

Contact: MaryLinda Gangewere  
412-481-4100  
gangewere@pabiodiversity.org

## **Public-Private Partnership Releases First Evaluation of Biodiversity in Pennsylvania**

### **Historic Partnership of Industry, Government, Conservation, and Education Groups to Conserve Pennsylvania's Plants, Animals, and Natural Resources**

Harrisburg, PA (December 10, 2002) – The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership (PBP) introduces itself to Pennsylvanians today with the release of ***Biodiversity in Pennsylvania: Snapshot 2002***, a report that culminates the first phase of a plan to conserve biodiversity statewide. The comprehensive report is being released at a press conference at the Capitol in Harrisburg on Tuesday, December 10, 2002. The report is available on PBP's website at [www.pabiodiversity.org](http://www.pabiodiversity.org).

"The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership is an unprecedented collaboration of people who understand the need to conserve Pennsylvania's natural diversity in order to maintain the state's economic vitality and quality of life for all citizens," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary John Oliver.

*Biodiversity in Pennsylvania: Snapshot 2002*, published by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership, headquartered in Pittsburgh, summarizes a year-long effort to survey the status of Pennsylvania's biodiversity as we presently know it.

Recognizing the need for a better understanding of Pennsylvania's rich natural resources as well as the lack of a comprehensive strategy for biodiversity in the state, PBP was created in a direct response to a recommendation by the Pennsylvania 21st Century Environment Commission. PBP is a unique organization since it is the first time in Pennsylvania that representatives from business and industry, the scientific and education community, conservation organizations, and government agencies are working together as equal partners in conserving Pennsylvania's biodiversity.

In addition to Secretary Oliver representing government agencies, others participating in the press conference include Douglas E. Kuntz, Pennsylvania General Energy Corporation Vice President for Development and Operations representing business and industry; Dr. John E. Rawlins, Head of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Section of Invertebrate Zoology representing the scientific community; and P. Randolph Gray, Director of The Nature Conservancy of Pennsylvania and also Chair of the PBP Board.

The speakers will be joined by living examples of Pennsylvania's natural diversity, including a juvenile river otter, peregrine falcon, barred owl, black snake, moths and other insects, and native wildflowers.

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