



The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter



Newsletter—Spring 2013

President's Message

Greetings from the office of PA Wildlife Society,

It is my pleasure to be writing my first letter while serving in the role as President of this great organization. I have enjoyed working with the dedicated members of the Board, many of whom have served for many years to keep this organization a well-run and growing entity to maintain professionalism within our ranks. Over my 25 career working with wildlife and native plants in Pennsylvania, our Wildlife Society has been particularly instrumental in both connecting me with other professionals and keeping me updated on the state-of-the-art. I have worked both within the agencies and the private community, and the value of this organization has not diminished.

As I begin to serve in this position, first I want to let you know of my thoughts on the current path of the Chapter, then update you on a few current issues within our state and region.

We have just pulled off what was undeniably the best Annual Conference ever for this organization. Teaming up with the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, our team of conference planners lined up a full suite of interesting and relevant presenters. The student presentations were most exciting for me, being both very thorough and full of new ideas and creativity. Accommodations were more than adequate for most of our events, with the exception of some of the tremendous turnouts for people taking in the presentations, with standing room only. I am offering a huge thank you to all involved, and a serious "you really missed out" for those unable to attend. I hope not to offend anyone by revealing my personal favorite - Jerry Hassinger - who delivered a humorous and motivating oration. It was particularly good to see the diversity of taxa represented at this meeting, which I attribute to the participation from the

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PABS.

Other momentum exists in the periodic publication of our newsletter, which informs us on current events and upcoming opportunities, as well as introduces us to other professionals within our community. It is very well-done as a result of a huge effort by our volunteers who produce it.

Some big issues that we face within our profession in Pennsylvania and this part of the world are probably led by the problem of White Nose Syndrome in our bat populations. This one challenge is rapidly changing both the composition and ecological function of our insectivorous community. Agencies are grappling with regulatory and management options to respond to the large scale die-off of a major component of our bat populations, perhaps even the extinction of some of our previously most common mammal species. I have represented our organization at meetings of the Game Commission as they develop a

President's Message cont...

response to the situation, and the DCNR and Game Commission as they consider the management of the sensitive bat species on our state-owned lands in Pennsylvania. Broad groups have been brought together to seek real solutions. The situation is desperate, and the type of creativity I mentioned seeing in our students is especially needed in seeking solutions as we adapt to this problem.

We are faced with revisions to our Wildlife Action Plan in Pennsylvania. One of the biggest challenges as we plan to steward the unique natural resources of our state continues to be sustainable funding, as Jerry pointed out (again) in his address to our conferees at the Annual Meeting. I represented PA TWS at meetings to provide feedback to our agencies as they look to the future by revising this plan of action.

Other challenges being grappled with include continued energy development in our natural ecosystems as we work to become more energy independent and seek greener energy sources. Development for wind, natural gas, solar, biomass, and energy transmission continues to impact our forest communities, and it is up to us in many cases to mediate the concerns between developers and the biological community.

Some agencies are working through criteria of qualifications for wildlife professionals who will be approved to work with particular species under their jurisdiction. We should advocate that these standards are both fair and attainable, but also sufficient to ensure that responsible decisions will be made for conservation.

Pressure continues to crop up in the form of legislation a few times a year designed to weaken our current regulatory protection for the species we steward. We will endeavor to make you aware of the need for advocacy

to ensure continued protection as these threats raise up.

These and other issues all point to one need from our members - to get involved. I plan to work through our organization to both make you aware of these issues and opportunities, and to provide us all with any special training or information needed to help. We are the leaders in wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania and beyond. If you are interested in becoming involved in working on any of these or other challenges, contact us and we will try to get you plugged in.

We have a huge and exciting opportunity coming up: in 2014 we (Pennsylvania) will be hosting the annual National Conference of The Wildlife Society in Pittsburgh. We are already beginning to meet to discuss preparations, and need help. Please contact Tammy Colt (tcolt@pa.gov) or Samara Trusso (satrusso@pa.gov) if you would like to volunteer with this effort.

Take whatever opportunities that you can to attend meetings with other professionals. The annual National Conference this year will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. If possible, attend. If you need to carpool or share lodging, contact us and we will try to assist however possible.

In closing, please contact me or other members of our Board if you have any concerns, suggestions, or creative ideas of how this local chapter of The Wildlife Society can better serve the wildlife profession or conservation.

*Merlin Benner
President, PA TWS*



This Newsletter is produced on a roughly quarterly basis for members of the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Editor: W. David Walter

Send items of interest, comments, announcements, questions, or corrections to David at: wdwalter@psu.edu.

Subject— "newsletter"

2014 National Conference In PA—Make Your Mark

Have you given any thought to participating in the 2014 National Conference to be held here in Pittsburgh, PA?

We have many subcommittees that need to be staffed for our conference to get rolling and be successful. Let's make PA look good!

Please have a look at the diverse options and consider volunteering. Please contact Tammy Colt (tcolt@pa.gov) if you wish to help out.

- ⇒ Audio Visuals and Computers Subcommittee
- ⇒ Field Trips Subcommittee
- ⇒ Fund Raising Subcommittee
- ⇒ Local Information Subcommittee
- ⇒ Sustainability Subcommittee
- ⇒ Media Relations and Photography

Subcommittee

- ⇒ Merchandise Subcommittee
- ⇒ Photography Contest Subcommittee
- ⇒ Student Activities Subcommittee
- ⇒ Student Professional Development Working Group



Save the Date

**Applied Spatial Ecology in R
2 day workshop**
September 2013
Penn State University
Contact: David Walter for de-
tails; wdwalter@psu.edu



**The Wildlife Society
20th Annual Conference**
October 5-10, 2013
The Wisconsin Center
Milwaukee, WI

Executive Board Elections

The 2013 Board member election closed in March. Merlin Benner, former Vice President, has stepped into Tammy Colt's position as the President. Tammy will now serve as the Past President. Christina Voorhees is now Vice President (and President-elect).

Newly-seated Board members:

Member At-Large— Mario D. Giazzon
Member At-Large— Emily Just
Secretary— Samara Trusso
Treasurer— Virginia Tilden
Website Manager— Jennifer Dzimiel
Newsletter Editor— David Walter

Mid-term Board members:

Member At-Large— Clayton Lutz
Member At-Large— Samantha Pedder
Northeast Section Rep.— Emily Thomas
Membership Coordinator— Wendy Vreeland

Special thanks are in order for all those PA Chapter members who were willing to throw their hat in the ring. Congratulations to the new Board members.

More information on Board member terms, responsibilities, contact info, and PA TWS By-laws at our website: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/>

Annual Conference Executive Board Meeting

****Current Board Initiatives****

Nominating & Fundraising Committees: The Pennsylvania Chapter is forming a nominating committee to increase participation in elections to the board. PA TWS members are currently showing little interest in becoming members of the board. PA TWS is also forming a fundraising committee to increase donations to and revenue from silent auction/ raffle items at the annual conference.

2014 Conference: There will be no annual conference in 2014 because PA TWS will be hosting the national conference in Pittsburgh, PA that fall.

Increased Participation & Communication:
PA TWS is working hard to promote member

relations and increase student/professional interactions. A National recruiting campaign led to approximately 10 new PA TWS members. The board activated a new Facebook page and is also working on updating a list of professionals at colleges and universities and is encouraging the creation of new student chapters.

—Board Meeting Minutes can be found at our website: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/>.

*Emily Thomas
Northeast Section Rep,
PA TWS*

Board Reports continued...

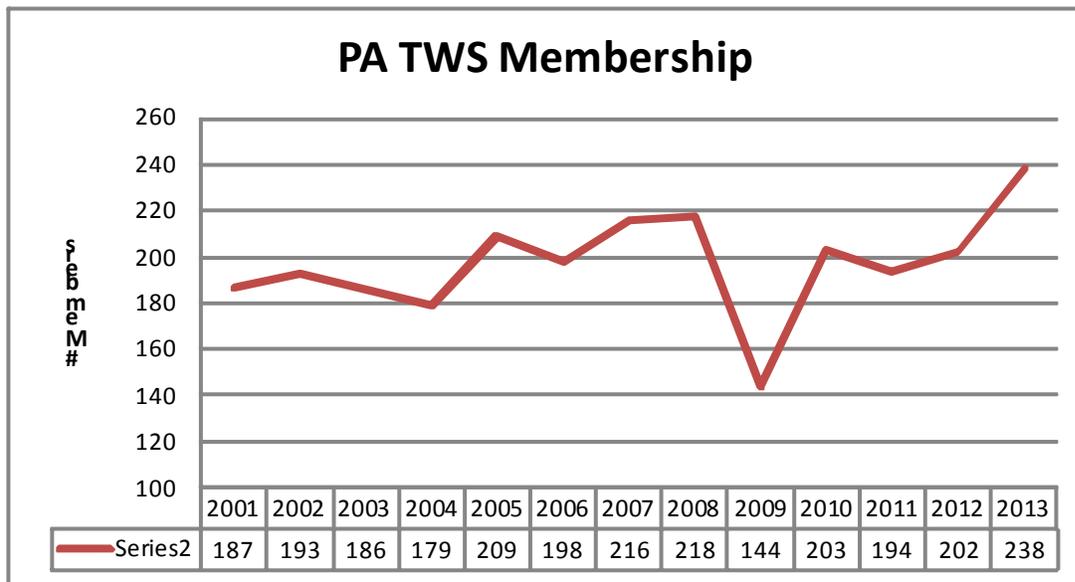
Membership Report -- 3/23/2013

238 Total Members

-64 life members

-55 known student members (grads & undergrads)

-51 members still need to renew/ be confirmed through National



W. Vreeland
Membership Coordinator, PA TWS

Chapter Correspondence

A thank you letter was received thanking PA TWS for contributions to the Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute.

Previous letters can be found on our website under "Correspondence" at:

<http://www.wildlife.org/pa/>



Annual Conference: Celebrating 75 Years of Wildlife Conservation: TWS and the Wildlife Restoration Program

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its 2013 annual meeting March 22-23 at the Ramada Inn in State College, PA as a joint conference with the Pennsylvania Biological Society. The theme for this year was “**Putting the ACTION in the State Wildlife Action Plan: Moving Pennsylvania Wildlife Conservation Forward**”. Overall attendance for the conference was 122 people (70 professionals, 38 students, and 14 Wildlife Leadership Academy students).

Two wildlife workshops were held on Friday March 22nd covering “State Wildlife Grants Projects: Management in Action for Species of Greatest Conservation Need”. Friday morning participants traveled to the State Game Land 322 where the group heard speakers from the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Biological Survey and Indiana University of Pennsylvania discusses woodrat management and research. Participants of the second workshop heard representatives from IUP and the US Fish and Wildlife Service discuss habitat requirements of Golden-Winged Warblers and Cerulean Warblers.

After lunch, the woodrat group took a tour of vernal ponds and heard speakers from PGC the importance of protecting vernal ponds in timber harvest areas. The warbler group, were able to visit several state parks to observe warbler habitat and forest management practices. That evening, all attendees of the conference were invited to the student-professional mixer.

Saturday’s plenary session was centered around our retrospective theme, but was coupled with thoughts on our future horizons. Plenary speakers from the Association of



John Organ, banquet speaker, spoke to the conference on State Wildlife Action Plans and the Future of Wildlife Conservations.

Fish and Wildlife Agencies, PGC, PFBC, and PABS shared some stories on Wildlife Action Plans Present and Future.

Three concurrent sessions were held in the afternoon focusing on a variety of topics. Twenty-eight student and professional speakers gave presentations on topics ranging from monitoring of Pennsylvania streams and lakes to Marcellus shale gas development. Also, this year we were pleased to have fourteen students from the Wildlife Leadership Academy present posters. The afternoon was capped off with the Executive Board business meeting, which was open to all members and well-attended.

Annual Conference continued...

PA TWS welcomed John Organ, Chief of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration for the Northeast Region, as our banquet speaker. Dr. Organ spoke about the critical needs of State Wildlife Action Plans to include broader regional and national contexts to insure conservation threats are identified and addressed at proper scales. His talk was entitled "State Wildlife Action Plans & The Future of Wildlife Conservation."

Thank you all for attending, contributing, and presenting, your involvement makes our annual conference what it is—a true success.

Raffle and Auction Donations

The following individuals, businesses, and organizations donated items for the fundraising raffle this year. Please consider patronizing these businesses and thank those individuals and organizations for their commitment to improving the profession of wildlife management in Pennsylvania. Thanks again to all the donors.

Agway Inc.
Appalachian Outdoors
Bass Pro Shops
Boone & Crockett Club
Ernst Conservation Seeds
Habitat by Design
Nixalite of America
Pennsylvania Biological Survey
Pennsylvania Trappers Association
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Pennsylvania Wild Resource Conservation Fund
Penn State University Press
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
Wiscoy For Animals
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company
Emily Kight Photography
Ron Beach Studios
PA TWS Chapter Members

Sponsorship

The following organizations sponsored the coffee breaks, refreshments, and food during the Friday evening social and Saturday events. The Chapter greatly appreciates the support by these organizations. Please thank these sponsors and enjoy the treat they have provided.

Wildlife Specialists, LLC
Pennsylvania Biological Survey

Conference Survey Results

Thanks to the fifty-six respondents who completed this year's conference survey. Overall, the conference was rated favorably (see Figure 1), with 60% rating it as excellent and 38% rating it as good. Similar to last year, the survey indicated that while networking with colleagues remains the most important overall benefit expected from the conference (Figure 2), the students who participated found substantial benefits in learning about jobs and graduate school as well as giving them an opportunity to present their work.

We asked how participants would rate the social networking value—50% rated it as excellent and 42% rated it good. For participants who wrote down what their favorite part of the conference was, the highest number mentioned the technical sessions (poster and paper presentation; n = 29), the plenary session (n=15), and the workshops (n=14).

We revisited another question this year regarding whether we should keep the conference in State College, or again try to move the conference to different parts of the state.

The majority (71%) of respondents believed that State College was very good or excellent.

With the national meeting scheduled for 2014 in Pittsburgh, the board recognized that holding the conference in State College makes the most sense but only if held jointly with another organization that was organized by them.

Once again most people said they would be attending a future conference (Figure 3). Topics suggestions for future workshops included: deer and bear management, statistical analysis and modeling, animal capture methods, PA Natural Diversity Inventory and how it

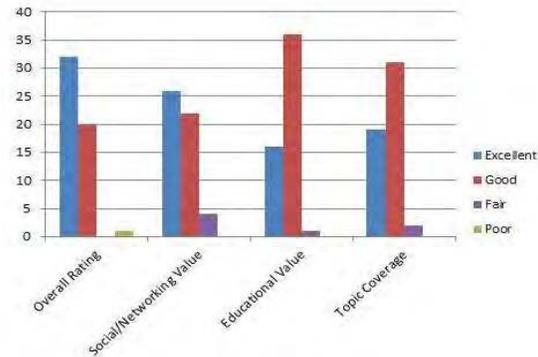


Figure 1. How would you rate the conference?

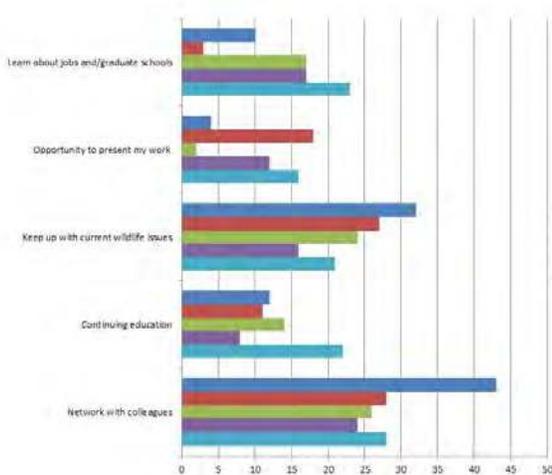


Figure 2. Why did you attend the conference?

currently works, and habitat management.

Topics suggested for the plenary session in future years were diverse and included: energy development, use/value of prescribed fire in forest/wildlife research, chronic wasting disease and white-nose syndrome, effects of climate change on PA, use of new technology, feral swine eradication, importance of PA Natural Heritage Program, ethics/ethical standards in environmental consulting.

Samara Trusso
Secretary, PA TWS

Student Award/Scholarship Recipients

Janelle Wommer received the Frank Felbaum Scholarship Award. Janelle majored in Zoo Science and minored in Environmental Science at Delaware Valley College. She was an active member of her college's TWS student chapter, and served as secretary and vice president and attended the NE Student Conclaves from 2011-2013. Her educational and professional experiences inspired her to pursue a career combining environmental education and research. Congratulations and good luck Janelle!



*Felbaum Scholarship Award
Winner: Janelle Wommer (right)*

Aiden Simpson received the Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award. He is a recent grad from Clarion University. Aiden's poster topic was "Assessing the Effects of Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvatica*) Egg Inputs on Periphyton Growth and Larval Performance in Experimental Aquatic Mesocosms".

The Best Student Presentation Award was earned by **Wendy Leuenberger**, a grad student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Wendy's talk was entitled "A comparison of *Lepidoptera* communities inhabiting restored and degraded pitch pine-scrub oak barrens in Pennsylvania."



*Best Student Presentation Winner:
Wendy Leuenberger (right) award given by President Merlin Brenner (left).*

Student Awards continued...

Paul DiSalvo, a grad student at Gettysburg College, was the winner of the Best Graduate Student Poster. His winning poster was entitled “*The status of a PA endangered bird—the upland sandpiper*”.



*Best Graduate Student Poster Winner:
Paul DiSalvo.*

Anthony Lorrain is from Snyder County and goes to Middleburg High School. Anthony was a Sophomore this year and is the WLA Poster Award winner this year, with his poster on Wildlife Leadership Activities.



Best Undergraduate Student Poster Winner: Anthony Lorraine.

Jackson Gehris is from Montgomery County and goes to Perkimon High School. Jackson was Junior this year and is the first student to attend all three Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) field schools (PA Bucktails, PA Drummer, and PA Brookies). Jackson is the WLA Poster Award winner this year, with his poster on white-tailed deer.



*Best Undergraduate Student Poster Winner:
Jackson Gehris.*

The WLA is a youth program administered by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education.



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or contact
shannon@wildlife.org

Update—Gordon Kirkland Award

Gary San Julian, professor emeritus of wildlife resources in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, received the Gordon Kirkland Award for Lifetime Professional Achievement in Conservation from the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 2012 and was presented with the associated artwork in April 2013. The stained glass was designed and created by Steve Morse at Sea Robin Glass Studio, Morrisville, PA.

The award is named after Gordon Kirkland Jr., its first recipient, a noted mammalogist who held a faculty position in the Department of Biology at Shippensburg University for 30 years.



Student Chapter News

Editor's note: The newsletter is reviving the Student Chapter News section with news from Pennsylvania's four student chapters: Delaware Valley College, Penn State University, Clarion University, and California University of Pennsylvania.

****Delaware Valley College****

The Delaware Valley student chapter volunteered with on-going deer research by helping to trap and tag white-tails in February and March. In the Spring, as always, we host our Annual Game Dinner to promote hunting as a form of conservation. Gary Stolz, manager of the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge, was our guest speaker. Some of the meats served were deer, bison, goose, and squirrel.

We also attended the Northeast Student Wildlife Conclave in Connecticut and brought home the Keystone State Award for the Quiz Bowl competition. In April, we went to the New Jersey Wetlands Institute to help install "terrapin fences" along roadsides to prevent casualties and were given the opportunity to assist with tagging a diamondback terrapin.

DelVal awarded us with "Event of the Year" for Game Dinner and our advisor, Reg Hoyt, was awarded with "Advisor of the Year."

*Avery Corondi
Student Chapter President*

****Penn State University****

The Penn State student chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy spring. They adopted Bluebird Trail at Shaver's

Creek that includes maintaining boxes, helped out at Maple Harvest Fest at Shaver's Creek, and planted seedlings in Penns Valley as part of the Young Forest Project.

The chapter received 2 awards totaling \$200 from Ag Ball that included Outstanding Student Activities and Outstanding Alumni Involvement.

In March, the chapter hosted their 8th Annual Wild Game Dinner and Cook-off fundraiser. Over \$1200.00 was raised to assist the chapter in their various activities and help plan future events.

The Penn State chapter has also hosted various speakers throughout the year from faculty, to former and current members, to professionals in the field. They were awarded, against all the organizations in the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Professional Development and Leadership Award in March. Members were proud to be recognized for their hard work and dedication to the organization.

In addition, the chapter sent 10 members to The Wildlife Society's Northeast Student Conclave hosted by the University of Connecticut. Members participated in various workshops while meeting their fellow peers and will be hosting the conclave in 2014.

*Sara Mueller
Student Chapter President*

UPDATE— The student chapter at Penn State University welcomes a new chapter advisor, Dr. David Miller.

I started at Penn State in the department of Ecosystem Science and Management in

Student News continued...

January of this year. My expertise is in quantitative methods for monitoring and modeling wildlife populations and communities. I have worked with a variety of taxa, including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians and on both game and conservation focused research. Starting this fall I will take over duties as adviser to the student chapter of the Wildlife Society and look forward to becoming more involved with the state chapter.

*David Miller
Student Chapter Advisor*



*Incoming Penn State Student Chapter Advisor
Dr. David Miller*

PA TWS T-shirts have been to.....

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Virginia Tilden, PA TWS Treasurer, and Tammy Colt, past President, attended The Wildlife Society's 19th Annual Conference in Portland, OR this past fall. Besides the requisite networking and learning opportunities to be had at the conference, participants also ventured out to explore the Pacific Northwest scenery. Thanks Virginia and Tammy for making your PA TWS t-shirt so well-traveled.

Show us where you've taken your PA TWS clothing. Send photos to David Walter, Newsletter Editor, at wdwalter@psu.edu

To view our clothing online visit <http://wildlife.org/pa/> and click on "Merchandise." Contact Virginia Tilden, Treasurer, at c-vtilden@state.pa.us to order.



Tammy Colt in Oregon for the national conference.



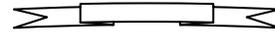
Virginia Tilden in Oregon for the national conference.

Pennsylvania TWS Objectives

1. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend.
2. To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
3. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.
5. To serve the specialized needs of Pennsylvania in wildlife resource management.

—Who’s Who on the Board—

2013 Executive Board Members
Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society



President.....Merlin Benner
Vice-President.....Christina Voorhees
Past President.....Tammy Colt
Secretary.....Samara Trusso
Treasurer.....Virginia Tilden
Northeast Section
Representative.....Emily Thomas
Website Manager.....Jennifer Dzimiel
Newsletter Editor.....David Walter
Membership
Coordinator.....Wendy Vreeland
At-Large Members.... Clayton Lutz
Samantha Pedder
Mario Giazzon
Emily Just





THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

2013 Membership Application

- Check One: Renewal
 New Member
 Student Member
 Lifetime Member
 Dues Paid through National Headquarters
- Annual Dues: \$10.00
Student Dues: \$6.00
Life Membership: \$200.00

The following information is new, updated, or corrected
 unchanged

Name: Dr. Mrs. Miss
 Mr. Ms. _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home: (____) ____ - _____
Office: (____) ____ - _____ Ext. _____
Fax: (____) ____ - _____
E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: **PA-TWS**
(Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society)

Mail to: Virginia Tilden, Treasurer
Fort Indiantown Gap
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Anville, PA 17003

2013-07-10