



Tulpehocken Chapter
Trout Unlimited, Inc.



*"To Conserve, Protect, and Enhance the
Quality and Quantity of the Cold Water
Resources of Berks County, Pennsylvania"*

Vol. 17 - Issue 3

April/May 2011

TullyGram

www.TullyTU.org

**The Newsletter of the
Tulpehocken Chapter
of Trout Unlimited**



TCTU member Scott Lechki teaching a student to cast a fly rod.
(See page 6 for the complete article)

More on the Marcellus Shale Drilling

by Ron Weidner

According to an article by The Associated Press and posted on the website of Pennlive.com the federal Environmental Protection Agency has requested Pennsylvania to expand the scope of water tests in order to screen for radioactive pollutants and other contaminants from the state's booming natural gas drilling industry. The tests are necessary to make sure drinking water isn't being contaminated by drillers. The state Department of Environmental Protection's acting secretary, (continued on page 3)

Breakfast on the Tully

If you haven't joined us for breakfast last year, you really should consider giving it a try this year. We have a breakfast planned each month starting Saturday, May 14th and then each second Saturday of each month, through August. We start usually as early as 8:30AM until around 10:30AM depending on how many people join us. This is a great social event for our members and friends. Bring your fishing buddies, neighbors and join us for the food and conversation, then fish the Tully or just sit and relax along the stream. There is nothing better than to eat a hearty breakfast next to the water, especially before fishing the Tulpehocken Creek. (continued on page 4)

Tully Talk

by Gene Markle

Spring is finally here. The days are getting warmer and the sun is setting a bit later each evening. Most of us are looking forward to the upcoming fishing season and finally getting a chance to drown some flies. Hopefully we have taken time over the winter to update our vests which simply means buying the gadgets we simply can't live without even though we haven't a clue on how to use them.



The streams will be crowded with fishermen, fisherwomen, and younger kids, trying to catch the big one before the person next to them does. I usually do not venture out opening day because I don't care for opening day crowds. I like to wait a week.

Please keep in mind that when we are out fishing, we are often fishing private property, and the owner has given us access to the stream through his or her land. With that privilege comes a responsibility. We need to respect the land and keep it in the condition it was before we set foot on the property. If you see any litter, such as bottle containers, wrappers, bait containers, please be thoughtful enough to throw it in the back of your vest and deposit in a wastebasket when you can. Many landowners have posted property because of a few inconsiderate people not having respect for the landowner and property so please be kind and help keep an area clean even though you may not have been the person littering.

If the opportunity comes along, try to take someone fishing who is new to the sport. Kids really enjoy someone spending time with an adult fishing. It doesn't matter what they catch, as long as something tugs the end of their line. If you run across someone who is new to fly fishing and could use your assistance, share some of your knowledge with them. You may even be able to share with them what Trout Unlimited is all about and why you support the organization. Fishing is a great pass time, but we still need to protect and enhance the environment fish and other wildlife call their home. Please take the opportunity, when it presents itself, to spread the word as to why we need to put a high value on what too many of us take for granted.

Tight Lines, *Geno*



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Trout Unlimited, Inc.**

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Currents

May 10 • Tully Stocking - 12:30 PM
Meet at the Stilling Basin

May 14 • Breakfast on the Tully - 8:30 AM
Held at the Tully House

May 18 • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
All members are welcome

May 25 • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM
Speaker: **Frances "Doc" Plucinsky**

May 28 • Meet & Fish - 7:00 AM
Tulpehocken Creek
Meet at the Paper Mill

May 30 • PA Fish & Boat Commission Fish for Free Day

June 11 • Breakfast on the Tully - 8:30 AM
Held at the Tully House

June 15 • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
All members are welcome

June 18 • Fly Fishing Clinic - 8:30 AM
Meet at Red Bridge Park
Contact Rick Bell for details
484-575-7037

June 22 • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM
Army Corp of Engineers
Blue Marsh Dam Operation

July 9 • Breakfast on the Tully - 8:30 AM
Held at the Tully House

July 16 • Fly Fishing Clinic - 8:30 AM
Meet at Red Bridge Park
Contact Rick Bell for details
484-575-7037

July 20 • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
All members are welcome

July 27 • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM
Program to be Announced

Aug. 13 • Breakfast on the Tully - 8:30 AM
Held at the Tully House

Aug. 17 • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
All members are welcome

Aug. 24 • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM
Program to be Announced

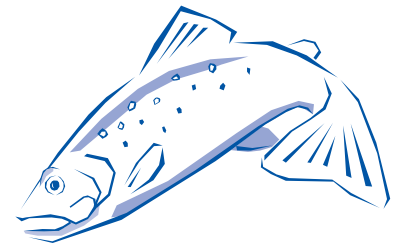
Sept. 5 • PA Fish & Boat Commission Fish for Free Day

Sept. 17 • Fly Fishing Clinic - 8:30 AM
Meet at Red Bridge Park

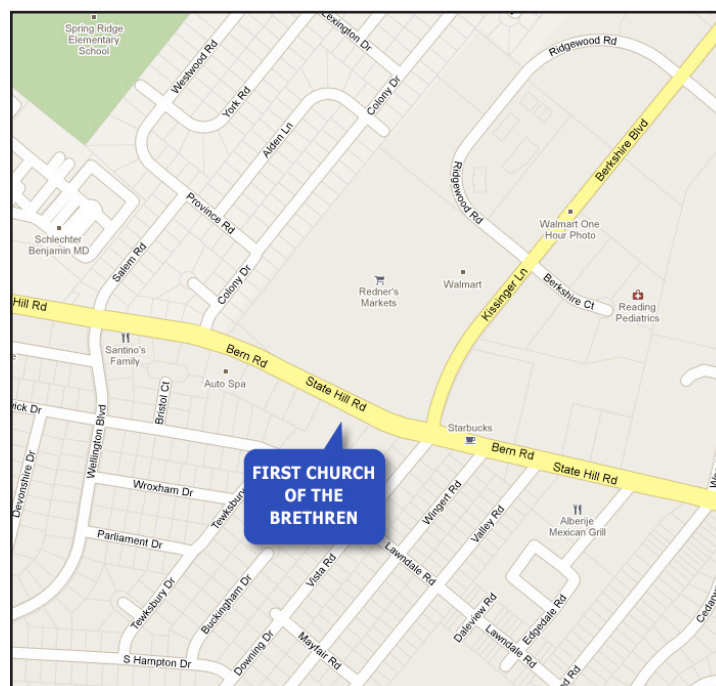
Sept. 21 • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
All members are welcome

Sept. 28 • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM
Program to be Announced

Oct. 7 • Tully Stocking - 1:00 PM
Meet at the Stilling Basin



UNLESS NOTED MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
2200 State Hill Road, Reading, PA 19610-1904



DIRECTIONS TO THE TULLY HOUSE:

Take the Bypass (Route 422/222) going West from Reading. Exit on Broadcasting Road. Go North on Broadcasting Road (follow the signs to Penn State, Berks Campus). At the bottom of the hill turn right onto Tulpehocken Road. Turn left to enter Grings Mill Recreation Area (across the street from Penn State). Make the first right toward the tennis courts. Go to the end of the parking lot and down the gravel road to the house. If the park is closed, enter at the secondary gate, just South of the main entrance. Please be prompt. The gate will be open 15 minutes prior to and 5 minutes after the meeting time.

MORE ON THE MARCELLUS SHALE DRILLING

(continued from page 1)

Michael Krancer, wrote to the EPA to say that he has requested additional testing from SOME public water suppliers and wastewater treatment facilities.

The tests according to the federal EPA should check for Radium, Uranium and the salty dissolved solids that could potentially make drilling wastewater environmentally damaging. According to acting secretary, Michael Krancer, of the state DEP letters were sent from the DEP to 14 public water authorities and 25 wastewater facilities.

In his letter, Shawn Garvin, the EPA's regional administrator, pointed out that most treatment facilities are unable to remove many of the pollutants in the often-toxic drilling water. Substances of concern, he said, include radioactive contaminants, organic chemicals, metals and salty dissolved solids. Garvin also had asked Pennsylvania to re-examine permits issued to the treatment plants handling the waste, saying they lacked "critical provisions." Krancer responded that requirements to monitor for substances of concern will be added to permits upon renewal and where warranted, whatever that means.

An EPA spokeswoman, Donna Heron, said that her agency "will continue to work closely with the state of Pennsylvania on all the issues involving Marcellus Shale." Pennsylvania is the center of activity right now with more than 2,000 wells drilled in the past three years and many thousands planned.

PA Trout Unlimited supports the need for a severance tax in order to protect our water in the drainage areas being affected. Please write your State Representatives and request them to require a severance tax. Not only can our drinking water be affected but our trout streams and the townships in our rural areas will need help with the additional expenses created by the drilling companies.

If you would like to receive notifications by email whenever new issues of the TullyGram are available, please send your name and email address to us at info@TullyTU.org. Also make sure you "white list" this address in any spam filters you are using.



Photo by Steve Fabian

HELP PROTECT OUR STREAMS!

If you witness poaching, pollution, or other problems on the stream, do not confront the violators. Please call the Berks County non-emergency dispatch at (610) 655-4911. Enter this number into your cell phone so you have it when you need it.

Gloria's Korner Kitchen

by Gloria Barnett

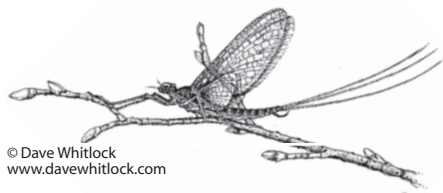
"Hello everyone, this is Gloria greeting you from my Korner Kitchen.

At last we are experiencing some warmer days and all you avid fishermen can go to the streams and catch some trout.

Trout are universal, anglers enjoy catching them, and the commercial markets always feature this fresh, delectable fish.

Gloria

Print, cut out and add to your recipe file!



© Dave Whitlock
www.davewhitlock.com

Trout Cakes

Gloria's Korner Kitchen

- 2 cups flaked trout (2 steamed, boned trout)
- 3 cups mashed potatoes
- 3 large eggs
- 3 to 4 green onions/finely chopped
- 2 Tbsps chicken soup base
- Crushed crackers - enough to roll the trout cakes in before frying
- 2 tsps salt
- 1 tsp white pepper
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp white wine

Thoroughly mix all ingredients; shape into balls or croquets. Dip in beaten egg mixture and roll in finely crushed cracker crumbs. Deep fry until golden brown.
(Note - a deep skillet can also be used in place of a deep fryer)

Chapter News

TCTU "MEET & FISH" DAYS

The chapter is trying something new this year. "Meet & Fish" days are casual get togethers for members who are looking for others to fish with. These events are open to members, friends, ladies, families. Come out and learn about fly fishing or just show up and try a new stream. Check "Currents" on page 2 for streams, dates, times and meeting places.

BREAKFAST ON THE TULLY *(continued from page 1)*

Our headquarters for social outings during the summer is the Tullyhouse. A beautiful old stone home 50' from the waters of the Tulpehocken, next to Grings Mill Recreation Area and across from the Berks Penn State College Campus. As most of you know, the Tulpehocken is considered one of the best trout streams in Berks County, if not in the state. If you don't know how to find the Tullyhouse, go to our website, www.tullytu.org, for directions or call one of our officers.

We have excellent, experienced chefs serving an all you can eat meal usually consisting of the following: coffee, eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, juice and pancakes, your choice of either or all. Most served buffet style with the option of requesting a special order.

We normally do not make any money on these events, so we ask for a donation of a minimum of \$4 per person for breakfast; we hope you will consider more.

We are also looking for and need a sponsor of each breakfast to cover our costs, so we can use our operating funds for our conservation projects and other events.

You can help your organization if you could provide a sponsorship of a breakfast for a minimum of \$125.00. That amount would come close to covering our costs and maybe we will make a few bucks with the breakfast donations. Sponsorships are tax deductible and every dollar we receive goes towards our projects, operating expenses, and events. We are an all volunteer, non-profit organization. Please contact Ron Weidner, Treas. at rlwrlw2222@yahoo.com to make arrangements to sponsor. We recognize our sponsors at each event and in our newsletter.

We want to thank Rick Nyles, Sky Blue Outfitters, for sponsoring a breakfast in 2010. See you at the Tullyhouse.
Ron Weidner, Treasurer

LIKE FISHING & WRITING?

We are looking for enthusiastic writers and photographers to submit images and pieces for use in our monthly on-line newsletter to members. Because we will be accepting articles, we must point out that the views in the TCTU on-line newsletter do not reflect the views of TCTU but rather the views of the writer.

TCTU IS ON FACEBOOK!

Log into your Facebook account and search for "Tulpehocken Creek Trout Unlimited."



TCTU member, Joe Hnatishion, caught this Tiger Trout in the Tully.

"CAUGHT AND RELEASED"

This year, we would like to include photos of fish caught by our members in the newsletter. Please forward any current picture with your name and a short statement of where, when, and how the catch was made, along with confirmation that the fish was released unharmed. Thank you, looking forward to your participation. Send them to Newsletter@TullyTU.org.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! TCTU has three new volunteer positions available.

Your organization is doing well; all of our Board Member positions have been filled for the past two years, and, we recently added two volunteers who will act as co-chairman of a Banquet Committee. However, we continue to need additional volunteers and have recently added the following three new volunteer opportunities.

1. Newsletter Editor

The responsibilities of this position would be to write articles, obtain articles from others that pertain to our mission and would be of interest to our membership. You can go to our website at www.tullytu.org and download past issues of our newsletter to understand what is usually involved. After the articles, pictures, and other information is gathered, the information would be given to Steve Fabian for placement in the newsletter in its' final form and to send the newsletter to everyone on our email list.

2. Volunteer Coordinator

We have many projects and events throughout each year, but we are always in need of more volunteers. The Volunteer Coordinator's responsibility is to maintain a current list of potential volunteers to assist with events and projects as needed. That would include contacting various colleges, schools, Boy Scouts, environmental groups, etc.

3. Fundraising Coordinator

The main responsibilities of this position is to obtain additional income for the organization by obtaining advertisements in our newsletter, searching for sponsors for events as outlined in our Strategic Plan and assisting in obtaining donations for raffles, banquets and other fund raising events as they develop.
(continued on page 6)

The Hatches of May

Photo and article by Rick Nyles - Sky Blue Outfitters

There is a reason that the common name for a fly is called "mayfly". That's because the month of May has the most consistent, diverse and prolific hatches of the year. There are also Caddis, Stoneflies and Crane Flies, but that is for another article. I am just going to run through the mayflies of May.

The month starts off with the Hendrickson (female) and Red Quill (male). Sometimes this hatch will come and go in April but most of the time it will linger into May. Remember, just because the Nymph is not active and has stopped transforming into a Dun does not mean the mating Spinner is not active. One thing I found interesting over the years is that the Hendrickson Spinner will come out anytime during the day, mostly afternoon until early evening depending on the weather conditions. I have had some excellent Hendrickson fishing on the Manatawny, Big Fishing Creek and others.

After the Hendrickson comes the March Brown. This is one of my favorite hatches and is why I run trips out to Penns Creek in the middle of May. All of the times that I have been in Central PA in the middle of May, I have never missed this hatch. One thing I have found is it's hard to hit the March Brown Spinner fall. Seeing clouds of Spinners in the air, night after night, only to see a few fall has been frustrating. Along with the March Brown is also the Grey Fox. The jury is still out but I think it is part of the March Brown family, just a different color (lighter) than the March Brown. Some say it is not related. Hmmm... same size, same markings, same hatch time, just more yellow in color.

Other mid-May hatches are the Ginger Quill, Quill Gordon and Black Quill. The Black Quill is an overlooked hatch in my opinion. I feel this is why the Adams works so well in May as an attractor pattern. Quill Gordon is a strong hatch but it is a common emergence around the commonwealth.

One thing I have learned is that trout will key in on a specific hatch even though a stronger one comes off later. One time up on the Delaware we were fishing the Green Drake hatch and the fish were boiling everywhere. There were Sulphurs and Caddis also coming off. BUT, they were not taking the Drake, so we tried a Sulphur... no luck... then a Caddis... that is what they were eating. The Caddis was the first fly coming off and they did not move off the Caddis even though there were Drakes and Sulphurs everywhere. Lesson learned.

Next is the best of the Mayfly hatch- the Sulphur. So many streams have a Sulphur hatch and can show up as early as the second week of May and will last late into June. One thing is certain if you fish the last week of May. You will have Sulphurs, no ifs ands or buts... also the hatch lasts for weeks. It is not like the Hendrickson or the Green Drake- a one week hatch. Some streams also have a Light Cahill hatch that is same size as the Sulphur (size 16 or 18), just a lighter color. You have to pay particular attention to color because some streams, such as the Manatawny have a more orange variety.

The month ends with the granddaddy of all Mayflies- the Green Drake. Everybody wants to fish the Green Drake hatch. *(continued on page 6)*



TU Members Volunteer to Teach Casting in New High School Course.

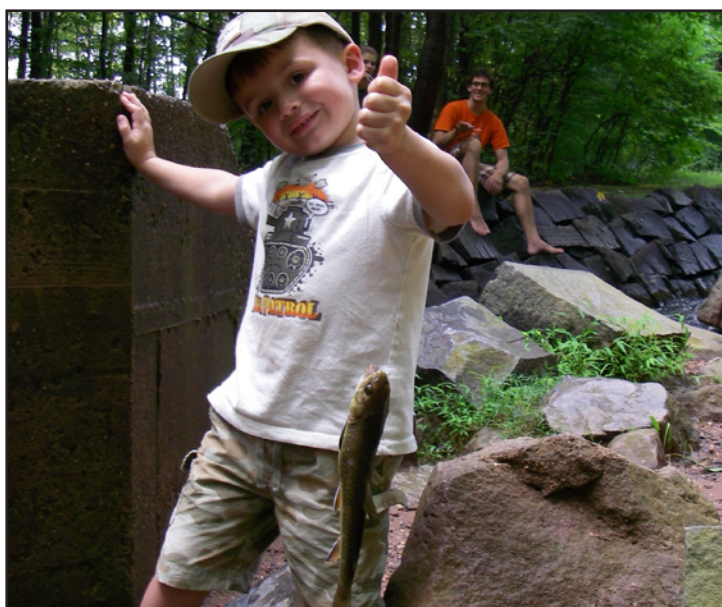
Submitted By Bob Ballantyne, TU Member and member of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

Five TU members from three different chapters in the southeastern region of the state, including our chapter's own Scott Lechki and Ron Weidner, teamed up on Friday, April 15th to teach fly casting to a group of 24 students at Boyertown Area Senior High School in Boyertown, PA. The instruction was part of a new course within the school's Fitness and Wellness Department (formerly Health and Physical Education) and was designed by fitness instructor Adam Lieb, a five year veteran of the faculty.

Other TU members participating were Bob Ballantyne, who is retired from teaching biology and physiology at the high school, along with fellow TU members David Macaleer and Ken Tietjens. Macaleer belongs to the Valley Forge Chapter and Tietjens to the Perkiomen Valley Chapter.

Three days prior to the session, Ballantyne spoke to the class using a Power Point program titled "The How and Why of Fly Tying." Using a Joe's Hopper as an example, a series of slides were presented illustrating the tying of that fly. Following that, another series of pictures were used to take the students on a pictorial excursion into fly fishing in Yellowstone National Park.

The official title of the course of study is "Outdoor Education." The students had previously experienced beginning training in activities such as snow shoeing, winter safety, cold weather activities, orienteering, and were to experience an overnight hiking trip later in the spring which will include outdoor cooking. The school had received a grant from the Highmark Healthy High 5 Foundation to obtain some materials and equipment for the course. Ten fly rods were included in the purchase.



"CAUGHT AND RELEASED"

TCTU member Steve Fabian's Grandson, Hunter Stone with his first Brook Trout caught and released at Scotts Run.

The session was held indoors in one of the school's gymnasiums because of wind conditions. The class was divided into five groups of 4 to 5 students each and each group was coached by a volunteer, several of whom added to the equipment by bringing a flyrod of their own. The flies that were used had their hooks removed for safety purposes.

According to Lieb, such courses are part of what he called, "The future of physical education." Lieb holds a teaching degree from East Stroudsburg University and a master's degree in exercise physiology from West Chester University. His student teacher and a school administrator who were experienced fly anglers also assisted in the instruction.

The volunteers all enjoyed the roles they played, perhaps summed up by Tietjens' comment: "I got as much out of this as the kids did. It was really fun."

WE NEED YOUR HELP! *(continued from page 4)*

Remember this is not a men's club, we would love to have women volunteers too!

Please contact us if you have interests in any of the above positions. We are an "all volunteer conservation organization," so you would not be working alone. All our officers and Board Members are deeply involved in everything we do. Contact us through our website (www.tullytu.org) or if you have questions on the three postings do not hesitate to contact Ron Weidner at rlwrlw2222@yahoo.com or call 610-370-1733.

THE HATCHES OF MAY *(continued from page 5)*

I used to target the Green Drake but after a few years of it coming off early, coming off late and running into crowds, I stopped looking for it. If I happen to be fishing when the Green Drake hatch comes off, I will be ready. Last year on Penns Creek it came off early during my March Brown trip. We had a ball because it caught a lot of fishermen by surprise. That meant Penns Creek was not crowded at all. Funny thing though, the biggest fish were caught on a Caddis pupa and not a Green Drake. Again, it goes back to my theory that the fish key in on a certain bug and don't move off it.

Lastly, don't forget about the Blue Winged Olive. This is a reliable hatch that comes off mostly on rainy days. An overcast day with drizzle can be some of the best fishing you will experience. The BWO and Sulphur will come off all day and the fish will cooperate as long as the water is not affected too much by the rain.

Well there you have it...a game plan for May fly fishing.
Rick Nyles - Sky Blue Outfitters - www.skyblueoutfitters.com

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HOUSE TRUSTEES

Elliott Barnett
Charlie Boettcher
Len Good
Ron Speicher

Excerpts from the Testimony of the Executive Director of Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Before the Pa Senate Committee

Submitted By Ron Weidner

Besides Impact on our Pa. water drainage areas, Marcellus Shale Drilling has both Positive and Negative Impacts on Townships

In January The Executive Director David M Sanko of "Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors," explained the impacts on townships during testimony before the state Senate Majority Policy Committee. Senate Republicans called the hearing to explore the impact that drilling has had on local governments and try to quantify the costs.

PSATS applauds the economic opportunities that the industry brings; it believes drilling must be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and the negative economic and social impacts must be limited as much as possible. Sanko also reiterated PSATS' call for a severance tax or fees on natural gas to help those municipalities affected by such activities.

Communities in the Marcellus Shale region were largely unprepared for the explosive growth of the natural gas industry, even if they had up-to-date comprehensive plans in place, Sanko said. Many areas of the state went from little or no growth to very rapid growth as energy companies realized the value of the natural gas field. The end result is that communities are playing catch-up as they try to figure out what needs to be done to plan for a future that few had envisioned just five years ago, he said.

Zoning for natural gas drilling has also posed a challenge to townships, Sanko noted. The Oil and Gas Act exempts the industry from local regulations on operations, municipalities retain the right to regulate the location of gas wells through the land development process. To help its members meet this challenge, PSATS has developed a model ordinance, Sanko said.

This model is meant to allow the timely continuation of exploration while maintaining local control over reasonable health, safety, and quality-of-life issues in the community, he said. The model ordinance addresses such key issues as buffers, emergency preparedness, and noise and lighting standards to minimize the impacts of the industry on the community while staying within court-determined constraints (To obtain a copy of the sample ordinance, log onto www.psats.org and click on the box "Sample Ordinance, Job Descriptions, and Personnel Document Database, then enter "gas and oil" in the Search Ordinances" field).

Heavy haulers have a major impact. The most visible and immediate concern to township officials is road damage caused by heavy truck traffic. Before the drilling began, traffic on rural roads was relatively light, with little heavy hauling,

aside from trucks carrying logs, milk, and in some regions coal.

Gas well drilling requires transporting significantly overweight and oversized equipment and materials, including hundreds of water-filled tanker trucks for fracking, stone trucks for site development, and pipe trucks for the actual drilling, he said. Much of the drilling is taking place in mountainous and rural areas with access limited to low-volume roads that were not designed to withstand the punishment from the overweight and oversized vehicles now frequenting them.

Many gas well companies are working with municipalities to rebuild damaged or destroyed road, Sanko said, in some cases they are using nonstate-certified materials and performing the work too quickly for adequate drainage and storm water planning.

PSATS encourages its members to post and bond their roads and work closely with the industry, he said. Regulations limit the amount of a bond to \$12,500 per mile for a paved road, but the cost to reconstruct a mile of road can easily approach \$100,000. If the well driller or hauler fails to make the repairs and the township has an excess maintenance agreement in place, the township must pull the bond, Sanko noted.

PSATS is urging the state Department of Transportation to increase the bonding amounts to bring the figures in line with current costs for road, bridge repair and construction. While drilling companies have an incentive to work with municipalities at the moment because they need the roads to be in good condition for their activities that won't always be the case.

What will our roads look like in the future, after a couple of Pennsylvania winters and once drilling is complete and the companies no longer need our roads to be in good condition, he said. A related concern for townships is a lack of communication from natural gas companies about when construction will begin on a new site and when the community can expect an increase in truck traffic.

In some cases, the first notice the township receives is when residents wake up to a caravan of water trucks barreling down a formerly quiet country road. A big concern for townships is contamination of local water supplies especially in rural areas where residents rely on private wells, Sanko said.

Affected communities are also concerned about the large quantities of water required by modern drilling techniques as well as use of undisclosed chemicals. The resulting wastewater is difficult to treat and is high in unknowns and saline which can damage aquatic life. What's more, few specialized treatment plants have the necessary permits to treat the millions of gallons of industrial wastewater that are being generated.

Without treatment, these withdrawals may not be returned to our aquifers, which could impede an adequate water supply for our residents, he said.

Sanko commended those companies that are recycling water used in their drilling process, which reduces their need for withdrawals and minimizes the impact on the community. *(continued on page 8)*

EXCERPTS FROM THE TESTIMONY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS BEFORE THE PA SENATE COMMITTEE *(continued from page 7)*

The safety and welfare of their residents is also a concern for townships in the Marcellus Shale region, which have reported increased minor crime, especially DUI citations and altercations. Municipalities that did not previously have a need for a police department are contracting with neighboring communities for coverage, while others are looking for ways to fund their own department. Some had to hire additional officers. All of these can be major expenses for townships, Sanko noted.

Fire departments may also face increased costs for additional equipment, gear, and training for proper response to gas well and line fires and other incidents. Pipeline location can also play a role in public safety. Gas companies are finding it easier to place gathering lines, used to transport natural gas to markets, along township roads, rather than securing easements through private property.

PSATS believes that there must be oversight of these gathering lines. Similar to other utilities, owners of gathering lines should be required to provide local officials and emergency responders with information on the location and depth of their pipelines for planning and emergency response purposes. Oversight needs to ensure that they are installed according to best practices, including being buried deep enough to avoid damage from routine maintenance activities.

Despite the exponential growth in the natural gas industry in Pennsylvania, tax revenues in the affected

communities remain stagnant, Sanko said. Other than the local services tax for employees primarily working in a particular municipality and property taxes on physical support facilities, the industry is contributing next to nothing to the host communities. In fact, many industry employees are out-of-state residents and therefore not subject to the local earned income tax.

Lease and royalty revenue are also exempt from the local income tax in Pa. and, except for Allegheny County and Philadelphia, municipalities do not receive any revenues from the sales tax.

That's why the Association supports a severance tax or fee on natural gas provided that at least 30 percent of the revenue goes to the communities affected by the drilling.

We believe that a natural gas severance tax is not a tax on Pennsylvanians but a tax for Pennsylvanians that will result in property tax relief, he said. Such a tax would not increase the cost of gas to Pa. consumers, because they are already paying such taxes on gas imported from other states. Rather, a severance tax would ensure that out-of-state customers pay the tax to benefit the Pennsylvania communities affected by the extraction process.

A severance tax, properly levied, is simply a responsible way to do business in the commonwealth, and levels the playing field for Pennsylvania consumers. Please write your representatives and our new Governor supporting the severance tax for Pennsylvania communities and Pennsylvania water drainage areas.