, and Fulton counties during 2017; DMA 3 in two captive deer farms in Jefferson County during 2014 and a free-ranging deer in Clearfield County during 2017. DMA 4 in a captive deer at a facility in Lancaster County during 2018. In addition, CWD has been detected in wild or captive deer and/or elk in many other states and provinces.

## RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

### What's Happening

State fish and wildlife agencies have jurisdiction over the majority of wildlife within state borders. These agencies are stewards for a wide range of wildlife and other natural resources statewide. Yet the current funding model for wildlife conservation and management relies almost entirely on hunting and fishing license sales as well as excise taxes collected on hunting, fishing, and other sporting equipment. This model of wildlife conservation funding has already led to funding shortfalls as conservation needs increase and hunter numbers decrease.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is a potential game changer. It would redirect \$1.3 billion per year to state wildlife conservation efforts focused on restoring at-risk wildlife – efforts that will benefit many species of fish and wildlife as well as people who enjoy the outdoors. The funds would come from existing revenues collected from energy extraction and development companies operating on federal lands and waters.

The League is monitoring this issue and will keep chapters updated if it moves forward.

## SOIL

America's farms and ranches provide food, fuel, and fiber for a growing population, but this productivity often comes with environmental costs: fertilizer and pesticides running into your local creek or favorite fishing hole; fewer waterfowl – and more flooding – due to drained wetlands and plowed-up grasslands; blankets of algae covering lakes large and small. Chances are that you've seen agriculture's impact firsthand.

In a concerted effort to stay ahead of the curve in the national Soil Health movement, Pennsylvania NRCS has selected 17 NRCS and two Conservation District staff to form a Soil Health training cadre, with a goal of implementing effective statewide trainings for both field employees and farmers into the future. The state is now poised to provide soil health training using a nationally approved curriculum to the nearly 200 conservation planners seeking conservation planning certification.



*Conservation is a state of harmony between humankind and land.....*

## WOODS AND PUBLIC LANDS

The Izaak Walton League has always recognized that land and waters should be set aside in perpetual trust for the long-term benefit of all Americans.

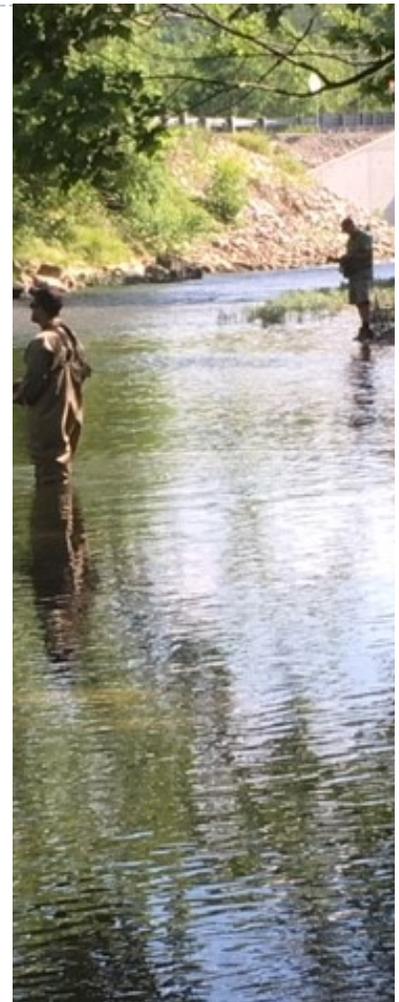
The League also believes that other public lands can serve a variety of uses, including commercial and non-commercial activities. For example, public lands continue to provide timber, energy, and minerals; wildlife habitat; clean water; and recreational opportunities. However, it is essential that these lands be managed on behalf of all Americans to ensure the sustainability of public resources.

**The primary mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is the acquisition of the land base for outdoor recreation and the preservation of our natural heritage.**

The LWCF is the primary mechanism through which local and state governments and federal agencies acquire and consolidate land for public use and benefit including recreation and the conservation of natural resources. The LWCF is funded through royalties from federal offshore leases of publicly owned oil and gas. The program is authorized to distribute up to \$900 million of those revenues to conservation as a way to indirectly offset the impacts of the offshore oil and gas operations.

There are a great many groups and interests advocating for reauthorization or reform of the LWCF since it touches so many lives – sportsmen and women but also local communities, state wildlife agencies, National Park supporters, and more.

The fund was permanently reauthorized on March 12, 2019.



## HARRY ENSTROM

### Our Mission:

To conserve, maintain, protect, and restore the soil, forest, water, and other natural resources of the United States and other lands; to promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to such resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization.

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