



# CONSERVATION

# CONVERSATION



## Conservation District Marks 60th Anniversary

### Inside this issue:

E&S Update	2
WREN Grants	3
County Envirothon	4
Dirt & Gravel Road	5
Local Farmers' Markets	6
Manure Management Plans	7
Ag Updates	8-10
Kids Korner	11

The Centre County Conservation District turns 60 this year. In 1954, farmers and others in the county who were concerned with the conservation of soil, water, and related resources requested the formation of an office to preserve natural resources. The District is a subdivision of State government and is administered by a Board of Directors. The Board is composed of four farmer directors, two urban directors, and one County Commissioner director. There are currently eight full-time employees. One of the main tasks of the District is to administer the State's Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S) Program. Any construction site where earth is being disturbed or where work is in close proximity to streams must meet certain regulations put forth by the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The E&S staff are responsible for reviewing the plans developed by contractors to fulfill DEP's requirements, as well as conducting job-site inspections, and when necessary, levying fines. The next branch of the District is devoted to agriculture. Writing Manure Management plans, Nutrient Management plans, finding grants for farmers, constructing Best Management Practices (BMP's), and administering programs are all accomplished by the agricultural staff. The Chesapeake Bay Program is an example of a federally funded program in which the monies are distributed to farmers at the county level. The final branch of the District is oriented towards public education and outreach activities. Working with watershed groups, developing lessons for schools, and organizing stream sampling groups are just a few of the items that occupy our watershed and education staff. Although we have grown and changed considerably since our inception in 1954, conserving soil and water in Centre County is still our main goal.

### 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.



# E & S Update

## FORMS.....FORMS.....FORMS... Are they current?



The Conservation District administers several regulatory programs through a delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection; the Chapter 102- The Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program, and the Chapter 105- Waterway Management Program.

As with many government programs, the administration of the Chapter 102 and 105 programs involves completing and submitting various application forms. To complicate matters, these forms are frequently changed, updated, and corrected. In order for a permit application to be complete, the most recent version of the form should be used.

How does one keep on top of this issue and ensure that they are using the latest version of the forms? The best way is to periodically (perhaps before each application) check the DEP website, where copies of the latest forms are. You can also check the Centre County Conservation District website, where we also maintain a copy of the current forms.

- <http://centrecountypa.gov/index.aspx?NID=200>
- <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/HomePage>

Here is a list of forms that are frequently updated, and also, ones we often see applicants submitting old versions of the form. Also included in the list is the current (as of July 2014) version of the form.

Notice of Intent/Individual NPDES application	Jan. 2013
General Information Form	May 2012
105 General Permit Registration	Feb. 2014
Notice of Termination	June 2014

\*\*\*\*\*

If there is ever a question about the permit forms for the above programs, please feel free to contact the Conservation District Office at (814) 355-6817 for clarification.

## WREN GRANTS

### WREN Grants in Action: Central PA Source Water Alliance for Protection Hosts Second Annual Clean Water Days

On April 24 and 25, 2014, the Central PA Source Water Alliance for Protection (Central PA SWAP) hosted its second annual **Clean Water Days** program to help students learn about the importance of protecting clean water sources in our lives. Over the two-day period, 560 fifth grade students from Bald Eagle Area, Clearfield, Moshannon Valley, Philipsburg Osceola, and West Branch School Districts attended the day-long educational event at the beautiful Black Moshannon State Park, Centre County.

Fifth graders were specifically invited because the water cycle and watersheds are a part of their required study under the [Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology](#). Central PA SWAP covered costs of the program, including busing students from their home schools to the Park, with help from WREN and other partners.

Central PA SWAP, is a coalition of water systems, local governments, Clearfield & Centre County Conservation Districts, county planners and others who are committed to work together for the protection of area drinking water supplies. One of the main reasons Central PA SWAP was formed in 2012 with WREN support was to encourage water suppliers to develop Source Water Protection Plans (SWP) to help ensure sustainability. These plans, funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, map the 3-zone recharge areas that replenish public water wells and intakes, prioritize the top contaminant risks to local drinking water and provide common sense implementation measures needed to safeguard the communities' water supply sources against pollution.

Another goal of the group is to promote watershed protection and conduct community water outreach. The partners advanced these objectives by installing roadside spill response signs near drinking water sources, working together on public education and establishing the Clean Water Days program.

CPASWAP organized the days into a series of outdoor activities, covering a variety of subjects at individual stations. Students toured both the park's water treatment plant and its wastewater treatment system. They explored the stream by discovering and identifying macro and micro invertebrates and studied fish ecology in the stream and lake. They learned about watersheds and potential pollutants through the use of the Enviroscope®. The groundwater model showed how water travels down through the earth.

Black Moshannon State Park Manager Jessica Lavelua and her staff were welcoming hosts, providing the important infrastructure for the day. Professional staff from the Clearfield and Centre County Planning offices and both Conservation Districts donated their time and expertise by teaching at the individual stations. Professional Staff from the Department of Environmental Protection and the PA Fish and Boat Commission participated. Local Community Water System operators, staff and board members of Milesburg and Unionville Borough Water Systems, Mt. Top Regional Water System, Covington Karthaus-Girard Area Authority and the Pennsylvania American Water Company also provided assistance. Central Pa SWAP chairman Mike Savage oversaw the event and arranged finances.

WREN salutes the Central PA Source Water Alliance for Protection for its ongoing commitment to public drinking water education. The partners continue to work together on the most powerful tool for drinking water protection - public education. Their Clean Water Days provided an educational experience that was well received by the kids, teachers, parents, the school districts and other community stakeholders, with the support of a WREN 2014 SWP Opportunity Grant for \$1075. Planning is already underway for a third annual Clean Water Days event in 2015. Hats off to the Central PA SWAP members!!



*Students learn about macroinvertebrates at Clean Water Days April 2014.*

## 2014 County Envirothon

The Centre County Conservation District sponsored the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Centre County Envirothon on May 14, 2014 at the Bald Eagle State Park. Thirteen teams from Penns Valley, Bald Eagle Area, Bellefonte and State College Area high schools participated on a beautiful spring day. The Envirothon tests students' knowledge of the following five subject areas: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife, and Sustainable Agriculture/Locally Grown, the current environmental issue topic for 2014.

For the 15th consecutive year, a team from Bald Eagle Area high school captured the County Envirothon title. Team "Roadkill" from Bald Eagle Area high school scored 415 out of a possible 500 points. Team members Jeff Gleason, Luke Besong, Sam VanCise, Emily Quick and Otis Stahtam also achieved the highest scores at the Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife and Current Issue stations. Bald Eagle Area Team 3 placed second with a score of 347 and also achieved the highest score at the Soils and Land Use station. Bald Eagle Area Team 5 placed third with a score of 308. Jade Thompson and Jacy Clark are the Bald Eagle Area advisors.

The Bald Eagle Area team represented Centre County at the Pennsylvania Envirothon on May 20 and 21 at Susquehanna University and PPL Montour Preserve and placed 11<sup>th</sup> of the 64 county teams participating and placed second in the oral component presentation scoring. Penncrest High School, Delaware County won the Pennsylvania Envirothon championship.



Winning team—Roadkill (BEA I)

Pictured left to right: Jacy Clark—Advisor, Steve Dershem—Co. Commissioner, Jeff Gleason, Luke Besong, Sam VanCise, Emily Quick, Jade Thompson—Advisor, Otis Stahtam, Matt Wise—Senator Corman's Office, Tammy Ammerman—Rep. Mike Hannas's Office



## Dirt & Gravel Roads Update

The Centre County Conservation District received 7 applications from 5 municipalities that have attended *Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt & Gravel Roads* training workshops, making them eligible to apply for funding through this program. After a site visit of each, two were selected by Centre County Conservation District's Quality Assurance Board (QAB, consisting of representation from the PA Fish & Boat Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Conservation District) for a recommendation for funding and subsequently funded for a total of \$37,954.

The approved projects are:

### Curtin Township: approx. 1400' of Orviston Mountain Road

This project includes stabilizing this length of road with DSA (driving surface aggregate, a mixture of gravel and fine gravel that when installed properly provides a durable, lasting driving surface) and adding crosspipes for better offsite and road surface drainage.

We fully funded the \$19,954 grant request for this project.

### Potter Township: approx. 3000' of Boal Gap Road

Replacing road crosspipes, a stream crossing culvert, tree trimming and removal for better sunlight access to road (minimize icing and freeze-thaw effects in winter), and DSA placement.

\$18,000 grant funded.

In addition, we also funded a \$20,000 grant to extend a section of Tunnel Road in Penn Township earlier this spring (adding to a section of this road completed with a 2013 fund we approved last year). The project was funded with one-time supplemental grant monies. This site has been completed.

The Dirt & Gravel Roads Program strives to reduce erosion, sediment and dust pollution relating to dirt and gravel roads. Many Conservation Districts participate in a grant program to fund projects with the goal to minimize sediment transport from public roads—with a special focus on roads in special protection watersheds. Funding is limited to roads open to public use and municipalities that wish to participate must have personnel that have been recently (within 5 years) trained in *Environmental Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt & Gravel Roads*.

Often, an effort to better manage drainage (both from the road surface and keeping offsite runoff from draining onto or across) is key to proper maintenance and will minimize loss of road fines into the air and our waterways—resulting in a longer lasting smooth road, and less impacted streams nearby!

Contact the Centre County Conservation District for more information regarding the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program or check out the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road studies website at: <http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu>.

## Local Farmers Markets



### Centre County Farmers Markets

Get fresh produce, meats, dairy, baked goods and more from a variety of Farmer's Markets in the Centre County region. All the listed markets are producer-only, meaning the products are sold by the people that make or grow them, ensuring your support of true local agriculture and food production.

- ◆ Bellefonte Farmers Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon in the Gamble Mill parking lot

- ◆ Boalsburg Farmers Market

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the PA Military Museum parking lot

- ◆ Downtown State College Farmers Markets

Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Locust Lane, State College

- ◆ Lemont Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Granary in Lemont

- ◆ Millheim Farmers Market

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the American Legion in Millheim

- ◆ North Atherton Farmers Market

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Home Depot parking lot

- ◆ Tuesdays State College Farmers Market

Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Locust Lane (different vendors than Friday)





## Manure Management Plans

Do you have the Written Farm Plans REQUIRED by PA State Law?

Are you ready if the PA Department of Environmental Protection visits your farm?

IF NOT,

Sign up Now

For  
Assistance!!

The Centre County Conservation District received a grant to write Manure Management Plans and Erosion & Sediment Control Plans for farms in Centre County. These Plans can each cost \$300 - \$700 when prepared by a private consultant. Utilizing the grant money, the only cost to the landowner is \$50.

Do you own livestock or apply manure to your property? Every landowner that has livestock or spreads manure on their property MUST have a written Manure Management Plan according to PA State Law.

Do you plant crops, or rent your land to someone who does? Any landowner that disturbs the ground more than 5,000 square feet (~ 1/10 acre) (including no-till) MUST have a written Erosion & Sediment Control Plan according to PA State Law.

Call our office to get on the list to have your farm plans written!

(814) 355-6817.



## Ag Updates



### ACT 38 Nutrient Management Plans

Crop year 2014, will be coming to a close by the end of September. If your operation is regulated under Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Program (ACT 38), this would include Concentration Animal Operations (CAOs) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), and your plan does not currently reflect crop year 2015, you will need to contact your plan writer to ensure your plan is submitted to the Conservation District for review by October 1, 2014. Plans submitted to the District for review after December 31, 2014, or later than 3 months into the 2015 crop year which began October 1 2014. Any plans submitted after December 31, 2014, are to be written for crop year 2016.

Volunteers can choose to "opt out" of having their plans updated if they incline to do so. However, you are still required to develop and maintain a manure management plan.

All farming land operations that apply manure whether they generate the manure or import it from another operation need to develop and implement a written Manure Management Plan.

### DEP- Growing Greener Grant

The Centre County Conservation District continued to utilize funding from a Growing Greener Grant for projects located in the Little Fishing Creek Watershed. Three projects are scheduled to be implemented during 2014. During April, installation of a Rotational Grazing System was completed on the Whitehill Beef Farm. 30 acres of crop ground was converted to permanent pasture. A water supply pipeline was installed along with a new well pump. The water supply pipeline supplies water to 2- 300 gallon Rubbermaid watering troughs. The 2 watering troughs will service 5 grazing paddocks. Perimeter & interior fence was installed. Later this summer a stream restoration project will commence on the Tice farm in Hublersburg and construction of a Roof Heavy Use Area will take place on the Vonada farm.

### Growing Greener – 2014

The Centre County Conservation District recently submitted a Growing Greener Grant application requesting funding to install Agricultural BMPs on 3 farms located in the Spruce Creek Watershed. If funded, the District will be partnering with ClearWater Conservancy and NRCS to complete the 3 projects.



### Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Funds

The Centre County Conservation District continued to utilize Chesapeake Bay Special Projects (CBSP) funds to install agricultural best management practices (BMPs) on several Centre County Farms. BMPs include: livestock watering systems, fencing for grazing systems, cattle walkways, and manure storage. CBSP funds were also used for engineering services on 5 farms.

A Cattle Walkway / Access Lane installed on a beef farm in Halfmoon Township



### Submission Information:

Completed Projects—New applications for completed projects will be accepted by the Commission on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on August 4, 2014.

Proposed and Completed Projects—New applications for proposed and completed projects will be accepted beginning on August 25, 2014.

The following are considered eligible costs of a project to which a tax credit may be applied:

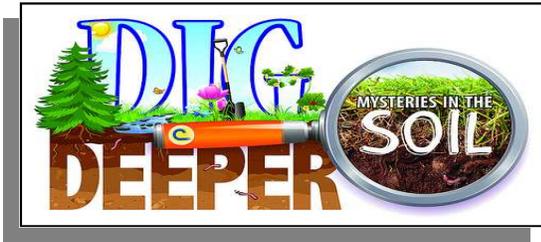
- \*Project design, engineering and associated planning
- \*Project management costs, including contracting, document preparation and applications
- \*Project construction or installation
- \*Equipment, materials and other components of eligible projects
- \*Post construction inspections
- \*Interest payments on loans for project implementation for up to one year prior to the award of the tax credit.

An agricultural operation that is an applicant for the REAP Tax Credit Program for agricultural BMPs or equipment must first have in place the following:

- \*A current Conservation Plan or Agricultural E&S plan for all acres plowed and / or tilled that are under their management controlled (owned or rented or leased or utilized) in the year that they are applying for REAP Tax Credits. The applicant must be on-schedule for full implementation of the plan.
- \*A current Nutrient Management Plan or Manure Management Plan (as required by law) for all acres under their management control if they generate and utilize manure and or other organic sources of plant nutrients (i.e. biosolids) in the program year that they are applying for REAP Tax Credits. The applicant must be on-schedule for full implementation of the plan.



## Kids' Korner



## 2014 Poster Contest Winners



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

### K-1st Grade

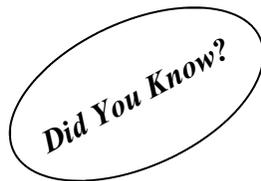
- 1st place: Sophia Reutzel  
*Corl Street Elem.*
- 2nd Place: Ellen Schiano  
*Corl Street Elem.*
- 3rd Place: Fiona Hathaway  
*Corl Street Elem.*

### 2nd-3rd Grade

- 1st Place: Logan Lehman  
*Wingate Elem.*
- 2nd Place: Faith Boscaino  
*Bellefonte Elem.*
- 3rd Place: Ethan Gerber  
*Wingate Elem.*

### 4th-6th Grade

- 1st Place: Cameron Upcraft  
*Centre Hall Elem.*
- 2nd Place: Riley Creger  
*Philipsburg-Osceola Elem.*



## SEA YOU AT THE BEACH!



- Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as a million sea creatures every year!
- Most of this garbage is thrown from boats. But some of it comes from beaches or overflowing garbage cans nearby.
- Plastic floating in the sea often looks like food to ocean animals. For example: plastic bags look like jellyfish to sea turtles, which swallow them and die.
- Birds also get into trouble. They sometimes mistake little bits of plastic for food and choke on them.

So you might save an animal's life just by picking up plastic from the beach!!

### What You Can Do

- Don't throw any kind of litter on the beach.
- When you visit the beach, take along a large garbage bag. Try to fill it with trash, close it tight, then throw it in a garbage can or dumpster.
- If you find any bottles or aluminum cans on the beach, bring them home for recycling.
- If you go fishing, never, never throw fishing line in the water. Birds and sea creatures can get tangled in it and die.



**CENTRE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**414 Holmes Street, Suite 4  
Bellefonte, Pa 16823**

Phone: 814-355-6817  
Fax: 814-355-8696

---

Website: [centrecountypa.gov/conservation](http://centrecountypa.gov/conservation)

---



**DISTRICT STAFF**

Robert E. Sweitzer, District Manager  
Joy Teeter, 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

Barbara Ivicic, 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  
Zach Larson, Soil Conservationist

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Robert Shannon, Chair  
Allen Ishler, Vice-Chair  
Steven G. Dershem, Commissioner  
Tom Boldin  
Martin Melville  
James Walizer  
Kaleb Wolfe

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**

Al Stewart Susan Buda  
Donn Fetterolf Lori Hartle  
John Smith

**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

---