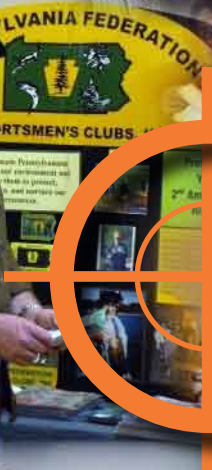




**Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Fall Convention Collage**



# On Target

*November/December 2010*



# Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Report

*John Arway  
Executive Director*



[www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)



## My First 30 Years and My Last 6 Months

I began my career with the PA Fish Commission (PFC) fresh out of graduate school when I returned to Pennsylvania from a two year visit in Tennessee. Degrees in biology in hand from the University of Pittsburgh and Tennessee Tech University and some work experience in both private industry and academia, I was ready to change the world, or so I thought.

In hindsight, I was fortunate to begin my career with the PFC in 1980, working for a Director that empowered staff to do their duty and fear no one, and supported us to keep the Resource First in agency decisions.

I would draft a letter for his signature thinking that I did a good job using the science to defend an agency position, but quickly learned that Mr. Abele had his own style and would add his own flavor to those letters.

Those first 30 years went by in the blink of an eye and looking back, I believe that the PFC and the PFBC had many accomplishments under the leadership of many Directors. We picked and chose our battles wisely and ultimately had a very good batting average when we went to criminal or civil courts to plead our case or in the court of public opinion.

I am proud of what our agency was able to accomplish over those 30 years and lucky to have been part of it. Dr. Maurice Goddard, DER Secretary at the time, called the PFC "DER's Environmental Conscience" because of the pressure we applied to keep the science in the review of coal mining permits and our law enforcement efforts to punish polluters. I am also grateful for

the support of our leadership when we had to go to battle to defend the rights of our aquatic resources and our anglers and boaters. It wasn't easy and there were many internal debates about the merits of appealing DER or later, DEP, permits or filing criminal charges against polluters or even determining whether our state fish hatcheries were polluting local streams.

We argued amongst ourselves and at times took opposite positions on issues, but in retrospect we have made much progress in how we protect, conserve and enhance our aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.



I have always been proud to work for the agency and believe that I have learned much from my predecessors and colleagues and look forward to applying that knowledge in my new job. Well that was the past and now it is time to look at the present and the future.

The past six months, the short tenure of my Director career thus far, can be summed up pretty quickly in three words---- no not Board of Commissioners but Marcellus

Severance Tax. That has been my primary focus and our Board and staff have been pulling together in the tug-of-war severance tax debate.

I thought that the previous 30 years and the battle scars I acquired prepared me well for all of the challenges I would face as a new Director. However, I have found that although I built a sturdy foundation for a place to live, I still have much carpentry work to do before I can move in.

This experience is very similar to the camp I am remodeling in the Allegheny National Forest which was functional for my family for over 70 years but I have since found out that absolutely nothing is plumb or square. So just like my camp, the Marcellus has become a challenge since the industry has created an enormous workload for me and my staff, but we continue to stretch your fishing and boating dollars to review permits and protect our streams.

Our message has been well received by our sportsmen, dozens of newspaper editorial boards across the state, our legislature and our administration. I was fortunate to join Governor Rendell at the podium at several press conferences and was able to tell our story at several Legislative hearings about how our programs are being taxed by the work created for us by this growing industry.

As I write this article, the House just passed SB 1155 and it now goes back to the Senate for debate and hopefully final action. Well, we all need to get back to work and get this

done for conservation.

I need your help to make sure that our house walls are plumb and square since our future generation will be inheriting the house we are currently building.

BTW—The picture in this article is with my grandson Xander to show that I also enjoy hunting as well as fishing and expect to take a break during the hunting season to celebrate our success with getting this severance tax done. That's our incentive!

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### **Two Commissioners Take Oath of Office for PFBC**

Norman R. Gavlick of Kingston, Luzerne County, has been sworn in as the District 7 commissioner, representing Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties. Commissioner Gavlick rejoins the Commission after previously completing the term of former Commissioner Frederick Osifat.

Glade E. Squires of Downingtown, Chester County, has been sworn in as the District 8 commissioner, representing Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill counties.

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### **Fish & Boat Commission Places Catch and Release Regulations On Sections of Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers**

Following years of declining numbers of smallmouth bass in the Juniata and lower Susquehanna rivers, the PFBC moved to protect the fisheries by placing catch and release regulations on sections of the two waterways which are currently regulated under the Big Bass Program.

The Board of Commissioners voted at its quarterly meeting, held Oct. 5th to approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the proposed regulations. Pending a final vote by the board at a subsequent quarterly meeting, PFBC Executive Director John Arway signed a temporary emergency order which allows the changes to

### **Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Association Honored**

The Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Association, Inc. is being honored for their activities to protect and manage the fish and wildlife habitat of Schuylkill County, as well as their efforts to teach Schuylkill County residents regarding the importance of the outdoors and environment.

The Association has partnered with the Schuylkill County Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, as well as, many others to further their efforts to teach an appreciation of our outdoor heritage and environment.

The Association conducts several educational programs including a week long resident camp for teenagers who learn about forestry, aquatic biology and other natural sciences, a Youth Field Day which involves children and their parents in service projects such as building stream improvement devices and bird and bat boxes, and a Schuylkill County Woman's Outdoor Day where approximately thirty women spend a day fishing, canoeing, shooting and learning about the environment.

take effect Jan. 1, 2011.

The regulations will apply to approximately 32 miles of the Juniata River, from the State Route 75 Bridge at Port Royal in Juniata County downstream to the mouth of the river at Duncannon, Perry County. On the Susquehanna, the regulations cover 98 miles, from the inflatable dam near Sunbury in Northumberland County downstream to the Holtwood Dam in York County.

The regulations also will apply to tournaments, which will be prohibited during the bass spawning period in the spring. During the remainder of the year, only catch-measure-immediate release tournaments will be permitted.



**THANK YOU**

### **To All Those Who Continue to Support PFSC Through Donations & Membership!**

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Nevin Brumbach  
John Cushman  
Albert Dove  
Marshall Hamilton  
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Montgomery, Northampton, &  
Schuylkill Counties