

60 Years of Conservation



**“If one way is better than another
that you may be sure
it is Nature’s way.”**

Aristotle

2010 Annual Report Cambria County Conservation District

Manager's Perspective

Robert W. Piper, Jr.
District Manager



The celebration of sixty (60) years of the Cambria County Conservation District ended on December 31st. The District started this historical adventure on March 23, 1950 and now we are another year older and time continues to move on. In the past ten years alone there has been directly over \$6 million of conservation projects put on the ground by this conservation district. There have been partnerships with other conservation organizations for millions more.

Our accomplishments vary as this report shows, and were done under continuing budget challenges. The board of directors is the heartbeat of the Conservation District. I hope you take the time to read about our board, as featured in this report as part of the 60th anniversary celebration. Leadership shifted with three new directors on the board. I want to take this moment to thank Clair Dumm, our Board Chairman, for all his volunteer time towards our success. He has been with the District since becoming the first manager. His dedication to conservation and the role he has played as manager, director and friend has been so meaningful. A value cannot be placed on it however he was recognized by PA Association of Conservation Districts with the Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation Award. He is the third District board member to receive this prestigious award as an Outstanding Volunteer and all three continue to serve.

On April 17, 1943, Colonel Jimmy Doolittle watched his squadron of B-25's roll off the deck of the USS Hornet to bomb Japan for the first time after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Col. Doolittle said *"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."* There is so much meaning to this quote then and now.

It applies to all the people today who make a dedicated effort to a common cause for a just reason. Our conservation network is built soundly on the hearts of "volunteers." The director nominating organizations, directors, associate directors, watershed associations, sportsmen's clubs and just plain individuals who support us through our seedling sales and environmental education activities all contribute in their own special way. This is a special piece of the effort as to how we as staff get things done.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Piper, Jr.
District Manager

Nov. 9, 2010

Governor Edward G. Rendell appoints Robert W. Piper Jr. to the statewide Water Resource Committee. The committee is charged with implementing Act 220 the State Water Resource Planning Act of 2002.

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Cover Photograph

Chest Creek Fish Habitat Project, Patton, PA
Special Project Funding of the Chesapeake Bay Program

Layout/Design/Edit

Anna M. Gibbs, Communications Specialist/AmeriCorps
Report was written by district staff and printed in house.

Glendale Shoreline Project

Mark Stockley,
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kelly Hughes, Land Resource/AmeriCorps



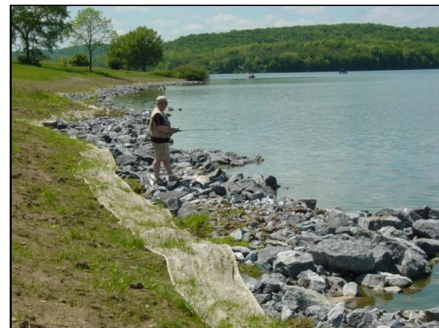
Since 2007 preparation has been underway for a large improvement project at Glendale Lake. The Cambria County Conservation District facilitated the grant for the \$43,500 project which was funded by Growing Greener. The design and implementation were provided by the PA Fish and Boat Commission and construction began.

In February 2010 approximately 2000 feet of shoreline was stabilized with R-4 and R-6 rock creating a saw tooth pattern to slow wave action and prevent erosion. During construction the lake was frozen and large chunks of ice mixed with the rock when building the pattern. Following the lake thaw in April, the PA Fish and Boat Commission came out and refined the saw tooth pattern and made the grade into the bank smooth again. In addition, large rock rubble humps were set offshore to break wave action and provide fish habitat.

In the summer of 2010, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, Conservation District and many volunteers placed large wooden structures on the lake floor to provide fish habitat.

Reports of fish sightings rolled in since the completion of construction and fishermen are now targeting this area which was once largely avoided.

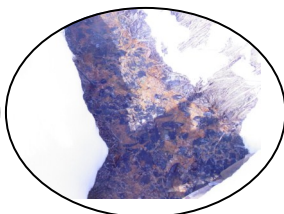
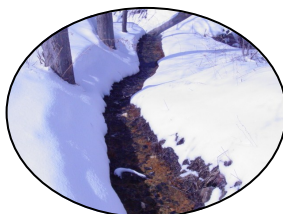
The results of the project are beneficial because it reduces sediment loading into the lake and local waterways, protects the commonwealth's interest, such as the lake and park, and improves the aesthetics, wildlife and aquatic habitat.



Trout Run Acid Mine Drainage Treatment Project/Puritan Discharge

The Conservation District continues to administer a Growing Greener Grant for the *Trout Run Watershed Association* for the construction of an AMD treatment system on the Puritan Discharge near Martindale. Although construction was expected to begin in 2010, delays in obtaining the required permits pushed the construction schedule to 2011. Since the grant was due to expire on June 30, 2010, an extension was requested and approved.

The total estimated project cost is \$202,780. The Growing Greener grant is covering \$172,180 with the remaining amount coming from in-kind services provided by the project partners.



Agricultural Conservation Engineering Technician

Louis Kopczyk, P.E.
County Engineer



The Conservation District receives funding through an agreement with the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission to employ a technician to provide assistance to landowners in Cambria County. In 2010, this program allowed Cambria County to have a representative at meetings of Project Grass and to administer a grant from Project Grass for pasture management. This program provided the funding to allow the Conservation District to continue participation in the design of a storm water management project. Educational presentations were also conducted through this program, with cooperation from the PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program, the AmeriCorps Program, and various agencies. Through the Agricultural Conservation Engineering Technician Program, the Conservation District assisted members of the County's 4-H program in training for the Grassland Evaluation Contest. Cambria County teams won first place in Pennsylvania's contest for the eighth year in a row in 2010. \$22,562 was allocated to Cambria County through this program for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.



No-Till Rental Program

John Dryzal, Assist. Manager, Louis Kopczyk, P.E., William Myers, Per Diem



Number of Rentals 35

15 New Customers

2010 was an interesting year for the no-till drill program. It wasn't because of different equipment or weather conditions, but because of the change in the customer base. Almost 50% of customers were people who have never rented before, increasing the overall number of customers. In years past we have had less customers but higher use by acreage. Now our customers base is up yet the use by acreage is down.

What we are seeing is our traditional customers who have higher acres have invested in a no-till drill for their own operations. However, interest remains high in our farming community especially among the smaller producers where the investment in no-till equipment is prohibitive. Our program continues to be successful in promoting no-till and getting conservation on the ground.

Total Acreage: 694.2 acres
Total Revenue: \$10,794.10

Drill	No. of Users	Acres Planted
Truax:	6	103.2
John Deere:	11	387.0
Hay buster:	18	204.

Drills are used for planting grass and small grains

1996

No Till Drill Rental Program gets off the ground.

To date 7,356 acres of conservation planting has occurred and an estimated 25,746 tons of topsoil has been preserved.

Picture approximately 1,250 filled double- axle dump



Legislative Tour and Luncheon

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant
Anna Gibbs, Communications/AmeriCorps



On October 8, twenty-eight people gathered in Ebensburg, PA in Cambria County for a little field trip to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of The Cambria County Conservation District and their successes by touring the sites improved or preserved by the Conservation District over the past ten years. The group included legislative officials, board directors and associate directors, members of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, members of a local watershed group, Dept. of Environmental Protection staff and employees of CCCD and AmeriCorps.

The three-hour tour covered six sites with tour guide John Dryzal, Assistant Manager of the Cambria County Conservation District explaining the objectives for each site as well as the strategy used and the end benefit. The tour included two farms, which required strategies to improve herd health and prevent nonpoint source pollution and stream erosion and maximize nutrient utilization. One farm utilized coal combustion byproduct, known as fly ash, to stabilize a heavy use area by cattle and equipment. The other farm required stream bank fencing, stabilized stream crossing and a manure storage facility.

The tour also included three recreation sites: Bakerton Rod & Gun Club, Duman Lake County Park and Hinckston Run Reservoir. At Bakerton a passive system was built to treat an abandoned mine discharge to improve water quality and fishing. Duman Lake had several improvements completed creating a family oriented recreation facility while providing an environment for the public to appreciate natural resources. Hinckston Run Reservoir demonstrated a launch access to the reservoir for non-gasoline motor propelled boats. The last stop on the tour was the Conservation District's own environmental education building known as Disaster's Edge, named for the center's proximity to the South Fork dam that broke in 1889. Here, the public comes to learn more about the natural resources and wild-life in the Laurel Highlands and fulfill the District's mission.

After the tour everyone was treated to lunch in Ebensburg, where additional guests joined us. Robb Piper, Manager of the Cambria County Conservation District and Clair Dumm, President of the CCCD Board of Directors addressed the crowd along with Senator John Wozniak and Representatives Gary Haluska and Frank Burns. Service Recognition Awards were presented to the following Conservation District employees: Jeff Fyock, 5 years; Bobbie Blossosky, 10 years; Bryan Rabish, 10 years; Jacqueline Ritko, 15 years and Mary Ellen Bard, 30 years. Congratulations and a warm thank you to each for their dedicated years of service .



This tour was funded with \$1,540 from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Quarterly Breakfast Meetings

Quarterly breakfast meetings were scheduled at Kosta's Restaurant in Ebensburg in an effort to update associated agencies and the public on environmental activities in Cambria County. Average attendance was 11 people per meeting.

January
July
April
October

Agency Updates
Lancashire Project
Cancelled
PennDot Local Project Update

Robb Piper, Conservation District
Art Crossman, DEP Geologist
No Speaker
Greg Illig, PennDot Project Manager

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. The Conservation District participates in this program through an agreement with the Commission. \$10,630 were allocated to Cambria County for participating in this program for the FY 2009-10.

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.

In 2010, articles were prepared to provide information on the program to County residents through local newspapers. One-on-one meetings and conversations were conducted with farm operators to answer questions about the regulations. A meeting with cooperating agencies was conducted in February to plan for the educational needs of the program. A nutrient management workshop and Basic Homeowners Seminar were both conducted on March 11, 2010 and presentations were given at the Farm Bureau Agency Breakfast meetings. Eighteen people attended each of the meetings. One nutrient management plan for a concentrated animal operation was reviewed and approved, two complaints were investigated, and one status review was conducted. In August, the PA State Conservation Commission conducted an evaluation of the nutrient management program in Cambria County.



At the Basic Homeowners Seminar Kelly Hughes, AmeriCorps and Lou Kopczyk introduce topics such as lime, soil nutrients, fertilizer rates and application, household composting, and tomato/potato blight.



The Cambria County Agricultural Workshop covered mortality composting, pesticide use safety, and nutrient management regulations.

1990

*Resource Conservation & Development Project
First accessible fishing
for people with disabilities
at Lake Rowena*

Public Outreach

District Staff
Directors, Associate Directors
AmeriCorps Members



38th Annual Tree/Plant Sale

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

15, 172 Plants sold to over 400 Customers



Horseradish – who in Cambria County grows that? We were surprised to find out the number of people exceeded expectation when we added this item to our Tree/Plant catalog in 2010. We also ventured into Flowering Dogwood, American Mountain ash, Checkerberry, Ornamental grasses and numerous new varieties of perennial flowers and fruit trees.

Each year our customers and orders increase. 2010 was a perfect example as the backyard gardener and “natural” food growers joined us. It seems people want to produce their own fruit and save money when planning landscapes and perennial flowerbeds. We offered a wide variety of items from these suppliers: Worley’s Nursery, Carino Nurseries, Flickinger’s Nurseries, Musser Forests, Inc., Wildlife’s Choice, AM Leonard, Plantra, Endless Mountain Berry Farm, Alpha Nursery, Somerset Conservation District.

Worley’s Nursery has been a friend of the District for the past 30 years supplying us with quality fruit and shade trees. Worley’s was a family business that sadly had to close as the youngest member, Sonny Worley, has reached retirement age. Sonny has been a constant, reliable resource who will truly be missed in the years to come. The district honored him with a gift card and plans to keep in touch as he goes through his retirement years.

Family Days

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant



The mostly quiet 1889 Park in St. Michael, PA was filled with enthusiastic families during the 10th Annual Family Days on July 27th and 28th. The two-day event, sponsored by the Cambria County Conservation District, was packed with informative, fun activities for adults and children regarding outdoor activities, animals and the environment. Our thanks to: Bob and Ginny Sleigh, Indiana Chapter of the National Wild Mushroom Association; Shelly Craft, Craft Farms and Conservation District Director; PA WoodMobile and presenter Robert Jacque; PA Game Commission’s archery presentation; Diane Beaver, Alpaca Venture Farm and Grateful Greta and Cookies & Cream, our favorite alpacas; Kristy Neicamp, PA Fish and Boat Commission; Tim Dull, Cambria County Solid Waste Authority; Heidi Mullendore’s bat presentation; Steve Kocsis, Cambria County Geographic Information System Specialist; Virgil Wilford, Natural Resource Conservation Service, orienteering and Matt Mikeska’s drum presentation. A special thanks to our sponsors, Sheetz, Valenty Bottled Water and Snyder’s of Berlin.

Conservation On The Road

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant



The Conservation District Booth was on the road this summer. Visitors were invited to browse our District scrapbook and peruse visual displays highlighting projects completed over the past few years, such as stream bank stabilization and the clean up of illegal dump sites. We demonstrated the uses of soy beans and children could play the Grain Game. Registration to win a bird feeder and Blue Bird viewing box was available. Congratulations to Nicole McCracken of Northern Cambria and Doreen Gregorchik of Hollidaysburg for winning our two prizes respectively.

The District Booth could be seen at the Benshoff Farm Family Day on August 22nd, The Cambria County Fair in September and the Apple Cider Festival in Prince Gallitzin State Park on October 3rd.

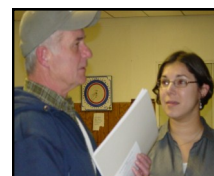
Public Outreach

District Staff
Directors, Associate Directors
AmeriCorps Members



Marcellus Gas Well Presentation

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supvr. &
Kourtney Penatzer, Education/AmeriCorps



With the belief that the right source of information is the key to an educated public, the District has taken a responsible role by offering organized educational presentations on natural gas well drilling in our county.

Under the advisement of the County Commissioners, Jackie Ritko and Kourtney Penatzer organized a five part educational presentation series. Part 1 of the series occurred in December.

The presentation featured Bryan Swistock, a Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Associate who spoke about water quality concerns of Marcellus Shale gas drilling. Included in his presentation was the drilling process, water protection regulations, waste water pollutants and treatment and the importance of and proper procedure (chain of custody) for water testing. The Dec. 1st event was held at the Rembrandt Club in St. Benedict and the Dec. 15th event was held at the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College in Johnstown. There was an average of fifty participants at each session. The local media picked up the story and attended the session on Dec. 15th. The local and regional newspapers ran our press release and the local radio stations ran our PSA (public service announcement). "Our Town" ran an interview with Robb Piper.

Agritourism

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supvr. &
Kourtney Penatzer, Education/AmeriCorps



Agritourism (variant: agrotourism) involves agriculturally-based activities that bring visitors to a farm or ranch. Often referred to as farm-stays, agritourism encourages visitors to experience agricultural life first hand. It is gathering strong support from small communities as people have realized the benefits of sustainable development. It is a form of niche tourism and considered a growth industry, even in the United States.

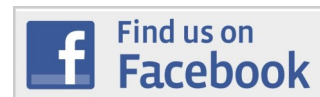
On Wednesday, November 10th, the Conservation District presented "Agritourism" at Disaster's Edge, proposed by AmeriCorps member, Kourtney Penatzer. Michelle Nowak of Farm Stay Project USA spoke on tourism for agriculture to teach the public about the family farm business. Michelle is dedicated to agritourism in the United States since touring farm stays in Italy. Michelle profiles farm stays, features guest posts and shares news on her blog Farm Stay Project at: <http://farmstays.blogspot.com>.

Joining Michelle was Jeannette Hunsberger, owner of Schantz Haus Bed & Breakfast, the farm was once owned by Amishman Josef (Schantz) Johns, founder of Johnstown. It is now a dairy farm run by Jeannette and her family. Jeannette offers guests the chance to do as much or as little as they want to do, such as bottle feed a calf, milk a cow or relax and watch the cows graze. Her website is: www.schantzhaus.com.

A small crowd attended the slide show presentation at the Edge, but lingered afterwards to speak with Michelle and Jeannette and check out Jeannette's picture albums.

Facebook

Anna Gibbs, Communications Specialist/AmeriCorps



The Conservation District was fortunate this year to receive funding for a Communications Specialist. The goal was to raise awareness about all the Conservation District does and its importance to Cambria County.

AmeriCorps member, Anna Gibbs is the Communications Specialist and joined us in October of 2010. Anna wanted to bring the Conservation District up to date and proposed a Facebook site. Once approved, Anna worked hard to get the page up and running and in late December the District leaped into the 21st century and joined the free social network, Facebook. Information goes out to the general public about District events, projects and endeavors. As of this printing there are 32 "friends" on the District page. The Mainline newspaper picked up this event and called Anna for an interview as part of a series of articles being run regarding this social phenomenon. Anna told the Mainline, "Facebook is closing a gap that...other means of communication can't. It's an efficient and effective way to grow and extend our audience."

In addition, Anna has begun a campaign to get people to receive the District newsletter, A View from the Edge, via email to reduce paper and ink consumption.

Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance Program

Bobbie Blossosky
Resource Specialist



The contract for construction on the Hinckston Run Road Project, East Taylor Township was extended to May 31, 2011. The District received their annual allocation of \$15,347. Robb Piper continued on the State Working Group for Education & Outreach and the Policy Working Group. At the request of the State Conservation Commission, a change to the formula for allocation has been presented. There are no new dollars coming to the program and the formula change will be effected over a three years period so there are moderate changes in county allocations to occur annually and not all at one time. It is anticipated that our county allocation will increase about \$5-7,000 (cumulative) from this change. The County Quality Assurance Board did not meet in 2010. Chairman Piper determined that no meetings were necessary as there were no new projects. He did attend the annual Maintenance Workshop that was held at the Bay Front, in Erie.

PA-DEP Chapter 92, 102, 105 Programs

Bobbie Blossosky, Resource Specialist
Jeff Fyock, Resource/Water Treatment Specialist



Under the Chapter 92, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program, 14 NPDES General Permits and 2 NPDES Individual Permits were reviewed and/or approved during 2010. The Cambria Clean Water Fund received \$7,000.00 for the processing of new NPDES permit applications.

The Conservation District completed the initial review and commented on 56 erosion and sediment pollution control plans in 2010. The plan review fee schedule brought \$32,000.00 into the County. Two complaints concerning the Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Program were acknowledged and resolved during the year.

An Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop for Heavy Equipment Operators was held on August 26th at the Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center in Richland Township. The District presented the workshop, which focused on the proper installation and maintenance of erosion control BMPs.

A total of 18 general permits were reviewed and acknowledged under the Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Management Program. The district also received and resolved six complaints concerning various aspects of the Chapter 105 program.

Forest Management

Robert W. Piper, Jr.,
District Manager



Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) & Tree Farm Program

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association was founded in 1886 by Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock and 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 trade mark of the American Forest Foundation. Landowners must have at least ten acres of forestland which grows saw-timber trees, Christmas trees or any wood fiber for fuel or paper or which produce forest product (i.e. maple syrup) to qualify for the program.

Robb Piper was re-elected to the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) board of directors at the annual meeting held September 11th in Williamsport. He serves as a public sector director and has been on the board since 1990.

Robb underwent training to maintain his Certified Tree Farm Inspector #4987 (expires 9/22/13) status this year. He re-inspected James Maurer's (TF #2642) Tree Farm, a 17 acres tract in Barr Township during 2010. Maurer's plan was updated to the new standards along with two site visits. This inspection was required as part of Pennsylvania's program audit to meet national requirements.

Forest Stewardship Program

The Conservation District is able to provide as a forest management service, woodlot planning through the Forest Stewardship Program. Being a Certified Forester (#2902) through the Society of American Foresters, Robb is qualified in plan writing under this program. A plan was developed for the *I. Roland Hughes Farm Property* located in Summerhill Township. This 151 acres farm has about 52 acres of woodlot that qualified for planning. Mr. Hughes was a CCCD board member as a farmer director from 1964-1996.

This program underwent a change in 2010. Program monies are federal dollars. Previously, they came as pass through dollars to the states and was administered by the PA-DCNR Bureau of Forestry. The local DCNR foresters handled signup and technical review and cost share checks were distributed by the PA Association of Conservation Districts. The total program is now handled through local USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service offices. Plan writers must sign up as Technical Service Providers (TSP) with USDA and be qualified by them.

May 8, 1984
Oct. 2, 1990

*Chairman W. R. (Dick) Rossman
was named to the
State Conservation Commission
appointed by
Governors Casey & Thornburg
He served two and a half terms.*

Environmental Education

Jackie Ritko
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kourtney Penatzer, Education/AmeriCorps

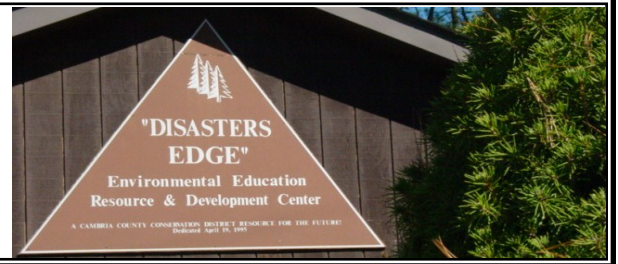


1976

*First of several
Outdoor Laboratories
dedicated to develop
outdoor education.*

Looking Over 'The Edge'

Jackie Ritko,
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kourtney Penatzer, Education/AmeriCorps



Exploring Habitats and Wildlife at Lake Rowena

District educators spent the morning exploring Lake Rowena with Mr. Pruess and his fifth graders from *East Taylor Elementary* on October 28th. Students learned about a variety of local wildlife through playing a game where students tried to match up local wildlife pelts with their footprints and scat. Then students had the opportunity to hike around the reservoir, investigate a beaver dam and look for other signs of wetland inhabitants.

Westmont 5th Graders Visit Disaster's Edge in the fall

One hundred and fifteen fifth graders from *Westmont Elementary School* visited Disaster's Edge on October 19th. Students enjoyed the fall day outdoors exploring the beaver dam, studying the wetlands and learning about water quality. Students also visited our education center where they learned about the "miracle" soybean and enjoyed a special treat. Finally, students had the opportunity to tour the Adams-Croyle Coal Miner's Museum. The district's geologist was on hand to discuss the local coal geology and artifacts in the center.

District makes a splash at Carrolltown Library

District educators visited the *Carrolltown Library* on July 13th as part of their summer reading program for children. In keeping with the 2010 theme, "Make a SPLASH! READ", we presented some of our resident water dwellers including newts, turtles and frogs to the young readers. We read a story about how a frog develops from an egg to a tadpole and finally a full-grown frog, showing the kids each stage of development. We wrapped up the program with a good old-fashioned craft, painted fish prints that the kids could take home with them.

Generous donation to Disaster's Edge

The district was a benefactor of the family trust of Ronald "Bobby" Campbell regarding his wild animal exhibit. Bobby was an avid hunter and member of the Safari Club International. His wish was to have his collection distributed to education centers to enable children to learn more about these animals by having the ability to touch and examine them up close.



The Board of Directors sincerely thank all who were involved with making this exhibit possible for the enjoyment of our visitors. Special thanks to the Campbell family and Al Shubert for making this donation possible. Thank you to S&J Cabinets for building the cabinets.

Community Conservation Awards

Cambria County Conservation District Banquet
May 12th—Carrolltown Fireman's Banquet Hall



The Conservation Awards honor children, youth and adults for their efforts in carrying out conservation promotion and practices through art, competition, projects, community support and outreach and through best environmental practices in their lives and/or businesses.

Congratulations once again to the winners for 2010.

Farm Service Agency 40 Year Service Award

Ralph Farabaugh of Loretto

Conservation Educator of the Year

Michael Barton

Conservation Farmer of the Year

Matthew Dillon

Conservation Organization of the Year

Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority

Soisson Public Recreation Achievement

Patrick (PJ) Sloan

Natural Area & Heritage Preservation

Edwin Patterson, Indiana Co. Parks & Trails

Urban Conservation Award

Loretto Borough

Special Conservation Service Award

Melissa Reckner

Forestry Management Award

Cambria-Somerset Authority

Media Conservation Award

Johnstown Magazine

Watershed Protection Award

Robert Eppley



Amy O'Donnell and her Border Collie, Jill
Amy spoke on her topic
"The Working Border Collie"



Environmental Education Contest Winners

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Nathan Quist, AmeriCorps



Envirothon

"Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning"

This year Northern Cambria High School took the top three spots with Team 1 taking First Place, Team 2 taking Second Place and Team 3 taking Third Place. Coming in 4th and 5th were Forest Hills Team 1 and Portage Team 1 respectively.

The stations were conducted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bureau of Forestry and staff of the Conservation District. The event was sponsored in part by Northern Star Generation Service Co/Cambria CoGen, Colver Power, Wal-Marts of Ebensburg and Johnstown and Valenty Bottled Water.

The top three teams received a trophy, C.C. Envirothon t-shirts, and dinner at the Conservation Awards Banquet. The District sponsored the first place team at the state contest.



2nd Place—Northern Cambria II
Andy Baran, Russ Hogan, Ariel Rocco
Nate Tinik, Zachary Hull

1st Place—Northern Cambria I
Janae Dunchack, Aaron Zatorsky, Joe Yuhas,
Tyler Sherry, Tom Paronish



3rd Place—Northern Cambria III
Kelly Long, Joe Stoltz, Kevin Zedak
Adrienne Tubo, Haley Mason

Grassland Scholarship

The Cambria County 4-H Grassland Team was successful in achieving 1st Place! Their record of eight wins in eight years can be attributed to the coaching team of Virgil Wilford, NRCS and Lou Kopczyk, Conservation District. This year's coaching included Kelly Hughes, AmeriCorps, who specializes in agronomy. Each student received a \$500 scholarship bringing the 4-H Team total to \$20,250 in scholarship funds.

Event Sponsor was Penn's Corner Conservancy.

Virgil Wilford,
Dalton Wilson,
Laura Kirby
Julie Veneskey,
Martin Veneskey,
Dawn Craft



Poster Contest

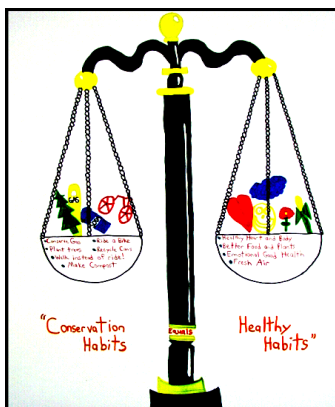
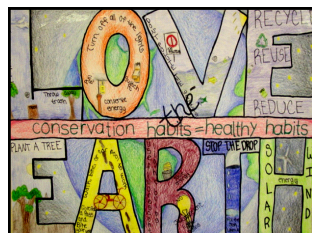
"Conservation Habits = Healthy Habits"

The contest was judged on April 14, 2010. The winners received a trophy, dinner at the Conservation District Awards Banquet and a \$50 savings bond. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the students who participated.



1st Place G. K-1 Madeline Cecere,
Forest Hills E. S.

1st Place G. 4-6 Courtney Cecere,
Forest Hills E. S.



1st Place G. 7-9 Aaron McGuire
Bishop Carroll H.S.



1st Place G. 10-12 Maygan Sechrengost
Conemaugh Valley H.S.

60 Years
of Education, Stewardship, Leadership and Service
Proud to be CCCD

Environmental Education Awards

*NACD &
Zeneca Ag Products*
1ST PLACE
Conservation Education
1996

Pennsylvania Alliance
**OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTION**
Environmental Education
1989

NACD-ALLIS Chalmers
1ST PLACE
Environmental Education
NE Region
1982, 1983, 1985

NACD-ALLIS Chalmers
2ND PLACE
Environmental Education
National
1982

NACD-ALLIS Chalmers
RECOGNITION
Environmental Education
PACD Directors
1982

NACD-ALLIS Chalmers
RECOGNITION
Environmental Education
District
1979

NACD-ALLIS Chalmers
**OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT**
Environmental Education
State
1975



60 Years
of Education, Stewardship, Leadership and Service
Proud to be CCCD

Conservation District Awards

PMSC/AmeriCorps

**CERTIFICATE
OF APPRECIATION**
2008

PACD

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE YEAR**
2004

*PA Urban and Community
Forestry Council*

**RECOGNITION
OF ASSISTANCE**
2003

*United States
Dept. of Agriculture*

**OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT**
50 Years
2000

*Robert P. Casey, Governor
Commonwealth of PA*

**TAKE PRIDE IN
PENNSYLVANIA AWARD**
1991

*Goodyear Conservation
50th Anniversary*
GRAND AWARD
1997

Goodyear Conservation
1ST PLACE
1971, 1982

Goodyear Conservation
HONOR DISTRICT
1969, 1975, 1985
1986, 1987, 1991

Goodyear Conservation
RUNNER UP
1976

*PA Association
Future Farmers of America*
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

*The National Committee
for Employer Support
of the Guard and Reserve*
PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER

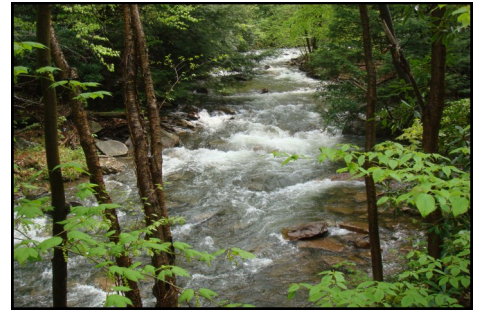
South Fork Remediation Project

Jackie Ritko
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist

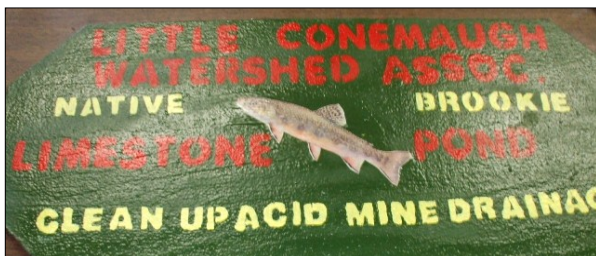


South Fork Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment Project

Phase II of the South Fork Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment Project was started late in the fall of 2010. Southern Alleghenies Conservancy generously agreed to sponsor a \$35,000 grant that was received from the United States Office of Surface Mining to complete this phase of the project. Phase II involves the construction of two limestone trenches to treat several small acidic discharges polluting the headwaters of the South Fork Branch of the Little Conemaugh. The PACD Engineering Assistance Team is currently designing Phase III of the project, which will consist of a large treatment basin higher in the watershed. Excavation completed by Earth Shapers, LLC.



Little Conemaugh Watershed Association Receives New Project Signs



Nick Deitle, an 11th grader from Forest Hills High School recently constructed a series of educational signs for the South Fork Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Project. Nick developed and constructed the signs for the Little Conemaugh Wa-

tershed Association as part of his senior project. The signs will be placed along the treatment systems and headwaters above the village of Beaverdale later this fall, after Phase II of the project is complete.

Judy Kosmac, watershed association president, feels the signs are a perfect addition to the project and will let the community know why the project is there and who is involved. The signs are bright and eye catching, highlighting the native brook trout of the headwaters, the primary reason for the project.

Many partners have been involved in improving the South Fork headwaters including the PA Fish and Boat Commission, the Cambria County Conservation District, PA DEP and the local sportsman groups in the area. Through individual projects and grants, we are hoping to have a long-term improvement in the quality of our stream and the health of our watershed.



Resource Conservation & Development Program

Robert W. Piper, Jr.
District Manager



The Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation & Development Council and committees meetings were held on January 29th, April 30th and July 30th at the Arena Restaurant in Bedford. Commissioner Valenty (Clair Dumm-alternate) and Bob Ritchey (Dennis Beck-alternate) represented Cambria County at Council meetings. Robb Piper, District Manager is the Cambria County At-Large Member (Mike Illig-alternate) and was again elected Council Chairman. The Council Chair also has a seat on the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy (SAC) Board. John Dryzal, Assistant Manager, was elected again as the Resource Conservation/Land Use Committee Chair. Bobbie Blossosky of the District staff continued to do an excellent job of providing the quarterly updates to the council for all projects in Cambria County. The appropriate District representatives present these updates at each meeting. In 2010 there were eleven projects completed by the Council valued at \$1.97 million and nine new projects added valued at \$1.72 million.

There was one new Cambria County project accepted and approved for 2010. The *Green Roof at ART WORKS* project sponsored by ART WORKS in Johnstown was presented and accepted at the April 30th council meeting. The scope of work for this project includes the renovation of an existing building using a green, vegetative or living roof to reduce storm water runoff.

The council completed the *Annual Plan of Work* and the state NRCS office approved it. The *Circle of Diamonds* application was completed and submitted to the National Association of RC & D Councils and accepted. An Annual Report was also completed as part of the *Circle of Diamonds* requirement. At SAC, meetings were held bi-monthly. Bob Ritchey, Conservation District-Vice Chair and Jim Greco, Associate Director and the At-Large member are County representatives on the SAC board. Robb Piper has a seat, as well, as the RC&D Council Chair. Susan Llewellyn continued as administrative assistant and Emily Vaughn was accepted as an AmeriCorps participant.

On October 19, 2010 the State Association of RC&D Councils gathered for their annual meeting at Greensburg, PA. This was part of two-day *Strategic Thinking Session* to further direct the future of the organization. Robb Piper was elected to the unexpired (2012) term of Vice-Chair of the organization. Warren County Commissioner, Jack Preston is the Chair.



Feb. 5, 1990

*Southern Alleghenies
Resource
Conservation & Development
area created by
U.S. Congress.*

Clearfield & Chest Creek Watershed Association/Alliance

Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist

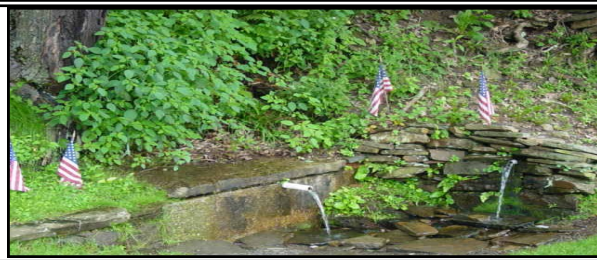


CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ⇒ Completed 3 trash cleanups on Rte. 53, Dean to Syberton (9 miles) and 1 on Rte. 36 from Ashville to Buckhorn.
- ⇒ Initiated two stream cleanups of Clearfield Creek from Dean to Ashville (5 miles).
- ⇒ Organized the Seventh Annual Fishing Derby for kids at Dysart – 104 participants.
- ⇒ Attained a membership of 125 members for 2010. Established a junior membership category-\$1.00 fee.
- ⇒ Continued to provide financial support for the “Trout in the Classroom” project at Penn Cambria Middle School.
- ⇒ Provided a field day for 30 PC students, 3 teachers: released fingerlings, stocked trout provided by PA Fish Commission, lunch, visited two environmental sites-Brubaker and Klondike.
- ⇒ Received the following grants: \$169,000-Feris Wheel Revegetation, DEP-EPA: \$15,000- Crabshell experiments, Foundation for PA Watershed: \$8,000- Sank Mine Treatment, ARIPPA/WPCAMR, plus road to site by PA Game Commission: \$10,500- Mapping in Muddy Run, Foundation for PA Watersheds.
- ⇒ Received a \$25,000 Working Capital donation, anonymous donor. Continued working on this campaign.
- ⇒ Constructed 4 experimental tanks for crabshell tests-KL1 site- working with Penn State professor Dr. Brennan.
- ⇒ Constructed an experimental “slag bed” to add alkalinity at the Klondike 1 site.
- ⇒ Conducted a fish assessment of Clearfield Creek near Ashville, showing satisfactory macroinvertebrate abundance and improving water quality.
- ⇒ Worked on design and permitting at the Amsbry discharge under a \$43,000 grant from the PA DEP.
- ⇒ Completed a final report on monthly sampling and remediation of 28 discharges into Muddy Run.
- ⇒ Planted more than 2,000 trees at Ferris Wheel and Klondike sites.
- ⇒ Applied for construction funding of treatment systems at the West Ferris Wheel discharges.
- ⇒ Signed both permit and grant applications for sites at Morgan Run.
- ⇒ Participated in a summer course and field trip for teachers at St. Francis University.
- ⇒ Collaborated on several research projects at our sites with Penn State University, Montclair State University, and St. Francis University.
- ⇒ Sampled the Ace Drilling site quarterly under contract with the DEP Office, Ebensburg.
- ⇒ Exhibited a display and discussed CCWA activities at the annual Cider Festival at Prince Gallitzin Park.
- ⇒ Assisted PA Fish Commission with stocking of fish in Clearfield Creek from Ashville to Dysart.
- ⇒ Cited as the **Outstanding Watershed Group of 2010** by the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition.

Clearfield & Chest Creek Watershed Association/Alliance

Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist



CHEST CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ⇒ Applied for a technical assistance through a grant from Trout Unlimited to do an inventory and evaluation of the discharges located in the Little Brubaker Run watershed.
- ⇒ Hosted the 5th Annual Kids Fishing Derby in May at Curly Hurd Park, Newburg Clearfield County, with over 100 kids participating.
- ⇒ Continue to sponsor and raise funds for our very successful annual fishing derby.
- ⇒ Continued to support actions against the Harmony Landfill in Chest Township, Clearfield County.
- ⇒ Worked with St. Francis University on a NOAA B-WET grant to develop curriculums on watersheds for Penn Cambria, Cambria Heights, and Portage teachers.
- ⇒ Exhibited a display and discussed Chest Creek Watershed Alliance activities at the annual Cider Festival at Prince Gallitzin Park.

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2011 AGENDA

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association is, once again, planning an aggressive agenda in 2011

- ⇒ Begin the Ferris Wheel Revegetation Project, reclaiming an additional 18 acres.
- ⇒ Continue to sponsor and raise funds for our very successful annual fishing derby.
- ⇒ Partner with Penn Cambria Middle School for the Trout In Classroom project and field trip.
- ⇒ Continue our efforts with the PFC and support of both the Cambria & Clearfield Co. Conservation Districts.
- ⇒ Advance our projects to treat acid mine discharge and improve the water quality of Clearfield Creek.

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2011 OFFICERS

President-Ed McMullen; President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and one Board Member are to be voted on at the annual meeting in January. Art Rose continues as the Tech Committee Chairman

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2011 MEETINGS

CCWA meets at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at the Prince Gallitzin Park, Main Office in the winter and Laurel Run Sportsman's Club in the summer, Dysart.

T & E Farms Heavy Use Stabilization Rouse Stream / Fugitive Tire Collection

Mark Stockley
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kelly Hughes, Land Resource/AmeriCorps



Heavy Use Stabilization—T & E Farms



In May a new **Heavy Use Area (HUA)** project was completed at T&E Farms. Cambria County Conservation District cost-shared the Allegheny Township project through Chesapeake Bay funding which stabilized an **HUA** on the livestock farm. The total cost of the project was \$9,993.48.

The coal combustion byproduct, fly ash, was used to stabilize the area. To do this, eighteen inches of earth is excavated and fly ash is applied in six inch lifts. Many gallons of water are applied and the area is compacted with a heavy, rubber-tired piece of equipment or a roller. When complete, the fly ash sets and is similar to concrete.

Fly ash is an excellent alternative to concrete because it is using an existing byproduct and it is much less expensive than concrete and stone. For this particular project the producers decided to add stone on top of the fly ash to provide extra traction for equipment.

HUA stabilization is important to our environment. Stabilizing a **Heavy Use Area** decreases erosion. Erosion causes too much sediment and nutrients to flow into nearby streams promoting too much algae growth. When the algae dies it consumes the oxygen in the water resulting in the death of plant life and fish. **Heavy Use Areas**, such as barnyards, can potentially be sources of nutrient runoff. By stabilizing the area manure from livestock can be scraped and removed and applied to fields appropriately.

Stream Bank Stabilization—Chest Creek

In July the Cambria County Conservation District partnered with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to create 490 linear feet of fish habitat on Chest Creek, which is a stocked trout stream. The CCCD also partnered with private land owner, John Rouse, to complete the project in East Carroll Township.

The project utilized devices such as multi-log vane deflectors with J-hooks, log faced stone deflectors, modified muddills and root wad deflectors. The multi-log vane deflectors with J-hooks are used to create cover for fish while the “J-hook” is built with medium sized stone boulders creating water disturbance and a nice pool on the downstream side for fish. The root wad deflectors help prevent stream bank erosion.

The wad absorbs the forceful current (such as a flooding event) and holds the bank in place while the roots provide habitat and cover for fish. The other devices also provide cover and habitat.

The project, which totaled \$14,185, was funded through the Special Project Funding Program of the Chesapeake Bay Program. This project not only provides fish habitat but many of the devices help preserve the bank and prevent erosion. Erosion into the stream causes sediment movement which can cause flooding further downstream.



Fugitive Tire Collection—Swiggle Mountain Road



Boy Scout Troop #11 out of Westmont, collected 539 tires improving Swiggle Mountain Road in Jackson Township, where tires were being dumped illegally. PA CleanWays of Cambria County received a \$2,500 grant for its Fugitive Tire Program from the Penelec Fund for the Future of Greater Johnstown and Robert Waters Charitable Trust, through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. Funding from the grant paid for proper tire disposal costs at a DEP approved facility.

Troop 11 completed the project with the cooperation of the landowner Magnum Industries, Amfire Mining Company and administration provided by PA CleanWays of Cambria County and Cambria County Conservation District. Our thanks to the parents, leaders and scouts of Troop 11 in Westmont who received a 50 cents per tire bounty from PA CleanWays of Cambria County.

PA CleanWays of Cambria County

Mark Stockley
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kelly Hughes, Land Resource/AmeriCorps



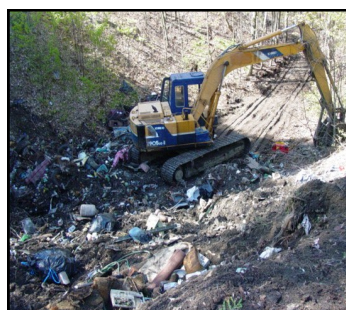
The illegal dump cleanup took place near Hockenberry Road in Elder Township, on a large former strip mine adjacent to beautiful Chest Creek. The landowner purchased the reclaimed mine land over 15 years ago, already littered. The landowner wanted the property to remain open for public fishing, but the problem grew worse. The landowner blocked extraneous paths onto the property and kept only one gate unlocked during peak trout season. Even with these measures, trash was discovered on the property as late as December 2009.

The Illegal Dump grant along with over 120 volunteer hours, including members of the Chest Creek Watershed Alliance, allowed PA CleanWays of Cambria County to remove over 150 tons of trash and 520 tires from the property. Boy Scout Troop #115 collected 460 tires for the CleanWays Fugitive Tire Program and received \$.50 per tire bounty from PA CleanWays of Cambria County, who also paid for proper tire disposal.

The property was divided into three "sites" or litter concentrations. Site 1 contained the largest volume of waste and included trash scattered along a ravine and a high wall from the previous mining operation. Sites 2 and 3 were situated further back from the main access road and were much smaller but included several tons of municipal waste dumped over hillsides. Fourteen volunteers spent a Saturday in April picking up trash from Sites 2 and 3 to remove all the trash from those sites so the grant funding would pay the contractor for Site 1 which included large items over a steep embankment. Volunteers filled a 30 yard roll-off box sending 3.34 tons of trash to the landfill with a large pile of scrap for recycling. Even with these efforts a small amount of waste remains at Sites 2 and 3.

D.J. Contracting from Curwensville, PA received the bid to clean up Site 1. Funding from Chest Creek Watershed Alliance, PA CleanWays State Chapter's Clean and Green Grant, PA CleanWays of Cambria County and the Cambria County Conservation District were added to the DEP Illegal Dump grant to complete Site 1 for a total of \$5,995.00. The contractor worked for 4 days using a UTV, excavator and hand picking to remove debris to ground level.

A DEP Grant, along with contributions from a local PA CleanWays Chapter, Chest Creek Watershed Alliance and the Conservation District has allowed PA CleanWays of Cambria County to remove over 150 tons of trash and keep access to a beautiful, stocked stream open and available for public use. It has allowed the landowner to keep his property debris free and the ability to identify any additional dumping on the property. During the cleanup, a name and number was identified among the trash and turned over to the PA Fish and Boat Commission who contacted the dumper and issued a fine, which will hopefully deter future dumping.



PA CleanWays Spring & Fall Appliance Collections



2010 Collection sites were held in Croyle Township, Tunnelhill Borough, Patton Borough, Cambria Township and Portage Township

On Rim Tires: 201

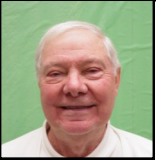
Off Rim Tires: 1295

Freon Appliances: 133

Non-Freon Appliances: 59

Board of Directors

Cambria County Conservation District



Clair J. Dumm (1997) Chairman since 1997. CCCD Manager 1971 –1996. As manager Clair expanded programming to nine areas including a grant to purchase a no-till grain drill for rental to county farmers in 1995. Clair received the *Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award* in 2010. Clair is a fourth generation farmer. His farm is a century farm purchased in 1865. Clair has been a Farm Game Cooperator with the PA Game Commission since 1964 and the farm is open to public hunting. He has been a Tree Farmer (#1629) since 1980 and in 2004 he received the *Conservation District's Outstanding Forest Management Award*. Other involvement includes PACD Executive Council Delegate, Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council, County Commissioner alternate, former East Carroll Township Supervisor and Stokes Club Board of Directors, St. Francis University. Clair lives with his wife Dee near Ebensburg and has five children.



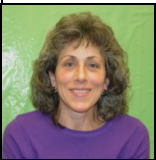
Robert E. (Bob) Ritchey (1998) has served as Vice Chairman for the past 10 years. Among his contributions to the District, Bob serves on the Environmental Education Committee (Chair), Water Resource, Operations and Personnel and the PACD Conservation Committee. He was appointed by Governor Rendell as a Conservation District Representative on the Act 220 Ohio River Basin Sub Committee. Bob is involved with the Stonycreek Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP), East Taylor Township Environmental Recreation Committee. He served on the Cambria/Somerset Counties and Southern Alleghenies Conservancies. Bob received the *Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation Volunteer of the Year Award* in 2001. Bob was Director of Ammunition Operations for the Department of Defense (Letterkenny Army Depot 5) when he retired in 1988. Bob and his wife Elaine live in Park Hill, PA.



Dennis C. Beck (2003) has served as Secretary/Treasurer for the past two years. Dennis chairs the Water Resource Committee and serves on the Operations and Personnel Committee. Dennis is adjunct faculty for Mt. Aloysius College in science and math. In addition to his responsibilities for the CCCD, Dennis served as Secretary for both the Portage Water Authority and the PA Rural Water Association and Water Quality Specialist for the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission. He has managed environmental issues surrounding windmills on watershed property and has involved over 300 local high school students in Earth Day activities. Dennis holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from Duquesne University and a master's degree in Environmental Pollution Control from Penn State. Dennis has received the *Ann Rudd Saxman Award* in 2009 and the *CCCD Watershed Protection Award* for the Trout Run Watershed Assoc. in 2003.



Mike Illig (2010) was inducted onto the board as a Public Director on January 6, 2010. He has served the district as an Associate Director from 2005—2009. Mike chooses to be a member of the District because he believes strongly in using our resources responsibly and advocates best conservation practices. Mike is self-employed and runs his own construction business. He is involved with the Youth League in Ebensburg and the Home Builders Association. Mike received the Beautification Award in 1995 for one of his apartments in Ebensburg. He has assisted with the county Envirothon and annual tree sale. Mike was born in Ebensburg and still lives there with his wife, Tina who is a piano teacher. One of his daughters attends Slippery Rock and another teaches at St. Francis University. His other daughter is in the Air Force, stationed in Guam and his son works for Penn Dot.



Shelly Craft (2010) became the first woman Farmer Director on January 6, 2010. Prior to joining, Shelly and husband Bob worked with District staff Mark Stockley and Lou Kopczyk on farmland preservation for Craft Farms and a nutrient management program. Shelly and Bob raise goats and beef cattle. Shelly works part time for the Cooperative Extension and is a member of the Extension Board and Program Advisory Board. Shelly has been a 4-H leader for seven years. She worked for Laurel Bank for 20 years. Shelly became a board member to be active in an organization that services many people and businesses, offering her knowledge in any way she can. Shelly assisted with Family Days, the annual tree sale and serves on the Education Committee. The Crafts live in Jackson Township and have three children. They spend most of their time farming and watching their middle daughter, Annie, run cross-country for Wilmington College.

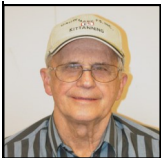
The Board of Directors—Act 217 Conservation District Law

The Conservation District Directors consists of farmer members, public members and a member of County Governing body to serve as a 7-9 member board without pay unless approved by the State Conservation Commission (SCC). The Board shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A majority of voting members will constitute a quorum.

The Board shall decide which programs and services to offer their community. The Board will establish and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water and other renewable natural resources on local, non-federal land. The Board of Directors is to identify local conservation needs and develop, implement and evaluate strategic plans to meet those needs. They are to develop a vision and a mission, set goals and priorities and hire staff to carry out programs and plans.

Board of Directors

Cambria County Conservation District



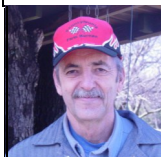
Patrick Stoltz (2003) came to the board as a Farmer Director in 2003 as a favor to Clair Dumm when Bob Beyers was unable to finish his term. Pat did not know too much about the Conservation District but was happy to help out. He was surprised at all the good information he has learned over the years about the District that was also helpful to him on his farm. Pat Stoltz has been a farmer all of his adult life and purchased his farm more than 40 years ago. He raises beef cattle and feed. He also worked for the Farm Bureau and Agway for over 30 years driving spreader trucks and later working inside, helping behind the counter and running the store. Bob was born in East Carroll Township. His farm is located in Nicktown where he lived with his wife, Hilda since they were married in 1962. The Stoltz' have one son and three grandsons. His son has a small farm and one of his grandsons is looking forward to running it one day.



Jerome Carl (1998) better known to his fellow board members as "Nixie", has been a Farmer Director for 12 years. He lives on a family farm first owned by his great-grandfather called Carl's Farms in Dysart. He has also worked in the sawmill and construction business for 23 years, building schools and colleges. He has been a member of the FSA (Farm Service Agency) for 38 years. He was president of the Cambria County Farm Bureau and still active on the membership committee. He is a member of the PA Beef Council, USDA Wildlife Committee and the State Farm of Directors. Nixie was named Farmer of the Year, 1980 in Cambria County and in 1981 for Pennsylvania. He serves as Chair of the Land Use Committee. He and his wife Dorothy have 5 children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandson who lives with Nixie and Dorothy. He participates in the District's Family Days and the tree sale.



Sam Valenty (2010) is a Cambria County Commissioner, appointed to the Conservation Board of Directors by the Commissioners, fulfilling the Conservation bylaws of having one commissioner on the board. Sam was reappointed for 2011. Sam has been self-employed for 55 years and is owner of Valenty Bottled Water. Sam has served as a board member for JARI, Mount Aloysius College, NorCam, American Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, Cambria County Planning Commission, Miner's Hospital, Community College Foundation and the Cambria County Alliance. He has received Honorary Doctorates from St. Francis University and Mount Aloysius College. He received the Economic Summit Award and the prestigious 4 Chaplains Award. Sam was born in Barnesboro and lives in Northern Cambria. Sam has a son Richard, a daughter Tammy, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Sam and his wife Sarah were married for 54 years.



James Benshoff (2006) was referred to the Conservation District in 2006 by Tom Smithmeyer, president of the PA Farm Bureau, when he became an Associate Director. Jim believed the objectives of the District were in line with his objectives as a farmer and in 2009 became a Farmer Director. Jim served as Director of the Farm Bureau for four years. Jim's farm is in New Germany but he grew up in Johnstown in Benshoff Hill. His family is one of the fourteen founding families of Johnstown owning part of what is now called Cambria City. He is a sixth generation farmer and strives to keep his farm in a high state of cultivation for the next generation, a drive handed down to him by his grandfather who Jim calls an early conservationist always working to protect the soil. Jim's farm produces vegetables, hay and grain. He lives on the farm with his wife Bess and his daughter Cindy who is in partnership with him and will likely take over the farm one day.



Meet the Staff

Cambria County Conservation District



Robert W. Piper, Jr./District Manager (1984) Robb was hired as the first erosion control technician and became the first assistant manager for the District. He became manager in 1997. Under him the County Geographic Information Center for Cambria County was established in 1999. He chairs the Dirt & Gravel Roads County Quality Assurance Board (1998); The Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council (2006) and serves as a board member on the South Alleghenies Conservancy, Cambria & Somerset Counties Conservancy, PA Forestry Association, Jackson Township Water Authority and Johnstown Sportsman Association. Robb is president of the Johnstown Rifle & Pistol Club and secretary of the Cambria County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs. In 2010 Governor Rendell appointed Robb to the statewide Water Resource Committee which is charged with implementing Act 220/State Water Resources Planning Act of 2002. Robb graduated Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Science. Robb resides with his wife Pam in Jackson Township.

John Dryzal/Assistant Manager (1993) John was hired as the first watershed specialist and became assistant manager in 1997. John directly administers No-Till Drill rentals, internships, AmeriCorps and grant administration and is involved in nearly every program the District provides. He was certified in nutrient management planning, completed a watershed assessment, reviewed E&S plans and continues to assist with environmental education. He is a member of the PACD Ways and Means Committee and chairs the Southern Alleghenies RC&D Land/Resource Conservation Committee. From 1997-2008 John was park director for Duman Lake County Park where he made significant improvements. John graduated St. Francis College with a degree in biology. He lives in Jackson Township with his wife Lisa, and two children.

Mary Ellen Bard/Administrative Assistant (1999) Ellie keeps the office organized but she does so much more adding her creativity and conservation ideals to the District's mission. Ellie took the Tree Sale from 2500 pine seedlings in 2000 to 15,172 plants, trees and shrubs in 2009 making this a viable fundraiser. Ellie has been a 4-H leader for 29 years which prompted her to create a one day *4-H Youth Day* in 2000 and then developed it into a two day *Family Days* event. She offers her expertise in Environmental Education with lessons on birds, pumpkin seeds and soy beans. She assists with the Envirothon and up until Oct. 2010 has handled all the public relations responsibilities. Ellie and her family operate Bard Farms raising cattle, hogs and crops. Ellie lives in Summerhill with her husband and three children.

Bobbie Blososky/Resource Specialist (2000) Bobbie's responsibilities are delegated by DEP and include administration of the Chapter 102, *Erosion Control Program*, Chapter 92, *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting Program* and the Chapter 105 *General Permitting Program*. Bobbie handles the quarterly RC&D project updates. She is also responsible for the county's Dirt and Gravel Roads program. Bobbie graduated the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a degree in civil engineering technology.

Jeff Fyock/Resource/Water Treatment Specialist (2001) Jeff's responsibilities include administration of Chapter Programs 102 *Erosion Control*, 92 *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting* and 105 *General Permitting*. He brings experience in environmental engineering, site development planning and erosion control. Jeff graduated the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

Meet the Staff

Cambria County Conservation District



Louis A. Kopczyk, P.E./County Engineer (2001) Lou serves as the county's Nutrient Management Specialist and Agricultural Conservation Engineering Technician, administering both of these State programs throughout the county. Lou has experience in dairy, beef, and crop production, agricultural custom operator and decades of working for conservation districts. Lou graduated The Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering

Bryan Rabish/Watershed Specialist (2000) Bryan's territory is the northern half of the county, covering the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, Clearfield Creek and Chest Creek watersheds which all flow to the Chesapeake Bay. This position was created through the Growing Greener initiative, established by Governor Tom Ridge. Bryan first came to the District in 1998 through AmeriCorps as a water quality technician, serving for 2 years before being hired as a water specialist. Bryan provides technical assistance to watershed groups and conducts watershed assessments and macroinvertebrate studies. Bryan's favorite projects have been on Clearfield & Chest Creeks because the work gave both watershed groups working documents they were able to use to apply for grant monies to correct problems outlined in the assessment. Bryan graduated California University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology.

Jacqueline Ritko/Resource Conservation Supervisor (1995) Jackie works on water quality restoration projects in the Little Conemaugh Watershed and supervises and coordinates the environmental education programs. Jackie most enjoys delivering elementary school programs in the wetland behind Disaster's Edge (St. Michael, PA) the environmental education center for the District. She received the Sandy Cochran Award for Excellence in Natural Resource Education in 2007 from the PA Forestry. Jackie graduated the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a bachelor's degree in geology. She lives in Salix with her husband Dennis and three children.

Mark Stockley/Resource Conservation Supervisor (1993) Mark's programs include the Chesapeake Bay Program, Agricultural Land Preservation, Growing Greener and Keep Cambria County Beautiful. His favorite projects are stream restoration projects because they are hands on physical labor stabilizing erosion and nutrient overload, making a real difference in conservation. He also enjoys working on farm preservation. Mark graduated the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a bachelor's degree in geography.



Conservation District Budget—Expenses

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

EXPENDITURES	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET
Salaries/Personal Services	278,758.91	289,210.00
Staff Benefits	114,605.51	121,315.00
Office Supplies	1,407.50	1,200.00
Postage	2,724.22	2,800.00
Advertising	635.00	600.00
Computer Services	305.00	-
Audit	1,975.00	1,975.00
Telephone	2,957.20	1,950.00
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	630.90	600.00
Copier/Fax Leases	8,233.06	7,985.00
Association Dues	3,669.00	3,919.00
Mileage, Tolls, Parking	5,781.64	6,000.00
Meetings, Lodging, Meals	2,132.25	1,700.00
Equipment Repair	524.13	800.00
Vehicle Repair	630.68	1,500.00
Environmental Education Center Operation	5,962.21	7,900.00
Vehicle Lease	4,556.00	5,556.00
Community Urban Forestry	-	600.00
Project Grass	4,441.21	-
AmeriCorps	20,100.00	22,500.00
Chesapeake Bay Program Costs	83.00	500.00
Nutrient Management - Mini Grant	1,000.00	-
PACD Mini Grant	250.00	2,500.00
No Till Drill Incentive Program	1,351.50	1,781.00
Little Conemaugh Super 7	-	61,700.00
Shoemaker Fencing Project	7,994.78	-
Chesapeake Bay Indiana Admin	-	500.00
Trout Run Phase I	3,405.00	162,147.00
South Fork AMD	-	73,272.00
Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization	43,500.00	-
Rouse Special Bay Grant	14,185.00	-
Illegal Dump Grant	6,220.00	-
Lieb Heavy Use Stabilization	-	16,280.00
Myers Grazing/Cropland Conversion	-	6,720.00
Hines Fencing	1,614.50	-
DEP/EPA Grant	-	10,300.00
Computer Equipment	1,280.00	-
Total Expenses	\$ 540,913.20	\$ 813,810.00

Conservation District Budget—Income

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

INCOME	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET
County Commissioners	261,338.41	192,034.00
Erosion & Sediment Fees	32,830.00	25,000.00
No-Till Drill Rental Fees	11,060.80	10,000.00
Copier/Postage/supplies/Mil Reimbursement	800.00	800.00
Other Income - Truck payment	1,000.00	-
Manager/1st Technician/2nd Technician	32,538.89	43,500.00
Administrative Assistance	4,014.72	1,610.00
Watershed Specialists	42,887.42	64,000.00
Act 6/Nutrient Management	5,100.53	11,575.00
Agriculture Conservation Engineer	16,536.98	20,732.00
Chesapeake Bay Technician	39,688.36	56,000.00
Project Grass	4,441.21	-
Urban Forestry Project	600.00	600.00
Nutrient Management Mini	1,000.00	-
PACD Mini Grant	1,700.00	2,500.00
Farmland Preservation Admin Reimbursement	723.78	-
PA CleanWays Admin Reimbursement	566.66	2,000.00
Education Program Fees	4,000.00	4,000.00
Chest Creek Assessment	100.00	-
No Till Incentive Grant	-	1,613.00
Little Conemaugh Super 7	-	61,700.00
Shoemaker Fencing Project	7,994.78	-
Trout Run Phase I	-	162,149.00
South Fork AMD	3,843.81	73,272.00
Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization Grant	43,500.00	-
Rouse Special Bay Grant	14,185.00	-
Illegal Dump Grant	6,220.00	-
Lieb Heavy Use Stabilization	-	16,280.00
Myers Grazing/Cropland Conversion	-	6,720.00
Hines Fencing Project	1,530.00	-
DEP/EPA Grant	-	25,625.00
USDA/NRCS Contribution	2,711.85	12,100.00
Community Foundation Grant	-	20,000.00
Total Program Fees & Reimbursement	\$ 279,574.79	\$ 621,776.00
Total Income	\$ 540,913.20	\$ 813,810.00

Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps



John S. Dryzal, Assistant Manager



Anna Gibbs—Communications Specialist

Anna joined AmeriCorps in 2010 and is in the position of Communications Specialist for the Conservation District.

Anna was born in New York but has lived in Johnstown since 1996 with her husband, George and sons, Michael and Anthony.

Anna is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Creative Writing. Her position here has her using those skills to write press releases, public service announcements and summary articles for events held by the CCCD. Anna is responsible for the newsletters and this annual report and recently established a Facebook page and e-newsletter for the District.

Anna is a freelance contributor to Johnstown Magazine. She has been a substitute teacher, an employment counselor and special events director.

Kelly Hughes—Land Resource Specialist

Kelly is in her second year with AmeriCorps and the Conservation District. Kelly is our Land Resource Specialist with a special interest in agronomy, making her invaluable while working on agriculture projects, land restoration projects, education and most recently on farmland preservation.

Kelly was born in Virginia and holds a Bachelor and a Masters from Virginia Tech in Crop & Soil Environmental Science. Kelly worked as a technician with a Small Grains Breeding program, working with wheat and barley and has also been a Research Associate for a Forage Specialist.

We will say good-bye to Kelly in August, but she will never be forgotten. We wish her the best of luck and a warm thank you as she and husband, Chris, plan to move back to Kelly's native Virginia.



Kourtney Penatzer—Environmental Education Specialist

Kourtney graduated from Slippery Rock University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. She worked as an organic analyst for almost five years in an environmental laboratory doing government permit analyzation. Currently she is working with Jackie Ritko educating Cambria County's school students in conservation and environmental awareness. Kourtney is also coordinating the Marcellus Shale public workshops. When her AmeriCorps term is done she plans on moving out west with her husband and obtaining her Master's in Environmental Education/Water Quality.

AmeriCorps and the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps (PMSC)

The PA Mountain Service Corps is a local affiliate of AmeriCorps. It all began in 1964 when President Lyndon B. Johnson started the endeavor of encouraging American citizens into Community service with VISTA—Volunteers In Service To America. In 1990 President George H.W. Bush signed the National Service Act formally launching AmeriCorps, which then encompassed VISTA. In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the National and Community Service Act formally bringing all service projects under the umbrella of one organization.

Organizational Chart



Board of Directors/District Staff

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
Jeff Fyock, Resource/Water Treatment Specialist
G. William Myers, Per Diem

Directors

Clair J. Dumm, Chairman
Robert Ritchey, Vice Chairman
Dennis Beck, Secretary/Treasurer
Sam Valenty, Commissioner
James Benshoff
Mike Illig
Jerome Carl
Patrick Stolz
Shelly Craft

Associate Directors

Bob Davis	Bill Barbin
Jeff Kuzar	Ray Gorman
David Shoemaker	Bob Schweitzer
Mike Barton	James Greco
Ed Smith	Larry Olsavsky
Walden Vorhauer	Pamela Piper
John Yuhas	Charlie Moyer
Eugene Eckenrode	Herb Wilson
John Nibert	George Hritz
Tony Sossong	Gary Scott

AmeriCorps Members 2009/2010

Kelly Hughes
Nathan Quist

AmeriCorps Members 2010/2011

Anna Gibbs Kelly Hughes
Kourtney Penatzer

UPJ Intern

Eric Kuzmiak



2010 Board Meeting Perfect Attendance

Mike Illig—Public Director





401 Candlelight Drive, Suite 221, 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.

<http://www.co.cambria.pa.us/conservation>

