

Fresh Start

*"Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day
with no mistakes in it yet?" ~ L.M. Montgomery*



*2013 Annual Report
Cambria County Conservation District*

Manager's Perspective

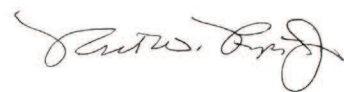
Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager

Fresh Start is the theme for 2013. Like the rising sun and new snow in the morning gives the hunter a fresh start for the day's pursuit, Conservation District programs provide students, water, and the rest of the environment with a fresh start. A lot of good conservation work has been done by a lot of great partners and staff. Rosebud Mining Company brought the St. Michael abandoned mine discharge water treatment plant on line and- WOW -what a difference in water quality in the Little Conemaugh River. Large grants were awarded to do bank stabilization & fish habitat work in the Conemaugh River watershed, thanks to the Community Foundation and the Foundation for PA Watersheds. Bill Myers left and Charles Marsh was hired to work in the revived no-till drill rental program.

The Annual Budget was a real challenge this year because we were not sure of State funding levels. Then, the first Gas Impact Fee check arrived, new \$ were allowed resulting from fees for the stream encroachment program, and at the end of the year, the state Transportation Bill was passed. There will be a significant increase in the Dirt & Gravel Roads program funds in 2014. All of these new revenue streams will be important for adequate program support to be continued. Our county, region, and environment will benefit.

2013 was the last year of coverage for our 2008 Strategic Plan. We have engaged Tom Grote, a consultant, to facilitate composing the next plan and progress is being made by the Steering Committee and Tom to set the table for another fresh start. We should look at the past to remember accomplishments for future motivation, along with the lessons learned, to avoid repeating mistakes. We must also look to the future to reach for dreams and visions. Beginning today, and after reading this annual report, make a FRESH START to reach YOUR vision of importance.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Piper, Jr.
District Manager

Table of Contents

Manager's Perspective	Inside Front Cover
Annual Awards Banquet	2
Cambria County Envirothon	4
Public Outreach	5
Educational Programs	6
Community Workshops	7
Clearfield Creek Watershed Association	8
Chest Creek Watershed Alliance	9
Agricultural Conservation Engineering Technician	10
Nutrient Management Program	11
Forest Management	12
No-Till Drill Program	13
Agricultural Land Preservation Program	13
Keep Cambria County Beautiful	14
Stabilization Projects	15
PA DEP Chapter 92, 102, & 105 Programs	16
Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance	16
Datalogger Monitoring Program	17
Resource Conservation & Development	18
S. Branch Blacklick Creek Improvement Project	18
Cooperative Habitat Improvement	19
Saltlick Run Watershed Survey	19
Family Days	20
Highlights: Leg. Luncheon, District Picnic, Breakfast Meetings	22
Organizational Chart	23
Conservation District Budget: Expenses	24
Conservation District Budget: Income	25

Cover Photo Credit: Winter sunrise at the Bard Farm in Summerhill Township.

Annual Awards Banquet

Cambria County Conservation District Banquet
May 15th—Carrolltown Fireman's Banquet Hall

The Conservation Awards honor children, youth, and adults who have put forth an effort to improve their lives and others' through conservation practices and promotion through art, competition, projects, community support & outreach, and best environmental practices in their lives and/or businesses.

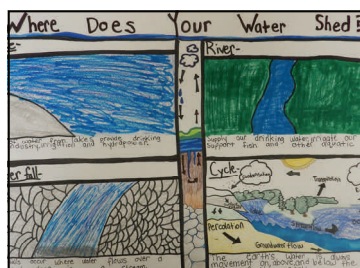
Poster Contest: "Where Does Your Watershed?"

The contest was judged on April 18, 2013. The first place winners received a \$25 cash award, a trophy, and entry in the state competition. Hannah Beyer placed first in the state level and will be judged at the national level in February of 2014. The second and third place winners of the county competition received ribbons. All winners were invited to the Annual Banquet for dinner and recognition of their accomplishment. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all the students who participated!

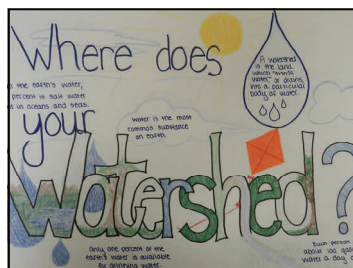
First Place Winners:



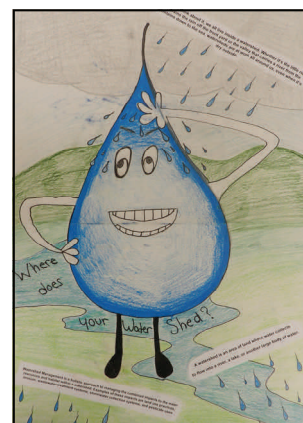
Hannah Beyer, Grade k-1
Forest Hills



Madeline Cecere, Grade 4-6
Forest Hills



Courtney Cecere, Grade 7-9
Forest Hills



Cheyenne Dull, Grade 10-12
Forest Hills

Second Place Winners:

Elisabeth Zajdel, Grade 4-6, Forest Hills
Brianna Neff, Grade 10-12, Forest Hills

Third Place Winners:

Taylor Schelesky, Grade 10-12, Forest Hills

The banquet was a wonderful success, thanks to the generosity of our many donors, the entertainment of the Kulani Dance and Drum Ensemble, and our presenters and award recipients. We thank everyone for their conservation efforts here in Cambria County!

Annual Awards Banquet

Cambria County Conservation District Banquet
May 15th—Carrolltown Fireman's Banquet Hall



Cambria County Poster Contest Winners, Forest Hills School District



Nick Venesky, Ricky Wagner, Coach Virgil Wilford,
Dawn Craft, Greg Venesky

Grasslands Evaluation Contest Winners



Cambria County Envirothon Winners



Educator of the Year:
Nate Wharton



Special Conservation Service: Akers Family



Conservation Organization of the Year:
Johnstown Sportsmen's Association



Watershed Protection:
Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited



Natural Area & Heritage Preservation:
Grandview Cemetery



Soisson Public Recreation:
East Hills Recreation
Commission



Forest Management Award:
Michael Caum



Urban Conservation:
Sandyvale Memorial
Gardens

"Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." ~ Saint Francis of Assisi

Cambria County Envirothon

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor

Nathan Marsh, AmeriCorps

The County Envirothon was held at the District's educational facility, Disaster's Edge, on May 2nd. The Cambria County Envirothon is an event in which students are tested on their knowledge of the environment and compete to become the designated team that represents Cambria County at the PA State Envirothon. Teams work together to apply their knowledge and problem solving skills in each category: Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, Soils, and the Current Issue—"Grazing livestock for improved herd health and land management."



This year, 21 teams (totaling 105 students) from 9 different school districts participated in the County Envirothon. Once again, Northern Cambria High School did very well, placing in the top three positions. Northern Cambria's three teams are coached by Ron Yuhas, who has been an Envirothon Advisor/Coach for the past 25 years. Mr. Yuhas works closely with his students each year, as is evidenced by their continued success. The other participating schools were Bishop Carroll, Blacklick Valley, Cambria Heights, Central Cambria, Conemaugh Valley, Forest Hills, Penn Cambria, and Portage.

The separate stations were conducted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Forestry, and staff of the Conservation District. The event was sponsored in part by AC Power/Colver Operations, Cambria CoGen, Roaring Spring Premium Water, and Reighard Machine.

Northern Cambria Team II: Joe Sclesky, Michael Stolz, Katelin Fox, Renee Paronish, Kaylee Krug



Northern Cambria Team I: Nessa Myers, Adreinne Tubo, Kevin Zedack, Brooke Bernard, Martina Leonard

Northern Cambria Team III: Victoria Cider, Nicole Hoover, Owen Baker, Charissa Mason, Adrianna Frontino



All winning teams received a trophy, t-shirts, and an invitation to the Annual Awards Banquet. Northern Cambria Team I was sponsored by the District at the PA State Envirothon on May 21-22 at Juniata College. They placed 11th out of 62 teams.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." ~ Theodore Roosevelt

Public Outreach

The District on the Road
41st Annual Tree and Plant Sale
Facebook and CCCD Website

The District on the Road

District Staff

The Conservation District Booth was once again traveling this summer. The main area of focus was and tick protection. People could stop in to gather facts about ticks and limes disease, what to do to protect yourself from ticks, and how to safely remove ticks. Proper recycling practices were also highlighted. Children could play a Litter IQ game in which they learned how long it takes for many different items to decompose when left in a landfill. Visitors picked up information on local farm markets and the Annual Tree & Plant Sale. As usual, we had many entries to win the handcrafted Wildlife Boxes.

The District Booth could be seen at the Benshoff Farm Family Day on August 18 (~1,000 in attendance), The Cambria County Fair in September (35-45,000 in attendance), and the Apple Cider Festival in Prince Gallitzin State Park (15,148 in attendance) on October 6.



The District attended a celebratory presentation at the Coca-Cola Ebensburg Dist. Center on June 25. The event was held to mark the delivery of 25 recycling bins to the CCSWA from the Coca-Cola Foundation and Keep America Beautiful. Representatives from the District brought along a fun game to test players' litter IQ. The game, along with activity booklets and informational posters, aided in delivering Coca-Cola's message about the importance of recycling.

Representatives from the District brought along a fun game to test players' litter IQ. The game, along with activity booklets and informational posters, aided in delivering Coca-Cola's message about the importance of recycling.

41st Annual Tree and Plant Sale

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

2013 marked the 41st Anniversary of the Conservation District's Tree & Plant Sale. We had another great year with 12,264 items sold to 276 customers, resulting in over \$9,800 in profits. The profits from the sale are used to fund environmental education and conservation efforts. The tree sale continues to grow every year, which is made possible by a very organized process. Mary Ellen begins placing nursery stock orders in late November/early December. The catalog is put together in January and released early in February. Mary Ellen accepts orders up through the third week in March. The week leading up to Customer Pick-up Day is when all the hard work is done. Plants and trees are picked up and delivered from as far away as Michigan. Trees are sorted and any items with bare roots are dipped in a gel to keep them moist. Flowerpots are labeled. Orders are filled and organized alphabetically to make pick-up as smooth as possible. District Staff, Associate Directors, and members of the Board all work together over two days to get the thousands of items ready for pick-up. We are thankful to the variety of suppliers that stock our tree and plant sale: Endless Mountain Berry Farm, Musser Forests, Wildlife's Choice, AM Leonard, Flickingers, Boyers, ACN Inc., Pikes Peak Nursery, & Alpha Nursery.



Facebook and CCCD Website

Jocelyn Sauter, AmeriCorps



The effort to reach a wider range of people through social media networking continues. Since Anna Gibbs' creation of the District's Facebook Page in 2011, the Conservation District has received 105 "likes" on Facebook. Jocelyn also posts announcements about community workshops, Fall and Spring Appliance and Tire Collections, current projects, and other relevant information on the District's Page. Up-to-date information on Board Meetings, educational events, No-Till Drill rentals, public outreach opportunities, tree and plant sale catalog, and E&S applications is uploaded and updated regularly on the District website.

Educational Programs

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Nathan Marsh, AmeriCorps

Dig Into Reading with Nanty Glo & Lilly Libraries

This Summer, the Cambria County Library System participated in the 2013 Collaborative Summer Library Program, "Dig Into Reading!" Dig Into Reading is a high-quality summer reading program designed to prepare children for early success by developing their early language skills through a combination of reading, educational programs, and hands-on activities.

Jackie Ritko, Conservation District Resource Conservation Supervisor, was invited to Lilly and Nanty Glo Libraries to present an environmental program that tied into the theme of "Dig Into Reading." Jackie brought live animals that have a tendency to burrow, or dig, into the ground.

Jackie started the program by discussing the different types of soil and the animals that liked to live in them. The children got to look at and feel samples of clay dirt and sandy soil. Next, Jackie showed the children turtles, tortoises, a salamander, and a snake. Everyone loved the baby snappy turtle. The boys and girls were surprised to learn that something so tiny could grow to be so big.



Exploring PA Wildlife with Our Mother of Sorrows Elementary School



On April 24 the 3rd and 4th grade classes of Our Mother of Sorrows came to the Disaster's Edge to learn about PA native birds, fish, and other wildlife. Nathan Marsh gave a brief lesson on fish that can be found in Pennsylvania. He talked about their physical characteristics, behavioral adaptations, mating habits, food choices, and preferred habitats. Everyone participated in a fun paint craft, creating fish prints in bright colors. Jackie Ritko took the students on a bird watching adventure. Ritko started the lesson with a brief introduction to birds, their behaviors, and habits. The students separated into groups and walked along the nature trail using bird calls and binoculars to spot our feathered friends. Everyone was very excited when they saw a

Chickadee! After lunch it was time to learn all about PA Wildlife. Nate used the mounts and live reptiles and amphibians to give an interesting lesson about the variety of animal species found in our home state. The students were eager to hold the turtles and touch the snake. Everyone enjoyed a nice relaxing walk along the nature trail when they played Nature Trail Bingo. The students partnered up and used their game sheets and dobbers to try to be the first ones to yell out "BINGO!" They spotted animal tracks, birds, spider webs, leaves, and streams.

Trout in the Classroom with Penn Cambria Middle School

On Friday, April 5, Bryan Rabish, CCCD Watershed Specialist, and Nathan Marsh joined Ben Watt and his Penn Cambria science students for a Trout in the Classroom (TIC) field day. The TIC program starts at the beginning of the school year, with the students hatching brook trout from eggs. The students are tasked with monitoring and trouble-shooting the water quality daily. Once the fish are hatched, the students raise them until the spring. On April 5, the trout release day was held at Beaverdam Run and Clearfield Creek. Before releasing the trout, the students performed a macroinvertebrate study on the streams. Using a reference sheet provided by Rabish and Marsh, the students identified the macroinvertebrates they collected. Based on their findings they were able to determine that the water quality was good. Once the water quality had been tested, each student was given a trout to release into Beaverdam Run.

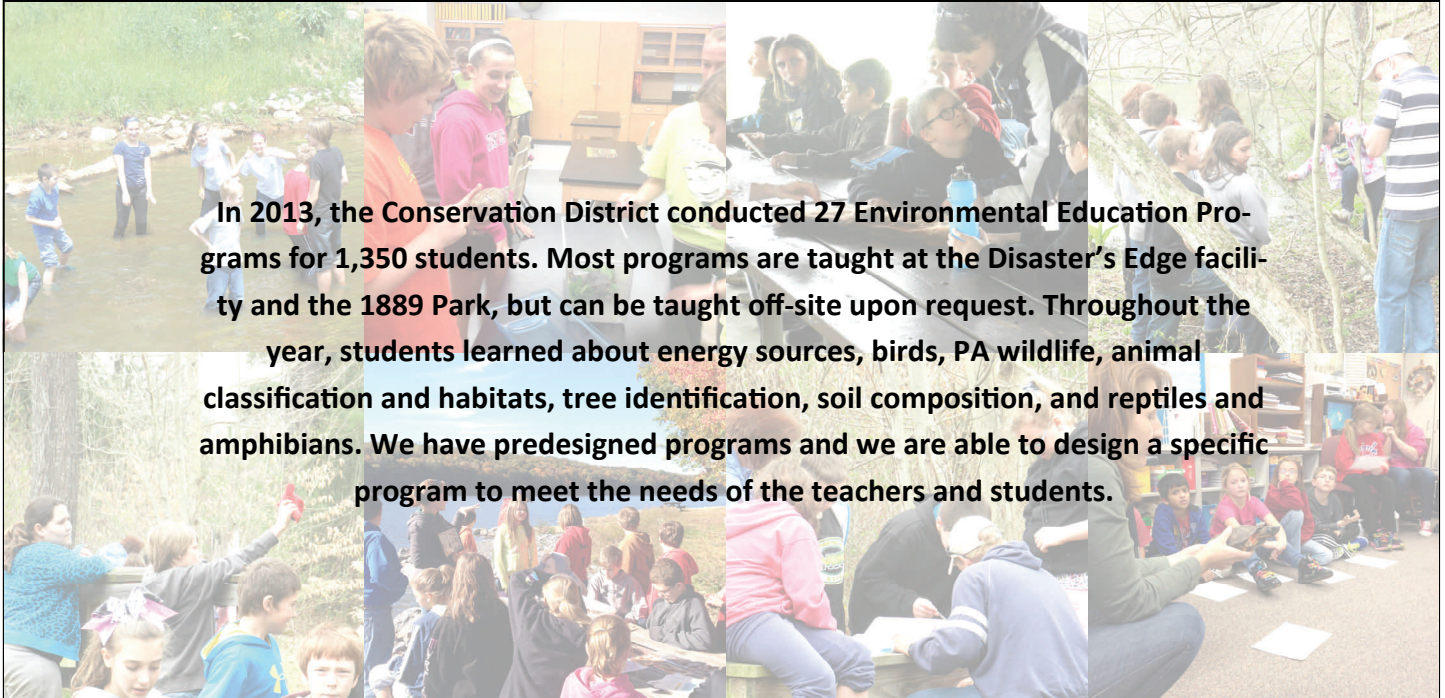


Educational Programs

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor & Nathan Marsh, AmeriCorps

Community Workshops

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant



Community Workshops

On Monday, March 4, 2013 the Conservation District hosted a free workshop on *Landscape Plant Selection, Installation, and Maintenance*. Tom Ford, Area Commercial Horticulture Educator from the Penn State Extension Office, delivered an informative presentation on the importance of appropriate plant selection and installation practices to ensure healthy and thriving landscapes. Seventeen people were in attendance. The workshop covered the basic considerations when selecting woody ornamentals, as well as proper planting practices to ensure the success of the landscape. Ford also discussed proper maintenance including mulching practices, pruning techniques, and pest management.



Clearfield Creek Watershed Association

Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association (CCWA) 2013 Accomplishments

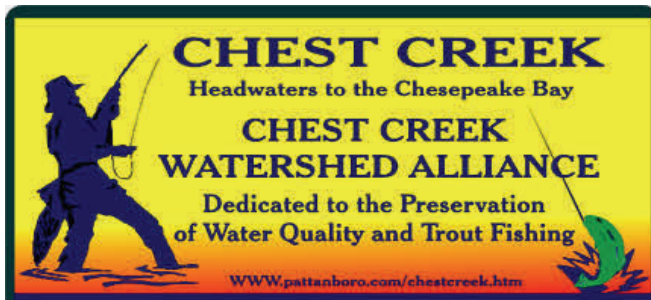
- ⇒ Completed 3 trash cleanups on Rte. 53, Dean to Syberton (9 miles), 11th year of project.
- ⇒ Initiated 2 stream cleanups of Clearfield Creek from Dean to Ashville (5 miles).
- ⇒ Organized the Tenth Annual Fishing Derby for kids at Dysart—116 participants.
- ⇒ Attained a membership of 120 members for 2013. Continued a junior membership category—\$1.00 fee.
- ⇒ Continued to provide financial support for the “Trout in the Classroom” project at Penn Cambria (PC) Middle School.
- ⇒ Provided a field day for 102 PC students, 5 teachers: released fingerlings, stocked trout provided by PA Fish Commission, lunch, visited Brubaker Run (BR) clay mine site.
- ⇒ Received the following Grants: a grant of \$535,733 from USEPA 319 funds for construction of a treatment system at the Gibson-Halstock site on Little Laurel Run; received an OSM grant of \$100,000 for additional work on the West Ferris Wheel treatment system and renovations on the KL-1 system; received a grant of \$850 for general operating expenses from Dominion-Peoples Gas Co.
- ⇒ Bid and prepared for the construction phase of the West Ferris Wheel treatment system.
- ⇒ Submitted a proposal for the design and permitting at the old Beldin Mine site.
- ⇒ Completed the design and submitted the permit material for the Amsbry site.
- ⇒ Completed reports and final activities at the Ferris Wheel Revegetation-Phase II site. CCWA Volunteers planted approximately 410 trees on this site.
- ⇒ Sampled inflow and outflow of the Swank limestone channel, and are collaborating with St. Francis University (SFU) on a student project at the site.
- ⇒ Collaborated with the US Army Corp of Engineers on a study of treatment at BR, and initiated an evaluation by Hedin Environmental using a grant from Trout Unlimited.
- ⇒ Participated with Clearfield Co. Conservation District to complete the Morgan Run Ross and Morgan Run 7 treatment systems. Water samples have shown a remarkable improvement in the stream pH.
- ⇒ Used an automatic datalogger to collect stream chemistry data downstream from gas wells on Witmer Run and Slatelick Run.
- ⇒ Sampled the Ace Drilling site quarterly under contract with the DEP Office, Ebensburg.
- ⇒ Initiated and sold a raffle ticket for long-term funding of a future dam cleanout project.
- ⇒ Exhibited a display and discussed CCWA activities at the annual Cider Festival at Prince Gallitzin State Park.
- ⇒ Continue to assist the PA Fish Commission with stocking of fish in Clearfield Creek from Ashville to Condryn Bridge.
- ⇒ Revised and updated our website (www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org) and received newspaper coverage on activities and projects numerous times. Continued the CCWA Facebook account.

Chest Creek Watershed Alliance

Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist

Chest Creek Watershed Alliance 2013 Accomplishments

- ⇒ Participated in and provided support to the Cambria Heights Trout in the Classroom Program. 128 sixth grade students.
- ⇒ Continued to support actions against the Harmony Landfill in Chest Township, Clearfield County.
- ⇒ Co-sponsored a grant with Trout Unlimited to put up 4 signs strategically placed throughout the watershed featuring educational facts. Town meetings were held, promoting the watershed association and Chest Creek. The grant was obtained through the Women's League of Voters WREN Grant.
- ⇒ Applied for a Dominion grant to place educational signage strategically throughout the Watershed.
- ⇒ Continue to find innovative ways to attract new membership.
- ⇒ Collaborated with the DEP to conduct sampling on Brubaker Run and Duclos Run to develop TMDL's and to have them de-listed as impaired.



CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2014 AGENDA

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association is, once again, planning an aggressive agenda in 2014

- ◇ Initiate the construction phase of both the West Ferris Wheel and Gibson treatment systems.
- ◇ Submit the Amsbry project for a construction grant in Spring 2014, when the grant rounds open.
- ◇ Continue to sponsor and raise funds for our very successful fishing derby.
- ◇ Partner with Penn Cambria Middle School for the Trout in Classroom project and field trips.
- ◇ Continue our efforts with the PFC and support of both the Cambria & Clearfield Co. Conservation Districts.
- ◇ Advance our projects to treat acid mine discharge, improve the water quality of Clearfield Creek in both Cambria & Clearfield counties and raise funds for educational purposes.
- ◇ Planting of 4,000 seedlings, donated by & with the assistance of the PCG, on the Ferris Wheel Revegetation site.

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2014 OFFICERS

President - Ray Hollen; President Elect - Ed McMullen; Treasurer - Dane Kalwanaski; Secretary - Jerry McMullen
Art Rose continues as the Tech Committee Chairman.

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2014 MEETINGS

CCWA meets at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Winter meetings: Prince Gallitzin Park, Main Office.
Summer Meetings: Laurel Run Sportsman's Club, Dysart. Annual Meeting January 21, 2014.

Agricultural Conservation Technician/ Engineer (ACT) Special Project

Louis Kopczyk, P.E., County Engineer

"I want every day to be a fresh start on expanding what is possible." ~ Oprah Winfrey

The PA Department of Agriculture provides funds for the ACT Special Project to county conservation districts through the State Conservation Commission. Authority to carry out the special project is provided under the Commission's Conservation District Fund Allocation Program Statement of Policy and the Conservation District Law. The purpose of the ACT Special Project is to provide county conservation districts cost-share incentives to provide increased levels of direct technical services and assistance to production agriculture cooperators and other landowners through the employment and training of agricultural conservation technicians and engineers.

The overall goals of the ACT Special Project include the following:

1. To provide increased levels of direct technical assistance and services to agricultural producers and landowners to assess natural resource problems and develop, update, and/or implement conservation plans and other natural resource plans such as nutrient management, integrated pest management, and pasture, crop and forest management plans.
2. To serve as a resource and technical advisor for cooperating agricultural producers and landowners that are actively working to meet local, state and federal environmental requirements.
3. To assist agricultural producers and landowners in understanding and working towards compliance with environmental rules and regulations.
4. To assist agricultural producers and landowners to obtain required permits and other project approvals required for the implementation of best management practices.
5. To provide information on financial resources available to assist agricultural producers and landowners in the installation of agricultural best management practices.
6. To serve as an interface between agricultural producers and federal, state, and local government agencies.
7. Where appropriate, to help facilitate the completion and submission of applications for the Commonwealth's Farmland Protection Program, to assist in yearly site inspections of approved program applications, and/or to provide other technical and administrative support necessary to facilitate the timely consideration of program applications.
8. To increase and strengthen the local, state and federal conservation partnership's capacity to provide adequate levels of technical assistance and services to our agricultural producers and other landowners.

\$23,100 was allocated to Cambria County through this program for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. In 2013, assistance with the following items was provided through the ACT Program:

- ◇ One-on-one assistance to five farm operators concerning agricultural erosion control, feed management, and cost share programs.
- ◇ Representation was provided at the USDA-NRCS Local Work Group meeting.
- ◇ Assistance was provided to three farm operators with REAP applications.
- ◇ Brown Farm Upper Livestock Watering System design was completed. *\$1,100 value*
- ◇ Assistance was provided to five farm operators with REAP applications.
- ◇ The County was represented at meetings of Southwest Project Grass through this program. The County was also represented on the Southwest Project Grass Executive Committee.
- ◇ Provided information to farm operators concerning the Conservation District's no-till drill rental program.
- ◇ Assisted with conducting the Pennsylvania Grassland Evaluation Contest.
- ◇ Administered the current issue station (Grazing Lands and Pasture Management) at the Cambria County Envirothon.
- ◇ Prepared an agricultural erosion and sedimentation control plan for an equine operation.
- ◇ Provided technical assistance to the Cambria County Sewage Enforcement Agency.
- ◇ Surveyed a livestock watering system in Adams Township. Assisted NRCS with a survey for an access road stabilization. *\$1,089.61 value*
- ◇ Prepared project mapping for various agencies.
- ◇ Assisted with specification preparation for the Binder #2 project.
- ◇ Met with PA DEP to discuss their plans to conduct inspections in watersheds that are designated as being impaired due to agriculture. Plans were developed to meet with farm operators in these watersheds to assist with development of manure management and agricultural erosion and sedimentation plans.
- ◇ Prepared designs for a siphon water system for a grazing system in Adams Township. *~ \$1,800 value*
- ◇ Participated in the evaluation of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Grazing Job Sheet.

Nutrient Management Program

Louis Kopczyk, P.E., County Engineer

The Nutrient Management Act took effect on October 1, 1997. The regulations were changed in 2005 under Act 38 as part of the Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment initiative. This regulatory program is administered by the State Conservation Commission and requires all high-density livestock and poultry producers to develop and implement nutrient management plans. This legislation is aimed at reducing the amount of nutrients lost from farmland and entering Pennsylvania's waterways.

Along with those required to abide by these regulations, other farm operators can participate on a voluntary basis. Plan writers must attend training, pass a test, and become certified prior to preparing a plan under the regulations. Prepared plans are submitted to the Conservation District for review and approval. Once approved, plans are to be implemented within 3 years.

All operations that land apply manure or agricultural process water that do not have a plan under the Act 38 are required to have a written manure management plan. This program was promoted in 2012 with the introduction of a workbook that serves as the mandated format for manure management plans.



Lou Kopczyk, P.E. instructs workshop attendees on manure management requirements

In 2013, four articles were prepared to provide information on the nutrient management and manure management planning to County residents through local newspapers and radio stations. One-on-one meetings and conversations were conducted with 200 farm operators to answer questions about the regulations. Three presentations and two workshops were scheduled to provide information to farm operators concerning manure management planning, with a total of 137 attendees. 150 one-on-one meetings were conducted with farm operators to assist with the preparation of manure management plans. Cooperating agencies were contacted to gain input in planning for the educational needs of the Program. Input was provided through participation in meetings of the Nutrient Management Act Delegation Agreement Workgroup to incorporate manure management activities into the agreement between conservation districts and the State. requirements. Training was conducted for county nutrient management specialists. Three complaints were investigated, four nutrient management plan status reviews were conducted, and one nutrient management plan was reviewed for approval. A meeting was arranged with the Department of Environmental Protection's new agricultural compliance person to learn about the Department's goals concerning manure management and agricultural erosion and sediment control.

Forest Management

Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager & Certified Forester

Pennsylvania Forestry Association & Tree Farm Program

Robb Piper, a life member of the organization and board member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) Board of Directors, attended three board meetings and the Annual meeting held September 28-29, 2013 at Raystown Resort on Raystown Lake, Huntingdon County. The theme was based on the US Army Corps of Engineers management of the Lake Property. Piper serves as a public sector director and has been on the board since 1990. He was elected President.

Founded in 1886 by Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, PFA is the oldest state forestry association in America. PFA is the state sponsoring organization for the American Tree Farm System. Tree Farm is a registered trademark of the American Forest Foundation. Landowners must have at least ten acres of forestland and grow (i.e. trees, Christmas trees) to produce a forest product (i.e. maple syrup) to qualify for the program.

The Rager Tree Farm #2613, located in Jackson Township, had a reinspection and plan upgrade that was completed. There were no new certifications or decertifications. The McNulty tree farm inspection was completed by Chris Jones at the Bureau of Forestry at Robb's request so both could be done by the December deadline.

Forest Stewardship Program

The CCCD also provides landowners woodlot planning through the Forest Stewardship Program. This program was reorganized in 2010 at the national level and is now administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the EQIP program of the 2008 Farm Bill. They are now called CAP 106—Forest Management Plans. The PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry now acts in a technical advisory capacity to NRCS. Robb continued his qualifications as a plan writer under this program after going through the requirements to become a Technical Service Provider through USDA. No new plans were developed in 2013 in Cambria County. Robb attended two events sponsored by Penn State Extension Forestry: the first PA Forest Landowners Conference held at the Blair County Convention Center and Forest Health 2013 West at St. Marys, PA.

PA Council of Professional Foresters (PACPF)

This organization was formed in the 1990's to promote the licensing of professional foresters in PA. Robb is a Charter member and on the Board of Directors. Robb hosted one of the Board Meetings in the CCCD office. House Bill 1235 was introduced in January of 2012 to accomplish PACPF's goal. It never came to a vote and died in the House Professional Licensure Committee with the end of this two years session of the state Legislature. No new legislation was introduced in 2013, however, efforts continued with a dialog initiated with the professional soil scientists that are pursuing like credentialing. The PA Association of Conservation Districts and the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. both approved policy to support this forester licensing effort.

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." ~ Walt Disney

No-Till Drill Program

John Dryzal, Assistant Manager

Agricultural Land Preservation Program

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor

No-Till Rental Program

John Dryzal, Assist. Manager; Louis Kopczyk, P.E.; Charles Marsh, Per Diem

Number of Rentals 39

11 New Customers

2013 experienced a 65% increase in No-Till Drill Rentals as compared to 2012. Twenty-eight percent of the rentals were new customers who have never rented a drill in the past. There was a 42% increase in acres planted and revenue as compared to 2012.

The trend of our traditional customers who have higher acres investing in a no-till drill for their own operations continues. Interest and requests for the drills remains high – especially among the smaller producers where the investment in no-till equipment is not economical. Our no-till program continues to get conservation on the ground. Per Diem help for this program changed with William Myers resigning and Charles Marsh being hired.

Total Acreage: 660.8 acres

Total Revenue: \$6,056.88

Drill	No. of Users	Acres Planted
Haybuster:	24	187.0
John Deere:	15	473.8

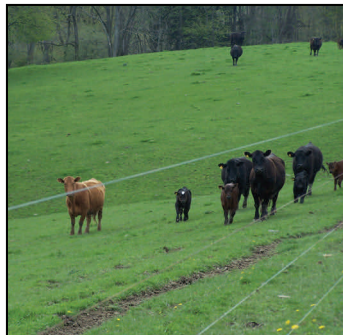
Drills are used for planting grass and small grains



Agricultural Land Preservation Program

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor

Jocelyn Sauter, AmeriCorps



In 2013, one farm was added to the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The 159.88 acre Bard Farm, located in Summerhill Township, was preserved for \$187,059.60.

The Agricultural Land Preservation Board met six times in 2013.

2013 Officers: Richard Davis, Chairperson; Gene Eckenrode, Vice-Chair;

Walden Vorhauer, Treasurer; James Estep, Secretary; Commissioner Lengenfelder, Commissioner Director.

Keep Cambria County Beautiful

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Jocelyn Sauter, AmeriCorps

Spring and Fall Tire and Appliance Collections



**KEEP
CAMBRIA COUNTY**
Beautiful

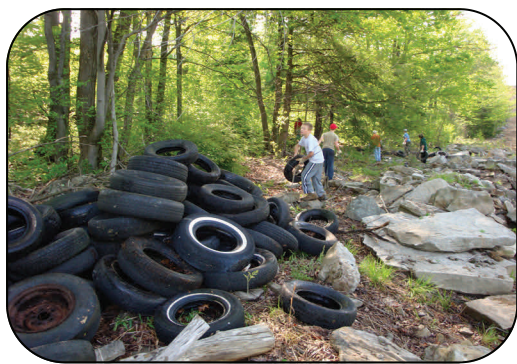


Empowering Pennsylvanians to make
our communities clean and *Beautiful*.

The Conservation District once again paired with KCCB to offer tire and appliance collections to county residents. This bi-annual program is held in an effort to encourage proper disposal of tires and both Freon and non-Freon containing appliances. Collections are held in the Spring and Fall. This year, a \$1,800 grant (not to exceed 50% of costs) was received through the DEP Hazardous Household Waste Collection Program, allowing the cost of tire disposal to remain at the reduced rate of \$1.00 for off-rim tires and \$2.00 for on-rim tires. The cost of Freon-containing appliances remained the same at \$12.00. The collection sites for 2013 were Cambria Township, Croyle Township, Patton Borough, Summerhill Township, and Tunnelhill Borough. The money received from the Tire and Appliance Collection is put toward proper tire disposal, Freon removal, and funding AmeriCorps time.

Items Collected	Spring 2013	Fall 2013	Total 2013
Tires off-rim	1,208	1,339	2,547
Tires on-rim	126	428	554
Freon Appliances	36	27	63
Non-Freon Appliances	25	7	32
Total Money Collected	\$1,944	\$2,594	\$4,538

Fugitive Tire Collection



In 2013, Boy Scouts Troop 115 of Hastings, PA collected 500 tires from Cambria County roadsides through the Fugitive Tire Program on April 6, 2013. The tires were illegally dumped along several different township roads located in the northern part of Cambria County. The program pays the troops \$0.50 per tire to help clean up roadways littered with illegally dumped tires. KCCB provided the funding for proper disposal costs at a DEP approved facility.

"Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect." ~ Alan Cohen

Stabilization Projects

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor

Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager

John Dryzal, Assistant Manager



Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor

The Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project, Phase III was completed in September of 2013. Due to severe erosion along the shoreline, Glendale Lake was experiencing the loss of aquatic habitat, as well as increased sediment build up. With help from Prince Gallitzin State Park, the Conservation District secured a DEP Growing Greener Grant in the amount of \$16,580. The PA Fish & Boat Commission provided additional funding, designed and constructed the shoreline stabilization plan.

Phases I (completed 2010) and II (Completed 2012) stabilized and protected 2,689 feet of shoreline. Phase III built on the success of Phases I and II. The shoreline stabilization was implemented at the Pickerel Pond site. With the completion of Phase III, an additional 600 feet of shoreline was stabilized by the placement of 20 stone deflectors and rock humps along the shoreline. The rocks will deflect the wave action on the shoreline, reducing erosion, increasing aquatic habitat, and decreasing sediment deposition.

North Branch Little Conemaugh Stabilization Projects

Robert W. Piper, Jr., Manager & John Dryal, Assistant Manager

In 2013, five sites along the North Branch of the Little Conemaugh River and one site along Howell's Run, totaling approximately 1,200 feet of stream bank, were stabilized using a variety of devices designed by the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PA F&BC). The devices utilized included modified mud sills, root wads, single log vane deflectors, multi-log vane deflectors, and double log faced stone deflectors. Along with the stream banks, 530 feet of shoreline at the Wilmore Dam along the pavilion point was stabilized with modified mud sills. These devices not only stabilize the banks of the streams and lake, they also enhance habitat for fish. In addition to the stream bank and shoreline stabilization, erosion along 4,800 feet of Patrick Road was addressed by installing 8 new cross drains and 15 mine belt diverters. The Patrick Road project was started in June 2013 and is 65% complete. Installation of the cross drains and diverters was completed by District and CSA staff, with assistance from the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads. Ebensburg Borough donated a backhoe/operator and tamper for a week to complete the work. The underdrain and the two French mattresses are scheduled for installation in 2014 to complete the project. Once the Patrick Road Project is complete, additional stream stabilization sites may be built with any remaining grant funds. All of these projects were completed on the Cambria-Somerset Authority (CSA) Wilmore Property.



Funding for these projects was obtained through two grants received from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. The funds awarded were from the GenOn consent order settlement money received by the Foundation for PA Watersheds. One grant for \$45,000 was awarded to the SAC and a second grant for \$58,000 was awarded directly to the CCCD. Both grants are being administered by the CCCD. The District was also a pass-through conduit for another \$58,000 awarded to the Trust for Tomorrow for wetland restorations and easements.

The original scope of both grants was only to stabilize stream banks at four locations, one of which affords handicap access to the stream. Due to the CCCD bidding the sites as one large project, the overall cost was under budget, which allowed for the completion of two additional sites. Earth Shapers, LLC was the low bidder and completed all six sites. PA F&BC Stream Habitat staff were on hand to oversee the construction and provided some of the specialized tools required to install the devices. The entire shoreline stabilization was designed and installed by PA F&BC Lake Habitat staff with the exception of the seeding and mulching completed by the District.

"What is not started today is never finished tomorrow." ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Chapter 92, 102, & 105 Programs Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance

Bobbie Blossosky, Resource Specialist

Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist

Chapter 92, 102, and 105 Programs

Under the Chapter 92, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program, 18 NPDES General Permits and 1 NPDES Individual Permits were reviewed and/or approved during 2013. Two ESCGP-2 permits were reviewed and approved for natural gas transmission lines. The Cambria Clean Water Fund received \$14,500.00 for the processing of new NPDES permit applications.

The Conservation District completed the initial review and commented on 64 erosion and sediment pollution control plans. The plan review fee schedule brought \$58,550.00 into the County. Six complaints concerning the Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Program were acknowledged and resolved during the year.

A total of 32 general permits were reviewed and acknowledged under the Chapter 105, Dam Safety and Waterway Management Program. This is the first year for fees to be paid for by applicants. The fees vary depending on the permit. The PA DEP-SW Regional office informed the CCCD that we would be assuming complaint handling again. A total of \$15,600.00 was added to the Cambria County Clean Water Fund. The district also received and resolved one complaint concerning various aspects of the Chapter 105 program.

Priority of work continues to be focused on getting the applicant's permits processed. Site inspections are a challenge to keep up with as there are several years of approved permits that are active. This includes final inspections that need completed to terminate permits to purge files and send to DEP for archiving. 2013 showed an increase in commercial development and not just traditional water and sewer infrastructure projects. Existing staff have reached their limit of productivity now. As the economy picks up, more work is anticipated with these programs that are directly related to economic development and local jobs.

Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance Program

Preventing Pollution from Dirt & Gravel Roads

Cambria County received the FY2013/2014 allocation in the amount of \$20,457.00. An additional \$17,388.45 was made available to townships for use on road improvement projects utilizing environmentally sensitive maintenance practices.

Early in 2013, The Quality Assurance Board (QAB) put a call out to eligible townships for grant applications with a May 1 deadline and received none. Upon review of existing funding and unspent funds from finished projects, the QAB reviewed grant applications from Cambria and Croyle Townships and recommended funding for the following projects: TR-447/Rubisch Road, Cambria Township in the amount of \$33,135.60 and TR-399/Pringle Hill Road, Croyle Township in the amount of \$11,309.80. Both projects were approved by motion for funding at the November 7, 2013 Cambria County Conservation District Board Meeting.

The Hinckston Run Road/TR380 road improvement project located in East Taylor Township was completed in June 2013. A total of \$26,170.89 was paid to East Taylor Township for the stabilization of approximately 2,300 feet of roadway which included placement of 500 tons of driving surface aggregate stabilizing 750 feet of roadway, installation of six new crosspipes, four stream culvert pipes, associated inlet and outfall protection, roadway drainage improvements and ditch stabilization.

Robb Piper, Manager & QAB chair attended the annual ESM workshop held at the Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, PA. He also continued attending the three advisory group meetings for the Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads Studies at Penn State. The most active was the Product & Process Advisory Group that looked at one proposed product and several changes to specifications. This included a recommendation to change and include in the driving surface aggregate (DSA) spec, a plasticity index of less than or equal to 6 (six.) This was not approved by the State Conservation Commission in 2013 but is anticipated to be done next year.

The state legislature passed and Governor Corbett signed a new Transportation Bill for PA. This included additional funding for the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program raising the annual amount from \$7 million to \$35 million. In that amount is a new category of municipal Low Volume Roads (less than 500 vehicle trips/day) that a minimum of \$8 million must be allocated to fund. This launched a reorganization of all the Center's advisory groups and Robb now serves only on the Low Volume Road Advisory Group.

Datalogger Monitoring Program

Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist
Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Nathan Marsh, AmeriCorps

In 2011, the Conservation District was approached by the County Commissioners to address water issues dealing with Marcellus Shale. To accomplish this, the District expanded the Water Resource & Watershed Development Committee and concentrated on source water protection. The committee added members of local Water Authorities, Municipal Leaders, DEP Staff, along with Associate Directors and District Staff. By expanding this committee, issues pertaining to impacts associated with source water protection would be addressed, not just Marcellus Shale well development.

During 2013, the Conservation District monitored 9 dataloggers located in Cambria, Clearfield, and Somerset Counties. Solinst is the manufacturer of the datalogger, each datalogger is a Levellogger Jr. LTC Model 3001. The datalogger takes readings of water temperature, conductivity, and water level. The 9 dataloggers are set up to take readings every 15 minutes—In one 24-hour day, each datalogger takes 96 readings. All of the data is then downloaded to a laptop computer and saved in a Microsoft Excel file and distributed appropriately.

"Start wherever you are and start small." ~ Rita Bailey

Greater Johnstown Water Authority (purchased three dataloggers):

1. Allwine Creek: Installed on 8/25/2011. 81,341 readings as of 12/20/2013. No significant changes in water quality during 2013.
2. North Fork Bens Creek: Installed 8/25/2011. 81,318 readings as of 12/20/2013. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2013.
3. Saltlick Run: Installed 8/25/2011. 81,126 readings as of 12/18/2013. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2013.

Trout Unlimited (donated two dataloggers):

4. South Fork Branch of the Little Conemaugh: Installed 7/28/2012. 80,226 readings as of 11/15/2013. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2013.
5. Laurel Run: Installed 7/28/2011. 83,812 readings as of 10/18/2013. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2013.

CCCD—Dataloggers purchased by the County:

6. Slate Lick Run: Installed 4/26/2011. 93,276 readings as of 12/17/2013. This is the site for Chevron Appalachia's Smithmyer well. This well has had the vertical and horizontal drilling done, but the fracking hasn't begun. There has been no significant change in water quality at this site during 2013.
7. Hinckston Run: Installed 7/26/2011. 84,640 readings as of 12/18/2013. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2013.

Patton Borough Municipal Authority (purchased one datalogger):

8. Chest Creek: Installed 7/18/2011. 81,855 readings as of 11/12/2013. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2013.

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association (purchased one datalogger):

9. North Witmer Run: Installed on 1/6/12. This datalogger is located just above the Glendale Sportsman's Cooperative Trout Nursery. 67,200 readings as of 12/6/13. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2013.

Portage Municipal Authority (purchased two dataloggers):

10. Bens Creek/Earnest Run: Installation planned for February 2014
11. Trout Run: Installation planned for February 2014

Resource Conservation & Development Program

S. Branch Blacklick Creek Improvement Project

Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager & RC&D Chair

Resource Conservation & Development

The Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council and committees meetings were held on April 26 and September 27. At the April meeting, it was decided to change the bylaws and meet just two times per year during spring and fall. It was also decided to close the office in Bedford. Meetings were held at the Hoss's in Bedford. All RC&D business is now run out of the CCCD office as Robb is the Chair. The office equipment was inventoried by John Dryzal, Seleen Shives (Fulton District Manager), and Robb. The items were offered to all member districts with notification to get any necessary files by the noted deadline. Bedford CCD stored the remaining files. Commissioner Chernisky (Clair Dumm-alternate) and Bob Ritchey (Dennis Beck-alternate) represent Cambria County at Council meetings. Robb Piper is the Cambria County At-Large Member and was again elected Council Chairman at the April meeting. The Council Chair also has a seat on the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy (SAC) Board. John Dryzal was elected again as the Resource Conservation/Land Use Committee Chair. Bobbie Blososky and Robb continued to provide the quarterly updates to the council for all projects in Cambria County. The appropriate District representatives present these updates at each meeting.

Cambria County submitted a new project—the North Branch Little Conemaugh Stabilization Project. The National RC&D program still does not receive any federal funding to support RC&D councils with staff and administrative funding. The Council continued on track, along with the SAC meetings that were held bi-monthly. The duties for SAC are all run out of the Huntingdon CCD office as the manager, Andy Patterson, is the Chair. The SAC is the non-profit arm of the Council. Bob Ritchey, CCCD Vice-Chair, and John Nibert, CCCD Associate Director and At-Large member, are County representatives on the SAC Board. Robb Piper has a seat as the RC&D Council Chair. Susan Llewellyn resigned as administrative assistant to the SAC.

The State Association of RC&D Councils came together on conference calls sponsored by the CCCD on our Cisco phone system and also through the Capital RC&D GoToMeeting software. Some councils have reorganized and are moving forward while others are still struggling. By-laws were changed to allow alternate delegates to be officers. Robb Piper continued as Vice-Chair of the organization and Doniele Russell (Penns Corner) is Chair, Susan Moon (S. Alleghenies) Treasurer, Cheryl Burns (Capital) Secretary, and Jack Hanish (Pocono NE) Member at Large.

South Branch Blacklick Creek Improvement Project

The CCCD had an unmanned display at Rep. Frank Burns Outdoor Sports Expo on May 18 at the YPCC in Ebensburg. From that event, a contact from Nanty-Glo Borough was forwarded to Robb Piper by the Mt. Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a CCCD partner in cold water conservation. Dennis Palko and Jay Evans from Nanty-Glo Borough were interested in stream habitat improvement in the Nanty-Glo flood protection project. This is a typical trapezoidal channel design, with flat bottom and slow moving water about 3,900' long through town. The route 271 bridge crosses the South Branch at about the middle of the project.

A site meeting was scheduled for July 24 and the site was walked with Jackie Ritko, CCCD Resource Supervisor, Robb, Dennis, and Jay. Trout were observed above the 271 bridge. They explained the Chest Creek project in Patton, which was

similar in nature, and it was decided to move forward with a design. The PA Fish & Boat Commission's Stream Habitat section was contacted and a site visit was coordinated with Mark Sausser and Sean Kilmartin, the PA DEP engineer who inspects the flood protection projects, on November 6 to complete a field survey for a design. In the fall, the design was received by the CCCD. The intention is to add additional designs for the Vintondale (also S. Branch Blacklick Creek), N. Cambria and Cherry Tree (design complete) flood control projects (W. Branch Susquehanna River) into one grant package for funding consideration in 2014. Surveys will be completed by Phil Gardner of PACD.

South Branch Blacklick creek was submitted by Jeff Fliss, SW DEP Watershed Manager, for consideration on the DEP priority watershed list.

Cooperative Habitat Improvement Saltlick Run Watershed Survey

Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager

Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP)

Offered by the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PA F&BC), we continued the CHIP activities in Cambria County for the fifth year. The Conservation District had previously adopted the two Cambria Somerset Authority (CSA) impoundments in Cambria County under CHIP (formerly, Adopt-A-Lake) in 2008. They are Wilmore and Hinckston Run dams.

In the Summer of 2013, two events occurred. On June 19, 2013 twenty porcupine cribs were placed in Wilmore Dam, valued at \$2,168.41. At Hinckston Run Dam, twenty porcupine cribs valued at \$2,1648.41 were placed on June 20, 2013. The CCCD ordered and purchased the wood from the Rorabaugh Lumber Co. in Burnside, PA and purchased the concrete blocks from the Long Barn in Ebensburg. Approximately six volunteers helped with the work at each dam with the carrying and loading of the blocks. Some helpers were members of the Jackson Township Community Rod & Gun Club, Johnstown Sportsmen's Association, and the Johnstown Rifle and Pistol Club. We couldn't have completed the project without their assistance, along with the efforts of District staff and interns.



A new three-year plan was delivered to us by the PA F&BC Lake Management Section in April 2012. The work listed above initiated the second of three years for this second lake habitat management plant.

All structures reported above have been mapped with a latitude and longitude coordinate and are available to those who fish on the PA F&BC's website:

- http://fishandboat.com/water/habitat/mgmt_plans/lake/wilmore.pdf
- http://fishandboat.com/water/habitat/mgmt_plans/lake/hinckston_run.pdf
- http://fishandboat.com/water/habitat/mgmt_plans/lake/glendale.pdf

Saltlick Run Watershed Survey

The CCCD was notified by Rick Lorsen, the local PA Fish & Boat Commission Waterways Fishery Manager, that a survey was being scheduled for Leidy Run and Custer Run, which drain into Saltlick Run by the Saltlick Dam in East Taylor Township. Public Director and Vice Chair Bob Ritchey and Robb Piper participated in the survey with Rick's team on August 7. It appeared that there was enough wild trout to reclassify the streams to wild trout status.

Family Days

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant
Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Jocelyn Sauter, AmeriCorps
Josh Schall, John Fees, and Dave Fogel, Interns

The 13th Annual Family Days, sponsored by the CCCD, was held on July 17th and 18th at our educational facility, Disaster's Edge in the 1889 Park in St. Michael, PA. As always, our program runs rain or shine and boy, was the sun shining! Everyone had a great time thanks to the fun, informative, and hands-on activities for children and adults of all ages. We were happy to have over 260 people attend this year's event.

Day 1

Mobile Ag Lab: The Mobile Ag Lab traveled to Family Days to teach everyone about the importance of agriculture. On the first day, the Ag Lab team educated children and adults on the soybean, or "the colorful bean." First, everyone learned about soybeans and how they are used to make many products we use daily. Next, all the students performed a scientific experiment to see whether the petroleum or soy based crayon performed better. After the results were in, most people agreed that the soy based crayon was the best. Everyone went home with a homemade soybean crayon!



AMD Mysteries: Melissa Reckner from the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team joined us to talk about the negative effects of Acid Mine Drainage on our environment. Reckner told us that the iron oxide, which comes from mining discharge, is bad for aquatic life and habitat—it coats the gills of fish and their food sources. She also told us that resource recovery efforts are finding ways to remove the iron oxide from water sources and use it to make make-up, dyes, paint, etc. Children used the iron oxide to create awesome tie-dyed shirts and bandanas!

Tales from the Mine: Volunteers, Barb & Barry Boring, led an informative session on the history of coal mining in our area. After a short film, which highlighted the dangers and manual labors of coal mining, Barry shared stories of his personal experiences with coal mining. One particular tale of a sneaky, cookie stealing rat had everyone giggling. Barb sang a beautiful song she had written about being a coal miner's wife. And everyone created a drawing with pieces of coal.



Shaver's Creek: Live animals are always a hit at Family Days. This year was no exception as we welcomed Shaver's Creek and their "Owls Around Us" program for our special session. We were able to see a Barred Owl, a Barn Owl, and a Great Horned Owl. Shaver's Creek also brought a Red Tailed Hawk to show us the difference between the birds of prey. We learned that the color of an owl's eyes can tell us if the bird hunts for food during the day or night and how their light feathers make it possible for owls to have nearly silent flight!

Family Days

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant
Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Jocelyn Sauter, AmeriCorps
Josh Schall, John Fees, and Dave Fogel, Interns

Day 2

Mobile Ag Lab: The Ag Lab was back again, this time with a few questions about where the fruit we eat comes from. After participating in a Q&A session, everyone learned that fruits come from flowers and are able to grow thanks to the pollination done by bees! The campers made a bookmark with a 3-D flower on it. Before saying good-bye to the Ag Lab, everyone played a fun game where the campers and adults transformed into bees and a field of flowers. The bees flew from flower to flower, pollinating as they went.



Rodent Round-Up: The PSU Department of Ag loaned us the educational tool once again, which taught our mini-golfers all about rodents. While these critters might look cute, you don't want them running around your house. As the golfers moved from hole-to-hole, each person learned about why rodents are unwanted pests, how they can be controlled, and how to safely use the methods of control. When they weren't golfing, the children headed over to the Edge to see and learn about our live critters!

Can You Dig It?: In this new addition to Family Days, our campers met Paula Zitzler, an archaeologist from Penn State. Paula taught us that being an archaeologist is a lot like being a detective. Archaeologists solve the mysteries of our past by discovering clues and studying artifacts. Paula shared some of her special artifacts with the campers and together they became archaeologists for a day and studied the clues to figure out what the items were, when they were made, how they were used, and what they could tell us about the people who used them.



Animal Tracks: Our final program of Family Days had many kids (and adults) squealing! Chenoa, owner of Animal Tracks, brought some of her most prized pets to share with our group. Some lucky, not-to-mention brave, volunteers were able to touch and hold some of them, including the Ball Python, her Bearded Dragon, a Walking Stick Bug, and a pair of Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches! Chenoa gave detailed explanations about all of her pets and she walked around with each of them so everyone could get a look up close!

Thank you to all the presenters and volunteers whose time and expertise make Family Days the exciting, educational event it has become. We want to especially thank the 2013 Dairy Princess, Dawn Craft, for stopping by both days with a delicious ice cream treat. Thank you to our District Staff, AmeriCorps Members, Interns, and volunteers.

A special thanks to the following businesses for their generous donations: Sheetz, Roaring Spring Premium Water, Snyders of Berlin, Cambria County Farm Bureau, A/C Power, and Cambria CoGen.

Highlights

Annual Legislative Luncheon Annual District Picnic

Legislative Luncheon

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant
Jocelyn Sauter, AmeriCorps

We gathered for the Conservation District's Annual Legislative Luncheon on Friday, October 4 at the Imperial Room in Ebensburg. The CCCD staff was joined by 50 guests, including the Board of Directors & Associate Directors, Legislative Officials, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts members, Department of Environmental Protection staff, and Cooperative Extension employees. Branden S. Diehl, a consultant for the Foundation for PA Watersheds, was our guest speaker. Diehl delivered a presentation educating our guests on the Little Conemaugh River Strategy. He addressed the ongoing efforts and outlined strategies for funding and water treatment options. Robb Piper, CCCD Manager, highlighted the many accomplishments achieved over the course of the 2013 year. Staff Recognition Awards were acknowledged for John Dryzal and Mark Stockley for 20 years of service with the CCCD. Congratulations and a warm thank you to each for their dedicated years of service.



District Picnic

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant



This year's annual CCCD Picnic was held at Disaster's Edge in the 1889 Park in St. Michael, PA on August 1st. The monthly Board Meeting was held immediately prior to the picnic. Our picnic was catered by Capri Piz-za of Johnstown. There were about 50 people in attendance, including our Board of Directors, Associate Directors, District Staff, and family members of the Board and Staff. We were also joined by Director Commissioner Chernisky, Dept. of Agriculture Western PA Regional Director James Kennedy, USDA-NRCS & DEP Staff, and members of the Adams-Croyle Township Recreation Authority. Everyone in attendance had the

opportunity to explore the nature trails and visit the Miner's Museum. The Edge was open to anyone who wanted to see the facility and our variety of live and mounted animals. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our picnic an enjoyable evening. A special thank you is extended to Dawn Craft, 2013 Dairy Princess. After delivering an informative presentation on ice cream, she dished out sundaes for dessert.

Organizational Chart

District Staff/Board of Directors

District Staff

Robert W. Piper, Jr., Manager
John S. Dryzal, Assistant Manager
Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant
Mark A. Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Jacqueline Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Louis Kopczyk, P.E., County Engineer
Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist
Bobbie Blososky, Resource Specialist
Charles Marsh, Per Diem

Directors

Clair J. Dumm, Chairman
Robert Ritchey, Vice Chairman
Dennis Beck, Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Chernisky, Commissioner
James Benshoff
Mike Illig
Jerome Carl
Bob Davis
Shelly Craft

Associate Directors

David Shoemaker	Bill Barbin
Mike Barton	Ray Gorman
Ed Smith	Bob Schweitzer
Walden Vorhauer	James Greco
Eugene Eckenrode	Pamela Piper
John Nibert	Charlie Moyer
Tony Sossong	Herb Wilson
Pat Stolz	George Hritz
Dave Heggeman	Gary Scott

AmeriCorps Members 2012/2013

Jocelyn Sauter Nathan Marsh

AmeriCorps Members 2013/2014

Jocelyn Sauter Diane Thomas

Interns

Joshua Schall, Christopher Shepard,
John Fees, and Dave Fogle



2013 Board Meeting Perfect Attendance

Jim Benshoff & Mike Illig



Conservation District Budget—Expenses

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

EXPENDITURES	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
Salaries/Personal Services	269,760.31	315,211.00
Staff Benefits	128,155.63	140,640.00
Office Supplies	1,428.98	1,500.00
Postage	2,371.06	3,000.00
Advertising	926.62	990.00
Audit	1,975.00	2,125.00
Telephone	2,740.60	2,520.00
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	394.16	700.00
Copier/Fax Leases	7,370.42	7,635.00
Association Dues	3,731.00	3,856.00
Mileage, Tolls, Parking	5,149.26	5,540.00
Meetings, Lodging, Meals	1,084.04	1,500.00
Equipment Repair	1,797.89	3,225.00
Vehicle Repair	3,082.60	2,500.00
Water Sampling	5.45	600.00
Environmental Education Center Operation	3,871.68	6,200.00
AmeriCorps	14,000.00	18,000.00
Chesapeake Bay Program Costs	-	500.00
Chesapeake Bay Program Costs - Indiana Costs	-	250.00
PACD Mini Grant	-	1,000.00
Nutrient Management Mini Grant	-	1,800.00
Trust for Tomorrow - GenOn	57,500.00	-
Watershed Field Days - Grant	-	4,148.00
GenOn - N. Branch L Conemaugh - Grant	71,368.26	11,597.00
Binder #2 AMD Project GG - Grant	125.00	115,387.00
Glendale Lake Pickerel Project GG - Grant	16,580.00	-
Impaired Watershed BMP - Grant	-	400,000.00
Mineral Point River Access - Grant	-	9,000.00

Total Expenses	\$ 593,417.96	\$ 1,059,424.00
-----------------------	----------------------	------------------------

Conservation District Budget—Income

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

INCOME	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
County Commissioners	172,799.98	180,499.00
Erosion & Sediment Fees	59,250.00	50,000.00
No-Till Drill Rental Fees	10,144.28	8,000.00
Copier/Postage/supplies/Mil Reimbursement	-	500.00
Manager/1st Technician/2nd Technician	16,905.26	45,575.00
Administrative Assistance	7,688.63	12,000.00
Watershed Specialists	44,940.56	64,000.00
Act 38/Manure Management	6,984.89	14,000.00
Agriculture Conservation Engineer	11,302.79	23,100.00
Chesapeake Bay Technician	41,598.94	57,000.00
Nutrient Management Mini Grant	-	1,800.00
PACD Mini Grant	-	1,000.00
Keep Cambria County Beautiful	-	2,000.00
Education Program Fees	-	3,000.00
Glendale Shoreline Stabilization Project - Grant	15,788.00	-
Glendale Lake Pickerel Pond Project - Grant	-	-
Chest Creek Restoration III - Grant	31,103.00	-
Trust for Tomorrow GenOn - Grant	58,000.00	-
GenOn - N Branch L Conemaugh - Grant	82,965.00	11,597.00
PUC/ACT 13 Grant	33,946.63	56,818.00
Binder #2 AMD Project - Grant	-	115,387.00
Watershed Field Days - Grant	-	4,148.00
Impaired Watershed BMP - Grant	-	400,000.00
Mineral Point River Access - Grant	-	9,000.00
Total Program Fees & Reimbursement	\$ 420,617.98	\$ 878,925.00

Total Income

\$ 593,417.96

\$ 1,059,424.00



401 Candlelight Drive, Suite 229, Ebensburg, PA 15931 (814) 472-2120

**Cambria County Conservation District
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Cambria County Conservation District educates and assists the public through programs, projects and leadership in the stewardship of natural resources to sustain and enhance the quality of life.

Layout/Design/Edit

Jocelyn A. Sauter, Communications Specialist/AmeriCorps
Report was written by District Staff and printed in house.

<http://www.cambriacountypa.gov/conservation-district.aspx>

