LOCAL CASE STUDIES

The Sustainable School Yard: Educational Opportunities Inside and Out – Todd Wescott
Todd will share examples of exceptional landscape strategies that support educational goals and curriculum at school sites, noting developing trends in school design, opportunities to enhance environmental awareness through thoughtful design, and practical tips to educators and administrators to improve their school environments.

The Factoryville Borough Green Parking Lot Project – Liz Ratchford
Factoryville Borough recently installed a 3000 square yard green paver parking lot at the municipal park. This parking lot is an innovative approach to provide parking while managing storm water and run off. This park is used for a new soccer league which serves children from Clinton Township, Factoryville Borough, Overfield Township, Nicholson Borough, Nicholson Township, Dalton Borough, La Plume Township, and Fleetville.

This Importance of Community Agriculture – Krista Schneider
When considering aspects of sustainability, it is important not to ignore where our food comes from, how it is grown, our consumer habits and the positive impacts that buying local can have on our economy and our environment. This presentation will present a brief case study of how the Center for Landscape Design & Stewardship (through the establishment of a community garden and various education programs) is trying to raise public awareness of this issue within the greater context of sustainable design and the national “Buy Fresh, Buy Local” movement.

Trout Habitat & the Effective Project – John Mauser
Take a look at before and after shots of stream bank stabilization and fish habitat projects within the Delaware River watershed. Also hear about the benefits of partnerships and how to form your own.

Green Parks – Vinnie Cotrone
Learn about the Riverfront Parks Committee, a non-profit organization that has been developing the Kirby Park Natural Area, a 91-acre riparian forested flood plain park along the Susquehanna River near Wilkes-Barre. Vinnie will share successes in using volunteers and partners to deliver the mission of recreation, environmental education and resource management of the area. Vinnie will also discuss the challenges of invasive species control and illegal dumping at the site.
**Downtown Improvements – Dick Snyder**
In downtown Milford (the “front door to Pike County”), streetscape improvements such as bluestone sidewalks, period pedestrian lighting, restoration of verges and plantings of shrubbery, flowers and street trees have enhanced the quality of life for residents. Come learn from the Milford Enhancement Committee about the importance of “getting the right professional help,” partnering with local government and adjoining property owners, and motivating civic activists to improve the character of your downtown. The MEC’s mission is to make their county seat a better place to live, visit and do business by improving our streetscapes and pedestrian ambiance.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**PennSCAPEs (Pennsylvania Strategies, Codes and People Environments) – Kelleann Foster**
One of the most vexing problems in implementing livable neighborhoods is poorly conceived land use policies. Many places have outdated codes communicated in generic legalese. PennSCAPEs is an engaging, technology-based empowerment tool that has been found to be an important resource for valuing the landscape in the promotion of smart growth. The project’s goal is to increase awareness by capturing people’s interest via an interactive game-like medium – selecting buttons and icons to reveal dynamic animations and colorful examples of places that exemplify the attributes of sustainable, healthy communities.

**Creating and Funding Sustainable and Green Parks – Tom Ford and Paula DeVore**
DCNR is committed to advancing green and sustainable practices both internally and through its partnerships. For instance, in 2010 the DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation undertook an aggressive effort to promote green and sustainable parks. The Bureau promotes green best management practices in its grant workshops, integrated new green grant criteria into the scoring of grant applications and developed a very robust green parks and sustainable practices web page. Part of this session will explore DCNR Green Grant Criteria, Green scorecard and all the resources available to you on the Green Parks and Sustainable practices page. The presentation will be punctuated with real examples of practical sustainable practices that can be used on most sites.

The second half will focus on the Bureau of State Parks, which in 2007 made a decisive effort to make the already conservation-based park system even more sustainable. Bio-fuel, native plantings, wind turbines, solar, programmable thermostats, wildflower meadows, on demand water heaters and building retrofits are some of the actions put into play in a handful of state parks. The entire park system is involved in measuring
their carbon footprint using the National Parks Services’ “Climate Leadership in Parks”-CLIP tool. The state wide goal is to reduce each parks’ carbon footprint by 20 percent within 5 years of their baseline years. More ideas and goals are on the horizon across the state to keep Pennsylvania leading the nation in sustainable conservation practices.

Management Plans for a More Sustainable Future – Christine Dettore and Craig Todd

Why Riparian Forest Buffers Help Create Sustainable Landscapes – Bern Sweeney

Installing and Managing Native Grass and Wildflower Meadows – Kevin Wenner
The Nescopeck State Park Hoda Farm project is a cooperative effort among federal, state and nonprofit organizations working to restore native habitat to a historic working farm, which was allowed to revert back to mostly invasive cover. In the past, these groups worked separately to achieve habitat objectives and mainly accomplished projects amounting to small acreage. The collaboration among these groups has pooled resources, which have been able to affect a much larger project size and achieve a far better result for wildlife habitat. A diverse group of game and non-game wildlife species will benefit from this project. Come learn how you can duplicate the success of this project on your site.

Invasive Plant Management – Art Gover
Join Art in an informative discussion on why invasive plants are a problem, how to prioritize efforts and various tools at your disposal. Art will also share a few success stories (and a few failures).

Stormwater BMPs: New Regulations and Technologies – Paul Grella and Wes Horner

Landscaping for Watershed Health – Mary Pat Appel
This session will explore homeowner solutions to managing stormwater and improving water quality, including the use of rain barrels, rain gardens and other garden design tips for water management. Learn about the effects our actions have on our watersheds and how you can help. Take a look at the plants that can go from drought to deluge and the roles they play in better water management and learn how to manage nutrients in the garden.

Low Maintenance Landscapes: New Paradigm or a New Name for Conservation? – Dr. Jeffrey Keller
Conservationists and wildlife biologists have been attempting to preserve and manage landscapes to protect natural ecosystems and their associated biodiversity for more than 100 years. Planners, landscape architects and others have more recently taken up the cause with a more human-centered view under the label of “Sustainability,” and most recently “Regenerative Design.” Whatever the label, and whether large or small, naturalized landscapes offer opportunities to create or enhance habitat for species of interest at scales appropriate to the project. This presentation will discuss some
underlying principles of ecology that can be used to evaluate development sites and
design low-maintenance landscapes, and illustrate these principles with some case
studies.