

**Pennsylvania's Conservation Heritage  
Oral History Project – Phase I  
Final Report**

**Submitted to the  
Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Committee**

**Submitted by  
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**and**

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## **Acknowledgements**

This project was undertaken with the support of numerous individuals who serve on the Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Committee, an outgrowth of the Maurice Goddard Legacy Project. These individuals include Brenda Barrett, Wayne Kober, Bill Forrey, Marci Mowery, Beth Hager, Cara Williams-Fry and Edwin Charles.

Each of the interviewees, whose stories are summarized in this report, deserves special credit for taking the time to reflect on and share their experiences and knowledge of Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage.

The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professional and its president, Eric Buncher, as well as former Pennsylvania Governor late George M. Leader (1918-2013) are noteworthy for providing funding for this project. And, Marci Mowery and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation also deserve thanks for managing the project grant.

In sum, all of the individuals involved in this project, in big and small ways, have contributed greatly to an important chapter in Pennsylvania's history: the story of conservation.

## **Executive Summary**

As detailed in the Summary of Research – Major themes and the Recommendations sections of this report there are several consistent and key messages resulting from phase I of the Conservation Oral History Project.

These messages include that Pennsylvania has been a leader when it comes to conservation policy, programs, initiatives, individuals and organizations. Moreover, Pennsylvania's conservation history has evolved in reaction to environmental issue and problems such as extractive industry and deforestation. And, conservation and environmental policy has reflected a 'tug-of-war' between industry and the public good.

Most interviewees expressed concerns over Marcellus Shale 'Fracking' and Global Warming and that public policy makers have done little to adequately address the environmental impacts of such matters.

It is also apparent that each of the interviewees - in their own way – have influenced and shaped conservation history and that the detail of their recall of people, places and events is quite remarkable. Indeed, these oral histories are very content-rich. It has proven vital to collect these oral histories.

Finally, a consistent message is that this is a history worthy of being further researched and shared as outlined in the Recommendations section of this report

## **Project Purpose and Methodology**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a remarkable history of conservation dating at least to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when industrialization rapidly took hold and when environmental resources were impacted and, in many cases, depleted by economic growth. Examples of conservation efforts are apparent in events such as the creation of a State Forestry Commission, Fish and Game Commissions and Departments of Health, Mines and Mineral Industries, and Forests and Waters in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Conservation efforts are apparent as well in the efforts of individuals to conserve and protect environmental resources such as Gifford Pinchot who served as head of the State Forestry Commission and twice served as governor where his agenda included conservation.

This history is also apparent in the creation of organizations such as Trout Unlimited whose work advocates conservation. Conservation heritage is also apparent in events - such as the Donora Smog and the Knox Mine Disaster - and public policy responses to them. And, conservation efforts are apparent in public policy when, for example, numerous conservation laws and regulations were enacted in the 1960s and 1970s.

Remarkably, however, this rich history has never been comprehensively documented. In the arena of public policy, especially, little has been documented and illustrated in any publicly friendly format. Thus, it is a story that largely remains untold but for a few individual histories of people, places, events and organizations. Moreover, until this project commenced no oral histories have been gathered from individuals significant to conservation history.

The purpose of this project was to collect 12 oral histories of individuals who were or have been involved in conservation efforts and movements in Pennsylvania in the mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The methodology was carried-out pursuant to the guidelines and recommendations of the Oral History Association (an international organization of professional historians). The oral history interviews were digitally audio-taped and summarized in 2-3 page write-ups. Interviews and their write-ups were preserved on two remote storage devices (i.e. a 'flash drive'). Thus, two copies have been saved. And, the digitized oral history interviews, write-ups, release forms and a copy of this report will be submitted to the Pennsylvania State Archives for permanent storage.

Each interview consists of two parts. First, the interviewer gathered biographical information on the interviewee. Second, prompted by specific questions, the interviewee provided a narration of their activities and views relating to Pennsylvania's conservation heritage. The interviews ranged from 1 to 2 hours and 15 minutes in length. There was an obvious urgency to conduct these interviews as the majority of the interviewees are in their senior years and it is important to garner their histories and contributions to conservation before it is too late.

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### **Project Oversight**

The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Committee was formed as an outgrowth of the Maurice Goddard Legacy Project. The committee consists of volunteers (named in the Acknowledgements section of this report) active in or otherwise interested in conservation history. This is a voluntary committee that meets several times a year to explore and develop ideas, programs and research to document Pennsylvania's conservation heritage.

While this project is a product of the work of this committee it was especially overseen by committee members Wayne Kober and Brenda Barrett.

### **Project Timeframe**

The project commenced in June, 2013, and has been completed with the submission of this final report on October 15, 2013.

### **Project Interviewees**

The following individuals were interviewed:

Rick Carlson, former Policy Director, DER and DCNR

Pete Duncan, former Secretary of DER and Executive Director of the PA Game Commission

William Forrey, former Director of State Parks at DER

James Seif, former Secretary of DEP

Caren Glotfelty, former Deputy Secretary for Water Quality Management, DER

John Oliver, former Secretary of DCNR

Larry Schweiger, Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation

Joel Tarr, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh

Walter Goldberg, Professor Emeritus in Physics, University of Pittsburgh, founding director and former President of Group Against Smog & Pollution (GASP)

Sam Hayes, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh

Art Davis, former Secretary of DER

Michael DiBerardinis, former Secretary of DCNR

## Project Budget

The total project budget was \$5,000. Each interview was conducted for a flat-rate of \$360 including a 2-3 page write-up. Six hundred-eighty dollars was allocated for travel expenses. The project historians prepared the final report gratis.

Project funding was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals and a contribution from former Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader (1918-2013). The contract for execution of the project was managed by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF).

A break-down of the project budget is as follows:

- Six interviews and write-ups by Kenneth Wolensky	= \$2,160
- Six interviews and write-ups by Vagel Keller	= 2,160
- Travel & Miscellaneous Expenses	= <u>680</u>
Total Project Costs	<u>\$5,000</u>

## Summary of Research – Major Themes

The following major themes in Pennsylvania's Conservation history were identified as a result of this research:

- 1) Pennsylvania's conservation heritage has been, and continues to be, shaped by a tug-of-war between industrial and business interests on the one hand and public health and conservation interests on the other. Regardless of their perspectives on the outcomes of policy decisions, several interviewees shared the opinion that this would be a useful framework for organizing – or at least a theme that needs to be emphasized in – the narrative of the Commonwealth's conservation history.
- 2) The second theme dovetails with the first one. Several interviewees agreed that resource extraction is critical to the story of Pennsylvania's conservation heritage. The tug-of-war in the first theme can also be characterized as a cycle of action and reaction to the effects of the extractive industries that dominated Pennsylvania's economy from the very beginning of the steam-powered industrial age, including oil and gas, coal, and even lumbering. Here, again, individual perspectives differed based on personal political backgrounds. But a sense that public policy relating to recent events in energy resource extraction might benefit from more attention to lessons from the past emerges from the interviews.
- 3) According to almost every interviewee Pennsylvania has been a leader when it comes to conservation. This is particularly reflected in public policy (legislation, regulation,

enforcement, etc). There are numerous public policy accomplishments that are evident. Examples include the creation of a Forestry Commission in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Clean Streams Act of 1923 and the many policy achievements evident in the 1960s and 1970s such as the creation of DER. There are several Pennsylvania-based organizations that have been leaders in conservation including not only state agencies but non-profits as well such as the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Trout Unlimited, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Parks and Forests Foundation. Moreover, there are many examples of environmental leaders from Pennsylvania who had national and statewide impacts such as Rachel Carson, Myra Lloyd Dock, Gifford Pinchot, Maurice Goddard and others.

- 4) Interviewees suggested and agreed that Pennsylvania's conservation history is a story worth being documented and shared. When prompted by the question "if Pennsylvania's conservation history is to be written about what are the 2-3 most important items in its history that should be shared?" each interviewee shared their points of view. Moreover, several thought that a book needs to be written, students, policymakers and the public need to be educated as such, and that oral histories are vitally important to preserve this history.
- 5) The majority of interviewees expressed concern about Marcellus Shale 'Fracking' in the Commonwealth and its impact on natural resources.
- 6) Many of the interviewees viewed global warming as a reality that policymakers have failed to adequately address.

## **Recommendations**

There are numerous recommendations resulting from this project:

- 1) Additional interviews should be conducted of individuals who have been or are involved in conservation initiatives. At least another 20-25 such individuals can be identified.
- 2) All interviews or excerpts thereof can be downloaded to a conservation history website (or an existing related website).
- 3) The interviews, or portions thereof, can be used to inform a documentary on conservation history.
- 4) The interviews, or portions thereof, can be used to develop a public presentation on conservation history.
- 5) The interviews can be utilized to develop a conservation heritage educational curriculum made available to teachers and to college professors and their students.

- 6) All interviews and their summaries should be catalogued in a finding aid and deposited in an appropriate archive.
- 7) The interviewees agreed that, with the expertise of qualified historians, a book should be written about Pennsylvania's conservation history. The publication should be written in a publicly-friendly format (i.e. non-academic) with illustrations. A qualified publisher can be identified to print the book and it can also be made available in a PDF (or other appropriate format) on a conservation heritage website.

### **Biographies of Project Historians**

Two professional historians were engaged for this project: Kenneth C. Wolensky and Vagel Keller. Each historian interviewed six individuals.

Dr. Wolensky served 25 years in State Government in various policy positions in the Governor's Policy Office and the Departments of Health and Insurance and as a historian with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission from 1997 to 2011. He has authored over 25 articles and five books on Pennsylvania history including *The Knox Mine Disaster* and *Voices of the Knox Mine Disaster* as well as a recent biography of former Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader. Ken now consults on history projects, writes and teaches for Lebanon Valley College. He is president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. He resides in Grantville, Dauphin County.

Dr. Keller is an independent scholar whose research focuses on technology and the environment. A former adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University, he has lectured on the material causes of natural disasters in modern American and World History. He was project historian for the joint PAEP/PHMC Karl Mason project. In addition to the biographical essay on Mr. Mason in *Pennsylvania Heritage* magazine, Vagel's publications include an essay in the recent special edition of *Pennsylvania History*, devoted to the future of the Commonwealth's environmental history. He resides in Pittsburgh.



## Attachment A: Oral History Interview Summaries

Interviewee: Frederick Carlson, former Policy Director and Chief of Staff, DER and DCNR.

Date: June 26, 2013

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA.

Length of Interview: 1 hour 43 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

Frederick “Rick” Carlson was born in North Carolina. His father was in the military and when, Rick was young, his family was relocated to Willow Grove, PA. He graduated high school in 1953 and from Penn State Ogontz campus in 1967 with a degree in forest services. He was drafted into the Marines as a captain and spent time in Vietnam where he became an expert in explosives and entered a nuclear engineering program offered. He completed a graduate degree in environmental engineering at Drexel University in 1972 and sought employment with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He was hired on staff in the Office of Planning and Research at the Department of Environmental Resources and eventually became head of DER’s Policy Office and served as chief of staff to Secretary Art Davis during the Casey Administration (1987-1995). He also served as Policy Director for the newly created Department of Conservation and Natural Resources until his retirement in 2007 with 35 years of state service.

According to Rick, the most important conservation accomplishments during his tenure were:

- 1) Expanding DER’s regulatory, compliance, inspection, and parks and recreation staff by employing hundreds of qualified professionals and significantly expanding the department’s budget.
- 2) Implementing the Keystone Fund in 1993. Revenue from this initiative was generated by a small percentage of the Commonwealth’s realty transfer tax and was used by DER and DCNR to expand land acquisition and preservation, fund park and recreation initiatives, match local government park and recreation funds and other programs important to conservation.
- 3) Growing Greener One – An initiative of the Ridge Administration (1995-2003) resulting in a \$625m bond issue for numerous environmental initiatives including clean-up of Superfund (brownfield) sites, preservation of agricultural lands, maintenance of state park and recreation facilities and numerous other environmental programs.
- 4) Growing Greener Two – An initiative of the Rendell Administration (2003-2011) that expanded on Growing Greener One with an additional \$500m bond issue.
- 5) Split of DER into DCNR and DEP. This was an idea initiated by the Ridge campaign in the 1994 election. It was headed by Jim Seif who later became DEP secretary. DER’s reputation was poor and the agency was nicknamed “Don’t Expect Results” especially when it came to permitting. The idea was to place regulatory functions into the new DEP and parks and forestry programs into the new DCNR. This made a great deal of sense as, in Rick’s experience, DER secretaries spent far too much time on regulatory and compliance issues and insufficient time on parks and forests issues. Thus, with separate agencies, the secretaries could spend more time managing their particular programs.

In the interview Rick points to a major policy mistake made by the Bureau of Forestry in DCNR. The Bureau leases several hundred thousand acres of state land for oil and gas drilling as well as for timbering, a program that began in the mid-1950s (Rick points out that this resulted in the state having a vested interest in drilling and timbering). With the advent of Marcellus Shale drilling and expansion of other drilling, Forestry projected total revenue of \$50m in the early-to-mid 2000s. However, in actuality the revenue was much higher at \$187m. DCNR's revenue from oil and gas was capped, however, at \$50m with the remainder going to the state General Fund which was especially useful for the major state budget shortfall in 2008-09. Thus, general fund revenues have decreased for parks and forests, the amount of money going to the general funding from drilling has increased while, at the same time, lease revenue available to DCNR is capped. Another result has been that state park use fees were originally intended for major maintenance. Since oil and gas revenue is capped, park use fees are now largely used for operational funding that might otherwise come from the general fund.

Rick points to the following organizations as having key roles in conservation (and he explains why): Parks and Forests Foundation, League of Women Voters (who have advocated for beautification and recreation), Sierra Club (strongly opposed to Marcellus), Federation of Sportsmen (whose credibility has decreased largely because of its 'right wing' views especially on climate change), Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the PA Parks and Recreation Society.

Key people in PA's conservation heritage that Rick points to are Ralph Abele, Maurice Goddard (probably the most influential and powerful of all), Myra Lloyd Dock, Joseph Rothrock, Horace McFarland, and Gifford Pinchot.

In recent years economic concerns have outweighed conservation concerns according to Rick. This is exemplified in Marcellus Shale drilling which has huge negative environmental impacts. Rick points to a recent Duke University study that shows the dangers that Marcellus poses to water quality.

In his view, the key environmental issue facing the state, nation and world is global warming. The evidence is clear and indisputable. Policy and laws have done little to stem this problem.

Rick's most significant personal contributions to conservation result from his time in state government and, particularly his work on Growing Greener One and Two and the Keystone Fund. His managerial philosophy was to examine and research issues thoroughly, support but don't step out in front of department heads, and "don't piss anyone off too much!"

The key to telling the story of Pennsylvania's conservation history is to "define the message." In other words, what is this history trying to convey? In Rick's view the key message is that conservation is perpetual. It "is organic." Without vigilance and diligence it is easy to back-step. Marcellus is an example where the lack of regulation is a throwback to the eras of rampant water and air pollution. Rick also notes that the Commonwealth's conservation is a history worthy of being shared especially in a written format.

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Interviewee: Pete Duncan, former Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission and Secretary, Department of Environmental Resources

Date of Interview: 7/12/13

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Length of Interview: 2 hours and 15 minutes

Summary of interview: Pete Duncan was born in Hollidaysburg and, from an early age, enjoyed the outdoors with his father who was a banker. By coincidence, Maurice Goddard was a friend of neighbors of the Duncan family. Goddard would talk with Pete and give him magazines about the outdoors. Pete was interested in becoming a forester. He then earned a degree in Parks and Recreation Administration from Penn State University, served time in the U.S. Army and was scheduled to go to law school. Instead, he began working for the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee in the early 1970s when Ralph Abele was executive director (he began his career in mid-1968 or 69). In 1978 Pete became deputy secretary in DER then secretary in the early 1980s. He was then appointed as executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission in the mid-1980s where he served for 11 years. Following his career in Pennsylvania state government he became a deputy secretary in the New York Department of Environmental Conservation from which he retired. He remains active in the outdoors and related organizations.

In the interview Pete explains the history and workings of the committee; that it was formed in the aftermath of Projects 70 and 500 as a watchdog over how various state agencies utilized the funding. The committee's responsibilities expanded as it consisted of 9 Republican and 9 Democratic members, all who worked in a bipartisan manner. This was an era, according to Pete, "that you couldn't write environmental legislation fast enough and Ralph was thoroughly behind many of the important pieces of environmental legislation that were enacted during the late 1960s and early 1970s." During the mid-to-late 1970s the pace of legislation and environmental reform began to slow.

In 1972 Pete became executive director of the committee when Ralph Abele was appointed executive director of the Fish and Boat Commission. Among major pieces of legislation promulgated by the committee were those governing acid mine drainage, surface mine reclamation, flood plain management, and creation of DER thus combining all environmental programs (scattered among various agencies) under one roof. Among the main legislators involved in such initiatives were John Laudadio, Robert Mellow, and Bud Dwyer. Other key players were Ken Sink (Trout Unlimited; he also formed the OB's in the early 1970s), Larry Schweiger (committee staffer), Dan Snyder (EPA), Commissioners Lenny Green and Frank Masland, and Tom Webster of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. These were "competent and determined people. They were determined to get things done and had respect for one another and for environmental causes."

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According to Pete, the most significant laws and policies on conservation are the following.

- 1) Surface Mining Regulation and Reclamation – enacted in the early 1970s this law closed loopholes in existing regulations and required mining companies to reclaim strip mines that were “eyesores on the landscape of Pennsylvania.” The law also tightened the issuance of mining permits and enhanced enforcement of mining laws particularly affecting acid mining discharges.
- 2) Acquisition and Preservation of Land – this began in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and was significantly expanded in the 1960s through the 1980s. State forest lands were expanded and protected and Projects 70 and 500 enhanced land acquisition for state parks so that Maurice Goddard’s goal of placing a state park within 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian was largely accomplished by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most state park lands were acquired by eminent domain. And, local and municipal parks were greatly expanded in part with state funding.
- 3) Creation of DER – In 1970 DER was created as a ‘super agency’ responsible for both regulation/environment protection and resource management. For the first time the protection of air, land and water were placed in one agency, a model later emulated by other states.
- 4) Environmental Amendment to State Constitution – Largely as a result of the push of then State Representative Franklin Kury, this amendment made it clear that a mandate of state government was to protect and enhance the quality of Commonwealth’s air, land and water. This was particularly important following the era of industrialization and the abuse of air, land and water resources.

Pete feels that the most important individuals in Pennsylvania’s conservation history were Gifford Pinchot, Maurice Goddard and Ralph Abele. Pete also gives credit to the lesser-knowns such as district foresters, state park directors, air and water quality experts and individuals like Walter Lyon (manager of water quality in the Department of Health and, later, in DER; Bill Midendorf (manager of air and water quality resources in DER), and ; legislator John LaDaudio from Westmoreland County who was a prime sponsor of many environmental laws in the 1960s and 1970s. In addition, legislator such as Bud Dwyer, Robert Mello, Martin Murry and Tom Forrester played key roles.

Key organizations in Pennsylvania’s environmental and conservation history have been the Federation of Sportsmen, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Conservation Fund, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Parks and Forests Foundation. However, Pete finds it frustration that, often, these groups have conflicting views on conservation issues and that it

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would be beneficial if they could all “sit down and determine the issues on which they agree then lobby the legislature and the governor accordingly.” He finds such organizations – and the legislature – much more polarized on many issues.

Pete finds it particularly frustrating that the Republican Party especially seems to be the party of “No” when it comes to the general public good. The attitude seems to be to cut state budgets regardless of the impact and to let free enterprise always have its way even to the detriment of the citizens. A prime example of this is Marcellus Shale drilling in Pennsylvania where the attitude seems to be anti-regulatory at the expense of the environment. While Pete supports the jobs and economic development resulting from drilling, “it must be closely regulated especially when it comes to the impact on water quality.” Pete also thinks that the industry should be fairly taxed.

Another key issue that needs to be continually addressed in Pete’s view is environmental education. It is “critically important that young people be educated on the important of protecting air land and water resources. The quality of these resources affects everyone and the continual existence of human civilization.”

When the history of conservation in Pennsylvania is written Pete thinks it is critical to discuss the laws outlined above as well as to point to the contributions of individual legislators, policy leaders and environmental and conservation organizations. Should Pete be included in such a history he would like it to say that “I did the best I could to protect Pennsylvania’s environmental resources and enhance conservation within my authority and responsibilities”.

Interviewee: William Forrey, former Director of State Parks, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Date of Interview: 7/12/13

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Length of Interview: 1 hour and 26 minutes.

Summary of Interview: Bill Forrey was born in Lancaster. His family moved to the Philadelphia suburbs when his father accepted a journalist position with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (his father also later held a similar position with the *New York Times*). During high school Bill was very active in sports especially tennis and football. He won several awards for his accomplishments in tennis and remains an active tennis player. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade Bill worked for a nursery where he became interested in the environment and conservation then attending Penn State where he majored in landscape architecture and became more interested in conservation. He then earned a graduate degree from Penn State in regional planning. Bill served as an Ensign on a Navy minesweeper during the Korean conflict. Following discharge Bill secured a masters degree in regional planning from Penn State and worked for an engineering firm. He and his wife moved to Harrisburg in 1960 when he secured a position with the Department of Forests and Water in the Division of State Parks where his career comprised 32 years. He became assistant director of state parks in 1964 the state park director in 1973 until his retirement in 1993. In the Bureau of State Parks Bill oversaw a staff of 1,200 and, eventually, 114 parks.

According to Bill, among the most significant conservation and environmental accomplishments he witnessed during his career are as follows:

- Projects 70 and 500 – both bond issues significantly empowered the Commonwealth to acquire state park land and conserve and reclaim land.
- Clean Streams Law – A major accomplishment in cleaning-up waterway pollution and regulating industrial discharges. Bill recalls that State Representative Franklin Kury was a significant influence in enacting this legislation as was Maurice Goddard.
- Hiring of professional staff – during his tenure Bill witnessed the hiring of a significant number of highly qualified and educated individuals in DER. Many of these individuals were firmly committed to environmental causes and greatly enhanced the department's professionalism. He also recalls that Maurice Goddard was a significant force behind hiring of professionals.
- Enactment of the Keystone Fund (1993) – this program significantly improved the ability of DER to enhance the quality of state park infrastructure.
- Oil and Gas Fund – enactment of this law also significantly enhanced DER's ability to improve and protect Pennsylvania's parks and forests. Note: Bill strongly disagrees with the decision of former Gov. Ed Rendell to redirect this funding to the General Fund in the mid-2000s.

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- Solid Waste Management – though he wasn't involved in this program, Bill recalls that the Casey Administration concerned with this issue and enacted a program accordingly.
- State Park Fees – On many occasions Bill was required to analyze and propose entrance fees for state parks usage. This usually occurred around annual state budget preparations. Though fees were often talked about and even recommended by many legislators, Bill is proud that such fees were avoided.

During the interview Bill shared several anecdotes. For example, he recalls one town-hall meeting on the creation of Marsh Creek State Park. The meeting went through the midnight hour and concluded about 1:30 AM. Goddard, Forrey and one or two other staff members prepared to depart when Goddard said "I need a beer." Bill recalls, "we stopped at some hole-in-wall and had a few beers then drove home. My wife was greatly concerned as to my whereabouts and was ready to call the state police. Well, we arrived home at about 4:30 AM. And, we were all in the office by 7:30 AM the next morning!"

Among the most significant environmental leaders in state history Bill identifies Maurice Goddard, Gifford Pinchot, Rachel Carson, Pete Duncan.

Bill thinks that the history of conservation in Pennsylvania is a story worthy of being shared in various formats such as a website, book, teacher lesson plans, etc. Such a history should mention the accomplishments described above and that it should discuss significant environmental leaders. Moreover, it must discuss the current impact of Marcellus Shale drilling (Bill thinks that it is under-regulated, potentially harmful to the environment and that not enough evidence has been gathered to measure its impact accordingly).

Bill is writing a history of his tenure with the State Parks program and remains active in environmental and conservation activities by serving on various boards and committees such as the Pennsylvania Park and Forests Foundation. Moreover, the history should note that Pennsylvania has the best state park system of any state in the country and has received several awards accordingly such as an award by the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administration in 1976.

Interviewee: James Seif, Counsel, Ridge Global LLC and former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Date of Interview: 7/30/13

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Length of Interview: 1 hour and 54 minutes.

Summary of interview: James Seif was born in Pittsburgh and attended Penn Hills schools, Yale University (majoring in American Government and Political Science) and obtained a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. His father, Charles, was an attorney and his mother, Dorothy, was a science teacher and friend of Rachel Carson.

Jim's interests consistently been comprise "three strings:" law, politics, the environment and Pennsylvania. His entrée to politics came when he volunteered for Dick Thornburgh's unsuccessful bid for Congress in the late 1960s. When Thornburgh was appointed U.S. Attorney for Western Pennsylvania Jim served as an intern then on counsel staff from 1971 to 1973. He then worked for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, for several years; in 1977 joined staff Rohm and Haas (a chemical company where he stayed for only 3 months; served on the 1978 campaign staff for Thornburgh's run for governor; served as Thornburgh's administrative assistant; worked for AT&T; served as regional EPA administrator for several years in the Reagan Administration; in the late 90s he joined Deckert, Price and Rhoades as counsel specializing in environmental law; was appointed Secretary of Environmental Protection in the Ridge Administration (1995-2003), and; now works as counsel on various projects for Ridge Global, LLC. When it comes to his career he notes that "I was just simply lucky. I was in the right places at the right times and was able to pursue my interests and use my skills."

When he served on staff of the U.S. Attorney he was involved in bringing suits against major companies like Jones and Laughlin Steel and U.S. Steel for polluting rivers in the Pittsburgh area in violation of the 1899 Rivers and Harbors Act as well as the 1972 Clean Water Act. He comments, "many people thought it was insane and said 'you are going to sue Pittsburgh steel companies?!'" The suits were successful and the companies were fined.

During the Thornburgh administration a major issue was "making DER work better." Secretary Maurice Goddard was replaced by Cliff Jones and, later, Nick DiBenedictis. Administrative and programmatic changes were made that resulted in such things as improving and permitting process. However the major environmental issue during the administration was TMI. The administration, PEMA, and DER were very unprepared for TMI. The long term clean-up was a major issue that involved significant planning and execution with a number of state, national and international partners. PEMA and DER's capacity to respond to emergencies were enhanced though certainly not perfected according to Jim. He recalls a story that "in the wake of TMI only one governor from another state called Thornburgh to seek advice on how his state might improve their capacity to hand such an event. Thornburgh was unavailable to take the call so Jim spoke to the governor. It was Arkansas governor Bill Clinton." Other major environmental

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accomplishments during the Thornburgh years were the creation of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and enhancement, protection of wetlands and implementation of Superfund that, according to Jim “was botched by the Reagan Administration as it proved to be overly costly and burdensome to the states of administer in conjunction with EPA.”

During the Ridge Administration the major environmental focuses were:

- Breaking-up DER into DEP and DCNR to especially create an effective protection and regulatory agency that enforced laws but was not “overbearing on private industry,” to improve the permitting process for landfills, hazardous waste sites and other regulatory and compliance matters.
- The Industrial Site Recycling Act that resulted in the Brownfield program that focused on industrial site clean-ups as such site “recycling meant economic development and jobs.”
- Growing Greener: an idea that originated with DEP executive deputy secretary Dave Hess in collaboration with DEP and DCNR staff. This program (initially proposed as a bond issue and ultimately funded by a \$650m general fund appropriation) focuses on cleaning-up and protection watersheds, providing grants for environmental and conservation programs for regional and organization organizations, wetland protection and land preservation.

With regard to Pennsylvania’s environmental and conservation leaders Jim points to Gifford Pinchot and Maurice Goddard. He mentions, however, that there were many “unsung heroes” such as Bill Eichbaum and his “environmental strike force” in the Office of the Attorney General in the 1970s as well as Strike Force attorneys such as Terry Bossart.

With regard to organizations that are important Jim pointes to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Environmental Law Institute and the Sierra Club that “while cynical in many ways, does have a voice and an impact.”

The most pressing environmental and conservation issue today is the debate and tension between environmental protection and energy development. Marcellus Shale is the pre-eminent example in Pennsylvania. He comments that “this is the “biggest environmental issue in my lifetime.” There is a definite need for the United States to rely on its own energy sources and Marcellus can help to serve this need. Also, there is a need for jobs and economic development that Marcellus brings. However, natural resources must be protected. This includes waters, natural habitats, forests, etc. He points out that “Marcellus should be fairly taxed.”

According to Jim, the history of conservation in Pennsylvania is worthy of being documented in a written format and it should say that Pennsylvania was and is a leader when it comes to state park development, sustainability, clean air and water enforcement and leadership is the “Marcellus gas revolution.”

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In conclusion, Jim makes an interesting comment that “Republicans are always seen as pro-business development even at the cost of protecting the environment while Democrats are always seen as pro-environment at the cost of business and jobs. However, in my view this simply isn’t true. In my experience Republicans have been evenly balanced. History should note this and look for examples of it such as in the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts.”

Interviewee: John Oliver, former Secretary of DCNR (1995-2003)

Date: June 25, 2013

Location: Telephone Interview

Length of Interview: 55 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

John's pre-condition for the interview was that we would not talk about him; instead, he referred to the numerous biographical sketches already on the record. To wit, John C. Oliver III was born in Pittsburgh ca. 1940. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Kenyon College (1962) and a Master's degree in Government and Political Science from American University in Washington, D.C (1969). He served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War during 1965-1966, earning the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross. John joined the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) immediately after grad school, was its Vice President by 1973, and served as President and CEO from 1978-1995 - the longest presidential tenure in the Conservancy's 90-year history. In 1983 he joined the Department of Environmental Resources' Civilian Advisory Council and was its chairman from 1985-1988. In 1995 Gov. Tom Ridge appointed him as the first Secretary of DCNR, a position he held until 2003. Since then, he was the inaugural Board Chair and is a current board member of the Friends of the Tom Ridge Center at Presque Isle, Erie County. He is also a former Board Chair of Riverlife in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the National Council of the Conservation Fund in Arlington, Virginia and also serves as Mayor of the Borough of Sewickley Heights, Allegheny County.

According to John, some of the most important conservation accomplishments during his tenures at WPC and DCNR were:

- The David Roderick Wildlife Reserve on the Lake Erie shore in 1991. Roderick, an avid outdoorsman and Chairman of U.S. Steel from 1979-1989, began negotiations to transfer ownership of a 1.5-mile stretch of the lakeshore to WPC. But he left office before the deal was completed, and WPC had to convince Roderick's successor to suspend revived plans, suspended since the 1960s, to build a steel plant on the property. It is the longest stretch of undeveloped lakeshore between Toledo, OH and Buffalo, NY.
- Acquisition of former Western Maryland right of way through Ohiopyle State Park, which became the nexus of the recently completed Great Allegheny Passage trail from Cumberland, MD to Pittsburgh.
- Overall resource managers in parks and forestry were very much relieved to know they had an important role in Pennsylvania and weren't overshadowed by environmental regulations. Funding and manpower increases to parks and forests laid the groundwork for Pennsylvania's state park system to be considered the best managed system in the country "three or four years ago." (Awarded the 2009 National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Management in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association)

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- Creation of Wild Areas in state forests by State Forester James Nelson, despite "big time" push back from the forestry industry. It is still happening today, but not to the degree it was during Nelson's tenure.
- Growing Greener program, "one of the crowning achievements of the Ridge Administration," included mine reclamation, mine drainage treatment, and hundreds of watershed groups across the state to revive many miles of formerly dead streams on shoestring budgets.

In the interview John describes conservation as having a recreational as well as an intrinsic environmental component. For example, suburban sprawl and second home development is a conservation problem simply because it creates fragmentation of rural landscapes. Small natural areas of particular biological significance are important but so are larger areas lacking such significance. When asked how the concept of biodiversity was applied to wild areas in state forests, John viewed the term as an evolved concept that became a "catch all" scientific justification for protecting particular kinds of landscapes.

Regarding the splitting of DER into DEP and DCNR, John observed that DER Secretary Art Davis "would argue very vigorously" that Gov. Ridge's criticism of DER as "treating law abiding citizens like criminals" was not the case, but there was still a very pronounced "command and control attitude" and Ridge's promise to change the system was a very important part of his election victory in 1994. John uses the term "collaborative" to describe the new approach of DEP under Secretary James Seif and successor David Hess.

John points to the following organizations as having key roles in conservation (and he explains why): Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP). The Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation at Penn State, on which Advisory Board he served. As far as environmental advocacy groups, John's view is that groups like the PA Environmental Council and the conservancies, those that work within the system, were and are more effective at influencing conservation policy. Groups that "keep sniping away ... frankly are ineffective. They're PR advocates."

Key people in PA's conservation heritage that John points to are Graham Netting (a founder of WPC and a leader in the campaign for surface mine reclamation legislation), Historian Samuel P. Hays ("the Sierra Club is far different now than when he was around"), Michelle Maddoff (GASP founder), Maurice Goddard ("a giant in conservation"), Joseph Rothrock, Gifford Pinchot, DER secretaries Clifford Jones and Arthur Davis, Caren Glotfelty (probably the most effective Goddard Chair at PSU). Other people John recommends for future oral history interviews:

Tom Dolan, founder of Wissahickon Watershed Association and co-founder of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, as well as the Goddard Chair at PSU.

Cynthia Carrow, long-time VP of WPC.

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Paul Wiegman, "the father" of the natural area concept in Pennsylvania, also a key in the founding of the Allegheny Trail Alliance

In a 2007 interview for WPC's Conserve magazine, John noted that Conservation activities in general had shifted, since the 1970s, from a "top down" approach to more "grass roots" and for the better. But, since then, in his view, while grass roots organizations continue to play an important role locally, there are also large land acquisition challenges that require the joint efforts of large-scale conservation organizations and government.

John is very confident for the future of conservation in the state. He is very pro-gas because he says the large corporations have the resources to do things right, in contrast to the situation in his day, when smaller companies with fewer financial resources required the state to step in fix the problems they left when they failed. While, environmental conservation doesn't seem to be a hot point and tends to not be a "hot" issue, he believes that it is still seen as important in the political and business climate of Pennsylvania. Asked to comment on the kind of professional backgrounds secretaries of DEP and DCNR should have, John replied that the lawyers, engineers, and scientists out in the field have to work together and involve local communities in the solution to problems. By and large Pennsylvanian's feel strongly about their environment, and it's up to the leaders of DER and DCNR to make those groups work together in contrast to the command and control attitude that in his view is still reflected at the federal level.

The key to telling the story of Pennsylvania's conservation history is to emphasize the grand tradition of land and water conservation established by Rothrock, Pinchot, and Goddard, whose examples everyone who followed has looked up to as guides for how conservation needs to continue. Regardless of political background, leaders at the state level have all felt very strongly that these folks of the past are looking over their shoulders.

Interviewee: Larry Schweiger, former President, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (1996 – 2003)

Date: June 28, 2013

Location: Allegheny HYP Club, Pittsburgh, PA

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 36 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

Larry J. Schweiger was born in 1949 in western Pennsylvania. He committed his life to working in the conservation field at the age of 14, when during one of his family's occasional vacation outings to Lake Erie, he saw the rotting carcasses from the massive fish kills then threatening to make it a dead lake. Shortly thereafter, he had the opportunity to attend the Butler County Junior Conservation School, a week-long camp, where he was introduced to avid conservationists Leonard A. Green and Ralph Abele, who both played important roles in Pennsylvania's conservation policy fields in the coming decades. They were his earliest conservation mentors. Larry earned a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry from Penn State, which was then the only curriculum available to students who wanted a career in conservation. As a student, he advocated for an environmental program, and one was created, but the university wouldn't allow him to transfer his credits into the new program. From 1964 to 1971 Larry was an active volunteer on a lot of conservation activities in western Pennsylvania that kept him in frequent contact with Green and Abele, as well as John Laudadio (D, Jeanette), Chair of the Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control & Conservation Committee in the 1960s. These contacts led to Larry being hired to serve on the staff of the Executive Secretary of that committee, Peter Duncan. Larry went on to serve as Executive Secretary of the Conservation Committee, National Wildlife Federation Sr. Vice President for Conservation Programs, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation before joining WPC. In April 2004 Larry was named President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, his current position, where he has emphasized the threat to the American ecosystem represented by Climate Change brought about by human-enhanced Global Warming. In recent years, despite his political background as a Republican, including having served as a Republican committee member, he has attracted the ire of conservative political activist groups because of those efforts. The author of *Last Chance: Preserving Life on Earth* (Fulcrum Publishing, 2009), Larry describes himself as one of the Sen. John Heinz Republicans, "who don't exist anymore."

Some of the most important conservation accomplishments during his career in Harrisburg and at WPC were:

- While on the staff of the Joint Conservation Committee, getting a bill passed to fund a research center in some old buildings at Olmstead AFB to find ways to combat the Gypsy Moth, which were spreading out of control in the wake of the ban on DDT, that focused on introducing natural predators and organisms to bring the population under control but not eradicate the species.
- Growing Greener Program, "Jim Seif [Sec, DEP] and John Oliver [Sec, DCNR] were absolutely critical" in making it work. WPC's polling data that showed overwhelming public support for a tipping fee on trash to pay for environmental projects ensured funding could continue during the economic downturn following 9/11.

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- Continuing the acquisition programs at WPC to create new state parks; he signed the papers to acquire the land for Erie Bluffs State Park, the last state park that has been created so far.
- Writing the language for the legislation that eventually became the Wild Resources Conservation Act of 1982 and advancing that work at WPC, which funds the annual Pennsylvania Biological Inventory.

Talking about his early career in Harrisburg, Larry tells an interesting story about the creation of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) by Gov. Milton Shapp and Maurice Goddard becoming the first Secretary of DER. As Secretary of Forests and Waters, Goddard was "very outspoken" in opposing Shapp's DER concept, and Shapp, predictably, wanted Goddard out of the picture, even though Laudadio and his committee supported Goddard to head the new agency. Knowing he needed a "big name" in order to override the Goddard lobby, Shapp's asked former Stewart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior under JFK and LBJ to accept the nomination. But Udall declined the offer, and Shapp had no choice to appoint Goddard. Larry provides several anecdotes on Goddard in this portion of the interview.

One of the most important early conservation advocacy groups is the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, founded in 1932. Larry explains how the Federation was formed and the critical role it played in reforming the Clean Streams Act in 1937. (He cites 1937 as the origin of the Act, but the first Clean Streams Act was enacted in 1923. The Purity of Waters Act of 1907, which Larry believes was in force until 1937, was actually replaced in 1923.) Although political pressure by the coal industry led to it being exempted from the Act, its controls on urban and industrial pollution "started us on the right path," and the stream classification system it codified was later included in the federal Clean Water Act.

Key people in PA's conservation heritage that Larry highlights and explains his reasoning for are Leonard A. Green (Fish & Boat Commission) mining laws and clean streams reforms), Ralph Abele (Executive Director, PA Fish Commission, 1972-87), John M. Phillips (founder of the PA Game Commission and mentor to John M. Phillips), William Guchart (volunteer advocate for strip mine reclamation), John Laudadio, and Marion E. Brooks (1912-73), a pioneering environmentalist from Elk County. All of these were key in advocating for water pollution controls and regulating the coal industry, and Larry provides insightful anecdotes on their backgrounds and behind-the-scenes activities. In talking about Maurice Goddard, Larry emphasizes his dominant personality and integrity, and how his knowledge of the history of partisan politics surrounding past conservation enabled him to forge bi-partisan support for the land acquisition initiatives Project 70 and Project 500.

Asked to comment on Historian Samuel P. Hays' criticism in recent publications of Pennsylvania's lack of continued progress in environmental policy compared to other states since the 1970s, especially regarding preservation vs. conservation, Larry agrees that he makes some valid points but fails to account for the unique problems faced by policy makers. These include having to "reassemble" the forests that were virtually wiped out by logging and related industries and the fact that mineral rights are often separated from surface ownership. Many species were lost to non-native pests and disease, for example, and could not be restored. But Larry is also unhappy with the way exploitation of the Marcellus Shale has been allowed to happen, and he

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goes into specifics. "What I see today is completely unacceptable. Goddard would've fought against what's going on today; the leadership, Pinchot, all those people would've been opposed to what's happening today to our forests from 'fracking.'"

A key to part of the of Pennsylvania's conservation history is to make people understand "how tough it was to win [environmental regulatory] battles" in the post-World War 2 era. "Today they think, 'Earth Day came around, and everybody just passed all these laws, and all these things happened.' That's not really the way it worked." Those who Larry highlights above were among a group of "courageous people who came together" to "beat the coal industry" at a time when it was still a potent political force. He is very concerned about the environmental effects of Climate Change, which he believes Pennsylvanians are poised to help "nature to adapt to a changing world" because of our experience with restoring devastated forests and waterways in the past. He recalled that Goddard was concerned about Climate Change in the 1960s. He says, "I left Pennsylvania to save Pennsylvania." His work at the National Wildlife Federation has been focused on forging a national policy on climate change, a lack of which frustrates conservation professionals in Pennsylvania, who are already seeing climate change-related damage to watersheds and fisheries that past generations worked so hard to restore and they have worked to protect.

Another aspect of conservation history perhaps worthy of emphasis is "benefication," the process of improving the natural environment rather than preserving and restoring it. Larry cites Falling Water as an example; of all the water falls in Ohiopyle State Park, the one most visited "has a house on top of it." Other topics include:

Pennsylvania led the way on Acid Rain Control

Conservation Bill of Rights

The Stopping of the Tocks Island Dam on the upper Delaware

Flood Plain Management Bill in the aftermath of Hurricane Agnes

Three Mile Island and the immediate aftermath (Larry's recollections of his experiences while Executive Secretary of the Conservation Committee during the crisis are digitally recorded in the State Archives)



Interviewee: Samuel P. Hays, Environmental Activist, "Grandfather of Environmental History"

Date: August 2, 2013

Location: via Telephone

Length of Interview: 30 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

The biographical sketch, below, chronicles Sam Hays's long and distinguished career as what he calls a "participant observer" in the shaping and implementing of conservation policy in Pennsylvania. With a few additions from our conversation it summarizes the biographical and autobiographical sources he asked me to read before our interview:

- An essay in *American Environmental Leaders*, 2d Ed, by Ann Becker & Joseph Richey (2008, Grey House Publishing)
- "Interview: Samuel P Hays," in *Environmental History*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (July 2007)
- "The Pennsylvania Story: Missed Opportunities," in his book *Wars in the Woods: The Rise of Ecological Forestry in America* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007).

Sam Hays was born in 1921 in Corydon, Indiana (pop. 1200) and has been interested in environmental issues from his youth, when he gained knowledge of conservation from an acquaintance with the local agent of the federal Soil Conservation Service who developed soil maps for the family dairy farm. In his teens he spent time at a nearby Civilian Conservation Corps camp, and he continued to work on conservation-related projects as a volunteer during his college years. Drafted into the Civilian Service Corps during World War 2, Hays work with the Oregon and California Revested Lands Administration introduced him to forestry and forest management, which, he understatedly says, "has stuck with me." The title, "Grandfather of Environmental History" among scholars of the discipline stems from his seminal book, *Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency: The Progressive Conservation Movement, 1890-1920*, his revised Harvard Ph.D. dissertation published in 1959 (he completed the Ph.D. in 1953). While chair of the University of Pittsburgh's History Department, 1960 – 1991, Hays created a robust Environmental History curriculum of national importance and established the Archives of Industrial Society in the university's Hillman Library, including his and his wife's papers containing a massive number of primary resource documents relating to environmental activism and conservation policy-making in Pennsylvania and elsewhere since 1970. His work on behalf of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club included conducting reviews of Allegheny National Forest forest-wide plans in 1972 and 1980 and participation in numerous forest policy forums sponsored by state government agencies and Penn State University School of Natural Resources.

Now age 92, Professor Hays has declined noticeably since he was last interviewed on Carnegie Mellon University's WRCT-FM show, "History for the Future," in 2010. During our 30-minute conversation, he had difficulty hearing or understanding some of the questions, although they were based on biographical or autobiographical articles about his career that he asked me to read before calling. I terminated the interview when it became clear that his energy and attention was fading, but the few insights gleaned during our brief conversation are, nevertheless, valuable because they fill voids in written record of his career.

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Our conversation focused on his efforts on behalf of the Sierra Club on forestry issues. When he first became interested in the Sierra Club in the early 1970s, he recalled, the big issue was wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). He helped organize the effort by the Sierra Club's Allegheny Group in western Pennsylvania to promote wilderness areas. He was also instrumental in helping to draft the first Forest-wide Plan for the ANF in 1972 and came up with the idea of prohibiting off-road vehicular traffic except where explicitly permitted, which greatly simplified the regulation of that traffic and enforcement.

He described ANF officials as "leery" of the concept of ecosystem management, observing that their planning was always modified by the fact that they didn't own the mineral rights underlying the forest. Of the three wilderness areas proposed by the Allegheny Group, the only one they were interested in pursuing was made possible because the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy was able to acquire the mineral rights to the land.

Sam served on the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) at DER when it was just getting organized, and it actually came out with a very strong recommendation for wilderness areas in state forests. But the Bureau of Forestry wouldn't have anything to do with it. "All kinds of innovations in forestry were lost," because Pennsylvania forestry officials aren't trained in biodiversity and ecosystems management. For example, throughout his involvement in forestry policy issues, clear-cutting was still an acceptable method in Pennsylvania, although it fell into disfavor at the federal level and even though polls at the time showed that the majority of Pennsylvanians were opposed to it. Asked to expand on the ineffectiveness of the CAC in promoting genuine ecosystem management and biodiversity planning that he discussed in *Wars in the Woods*, Sam felt that various members had "definite clienteles;" none of them knew very much about ecological forestry but had their own views about what their clients wanted. This made unified action ultimately impossible.

A Biodiversity Committee spearheaded by Goddard Professor Steve Thorn (1991 - 93) produced a report that got shelved, as did others produced by the CAC. Sam considered him to be the most open-minded of the Goddard Chairs that he knew, and he observed that Thorn could have renewed his tenure but didn't because he got frustrated. Thorn was the only Goddard Chair who did not come out of the conservation establishment of Pennsylvania.

Key activists in forestry issues in Pennsylvania that Sam mentioned are Dick [Richard H.] Pratt, Dept. of Physics, University of Pittsburgh (now an emeritus professor), "a real hiker ... an outdoor type," Bruce Sundquist, "outings guru" in the Allegheny Group, and Gail Rockwood, Sam's successor as the Sierra Club representative on the Citizens Advisory Council, 1976 – 2001. Sam echoed the importance of the Strike Force in the Attorney General's office mentioned by Caren Glotfelty; he suggested that it should be included in research for this project and opined that she would be the best person to talk to about it. "That was a very important development in Pennsylvania," he said.

From Sam's perspective Pennsylvania's conservation heritage since the 1970s is one of early enthusiasm in the early 1970s, characterized by positive developments in the areas of water quality and strip mine regulation under Goddard, followed by gradually more conservative

policies over time. He also observed that state park creation, a key Goddard initiative, has languished since Goddard's death.

Tough to get anything done; the environmental culture of Pennsylvania was pretty limited. He always felt that Pennsylvania, outside the Philadelphia region, but when you move to western, particularly northwestern, Pennsylvania, attitudes were "very anti-environmental."

Interviewee: Caren Glotfelty, former Deputy Secretary for Water Quality Management, DER  
Date: July 24, 2013  
Location: Heinz Endowments, 30 Dominion Tower, 625 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Length of Interview: 1 hour, 10 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

Caren was born ca. 1947 in California's San Joaquin Valley. She received her BA in Liberal Arts from University of the Pacific, where she completed an experimental program in that university's Raymond College. She attributes her interest in environmental issues to the program's integrated curriculum, which allowed her to "see across the boundaries" of the various disciplines. Growing up in the San Joaquin Valley, which was seeing increasing amounts of its water supply diverted to the coastal cities of Southern California, had already created in Caren a deep concern for the environment. In 1970, while working for a planning firm in San Francisco, she read *Design With Nature* by renowned landscape architect Ian McHarg (1920 – 2001) and decided to pursue a career integrating environmental concerns with land use planning. After earning a Master's Degree in Regional Planning from University of Pennsylvania, she began her career in Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Resources in 1973.

In her early career at DER, Caren first worked for Bill Eichbaum, Deputy Secretary for Enforcement. Prior to the creation of DER, Eichbaum had been in Attorney General Fred Speaker's office during the Shaffer administration, where he served on Speaker's Environmental Strike Force. Caren describes that period as "the zenith of environmental activism in Pennsylvania." As Deputy Secretary for Enforcement, Eichbaum had the Governor's sanction to pursue precedent-setting lawsuits, and one outcome was the decision to create the Division of Local and Regional Planning, with Caren as its head, to advise municipalities on how to consider environmental impacts in their land use plans.

In about 1982 Bill Eichbaum, at that time Assistance Secretary for the Environment in Maryland, recruited her to work on Chesapeake Bay issues for that state. Her familiarity with the problem of nutrient contamination while in Maryland led to her being asked by the Casey administration to work on that issue at DER, and she provides details on how that played out. When Secretary of the Environment Art Davis reorganized DER in 1991, Caren was appointed as Deputy Secretary of Water Quality Management, a new deputation that combined the water management functions of pre-DER Forests and Waters and Health departments. She discusses her efforts to address the differences in the cultures of the two groups of people in "hammering out" a strategic plan. Her tenure at the state government level ended when Gov. Tom Ridge split DER into DEP and DCNR, whereupon she was offered the Maurice Goddard Chair at Penn State.

Some of the most important conservation accomplishments during her career have been:

- As head of DER's Division of Local and Regional Planning, she played a major role in crafting the first *Environmental Master Plan* for the Commonwealth
- Responsible for drafting the interstate compact creating the Chesapeake Bay Commission (1985)

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- As Deputy Secretary for Water Quality Management, reformed the old A-B-C stream classification system, with the old "B" classification changed to "High Quality" and "A" changed to "Exceptionally High Quality"
- As Maurice Goddard Chair, she co-chaired Gov. Tom Ridge's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Environment Commission with Jim Seif, Secretary of DEP, and headed the Forestry Issues Working Group

Caren recalled mostly frustrations, rather than accomplishments, as Deputy Secretary, for example:

- Efforts to get legislation for a rational environmental regulation of water rights rather than the tradition of common law were frustrated by a triumvirate of utility companies, farmers, and municipal water authorities
- Constant haranguing by legislators about her deputate's attempts to enforce statutes regulating septic tanks and underground storage tanks
- Overall, she feels that everything she accomplished didn't have a lasting impact, because she was working in an administration where there wasn't enough support

Caren is not as pessimistic about the future of conservation in Pennsylvania as other interviewees on the political left. She opines that there comes a time when we have to move on and work to find creative solutions, and she goes into detail on how she tries to implement that credo; this philosophy has often put her at odds with fellow environmental activists since leaving government, and she gives examples. Caren also provided some interesting background about the controversy surrounding the Heinz Endowments grant to the University of Pittsburgh's Environmental Law Clinic and that clinic's *pro bono* work on behalf of the Allegheny Defense Fund, which, by the way, was made before she joined the Heinz Endowments but in which she played a major part in defending the clinic. Moving to today, she supports the clinic's recent efforts in working with people dealing with Marcellus Shale exploitation. The key question, she believes, is "How to you balance what you're prepared to advocate for personally with what you know you can get? That's what my career has been about." Not surprisingly, Caren sees "pluses and minuses" in the split of DER into DEP and DCNR. But she also opines that the DCNR people saw themselves as the "white hats" against the enforcers at DEP, in which opinion she agrees with Sam Hays, and says it persists today.

Key people in PA's conservation heritage that Caren mentions are Sam Hays, who made her realize the historical significance of what she was involved in the early years of DER; Bill Eichbaum, DER Deputy Secretary for Enforcement, who is now at the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, D.C. and should be interviewed for this project; Andrew McElwaine, formerly of the Heinz Endowments, later CEO of Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and now President, American Farmland Trust, Naples, FL; Rendell-era DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis and Secretary of the Environment Kathleen McGinty, who were both "really good people ... their personal leadership was wonderful;" and, of course, Maurice Goddard, who was Secretary of the Environment when she first went to work at DER and with whom she got to interact frequently because of her work in enforcement.

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Things she would like to see emphasized in writing the conservation history of Pennsylvania are the framework of resource extraction and impact and environmental activism and response. This is why "you see the wise use utilitarian approach, because we're always, in the wake of environmental devastation, trying to go back and say, 'how do we persuade the political system, which is dominated largely by industry to do better in response to accidents, or clear damage,'" etc ...

Near the end of the interview, Caren intimated that she was about to leave the Heinz Endowments "not of my own accord," and offered the opportunity for a later interview about that circumstance.

Interviewee: Walter Goldberg, Professor Emeritus in Physics, University of Pittsburgh, founding director and former President of Group Against Smog & Pollution (GASP)

Date: July 25, 2013

Location: 225 Old Engineering Hall, University of Pittsburgh

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 15 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

This interview extremely rich in detail about the history of air pollution control in western Pennsylvania.

Walter was born in New York City but raised in North Carolina. He received his BS in Physics at Cornell, did graduate work at Duke, and received a post-doctoral appointment at CMU, during which he met his future wife, who was teaching at University of Pittsburgh. He served briefly on the faculty at Penn State but soon returned to the University of Pittsburgh when his opportunity arose in 1965, because he and his wife had many friends in Pittsburgh and didn't like "the rural life [with] the maximum community concern being the state of the library." But the pollution was terrible in Pittsburgh and he decided to do something about it. He was a member of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), an anti-nuclear activist group, and decided to use the Pittsburgh Chapter as a vehicle for his activism against air pollution. His efforts attracted the attention of the U.S. Public Health Service, which in the years prior to Earth Day and the creation of EPA, realized that it had to grow grass roots public support for expanding the Clean Air Act from studying the issue of air pollution to controlling it.

USPHS sent Sheldon Samuels, who went on to be an important labor figure in the Oil and Atomic Workers Union, to organize activism supporting air pollution regulation in Pittsburgh. He set up his office in the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) building; USWA strongly supported air pollution control in those days and paid for health experts to come to Pittsburgh and give lecture. Helped by USWA, Samuels provided material support and information about the Clean Air Act of 1970 and arranged publicity for public meetings that Walter organized at a time when he and a few friends were the only air pollution control activists in the region. These meetings attracted hundreds of people, one of whom was Michelle Madoff, who founded GASP in 1969.

Walter observed that Michelle "an energy ... a spirit" that he admired; in contrast to scientists, like him, who have "an on the one hand this, on the other hand that" philosophy, her style was to see things in black and white; "there are no shades of grey with Michelle," which is an important trait in a successful activist. But he found her style off-putting and initially declined to serve on the GASP board, while also agreeing to support her organization's efforts. Eventually, Walter got involved with GASP when he realized that their different styles, his as an objective expert writer and speaker and hers as a single-minded agitator, could best work in tandem. Walter depended on a network of academic friends in various technical disciplines to provide him with supporting documentation when he testified in support of FAS or GASP initiatives, and his particular attention came to focus on the by-product coke facilities up wind of Pittsburgh in the Monongahela Valley.

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Walter's reputation as an expert witness led to his serving on Allegheny County's Air Pollution Advisory Committee and, later, on the state-level Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (remembered by him as the Air Pollution Advisory Committee). He served on the latter committee for "many years until they added a member to it – the air pollution industry near Philadelphia – that I could not stand." Walter feels that, although there are many very fine people, both from the regulatory side and the industry side, on the state committee, it is not as effective as the county-level committee because it lacks the presence of agitators like Michelle and her successors. She was so effective, Walter recalls, that the USX CEO Edgar Speer took out an ad in *Newsweek*, which he believes also appeared in Pittsburgh-area newspapers, asking, "Did U.S Steel Make a Mistake in Building Its New Headquarters in Pittsburgh?"

Some of the most important conservation accomplishments during his time at GASP have been:

- As a member of the Air Pollution Advisory Committee of the Allegheny County Board of Health's Bureau of Air Pollution Control (he remembers it as the Air Pollution Bureau), Walter participated in writing the regulations in the early years.
- He introduced a regulation using Continuous Opacity Monitors in Allegheny County air pollution control policy.
- He lead the efforts by GASP to organize community resistance to allowing regional coke plants to continue to violate air quality standards in the face of local labor and industrial interests in the early 2000's.
- The USX Director of Environmental Affairs told him ca. 1998 that the continuous agitation of GASP was the reason for the Clairton coke works still being in operation.

Walter is pessimistic about the future of air pollution control in Pennsylvania. A crowning irony is the fact that while USX's Clairton coke works is the cleanest coke plant in the United States, a model of air pollution control standards for the industry, it is still the biggest polluter in western Pennsylvania because of its mammoth size. With all its technology, it still fails to get below the federal standards for fine particulates. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, when southwestern Pennsylvania is touted as a home for hi-tech industrial corporations, it still sees Ozone Action Days when seniors and parents of small children are told to stay indoors and refrain from exercising. "We can't have these bad days if we're going to attract new industry here."

Key people in PA's conservation heritage, in the context of western Pennsylvania's air quality, that Walter mentions are Sheldon Samuels of the U.S. Public Health Service already discussed; Michelle Madoff, co-founder and public face of GASP; Herbert Toor, CMU chemical engineering professor (d. 2011), who directed attention to by-product coke facilities as major polluters and threats to respiratory health in western Pennsylvania.

An interesting theme in the conservation history of Pennsylvania that Walter mentioned, which dovetails with other interviewees' observations regarding the tug of war between environmental activism and industrial interests, is the role that the power that industry had over political life in Pennsylvania in the early years led to its not being organized to resist the tide of public support for air pollution controls. Today, industry in Pennsylvania is far better organized to resist those efforts. An example of the outcome of this shift is the resistance by the USWA locals to GASP efforts to organized public support for enforcement of current air pollution control standards at

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regional coke plants in the early 2000's, a 180-degree change from USWA's air pollution control activism of the 1960s, even though the national organization is still pro-pollution control. Walter would like to see captured the conflicts within environmental groups that develop around the need to be both in conflict and in cooperation with polluting industries and their supporting and surrogate interest groups. The effective activist groups are the ones that struck that balance.

Interviewee: Joel Tarr, Richard Caliguri Professor of History and Policy, Carnegie Mellon University of Pittsburgh

Date: October 2, 2013

Location: Baker Hall, Carnegie Mellon University

Length of Interview: 1 hour.

### Summary of Interview

Joel was born and raised in Jersey City; his early home overlooked the industrial waterfront on the Hudson River. As a boy, his life's ambition was to get out of Jersey City, and he spent his freshman year in college at University of Arizona. But he soon realized that "Arizona was not [his] thing," and returned to New Jersey, where he earned a BA and MA in History at Rutgers, "a short train ride from Jersey City." Joel's mentor at Rutgers was Prof. Henry R. Winkler (d. 2012), later President of University of Cincinnati, who, when informed by Joel that he wanted to be a high school history teacher, said, "No, you're going to go to graduate school." He completed his Ph.D. in the field of political history at Northwestern University in 1963 with a dissertation on machine politics in Chicago.

Joel's interest in political history was equaled by an interest in urban history – he had, after all, lived in Chicago for four years as a Ph.D. candidate at Northwestern – and he was influenced by Sam Bass Warner's seminal *Streetcar Suburbs* and also by Sam Hays's early work in urban political history. He came to CMU in 1967 with joint appointments in the Department of History and the Heinz School of Public Policy, at that time known as the School of Urban and Public Affairs (SUPA). In the early 1970s he started "hanging out" with a group of young civil engineers who were dissatisfied with traditional engineering and wanted to refocus more on public policy issues, which eventually led to the formation of the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at CMU. Asked what led him to focus on urban environmental history, Joel replies that he was a city boy .. "you can get the kid out of Jersey City, but you can't get Jersey City out of the kid." Pittsburgh was a city with a lot of change going on, and it was also an intimate sort of city that you could get to know.

The catalyst for his move from urban political to urban environmental history was a research project on the horse that he published as an article in *American Heritage*, in which he showed that the automobile, which at the time of publication in the 1970s was the icon of smog and pollution, was seen at the time of its introduction as a clean solution to the highly polluting horse. He later learned that the decision to publish the article was controversial; many on the editorial board saw his article as an apology for the automobile.

From there he moved on to a study on sewer technologies supported by a National Science Foundation grant. Asked if there is any way to effectively apply historical experiences to current problems, his response is, "That's a good question." Right now he's very interested in what he calls "Legacy Issues." For example the legacy of the manufactured gas industry and the natural gas industry, particularly the issue of "orphan wells," clarified as a well, abandoned or not, with no identifiable owner; there may be 200,000 to 300,000 of them in the Commonwealth. Another contribution of urban environmental historians lies in the area of on-site pollution, which is essential to planning for brownfield redevelopment efforts.

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Some of the most important conservation accomplishments during his career as a practitioner of applied history:

- In conjunction with Chemical Engineering Professor Dick Luthy at CMU, he helped circumscribe the area of soil contaminants found in the subsoil of the proposed Pittsburgh Technology Center, thus clearing the way for development and, at the same time, demonstrating the important role of historians of the urban industrial environment in post-industrial urban planning and development.
- He conceived the idea for the Brownfields Center, which pulled together engineers and historians to inform public and private economic development entities in avoiding or dealing with the legacy issues of preceding industries.
- He was a key part, via his personal efforts and through project courses, in cooperation with CMU's Studio for Creative Inquiry in the College of Fine Arts, in the redevelopment of the former Jones & Laughlins slag pile in the valley of Nine Mile Run into the upscale real estate development known as "Summerset," which convinced the administration of Mayor Tom Murphy to prevent the Urban Redevelopment Authority from simply culverting the stream and restoring the original stream bed.
- He has produced 26 PhD's who have focused on urban environmental history.

Asked how the urban component of environmental history, the built environment, can be woven into the story of Pennsylvania's conservation heritage, Joel observes, "I do think there has been a big neglect of the energy history of the state and the region and the natural resource exploitation," particularly in the areas of oil and natural gas. The issue of suburbanization also needs to be addressed, especially as to its impact on peripheral forests and their watersheds and animal habitats. "By the way, do you know that nobody has ever done a history of flooding in Pittsburgh?" Now we have the new problem of suburban flash floods; what is the historical background of that problem?

Key people in PA's conservation heritage that we discussed included Gifford Pinchot, whose career as Governor, Joel observes, has still not been dealt with and must needs be on both a state and national level; Caren Glotfelty, at the Heinz Foundation, "who is now out of a job;" Teresa Heinz, maybe; Andrew McElwaine, formerly of the Heinz Endowments, later CEO of Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and now President, American Farmland Trust, Naples, FL; (former) Mayor Tom Murphy

Important policies in Pennsylvania's conservation heritage:

- "It's a long time until Pittsburgh was finally ordered to build sewers." 1937 Clean Streams Act
- Pennsylvania's stream classification (ABC) system, that grew out of the 1923 Clean Streams Act, served as a model for the nation
- ***It wasn't until 1984 that permits were required to drill for oil and natural gas!***

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Interviewee: Art Davis, former Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources.

Date: August 9, 2013

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Length of Interview: 1 hour 23 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

Ninety-one year old Art Davis was born in New York City and attended the University of Maine and Yale University School of Forestry where he earned a masters degree. From an early age Art was interested in the outdoors and outdoor recreation. As a 15 year old he worked in the Natural History Museum in New York where one of his specialties was environmental exhibits.

After graduation he worked as a forester for a private company in Maine. In 1948 he secured a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he was dispatched to the White River National Preserve in Arkansas. Among his memories in this job was a threat of being shot by locals who wanted no regulation of fishing in the White River. Of course, being shot never happened. Later he was hired by the U.S. Department of the Interior where he served in an internship in various bureaus of the agency. Following this experience he was hired by Penn State University as a professor of forestry and later served in the Goddard Chair.

Following the gubernatorial election of 1986 he was asked by Governor-elect Bob Casey to serve as secretary of DER. His impression was that Casey knew very little about environmental issues and that such issues were not to be a priority in the administration.

Among the most pressing issues that Art dealt with were:

- 1) Waste management – where there were bitter fights with legislators and private interests about landfills and recycling. In one incident DER fined the Harrisburg incineration \$100,000 for negligence in the handling of waste. He recalls a particular incident involving Louis DeNaples of the Scranton area (who had questionable ties to organized crime) where DeNaples attempted to bribe Davis to permit a waste facility. DER denied the permit and, of course, Art never accepted a bribe.
- 2) Hazardous waste – Art was a strict enforcer of policy regarding the siting and handling of such waste. In one instance a hazardous waste facility was proposed for Watsonstown in Columbia County. There was citizen revolt against this facility and the company never made application to DER.
- 3) Water quality – wetlands and waterway protection were vitally important to DER during Art's tenure especially when it came to clean-up issues. Art recalls an early 1990 oil spill on the Allegheny River in Pittsburg that became a major environmental hazard. The company responsible for the spill was fined by DER and was made responsible for clean-up.
- 4) Forestry – Art's policy was ongoing protection of state forests. He recalls one particular instance where the U.S. Department of the Interior wanted to allow a private interest to clear cut part of the Allegheny National Forest which DER opposed. The clear-cutting never occurred.

- 5) Recycling- in the early 1990s Pennsylvania enacted a voluntary – and, eventually a mandatory – recycling program that was among the most progressive in the nation. This is one of Art’s proudest accomplishments.
- 6) State Parks – an ongoing issue was stable funding for park, especially when it came to maintenance. There was some General Fund funding increase for maintenance but never enough.
- 7) Coal Company Regulation – a particular issue was the removal of underground ‘pillar’ designed to support surface areas from subsidence. DER, under Art’s leadership, was a particularly tough enforcer of illegal pillar removal. Another issue was surface mining clean-up where DER also enforced the posting of bonds by coal companies to ensure reclamation.
- 8) Earth Day 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – this was celebrated in 1970 and Art recalls canoeing across the Susquehanna to go to work that day. The press covered his canoe trip and it made front page news in several newspapers. He also recalls that Governor Casey walked to the State Capitol building from the Governor’s Residence that day.

With regard to Art’s views on conservation DE, during his tenure, was “a key organization to ensuring protection of natural resources especially when it came to water and forests.” He also recalls discussion within DER, with legislators and with administration officials about climate change issues but that there wasn’t much interest in doing anything about the issue particularly by legislators and administration officials other than enforcing “what was already on the books regarding air quality.” Art also held quarterly dinners with key conservation groups to discuss related issues and to inform DER of the interests and concerns of such organizations (such as the Sierra Club).

Key state legislators who worked with DER were Representative Bud George of Clearfield County and Senator Eugene Scanlon of Pittsburgh. For example, these individuals were prime sponsors of recycling legislation in the House and Senate respectively. While there wasn’t much opposition in either chamber regarding recycling legislation it sometimes “took some arm-twisting” to get enough votes for passage.

Among Art’s current concern on conservation and environmental issues are adequate funding for State Parks. He is dismayed by the actions of recent gubernatorial administration’s actions to inadequately fund State Parks which are “among Pennsylvania most important natural resources.” Moreover, “air and water quality management are why government agencies, such as DER, are so important. They have to protect such resources.” He is also greatly concerned about climate change and doesn’t feel that national leaders are doing enough about the issue. He wants the federal government, in particular, to enact more programs and initiatives to encourage alternative energy sources such as wind and hydroelectric power. While some of this has been done “more is necessary” and “anyone who believes that global warming isn’t a concern is a fool.” He is also concerned about the “explosion of the Marcellus Shale industry” in Pennsylvania. Not enough is known about the environmental hazards and greed is a driving force behind more and more drilling according to Art. “Fracking has improved the economy of many areas of Pennsylvania but profits have to be balanced with concerns over the environmental impacts.”

Key people in Pennsylvania's conservation history are Gifford Pinchot, Myra Lloyd Dock, Rachel Carson and Maurice Goddard. Moreover, key organizations are Audubon, the Sierra Club and the Federation of Sportsman's Club although "it is difficult to get them to agree on many issues."

Art proudly tags himself as a liberal Democrat and is dismayed at why such a political philosophy is viewed unfavorably in these times. He is also dismayed at why the current views on government is to "cut, cut, cut" when it comes to spending and funding particularly for environmental programs. He believes that the role of government is to help the disenfranchised, provide opportunity for people and support sound environmental and conservation policy.

He believes that the story of conservation in Pennsylvania has to be shared with the public and views his role in history as providing some leadership in his limited time in influencing state policy.

Interviewee: Michael DiBerardinis, former Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Date: September 27, 2013

Location: Office of the Deputy Mayor of Philadelphia, 2020 Arch Street.

Length of Interview: 1 hour 14 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

Michael served as Secretary of DCNR during most of the Rendell Administration (2002-2010). He grew-up in row-home in Downingtown in the 1950s and is (proudly) of Italian heritage. He graduated from St. Joseph's University with a B.A. in Political Science and, in the 1960s was active in the Philadelphia-area's Civil Rights, anti-nuclear arms and anti-Vietnam War efforts. He considers himself, at that time, as a "community activist" and held views similar to the Catholic Social Justice movement. He also worked on an Indian reservation in the southwest and helped to build public housing in Cuba. Among his other earlier jobs was to serve as director of The Lighthouse Settlement in the multi-ethnic Kensington area of Philadelphia where the focus was on adequate public housing, parks and recreation and other community-based issues. The Settlement also rehabilitated 800 abandoned homes that became the residences for many Philadelphians of lower incomes.

He served as chief of staff to former Philadelphia-area congressman Tom Foglietta, as a member of the Fairmount Park Commission and on various boards with then-Philadelphia district attorney and Mayor Ed Rendell. When Rendell was elected mayor in 1992 he asked Michael to serve a Commissioner of Parks. The major issue was to position city parks as community anchors for recreation. While "Rendell wasn't overly concerned about parks because he had much larger issues to deal with, Rendell relied on Michael in dealing with both the mundane and larger policy issues relating to parks and recreation." He recalls that, during Rendell's time, the budget for the Parks Department was \$30 million annually and that many parks were rehabilitated, green space was expanded, trees were planted and parks were promoted as community anchors for recreation and enjoyment of the outdoors.

When Rendell became governor in 1992 he asked Michael to be secretary of DCNR, a position that he gladly accepted. He recalls viewing DCNR as a highly professional but "sleepy" agency that could do more in conservation of natural resources, listening to citizen interests, and promoting itself to the public, legislators and the administration. After taking office Michael recalls travelling around the state with several key DCNR officials to engage the public in meeting and hearings. The goal of such was to listen to citizen interests in parks, recreation and forestry issues. As a result, DCNR developed a specific agenda that included:

- 1) A strategic plan focused specifically on protecting and conserving public lands (about 150,000 additional acres were added to the Commonwealth's protected lands).
- 2) A Conservation Landscape Initiative to preserve natural landscapes.
- 3) A strategy to work with municipalities to preserve natural landscapes and parks.
- 4) A strategy to promote Pennsylvania's rich environmental resources as tools for tourism and economic development such as the "Pennsylvania Wilds" in the north-central part of the state.

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- 5) A strategy to build local and statewide constituencies for State Parks that included securing citizen volunteers to clean-up parks and rebuild some infrastructure that had suffered “deferred maintenance” over several years.
- 6) An initiative called “Get Outdoors PA” to promote such activities as kayaking, canoeing, fly fishing and camping.
- 7) Growing Greener II – an initiative to fund greening initiatives in the Commonwealth.

Though the Rendell Administration generally supported the initiative of DCNR during Rendell’s tenure, Michael strongly disagreed with the administration’s stripping of Keystone Park and Recreation funding in the 2008 budget. Moreover, DCNR experienced budget cutbacks that Michael viewed unfavorably.

Michael believes that “conservation isn’t unlimited.” In other words, it transcends generations and that each generation must be taught anew about the importance of protecting the environment and conserving natural resources. He expresses concern over Marcellus Shale drilling in Pennsylvania, particularly its impact on water quality.

He also expresses extensive views on public sector management. Government’s roles is to “protect fundamental human rights, provide opportunity particularly for the economically disenfranchised, protect and conserve the natural environment, and be an activist in defense of the environment and basic human existence when it comes to issues such as global warming.”

He is particularly proud of that fact that - in his current role of Deputy Mayor of Parks and Recreation for the City of Philadelphia – the government has worked with citizens groups to plant over 100,000 trees in the city and to build an “urban forest.”

With regard to environmental leaders he points to Pinchot, Rothrock and Carson. However, he also points to lesser-known individuals such as Mark Allen Hughes, a University of Pennsylvania professor, who published a Conservation Policy Study for the City of Philadelphia. The study is a landmark with regard to how city governments can protect natural resources, promote parks as recreational facilities and build the “urban forest.”

Finally, Michael believes that any written history of conservation in Pennsylvania has to include the efforts and programs of urban areas. He also believes that such a history is worth documenting.