

Did you know?

Average indoor water use in a typical single-family home is **70 gallons** per person per day

Conservation Update 2013

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| County Envirothon | 2 |
| PENNVEST Projects | 2 |
| Available Growing Greener Grants FY 2013/2014 | 3 |
| Dates for Farm City Banquet: * Tickets Now on Sale | 3 |
| Virtual Animal and Vet Science Courses | 4 |
| Poster Contest Winners | 4 |
| New Requirements for Chapter 105 GP's | 5 |

Mission Statement

The Centre County Conservation District is a committed, professional agency functioning as the primary local source of assistance to all individuals and organizations who benefit from the county's natural resources that we collectively strive to sustain and improve.

Spring and summer have been busy, filled with education events at the Centre County Conservation District. During the months of April and May, we participated in education programs with over 1500 students. We met students at our State Parks, both Bald Eagle and Black Moshannon, at Penn State's Arboretum, at the Muddy Paws Wetlands Center in Penns Valley, at Seven Mountains Camp and at the Three Point Sportsmen's Club in Snow Shoe Township. We visited classrooms in the State College and Bellefonte Area School Districts. We collected aquatic insects in county streams, created watersheds on the beach and talked about pollution and how to prevent it. Many thanks to our partners: the Penns Valley Conservation Association, the Beech Creek Watershed Association, the Central PA Source Water Alliance for Protection, Penn State University and staff members at both Parks. A note of gratitude goes to the teachers and administrators who value our environment enough to send their students to us. The weather was challenging, ranging from lows of 45 to highs in the 80s. And rain or shine means just that! We had lots of the former!

During the months of May, June, and July the District collaborated with the Bellefonte ART Museum to present a *Summer Environmental Education Series*. Paintings of local streams by artists Alice Kelsey and Jeanne McKinney provided the background for visits by legendary angler Joe Humphreys, Pa Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director John Arway, and local historian Bob Hazelton. Thanks to the Pa Fish and Boat Commission and the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their instructional support. During July, several conservation organizations will exhibit displays in the Community Room of the Museum.

In June, we made presentations about District activities at the Spring Creek Watershed Association and the Central PA Source Water Alliance for Protection meetings. The Spring Creek presentation is available on line at <https://meeting.psu.edu/p4cocjvw7cf/>.

MANURE MANAGEMENT PLAN WRITING WORKSHOP

On March 16, 2013 the Centre County Conservation District hosted its third Manure Management Plan writing workshop. This was the second workshop held at the Lions Club in Centre Hall. Over 60 people attended the workshop, many from the Amish community. The intent of the workshop was to assist landowners/operators to develop their own manure management plans. All farming operations that land apply manure (mechanically or grazing) or agricultural process wastewater, whether they generate the manure or import it from another operation, must have a written Manure Management Plan. The District plans to host more plan writing workshops at different locations throughout Centre County.

2013 COUNTY ENVIROTHON NEWS

The Centre County Conservation District sponsored the 29th annual Centre County Envirothon on May 8, 2013 at Bald Eagle State Park. Fourteen teams from Penns Valley, Bald Eagle Area, Bellefonte, Central PA Institute of Science and Technology and State College Area high schools participated on a somewhat soggy spring day. The Envirothon tests students’ knowledge of the following five subject areas: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife, and Grazing Lands and Pasture Management, the current environmental issue topic for 2013.



For the 14th consecutive year, Bald Eagle Area High School, Team “Roadkill” (pictured left) scored 368 out of a possible 500 points, captured the County Envirothon title. Team members Jeff Gleason, Luke Besong, Sam VanClise, Dale Haagen and Karen Warner also achieved the highest score at the Forestry station. Bald Eagle Area Team 4 placed second with a score of 351 and also achieved the highest scores at the Aquatic Ecology and the Current Issue stations. Jade Thompson is the Bald Eagle Area advisor. The State College “White Suckers” team placed third with a score of 342 and also achieved the highest scores at the Soils and Land Use and Wildlife stations. Susan Braun is the State College advisor.

The Bald Eagle Area team represented Centre County at the Pennsylvania Envirothon on May 21 and 22 at Juniata College and placed 18th of the 61 county teams participating. York County Home School won the Pennsylvania Envirothon championship and participated in the North American Envirothon at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT in early August.

PENNVEST-CONSTRUCTION WELL UNDERWAY

Two of the District’s four PENNVEST projects are nearing completion. The Marion Township and Ferguson Township projects are in their last phases of construction. The Centre County Conservation District was awarded over \$2 million from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Non-Point Source Program to install agricultural best management practices on four farms in Centre County.



Placing trusses on the Roofed Heavy Use Area on a farm In Ferguson Township.



Slotted floor over manure storage in Roofed Heavy Use Area on a farm in Marion Township.



Centre County Receives Growing Greener Grants

On February 19, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection announced that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will invest more than \$18.7 million in watershed protection projects. This funding, awarded to non-profit organizations and government entities, will improve watersheds in forty counties by addressing stormwater runoff and acid mine drainage, by implementing Best Management Practices on farms and by supporting environmental education programs. *Four Centre County organizations received a total of \$429,385 from the state's Growing Greener program.*

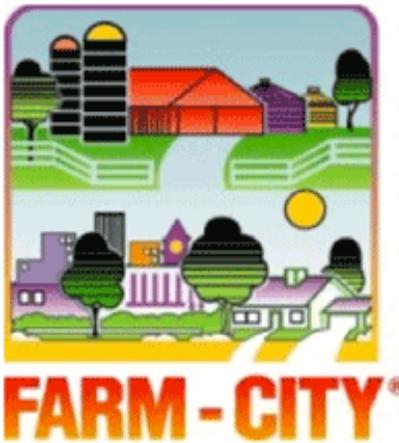
The Centre County Conservation District received \$89,250 to contract with a plan writer to develop Manure Management and Ag Erosion and Sediment Control Plans. The focus will be on farms in the Halfmoon Creek watershed. This funding will provide a valuable service to farmers, enabling them to move into compliance. ClearWater Conservancy received \$185,000 to fund stream restoration and agricultural projects in the Halfmoon Creek watershed.

Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation, working with Lysle Sherwin, received \$60,427 to mitigate a site in the Halfmoon Creek watershed. This project is a continuation of a previous restoration. Halfmoon Creek watershed was targeted for these funds because DEP has designated sections of the stream as impaired. DEP's intent is to help to eliminate those impairments.

The Penns Valley Conservation Association received \$94,708 to implement Agricultural Best Management Practices on two neighboring farms, one English and one Amish, located outside Millheim on Elk Creek.

The District's Agricultural Conservation Technician and the Watershed Specialist will contribute significant in kind assistance in the implementation of all of these projects.

For more information about Growing Greener or to see the complete list of grant recipients, email GrowingGreener@pa.gov; call 717-705-4500; or visit DEP's website at www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword: Growing Greener.



2013 FARM CITY BANQUET Tuesday, November 12, 2013

In celebration of Pennsylvania Farm / City week, the 2013 Centre County Farm City Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at New Hope Lutheran Church in Spring Mills. This annual dinner highlights the importance of the relationships between our farmers and our urban neighbors.

Pennsylvania proudly proclaims agriculture as our number one industry and we all depend upon farmers for our food. Please join in the celebration of National Farm/City Week. The doors will open at 5:30 pm with a Dairy Princess Milk and Cheese reception. A turkey and ham dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. The Clean Streams Award for Excellence in Erosion Control, the Outstanding Conservation Farmer-Cooperator Award and the Watershed Stewardship Award will be presented by the Centre County Conservation District. Bethany Coursen, Partner of Valley Wide Farms, will be the guest speaker. Several farm commodity door prizes will be given away.

Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$6.50 for children under age 12. Tickets may be purchased from the Farm Service Agency (355-2447), Cooperative Extension (355-4897), Natural Resources Conservation Service (355-2447) or from the Centre County Conservation District (355-6817) located in the Willowbank Office Building in Bellefonte before November 1, 2013. Tickets will **not** be sold at the door.

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Virtual Animal and Veterinarian Sciences Course Offered State College High School AG Science Program

The State College Area School District’s Virtual School piloted an on-line Animal & Veterinarian Sciences course this summer to 14 interested students. They included students: in grades 9 – 12; both male and female; and some with ag science backgrounds and some without.

The students could complete the 30 lessons, 25 in technical topics and five were literacy investigations of research or news concerning animal sciences, over the summer semester. They were able to access the lessons from a computer with internet connection or from a smartphone. The goal was to provide this instruction to meet students “*anytime and anywhere*” they desired.

By offering this course via the Virtual School, students’ scheduling conflicts/ impacts would not affect current course requirements/demands and allow interested students to gain educational enrichment activities within the State College Area High School District. This also allows students in other educational systems to access animal science curriculum that is not available to them.

Program and Course Benefits:

- This course was developed to allow students to enroll in an approved Ag Science Course that can be available “anytime from anywhere”.
- The course aligns with SCHS Animal Science Career Path within the current program.
- It provides formal Ag Science Programming to students during the summer.
- It allows students that want to have an Ag Science experience in a more flexible format.
- Ag Science Programming could be offered to other districts that do not currently have Ag Science courses, i.e. Public, Private, Charter and Cyber schools.

Concise Course Description:

This course will provide career investigations of animal and veterinarian sciences and provide experiences in typical large animal, poultry, and small animal sciences. The course will have students explore animal science research outcomes and findings related to improving animal health and welfare.

The district’s hope is to offer this course all year in the fall, spring and summer semesters.

For additional information regarding this Virtual Animal and Veterinarian Sciences Program, please contact Paul Heasley - phone 814-231-1161 or email plh11@scasd.org



2013 Poster Contest Winners Where Does your Watershed?



The Conservation District awarded cash prizes to the top 3 winners of each division. Winning posters were displayed in the lobby of the Willowbank Building, and the first place posters were sent to the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, (PACD) for State Judging.

K-1 Grade Winners

- 1st place : Sarah Lefkowitz
Corl Street Elem.
- 2nd Place: Uma Pal
Corl Street Elem.
- 3rd Place: Ben Garthwaite
Corl Street Elem.

2-3 Grade Winners

- 1st Place: Halie Stroud
Pleasant Gap Elem.
- 2nd Place: Bryce Folmar
Pleasant Gap Elem.
- 3rd Place: Hannah Bryan
Pleasant Gap Elem.

4-6 Grade Winners

- 1st Place: Georgia Cingle
Mountain Top Elem.
- 2nd Place:
Marlene Mindziak
St. John Catholic School
- 3rd Place: Cassie Fults
Mountain Top Elem.



Application fees now required for Chapter 105 General Permits

Chapter 105 General Permits (GPs)

General Permits are available for common stream and pond activities that are relatively minor in scope and do not pose a significant threat to flooding, the environment, or other persons/properties. A person proposing to use a GP agrees to a pre-approved set of conditions, construction limits, dimensions and other criteria which apply to many common types of projects. If the work that an applicant is proposing meets all of the conditions of the GP and the project location is eligible for its use, the applicant can often register his/her intent to use the GP with our office, and receive acknowledgement (the OK or approval to install the project) after we complete our review of the permit registration and all associated paperwork/plans. The Conservation District conducts this review to ensure that the project you wish to do meets the conditions of the GP, and also to confirm that its site location is eligible.

Activities in and across waterways (including their floodway) and wetlands are regulated in order to protect the health, safety, and property of nearby areas; as well as to protect water quality and natural resources of the environment. As always, feel free to contact our office to discuss permitting options available anytime you wish to do work in, across, or within the floodway (usually 50' from the top of streambank along either side of stream) of any waterway in Centre County.

Application fees for Chapter 105 GPs have been in effect since February 16, 2013. A summary follows.

| General Permit | Activity | Remarks (some examples or other comments) | Application Fee |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| GP-1 | Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures | Also needs review/approval by PA Fish and Boat Commission | \$50 per project |
| GP-2 | Small Docks and Boat Launching Ramps | For use on ponds, lakes, or watercourses (streams, creeks, rivers, etc.) | \$175 each |
| GP-3 | Bank Rehabilitation, Bank Protection and Gravel Bar Removal | To rock armor or otherwise stabilize eroding sections of streambank- limited to 500' total length | \$250 per project |
| GP-4 | Intake & Outfall Structures | Water only; for water supply (ponds) and/or discharge (ponds, stormwater, etc.) | \$200 each |
| GP-5 | Utility Line Stream Crossings | For crossing below or above a stream channel. | \$250 each |
| GP-6 | Agricultural Crossings and Ramps | To provide a stabilized ford crossing of stream for equipment or livestock (or both) | \$50 each |
| GP-7 | Minor Road Crossings | To cross a stream with a contributing watershed of 1 sq mile (640 acres) or less | \$350 each |
| GP-8 | Temporary Road Crossings | To install and use a stream crossing for 1 year or less (unless extension granted in writing) | \$175 each |
| GP-9 | Agricultural Activities | For minor drainage and other structures located within regulated floodways of small streams (with watershed of 100 acres or less) | \$50 per project |
| GP-11** | Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation, or Replacement of Water Obstructions and Encroachments | For some activities and structures not applicable (or qualified) by other General Permits listed above | \$750 per project; other fees may apply |

**GP-11 is submitted to and acknowledged by DEP North Central Office, Williamsport.

**CENTRE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

414 Holmes Avenue, Suite #4
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814-355-6817
Fax: 814-355-8696
E-mail:
RESWEITZER@CENTRECOUNTYPA.GOV

Website: centrecountypa.gov/conservation



DISTRICT STAFF

Robert E. Sweitzer, District Manager
Sue Kauffman, Dept. Clerk III
John Wataha, Agriculture Conservation/
Nutrient Management Technician
Ann Donovan, Watershed Specialist/
Education Coordinator
Daina Beckstrand, CBP/NM Technician

E&S STAFF

Jim Coslo Jr., Resource Conservation
Supervisor
Mike Philippe, Resource Conservation
Coordinator II
Joy Teeter, Department Clerk I

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation

Service (NRCS)

(570) 726-3196 or (814) 355-2447
Scott D. Heckman, Supervisory District
Conservationist
Bryan Conklin, Engineering Technician
Amanda Coleman, Soil Conservationist
Zach Larson, Soil Conservationist

Board of Directors

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Martin Melville
James Walizer
Kaleb Wolfe

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Al Stewart Susan Buda
Donn Fetterolf Lori Hartle

CENTRE CO. RECYCLING HOTLINE

(814) 238-6649

DEP EMERGENCY HOTLINE

1-800-541-2050

CENTRE CO. COMMISSIONERS

(814) 355-6700

CENTRE CO. PLANNING

(814) 355-6791

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Centre County Conservation District
414 Holmes Avenue
Suite #4
Bellefonte, PA 16823

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