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Subject: PABIODIV: Fw: Mid-Atlantic Highlands Regional Conservation Conference
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Below is a synopsis of info and a web link for the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Regional Conservation Conference for placement on your listserve. Thank you for your help.

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A Mid-Atlantic Highlands Regional Conservation Conference to Take Place in Johnstown, PA in June

The first ever regional conference on biodiversity, Mid-Atlantic Highlands Biodiversity: Making the Connection in Your Community, will be held June 16-18, 2005 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, in southwestern Pennsylvania. Striking physical similarities and parallel environmental challenges run up and down the Mid-Atlantic Highlands, akin to the mountain ranges themselves. For the first time, a multidisciplinary consortium of community and conservation groups has come together across local areas and state borders to host a conference on biodiversity conservation and how it impacts the ecology, culture and economy of Mid-Atlantic Highlands communities.

Pre-conference outreach will span across nine states and will reach deep into local communities through our extensive and growing network of civic and governmental organizations. We will be reaching thousands of people, a diverse base, who use, conserve, and enjoy the land: Conservationists; outdoor recreation enthusiasts; gardeners; farmers, and hunters. Feel free to refer to our developing conference website www.naturalbiodiversity.org/conference.htm for additional information about the conference, which will be updated periodically as details are secured.

Relevant Information...

Biodiversity conservation is one important tool that communities can use to enhance natural and recreational resources, improve community aesthetics, and even contribute to economic wealth. The goal of this conference is to empower civic organizations and civic-minded individuals to demonstrate how biodiversity conservation work can be used to enhance the missions of a variety of organizations and enhance their own communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic Highlands. The target number of attendees is 300, which will include representatives from the civic community as well as teachers participating in a track designed to "Empower Educators" thereby engaging youth.

The Mid-Atlantic Highlands :

Spans from New York to Tennessee and North Carolina

Is a diverse natural system of majestic mountains and rolling hills

Is an ecoregion with globally significant biodiversity

Is a forgotten "rust-belt" land recovering from intense resource extraction

Is a historically rich area that, in 1775, was proposed to The Continental Congress as a state called "Westsylvania"

Conference Hosts

AmeriCorps National Service Program
Cambria County Conservation District
Canaan Valley Institute
Conemaugh Valley Conservancy
Kiski Basin Initiatives/Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team
Natural Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership
Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Council &
Conservancy USDA APHIS
Westsylvania Heritage Corporation

*The Non-Profit 501(c)3 Sponsor of the Event

The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserv is intended to promote discussion of biodiversity issues in the state. It is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership (PBP) following guidelines posted at <http://www.pabiodiversity.org/listserv.html>. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the PBP. To unsubscribe, send the message UNSUBSCRIBE PABIODIV to majordomo@webmail.upb.pitt.edu.