



Greetings!

We have got a lot of news for you in this edition of the RDA e-newsletter! First off, to follow up on "Muzzled on Fracking," which was presented in the last edition, further documentation has come out regarding the buzzword list mentioned in the article. See the first article, "Buzzwords," for a deeper look into this matter.

Next, be sure to check out some great news for a couple New York towns and their local determination to ban fracking. I remember hearing of Dryden's ban while working at Greek Peak in 2011. I passed right through downtown Dryden several times a weekend on my commute from Ithaca to the mountain. It was uplifting to hear that a township could fight for the right to live how they want to live; but apparently they have been under litigation since then, so now it is even better to know that they can fight for that right, and win. [Click here to read the full article printed in the Washington Post.](#)

With the gas industry actively surrounding us, it is highly recommended that residents get their private water wells tested so that proper documentation is in place in case of any future contamination. Just before Independence Day, the Rocket-Courier of Bradford County reported on the potential contamination of five residential water wells in Wilmot Township (near the intersection of Wilmot Rd and Hollenbeck Rd). The water was "muddy" and discolored, and DEP detected combustible gas in the water wells. Chesapeake Energy is supplying the residents with bottled water, filtration systems & water buffaloes as the gas migration investigation continues. Please call Dan Spadoni of DEP at 570-327-3659 if you live in this vicinity and notice any changes to your water.

In other news, a freak act of nature caused lightning to strike and set fire to five oil and brine production tanks up in Springfield Township, Susquehanna County this past Sunday night. Dan Spadoni told the Daily Review, "the release is estimated to be about 80 barrels of oil, brine and fire suppressant foam, with most of it inside containment." He also mentioned that "Vavco is initiating clean-up activities by utilizing a vacuum truck to remove contained fluids and will then begin excavating impacted soil." [Click here if you would like to read the full article in its entirety.](#)

And in case you missed the latest article about the surge in

In This Issue

[Buzzwords](#)
[Cove Point Rally Review](#)
[Keep It Wild Hike Recap](#)
[Events/Action Points](#)
[Join RDA!](#)

Events/ Action Points

[Next KIW Hike](#)
[DCNR Transparency Hearing](#)
[Frack Free Parks](#)
[PA Moratorium Petition](#)
[Frack Chemical Disclosure](#)
[In Other News](#)

Next KIW Hike

Graff Woolever Trail
Sunday, July 27 - 1:30 pm

Come join us as we hike the Graff Woolever Trail from Little Bear Creek Road next Sunday. The trail may be a little rugged, so be sure to wear long pants & bring your bug spray. The Graff Woolever has a pretty steep uphill section and is about 2 miles one-way.

This hike will also be a good chance to discuss the public hearing that will take place the next day, Monday, July 28th at Lycoming College.

Driving directions:
From the south, take I-180 to SR 87 north, follow 87 north for 9.3 miles, turn right onto Little Bear Creek Road. Meet us in the big parking lot across from the ranger station.

[Click here for our facebook event.](#)

Oklahoma earthquakes most likely caused by fracking wastewater injection wells, the following is a link to the Bloomberg article: [Fracking Fears Grow as Oklahoma Hit by More Earthquakes than California.](#)

Finally, I apologize for the broken link to the state forest drilling moratorium petition in the last edition of the newsletter. The link has been fixed and can once again be accessed through the sidebar on the right.

Thank you for reading & have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,

Brooke Woodside
Managing Editor
www.RDAPA.org

PA Confirms Drilling Buzzword List; Says it's Meant to Guide, Not Silence Employees

State Impact, PA - July 2, 2014



PA drilling pad - photo credit: Lindsey Lazarski, WHYY

Did Pennsylvania health department officials circulate a list of drilling-related "buzzwords" and a meeting permission form that led department staff to believe they were being silenced on the issue of natural gas development?

Two weeks ago, [when Statelmpact Pennsylvania first reported on the buzzwords list and meeting form](#), the department's answer to that question was no.

Since then, Statelmpact Pennsylvania has obtained copies of the documents, which show that department employees needed high-level permission to attend forums on Marcellus Shale.

Agency officials confirm those documents are authentic.

Two retirees with the Department of Health have said that because of the department's policies, they and their colleagues concluded they were not supposed to respond directly to public health concerns or attend forums about drilling.

If you have any questions or need further directions, [please feel free to click here](#) and email us.

[You can also click here to check out DCNR's online version of the Loyalsock State Forest Trail Map.](#)

Public Hearing on DCNR Transparency

Monday, July 28 - 2 pm

The House Democratic Policy Committee will hold a public hearing with Rep. Rick Mirabito on House Bill 2318 and leasing of state parks and state forests for natural gas development. This legislation would give the public much greater input into decisions regarding gas development on public lands made by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Please attend and show your support.

At a glance: The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has been negotiating with Anadarko Petroleum about extensive new gas development in an extraordinary 25,000-plus acre tract of the Loyalsock State Forest, known as the Clarence Moore lands. Due to a special provision in its land deed, the Commonwealth controls surface access on almost 19,000 acres of the Clarence Moore lands.

DCNR, despite efforts by 28 organizations, has not agreed to conduct a meaningful public input process on the future of our state forest.



[Click here for more details.](#)

Frack Free Parks

The Campaign Continues

It's not too late to participate in the "Frack Free Parks" campaign initiated by the Save the Loyalsock Coalition. Take a "selfie" in the woods with [THIS SIGN](#) and email it to frackfreeparks@gmail.com

Michael Wolf, state Secretary of Health, said in an interview with StateImpact Pennsylvania this week that the goal was not to stifle the agency's roughly 1,400 employees, but to ensure "that we are speaking with one voice."

Buzzwords include "hair falling out," [and] "skin rash."

On February 24, 2012, the Bureau of Health Planning and Assessment sent an email to eight bureau directors and the deputy secretary.

"Please share the following email with all staff as a reminder," it said.

The email instructed employees to call the Bureau of Epidemiology with complaints about "possible cancer clusters, health concerns related to natural gas drilling, and other types of environmental hazards" from citizens, legislators, healthcare professionals, or public employees.

It also includes a list of 19 words and phrases that may be used in these complaints including "hair falling out," "skin rash," superfund site, drilling, fracking and Marcellus Shale. [You can read the email with the list by clicking here.](#)

Read More

In light of this information, Berks Gas Truth, a grassroots community organization, has created the following survey. They are asking that all Pennsylvanians who contacted PA DOH with adverse health impacts that are linked to fracking-related water, air and land contamination fill out a short survey they will then provide to interested agencies and elected officials.

If you have some information to report, please [CLICK HERE](#) to take the survey.

Cove Point Rally Review

RDA members rallied in Washington, DC this past Sunday.



photo credit: Roscoe McCloskey

It was a blisteringly hot day out there, but hundreds of

so they can upload it to the tumblr site. Then feel free to share it all over your other social media.



[Click here for more information](#)

PA Moratorium Petition

Request a Moratorium on Further Leasing of our State Park and Forest Land

Our state forests are rare places that provide respite and recreation for our citizens. The proposed lift on the moratorium of gas leasing will lead to further drilling that will jeopardize fragile ecosystems. Our state forests and parks should be set apart, protected and held in trust for the future.

We need your help to stop additional gas leasing of state park and forest land. We urge you to please take action by sending a message to your legislators so the General Assembly will not open the door to additional leasing.

[Click here to take action!](#)

Frack Chemical Disclosure

Request Full Disclosure of the Chemicals Used in the Fracking Process

The United States is in the midst of a rapid expansion of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") to extract oil and gas from deep rock formations. Communities have raised concerns about the more than 750 chemicals and other components used in the drilling process.

But right now, companies can keep these chemicals a secret-along with any health and environmental effects they may have. Even when fracking-related accidents or chemical spills happen, doctors and public safety officers don't even have access to the chemical exposure information necessary to treat and protect people.

dedicated citizens stuck it out through the heat and marched to FERC Headquarters in protest of their M.O. of rubber stamping permits for LNG export facilities. Thank you to all who participated and to the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) for organizing the rally. [Click here for CCAN's review of the day's events.](#)

Are you just now hearing about LNG? If so, [click here to view the AAF LNG fact sheet](#) and get more informed.

If you missed the rally but would like to take action against this and any other proposed LNG export facilities, the Sierra Club has made it easy to send a letter to President Obama asking him to halt the approval of any LNG export terminals. [Click here to take action.](#)

Keep it Wild Hike Recap - Ricketts Glen

by Ted Stroter,
RDA Board Member

June 21, 2014 -

This hike was both nostalgic and delightful for this old, but willing nature lover. My first trip to PA four years ago (to see what the state had to offer me in my retirement) was to Ricketts Glen. The overwhelming beauty of the park's many falls made a lasting impression that helped lead me to take up residence in north central PA.

RDA's hike started on the 7.2 mile falls trail that begins on route 118 and climbs to the intersection of the left and right branches of Kitchen Creek, passing 3 major falls and several fine spots for cooling off in the water. People of all ages including some tail-wagging dogs were highly enjoying the cool water.

Upon reaching the intersection, we chose to go up the left branch of Kitchen Creek which took us to a number of scenic falls including the highest at 94', Ganoga. After the last falls, we reached the Highland Trail which took us over to the right branch of Kitchen Creek. From there, we began a descent that took us alongside 8 waterfalls before returning to the intersection of the 2 branches again. Our energetic RDA leader, Robbie Cross, was giving his "new" replacement knee a good test.

What fascinated me most was the distinct sensory experience of each waterfall. Some contained large impressive roaring drops and others had more subtle passage accompanied by a quiet babbling sound. Sometimes the water cascaded over rocks in one direction and then drained from a pool and dropped down in a different direction. Each fall provided a different experience not only through sight and sound, but also through the delightful feeling of the occasional mist or gentle spray on your skin.

I have to give credit to those maintaining the trails as there were innumerable flat rock steps placed perfectly to allow passage along this sometimes very steep trail. I didn't encounter one step that even rocked or moved an inch!

People have a right to know what chemicals are being used in their neighborhoods.

The Union of Concerned Scientists has drafted a comment form to the EPA. Click the link below & be sure to customize your comment for a stronger impact.

[Click here to take action!](#)

In Other News

2014 Pipeline Roundup: Moving Marcellus and Utica Production to New Markets

-This article highlights the potential "new" pipelines that have been proposed or are under regulatory review in and around PA.-

Aggressive Tactic on the Fracking Front

-This is an article regarding gas industry "payoffs" to lease-holders to keep their mouth's shut.-

These Fish Weren't Playing Opossum (Creek)

-This is a detailed first-hand account of the recent Statoil well pad fire in Ohio.-

State Officials Investigating Massive Fish Kill After Well Pad Fire

-This is the WTOV9 news story on the Ohio well pad fire & resulting fish kill.-



photo credit: fractracker.org

Best PA Views

13 Destinations that need to be seen to be believed - It's summer, a great time for day trips around a state that's loaded with magnificent views. A few weeks ago, Pennlive asked their readers for their favorite views. They combined some of their responses with a list that outdoors writer Marcus Schneck assembled, along with photographs. [Click here to check out this beautiful listing.](#)

Because of the popularity of this state park, visitors often encounter many hikers on the trails, especially on weekends. On this hike, I found it interesting to hear different languages, and even have a brief discussion with some folks with heavy Russian accents. For a more peaceful and solitary experience of these beautiful falls, I recommend going on a weekday when school is in session.



Top, Sidebar (unless otherwise noted) & Ricketts Glen photo credit: Brooke Woodside

[Back to Top](#)

Join RDA!

Sign Up/Make a Donation

We welcome your active participation and are in need of help for special events, publicity, research, and other projects.

It costs nothing to sign up for our e-newsletter or become a member of our organization, but tax-free donations are accepted & greatly appreciated.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, RDA relies on donations for the important work we do. In order for RDA to continue its valuable education and advocacy outreach in 2014, please consider a tax-free contribution to our efforts.

You can send a donation to the address listed at the bottom of this email, or [click here to download our current membership form](#) to fill out and send in along with your donation.

Membership levels:

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Explorer.....	\$20
Woodlander.....	\$50
Guardian.....	\$100
Naturalist.....	\$500
Preservationist.....	\$1,000

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Please note: The RDA newsletter includes reporting on a variety of events and activities, which do not necessarily reflect the philosophy of the organization. RDA practices only non-violent

action in voicing the organization's beliefs and concerns.

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