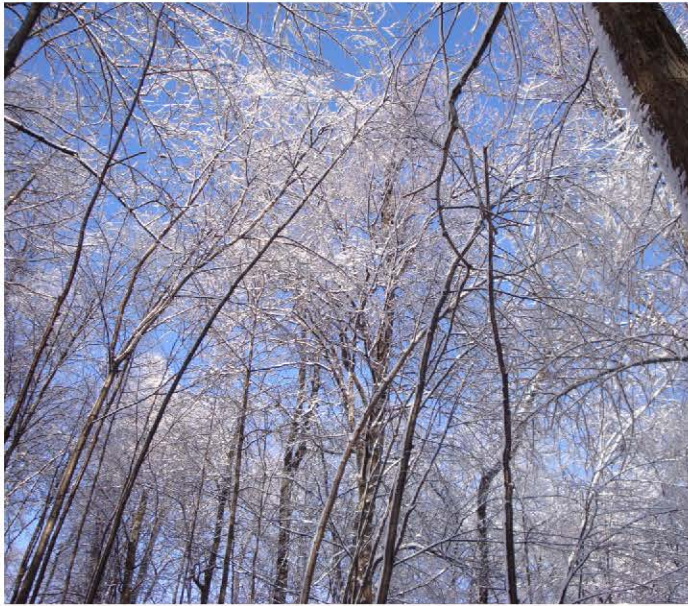


The Many Colors of Conservation



*2011 Annual Report
Cambria County Conservation District*

Manager's Perspective

Robert W. Piper, Jr.
District Manager



In reference to the theme of “Colors of Conservation,” I want to take a moment to talk about a few colors that stood out in 2011. The first color that comes to mind is the color orange. The Conservation District’s Super 7 Project has a goal of establishing a sport fishery and eliminating the color orange from the Little Conemaugh River (LCR). There was a flurry of activity in 2011 to promote the St. Michael Discharge Water Treatment Plant proposed by Rosebud Mining and the Hughes Discharge Water Treatment Plant proposed by AmFire Mining near Jamestown. These two sites of the Super 7 have a devastating impact on the color of the South Fork LCR and main stem of the river.

Never before has the private sector offered to provide millions of dollars to treat abandoned mine drainage for the Little Conemaugh. Acquisition of their NPDES discharge permits are the hurdle ahead and time is running out. This needs to be resolved NOW. Federal and State Legislators have been called; Secretary Krancher has visited the sites; local watershed and sportsmen’s organizations have written letters; and the local press has shown interest along with the City of Johnstown officials.

The Stonycreek River was named Pennsylvania’s River of the Year for 2012. Wouldn’t it be wonderful for this to happen for the Little Conemaugh someday? Believe it or not, it is within reach.

The other color I want to mention is the color black, which is the color of the Marcellus shale. Instead of forming a county task force, the Conservation District assisted the County Commissioners by expanding the Water Resources & Watershed Development Committee to include representatives from local municipal governments, DEP, water authorities, county planning and a cadre of local experts on the Conservation District’s Associate Director list. Workshops on a variety of related subjects were held across Cambria County for the public on shale gas development and impacts. All information provided was truthful and verifiable as directed by the Commissioners. Each committee meeting had a guest speaker and program. The data logger program with local water authorities was simultaneously launched, along with contributions from the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

We all worked very hard to show success stories for our mission in 2011. Thank you to everyone who is a part of making the environment greener and clearer in Cambria County.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Piper, Jr.
District Manager

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Annual Awards Banquet

Cambria County Conservation District Banquet
May 25th—Carrolltown Fireman's Banquet Hall



Shades of Honor

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 and outreach, and best environmental practices in their lives and/or businesses.



Rembrandt Club



Jim and Cindy Benshoff



Dolly Little and Bob Beyer



Dennis and Carole Sheehan

Farm Service Agency 40 Years of Service Award
Robert Beyer

Bureau of Forestry: Wildlife Habitat Improvement projects on the Gallitzin State Forest

George Eckenrode (Chest Springs)

Joe Krug (Portage)

Gene Dryzal (Johnstown)

Harper and Gallo, Inc.

NWTF – Chesquehanna Spur Chapter

NWTF – Allegheny Mountain Local Chapter

QDMA – Laurel Highlands Branch

Johnstown Sportsmen's Association

Cambria County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Johnstown Rod and Gun Club

Golden Rod Sportsmen Club

Conservation Educator of the Year

Mark E. Anderston

Bishop McCort Catholic High School

Special Conservation Service Award

Edgar Westrick

Conservation Organization of the Year

Rembrandt Club

Watershed Protection Award

PA Fish & Boat Commission

Stream Habitat Division

Erosion & Sedimentation Pollution Control Award

Cambria CoGen Company

Natural Area & Heritage Preservation Award

USDI National Park Service

Soisson Public Recreation Award

PA Fish & Boat Commission Lake Habitat Division

Conservation Farmer of the Year

James & Cindy Benshoff

Benshoff Farms

Forest Management Award

Dennis & Carole Sheehan

Urban Conservation Award

Edwin A. Long



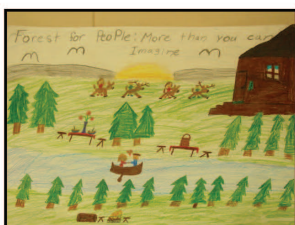
Annual Awards Banquet

Cambria County Conservation District Banquet
May 25th—Carrolltown Fireman's Banquet Hall

Poster Contest: "Forests for People: More than you can Imagine!"

The contest was judged on April 18, 2011. The first place winners received a \$50 savings bond, a trophy, and entry in the state competition. Ellen Simmerman and Nikolas Suckinos placed first in the state level and will be judged at the national level in February of 2012. 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:



Brook Graffius, Grade 3
C.C. Christian School



Ellen Simmerman, Grade 6
Benjamin Franklin E.S.



Nikolas Suckinos, Grade 8
All Saints E.S.



Amy Wiesheier, Grade 12
Forest Hills H.S.

Second Place Winners:

Jacob Urban, Grade 3, C.C. Christian School
Sabrina Fitzsimmons, Grade 7, All Saints E.S.
Sue Ellen Bartek, Grade 9, Glendale H.S.
Danielle Steen, Grade 11, Forest Hills H.S.

Third Place Winners:

Kyle Sokira, Grade 3, C.C. Christian School
Sarah McAndrew, Grade 5, All Saints E.S.
Emily Miller, Grade 9, Cambria Heights M.S.
Lyndsey Wright, Grade 10, Forest Hills H.S.

Grassland Scholarship

Cambria County 4-H Team members Dalton Wilson, Martin Venesky, Dawn Craft, and Christian Newman held on to their champion title as they claimed first place in the 2011 Grasslands Evaluation Contest held at Penn State University on May 3. With a cumulative score of 827 points out of a possible 900, each team member won a \$500 college scholarship. They were joined by Todd Shaffer, an alternate team member. Coaches, Virgil Wilford of NRCS and Kelly Hughes of AmeriCorps, proudly led the team in their ninth win in nine years! Due to placing in the top four scoring positions of the *Soils Division*, Dawn Craft and Dalton Wilson were also recipients of a new award from the Keystone Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. They both received a one year student membership to SWCS, an organization dedicated to soil, water, and natural resources management in sustainable ways.



Virgil Wilford, Todd Shaffer, Dalton Wilson,
Martin Veneskey, Dawn Craft, Christian Newman

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

Shades of Honor

Agricultural Conservation Engineering Technician

Louis Kopczyk, P.E., County Engineer



The Conservation District receives funding for the Agricultural Conservation Technician/Engineer (ACT) Special Project through an agreement with the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission. The agreement requires the Conservation District to employ a technician to provide assistance to landowners in Cambria County.

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.

\$21,378 was allocated to Cambria County through this program for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. In 2011, assistance with the following items was provided through the ACT Program:

- ◇ One-on-one assistance to farm operators concerning agricultural erosion control
- ◇ Assistance with the Conservation District's drill rental program
- ◇ Dumm spring development design. Project cost estimate: \$1,500
- ◇ Brown grazing system expansion design. Project cost estimate: \$2,200
- ◇ Craft roof runoff management/livestock watering system design. Project cost estimate: \$7,100
- ◇ Brown livestock watering system design
- ◇ O'Donnell diversion design. Project cost estimate: \$500
- ◇ Sawyer diversion design. Project cost estimate: \$700
- ◇ Nagle heavy use area stabilization inventory and evaluation
- ◇ Jackson Township pond inventory and evaluation
- ◇ Radio program interviews were conducted to provide information to County residents regarding agricultural best management practices.
- ◇ The County was represented at meetings of Southwest Project Grass through this Program.
- ◇ The Southwest Project Grass Annual Field Day was hosted at the Brown Black Angus Farm with 50 people attending. Two grants were received for the Annual Field Day: Southwest Project Grass \$100 grant and Pennsylvania Grazing/Forage Lands Conservation Coalition \$200 grant.



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.



*Fly & Manure Management Workshop:
Elizabeth Santini, PA Dept of Agriculture
William Clouser, PA State Conservation
Commission*



The workshop was held at the Conservation District's educational facility: The Disaster's Edge.



After lunch, all attendees toured a local farm to observe applied conservation methods.

In 2011, articles were prepared to provide information on the Program to County residents through local newspapers. Radio program interviews were also conducted. One-on-one meetings and conversations were conducted with farm operators to answer questions about the regulations. A meeting with cooperating agencies was conducted to plan for the educational needs of the Program. A Fly Management/Nutrient Management workshop was conducted for the public in March, and presentations were given at the Farm Bureau Agency Breakfast Meetings. Two Nutrient Management Plans for concentrated animal operations and one volunteer plan were reviewed and approved, five complaints were investigated, and two status reviews were conducted. A Reciprocal Agreement for the Program was updated with the Blair County Conservation District. A number of equine operations were contacted to assist them in determining if they fell under the regulation requirements. The Conservation District hosted a training meeting for Conservation District Nutrient Management Specialists. Information was provided to farm operators concerning revisions to Pennsylvania's Manure Management Manual.

Earthy Tones

Forest Management

Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager



Pennsylvania Forestry Association & Tree Farm Program

Robb Piper, Board member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) Board of Directors attended the Annual Meeting held September 16—17, 2011 at the Mont Alto Campus of Penn State in Franklin County. He serves as a Public Sector Director and has been on the Board since 1990. 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 which grows saw-timber trees, Christmas trees or any wood fiber fuel for fuel or paper or which produce forest product (i.e. maple syrup) to qualify for the program.

Robb assisted in the re-inspection of one Tree Farm in 2011 for the Carmelite Community of the Word (TF #3288) in Allegheny Township consisting of 32 acres. This inspection was required as part of Pennsylvania's program audit to meet national requirements.

One new tree farm was submitted for Pioneer certification status. This was the O'Donnell Property consisting of 52 acres that qualified in Cambria Township.

Forest Stewardship Program

The Conservation District also provides landowners with 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 called CAP 106 Forest Management Plans. The PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry acts in a technical advisory capacity to NRCS now.

Robb continued his qualifications as a Plan Writer under this program after going through the requirements to become a Technical Service Provider through USDA. A plan was developed for the Brandon and Amy O'Donnell Farm Property located in Cambria Township. This 115 acres farm has about 42 acres of woodlot that qualified for planning. He also attended a workshop on the Golden Winged Warbler Habitat, which was held at Powder Mill Nature Reserve.



No-Till Drill Program Flyash Project & Ag. Preservation

John Dryzal, Assistant Manager
Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor

No-Till Rental Program

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

Number of Rentals 14

6 New Customers



2011 was a challenging year for our no-till drill rental program. Due to the extraordinary wet spring and fall the use was down about 55% over previous years. However, as was the case last year, 43% of the users were new customers who have never rented before.

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.

Total Acreage: 314.7 acres

Total Revenue: \$4,104.00

Drill	No. of Users	Acres Planted
Truax:	2	73.7
John Deere:	5	173.4
Haybuster:	7	67.6

Drills are used for planting grass and small grains

No-Till Incentive Program

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation
Supervisor

The No-Till Incentive Program pays farmers who utilize no-till on their farm for the first time, planting cover crops, grasses, legumes, small grains, soybeans, and corn. The rate of

cost share depends on the acreage and the crop being planted. In 2011, four Cambria County producers in the Bay Watershed participated to plant 128 acres of cover crops, including corn, hay, and soybeans. The total amount paid to those producers in 2011 was \$1,613.12.

Barr Ridge Farms Flyash Project

Mark Stockley,
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kelly Hughes, AmeriCorps

In the Summer of 2011, Birchall Excavating began and finished their flyash project on Barr Ridge Farms in Nicktown, PA. The project, which was located between several barns, was done to help reduce sediment runoff and to stabilize their heavy use area. Approximately 1,200 tons of flyash, 660 tons of driving surface aggregate (DSA) stone, and 47,000 gallons of water were used to complete the project. The Conservation District gave a cost share of \$23,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Program for the 24,000 squarefoot project. The total project value was \$30,525. The Flyash was provided by the Cambria County Cogen and Transported there by Himmel Trucking.

Agricultural Preservation Program

Mark Stockley,
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kelly Hughes, AmeriCorps

In 2011 one farm was added to the Agricultural Preservation Program. The 80-acre Karlheim Farm located in Clearfield Township was added for a generous donation of \$1.00.



Earthy Tones

Envirothon

Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kourtney Penatzer, AmeriCorps



Bright Minds

The County Envirothon was held at the District's educational facility, Disaster's Edge, on May 3rd. 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 –Salt and Freshwater Estuaries. Twenty-five teams from 10 different schools participated in this year's County Envirothon.

This year, Northern Cambria High School took first and second place in the county Envirothon. Northern Cambria Team I placed first and Northern Cambria Team II placed second. Coming in third was the team from Forest Hills Middle School. This year was the first time we had a Middle School team take home a winning prize! The other participating high schools were Bishop Carroll, Cambria Heights, Conemaugh Valley, Forest Hills, Glendale, 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 Northern Star Generation Service Company/Cambria CoGen, AC Colver Power, Galliker's Dairy, Nickles Bakery, and Valenty Bottled Water.

2nd Place—N. Cambria Team II:
Kevin Zedack, Adrienne Tubo,
Kelli Long, Haley Mason, Joe Stolz



1st Place—N. Cambria Team I:
Justin Gregg, Andy Baran,
Stephen Prasko, Zachary Hull,
Mike Stolz

3rd Place—Forest Hills Middle School:
Ian Miller, Jesse Erb, Ben Barclay,
Cheyenne Probst, Renae Kakabar



The top three teams received a trophy, Cambria County Envirothon T-shirts, and dinner at the Conservation Awards Banquet. This District sponsored the first place team at the state contest. Northern Cambria Team I competed in the PA State Envirothon at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown on May 24-25 and placed 13th.



Community Workshops

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

The Conservation District consistently provides education opportunities to the public focusing on current environmental issues. Mary Ellen Bard worked closely with Tom Ford, a horticulturalist from the Cambria County Cooperative Extension Office, to organize a variety of workshops containing information on pest control and orchard and landscape management. These workshops were held at the Cambria County Cooperative Extension Office and were offered at no cost to attendees.

On September 29th an informative session about the *Brown Marmorated Stinkbug (BMS)* was attended by 7 people. During this workshop, attendees learned how the BMS came to exist in our area, which plants and objects attract the pest (did you know light-colored houses attract the BMS), and about possible eradication methods (chemical solutions, natural predators, safe disposal, etc). The information delivered by Tom Ford was especially pertinent to local farmers; the BMS can have very damaging effects on many crops. Homeowners picked up useful tips on how to keep the nuisance pest out of their house and what to do if they already have an infestation.



There were three separate workshops on orchard and landscape management. The first was held on April 19th – *Managing the Home Orchard*. This workshop covered basic pruning techniques and strategies for fruit trees to educate homeowners on growing quality fruit in their backyards. On April 26th the second of the series was offered – *Landscape Maintenance for the Weekend Gardener*. Home gardeners learned basic landscape techniques in order to expertly plant and maintain their home landscape. The third and final workshop was held on October 12th – *Orchard and Landscape Management*. The purpose of this workshop was to provide attendees with information on what they can do today to prevent a problem with their trees, plants, and lawns in the Spring. All three workshops were widely attended, with as many as 79 people at one session.

Bright Minds

Educational Programs

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kourtney Penatzer, AmeriCorps
Nathan Marsh, AmeriCorps



Testing Water Quality with St. Benedict's

On October 13, a group of 8th graders from St. Benedict's came to the Edge to learn about Macroinvertebrae. The day started with Jackie Ritko, Nathan Marsh, and Bryan Rabish, CCCD Watershed Specialist, conducting a review of what macroinvertebrae are, why they are important to our ecosystem, and how they can be an inexpensive method of indicating water quality. After being divided into groups and outfitting themselves with rain boots, fishing nets, and buckets, the students walked to the stream in the 1889 Park to collect leaf packs and debris in an effort to find a variety of macroinvertebrae. Back at the Edge, each group sifted through the leaves, water, and muck to find the organisms. They sorted them into water-filled egg crates and used a chart to identify each organism. Bryan hosted a question and answer session where the students discussed which organisms they found, where the stream would rank on water quality, and why there may not be as many organisms in this creek as in others. The day concluded with Mary Vibostok, Vector Control, teaching the students about her work studying mosquitos, the dangers associated with them, and eradication methods. Linda Ondriezek, a teacher from St. Benedict's, said that it was a "wonderful experience for our students."

Skills of Central PA Visits the Edge

The Edge hosted five adults from Skills of Central PA on November 7. Skills offers individuals with disabilities the opportunity to explore their strengths and interests. The center allows its clients to partake in activities focusing on everyday needs as well as recreational activities. The men and women who attended the session at the Edge thoroughly enjoyed learning about and getting up close and personal with the critters. Jackie and Nate talked about the wildlife mounts and showed the group the turtles, lizard and snake. The goal of Skills is to promote independence and enhance everyday lives. We are happy to provide educational opportunities to people of all ages and abilities.

2nd Graders Learn How to Identify Animals

On December 14th, 21 second graders from Cambria County Christian School came to Disaster's Edge to study pelts, tracks, and scat of a variety of animals. As the students filed into the building, they made exclamations of excitement when they saw the animals, "Whoa! Look at all the animals! Awesome!" After they settled down, Nate gave each student a sheet with a list of animals. At the front of the room on a long table lay molds of scat and tracks and real animal pelts. The children worked together to match the molds and the pelts to the animals on their sheets. After Nate shared interesting facts about each of the animals (the opossum has the most teeth of any mammal in the U.S.), Jackie went around the room and talked about the many critters found in our Educational Facility. The students were extremely excited when they were allowed to touch the turtles and Lola, the snake.



Educational Programs

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kourtney Penatzer, AmeriCorps
Nathan Marsh, AmeriCorps



In 2011, the Conservation District conducted 25 Environmental Education Programs for over 1300 students. Most programs are taught at the Disaster's Edge facility and the 1889 Park, but upon request they can be taught off-site. Throughout the year, students learned about birds, PA wildlife, animal classification and habitats, tree identification, soil composition, and reptiles and amphibians. We have predesigned programs and we are able to design a specific program to meet the needs of the teachers and students.



Bright Minds

Keep Cambria County Beautiful

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kelly Hughes and Stephen Balamuta, AmeriCorps



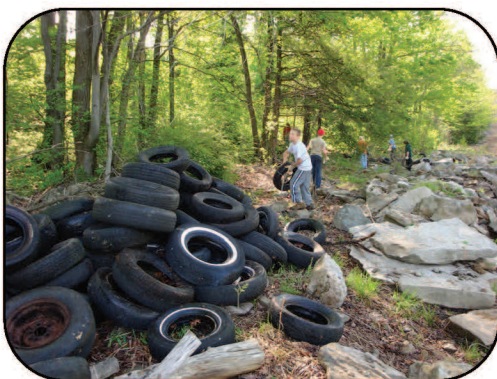
PA CleanWays of Cambria County joined the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and PA CleanWays merger and is now known as Keep Cambria County Beautiful (KCCB). KCCB shares the mission to empower Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful.

Tire & Appliance Collections

The Conservation District once again paired with KCCB to offer tire and appliance collections to the 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. The collection sites for 2011 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 2011	Fall 2011	Total 2011
Tires off-rim	733	527	1,260
Tires on-rim	133	97	230
Freon Appliances	72	67	139
Non-Freon Appliances	48	17	65
Total Money Collected	\$4,423.10	\$3,488.00	\$7,911.11

Fugitive Tire Collection



In 2011, Boy Scouts from the Johnstown and Hasting areas collected approximately 1,324 tires from Cambria County roadsides through the Fugitive Tire Program. 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. A grant from the Penelec Fund and Community Foundation for the Alleghenies also helped to fund proper disposal of the tires collected from the Swiggle Mountain Road site.

We had two Boy Scout Troops participate in the Fugitive Tire Cleanups in 2011. Boy Scout Troop #115 of Hastings, PA helped to collect approximately 500 illegally dumped tires on April 2, 2011 from township roads in Northern Cambria County. Boy Scout Troop #11 of Johnstown, PA helped to collect 824 illegally dumped tires from Swiggle Mountain Road on April 30, 2011. We are very grateful to the parents, leaders, and scouts of Troops #115 and #11 for their efforts.



State Game Lands Cleanup Geothermal Heating Project

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor

State Game Lands Cleanup

Mark Stockley,
Resource Conservation Supervisor
Stephen Balamuta, AmeriCorps



On November 19, 2011, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful along with volunteers from Blacklick Valley High School and First Baptist Church worked together to remove tires and trash from three sites along Church Street. This area is within State Game Lands 79, located in Nanty-Glo, PA. Of the three sites, the first dumpsite was the most difficult because most of the trash was on or at the bottom of a steep slope. The hard work from all of our volunteers is greatly appreciated. A total of 279 tires and 2,080 pounds of trash were removed from State Game Lands 79.



Disaster's Edge Geothermal Project

Jackie Ritko,
Resource Conservation Supervisor

In February of 2011, the county received a grant from the Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies in the amount of \$24,000 to purchase and install a geothermal system to offset energy costs at Disaster's Edge. A closed loop geothermal system utilizing a four-ton geothermal heat pump was installed in December 2011. Natcher Drilling of Ebensburg was contracted to install the system – including the drilling of three 220 foot wells. We are expecting to see a significant cost-savings from the baseboard electric heat we have been utilizing at the center over the winter. District educators plan to use this system when they present alternative energy programs at Disaster's Edge.



Clean & Green

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association

Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist



CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◇ Completed 3 trash cleanups on Rte. 53 from 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 Eighth Annual Fishing Derby for kids at Dysart. It was very successful with 128 participants.
- ◇ Attained a membership of 125 members for 2011. Continued a junior membership category—\$1 fee.
- ◇ Continued to provide financial support for the “Trout in the Classroom” project at Penn Cambria Middle School. Approved financial support for the “Trout in the Classroom” project at Glendale School District.
- ◇ Provided a field day for 93 Penn Cambria students and 3 teachers: Released fingerlings, stocked trout provided by PA Fish Commission, provided lunch, and visited the Brubaker environmental site.
- ◇ Received the following grants: \$406,709—West Ferris Wheel construction; DEP-EPA \$43,098—Gibson project design; DEP-EPA \$5,300—Swank project; Dominion Gas \$1,500; Foundation for PA Watersheds \$3,800.
- ◇ Completed construction of a limestone treatment channel at the Swank mine site.
- ◇ Completed design of a treatment system at the West Ferris Wheel site, to be constructed in 2012.
- ◇ Initiated design of a treatment system at the Gibson-Holstock site on Little Laurel Run.
- ◇ Finalized design of a treatment system for the Amsbry project.
- ◇ Collaborated with the Clearfield Co. Conservation District on construction of 4 treatment systems on Morgan Run. Fish are now swimming in Morgan Run.
- ◇ Collaborating with the Army Corp of Engineers to design treatment facilities at Brubaker Run, assisted by a grant from Trout Unlimited.
- ◇ Revegetated approximately 18 acres of the Ferris Wheel site using funds from DEP, EPA, and Representative Gary Haluska.
- ◇ Planted more than 650 trees at the Ferris Wheel Site.
- ◇ Applied for construction funding of treatment systems at the West Ferris Wheel discharges.
- ◇ Signed both permit and grant applications for sites at Morgan Run.
- ◇ Conducted tours of mine drainage sites for Greir School, St. Francis University teacher course, PA DEP-EPA and Foundation for PA Watersheds.
- ◇ Collaborated with Penn State Engineering and St. Francis University on student research at Brubaker Run.
- ◇ Partnered with St. Francis University for a Marketing Study on CCWA.
- ◇ Continued experiments at the Klondike site on crab shell reactors and a steel slag bed.
- ◇ Continued sampling of the Glasgow site. Our rebuilt treatment system is completely treating the acid water.
- ◇ Sampled the Ace Drilling site quarterly under contract with the DEP Office, Ebensburg.
- ◇ Initiated work on the cleanout of the Dysart dam, seeking costs estimates and funding for this project.
- ◇ Exhibited a display and discussed CCWA activities at the annual Cider Festival at Prince Gallitzin Park and the Hunting and Fishing Show in Altoona.
- ◇ Assisted PA Fish Commission with stocking of fish in Clearfield Creek from Ashville to Dysart.
- ◇ Revised and updated our website (www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org) and received newspaper coverage on activities and projects numerous times.



Chest Creek Watershed Alliance

Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist

CHEST CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◇ Hosted the 6th Annual Kid's Fishing Derby in May at Curly Hurd Park, Newburg in Clearfield County, with over 90 children participating.
- ◇ Continued 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.
- ◇ Continued to sponsor two grants for the Cambria County Conservation District for the Chest Creek Streambank Restoration Project. One grant is from the PA Foundations for Watersheds and the other is from Dominion Gas.
- ◇ Initiated a water monitoring program for source water protection throughout the Chest Creek Watershed.
- ◇ Continued to find innovative ways to find new membership.

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2012 AGENDA

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association is, once again, planning an aggressive agenda in 2012

- ◇ Planning and seeking funding for the Dysart Dam cleanout project.
- ◇ Continue to sponsor and raise funds for our very successful annual fishing derby.
- ◇ Partner with both Penn Cambria & Glendale Schools for the Trout in the Classroom project and field trip.
- ◇ Continue our efforts with the PFC and support of both the Cambria & Clearfield Co. Conservation Districts.
- ◇ Seek funding sources to advance our projects to treat acid mine discharge, improve water quality of Clearfield Creek and for educational purposes.

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2012 OFFICERS

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

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED 2012 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.

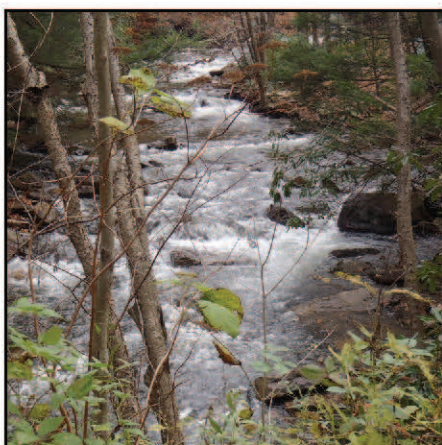
Clearer Waters

Little Conemaugh Watershed South Fork AMD Remediation

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor



This project was a collaborative effort involving many partners and sources of funding. The primary objective was to mitigate the sources of abandoned mine drainage (AMD) with limestone beds and mitigate the acid deposition with limestone sand dosing. Improved pH and alkalinity will allow for a renewed brook trout population and restore overall aquatic life along the four-mile stretch of the headwaters of the South Fork Branch of the Little Conemaugh River.



This project was initiated in 2006, when Joel Kosmac, a local volunteer with the Little Conemaugh Watershed Association, started monitoring AMD discharges in the headwaters. The Conservation District received a \$105,000 DEP Growing Greener grant in 2009 to construct several limestone beds. The Dunlo Rod and Gun Club also received a Growing Greener grant the same year to conduct limestone sand dosing in the watershed.



In 2011, the last of four limestone beds was completed to treat a small acidic aluminum discharge located on the Brence Property. This was the last phase of the project funded under the Growing Greener grant. The limestone bed was designed by the PACD Engineering Assistance Program and constructed by Earth Shapers, LLC of Ebensburg.



Additional work was also completed on the limestone trenches in 2011. The trenches were completed in early 2011 through a \$35,000 US Office of Surface Mining grant that was received by the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy for the Conservation District. Additional work consisted of some minor alterations to the system to increase efficiency and reduce sediment infiltration into the treatment bed.

As part of the overall stream improvement project, the PA Fish and Boat Commission installed fish habitat structures where Highland Sewer and Water Authority had removed a dam several years ago. The Commission worked with the Dunlo Rod and Gun Club, the Water Authority, and Trout Unlimited to install log vanes in the stream to improve aquatic habitat.

Clearer Waters



Chest Creek Repair Job Chapter 92, 102, & 105 Programs

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Bobbie Blossosky, Resource Specialist

Chest Creek Repair Job (River Road)

Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kelly Hughes, AmeriCorps
Stephen Balamuta, AmeriCorps

In 2011, the Conservation District collaborated with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PA F&BC) to repair the Chest Creek stream bank that was previously completed in 2009. In 2009, the stream bank suffered from years of erosion leading to steep, vertical banks leaving nowhere for fish to reside and causing sediment to be deposited in the stream. The PA F&BC designed the project which utilized boulder placement, modified mudsill cribbing, multi-log vanes, bank-cover cribbing, and rootwad deflectors to improve fish habitat along the stream bank. Logs and cribbing were used to create a void where rock fill and graded soil filled the void to create a 3-to-1 slope.

Over the past year and a half, the 60-80 foot section had partial project failure. Money received from the Cambria County Conservation District in the amount of \$2,900 and the Chest Creek Watershed Alliance in the amount of \$600 made this repair possible. The PA F&BC, along with contractor Earth Shapers, LLC were able to repair the 60-80 foot section of stream bank. The stream bank was repaired by pulling up the logs that were placed there during the initial project. Boulders were then placed under the logs that had sunk due to the hydraulic action during the very high flood events over the last year and a half. Later in the year, live stakes were replanted to help stabilize the bank from erosion.



PA-DEP Chapter 92, 102, & 105 Programs

Bobbie Blossosky, Resource Specialist

Under the Chapter 92, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program, 25 NPDES General Permits were reviewed and/or approved during 2011. Two Erosion and Sediment Control General Permits (ESCGP-1) for Earth Disturbance Associated with Oil and Gas Transmission Facilities were also reviewed and approved. The Cambria Clean Water Fund received \$14,000 for the processing of new NPDES permit applications.

The Conservation District completed the initial review and commented on 69 Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Plans in 2011. The plan review fee schedule brought \$35,115 into the county. Four complaints concerning the Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Program were acknowledged and resolved during the year.

A total of 28 General Permits were reviewed and acknowledged under the Chapter 105, Dam Safety and Waterway Management Program. The Conservation District also received and resolved 10 complaints concerning various aspects of the Chapter 105 program.

Clearer Waters

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. The District decided to expand the Water Resource & Watershed Development Committee and concentrate 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.

In 2011, the Conservation District monitored eight dataloggers located in Cambria 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 eight 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.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority:

1. Allwine Creek: Installed on 8/25/2011. 11,453 readings as of 12/22/2011. All readings have been relatively consistent with the exception of a 45-minute time period on 9/7/2011 when there was a slight spike in conductivity. Since that time there have not been any significant increases.
2. North Fork Bens Creek: Installed 8/25/2011. 11,430 readings as of 12/22/2011. All readings have been relatively consistent.
3. Saltlick Run: Installed 8/25/2011. 11,238 readings as of 12/20/2011. All readings have been relatively consistent.

CCCD—Trout Unlimited donated Dataloggers

4. South Fork Branch of the Little Conemaugh: Installed 7/28/2011. 10,338 readings as of 11/17/2011. All readings have been relatively consistent.
5. Laurel Run: Installed 7/28/2011. 13,924 readings as of 10/20/2011. All readings have been relatively consistent.

CCCD—Dataloggers purchased by the County

6. Slate Lick Run: Installed 4/26/2011. 22,758 readings as of 12/19/2011. 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. During both drillings, and up to 12/19/2011, all readings have been relatively consistent and no impacts detected.
7. Hinckston Run: Installed 7/26/2011. 14,122 readings as of 12/20/2011. All readings have been relatively consistent.

Patton Borough Municipal Authority

8. Chest Creek: Installed 7/18/2011. 11,337 readings as of 11/14/2011. All readings have been relatively consistent.



Trout Run AMD Treatment Project/Puritan Discharge

John Dryzal, Assistant Manager

The Conservation District continues to administer a Growing Greener (GG) grant for the Trout Run Watershed Association for the construction of an acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment system on the Puritan Discharge near Martindale. The project was bid in March and all bids came in higher than the amount of the GG grant funding that was available for construction. After reviewing the design with the engineer, it was determined that the geo-textile liner for the limestone bed could probably be deleted, which would reduce the cost. The liner was in the design in the event that there would not be enough suitable material on site. A contract in the amount of \$155,211. was awarded to Earth Shapers, LLC to construct the project without the liner.



To address the possibility that the geo-textile liner may still be required, and in the event that other issues could arise that would require more funding, the District requested the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy apply for a grant through the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) for additional funding. The Conservancy agreed and submitted an application in April 2011. OSM awarded the grant to the Conservancy in late September. The grant amount was \$35,314, of which \$34,464 can be used for the project. This grant will cover the cost of the liner, if needed, as well as additional costs for constructing an access road to the site. Due to the delays, the GG grant was also extended until June 30, 2012.

Clearer Waters

Resource Conservation & Development Program

Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager



Enhanced Communities

The Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council and committees meetings were held on January 28th at the Arena Restaurant in Bedford. The April 29th and July 29th meetings were held at Hoss's Steak and Seahouse in Bedford. There was no quorum for the July meeting and the October meeting was canceled. 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 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, 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 presented these updates at each meeting.

There were two new Cambria County projects accepted and approved for 2011. The Prospect Community Store and Garden Project was sponsored by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and was presented and accepted at the January 28th Council meeting. The scope of work for this project includes the renovation of an existing building for LEED certification. Organized as the Greater Prospect, Inc., the group's foundation is based in five local churches for the betterment of the community with a local gardens initiative and community foods theme. They are trying to establish a local food pantry. The existing building, which is to be purchased, is owned by Myers Heating. It will house a Laundromat, a latchkey for after school children, and a store featuring locally grown food. The Trout Run AMD project was submitted in February and approved at the April meeting. This is a water quality project to passively treat the Puritan Discharge valued at over \$207,494. A \$35,314 Office of Surface Mining grant was applied for and run through the SAC project.

The National RC&D Program received a devastating blow as Federal funding was not budgeted. On April 15, 2011, program support to councils in the form of coordinators and associated funding stopped. The council continued to track along with the SAC meetings that were held bi-monthly. The Conservancy is the non-profit arm of the council. Bob Ritchey, Conservation District Vice Chair; Jim Greco, Associate Director; and the At-Large member are County Representatives on the SAC Board. Robb Piper also has a seat as the RC&D Council Chair. Susan Llewellyn continued as administrative assistant to the SAC and Emily Vaughn finished as an AmeriCorps participant.

On January 12, 2011 there was a PA-RC&D meeting in Bellefonte, PA at the Centre County Planning Commission Office. On April 13, July 13, and September 16, 2011 the State Association of RC&D Councils came together on conference calls sponsored by the Cambria County Conservation District. The Strategic Thinking Session was summarized from 2010 and the effects of the loss of the coordinators dominated the conversation as to the further direction of the organization. Robb Piper continued as Vice-Chair (2012) of the organization. Warren County Commissioner, Jack Preston, is the Chair. He did not run for Commission re-election and is pending appointment as the Warren County Representative for 2012 by the newly elected Warren County Commissioners.



Cooperative Habitat Improvement Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance

Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager
Bobbie Blossosky, Resource Specialist

Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP)

Robert W. Piper, Jr., District Manager

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

This summer, two events occurred. On August 23, 2011, 20 porcupine cribs were constructed and placed in Wilmore Dam, valued at \$2,498.31. At Hinckston Run Dam there were 20 more porcupine cribs valued at \$2,498.28 constructed and placed on August 24, 2011. Approximately 20 volunteers helped with the work at each dam building, carrying, and loading the blocks. Volunteers included members of the Jackson Township Community Rod & Gun Club, the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Johnstown Sportsmen's Association and the Johnstown Rifle & Pistol Club. The CSA staff provided the skid steer and operator. We couldn't have completed the project without everyone involved.

This work completed the three-year Lake Habitat Management Plans. To continue habitat improvement, reconnaissance was done at the end of each workday on two CSA reservoirs for the next Three-Year plans that will be delivered by the PA F&BC by April 2012.

The PA DCNR officials at Prince Gallitzin State Park also participated, on their own sponsorship, with a large-scale project that involved the placing of 42 saw-toothed deflectors along the shoreline by the rental cabins and also placed 20 porcupine cribs at Glendale Lake. All structures reported above have been mapped with a latitude and longitude coordinate and are available on the PA F&BC's website.



Volunteers construct porcupine cribs at Hinckston Run Dam



A porcupine crib is placed in Wilmore Dam

Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance Program: Preventing Pollution from Dirt & Gravel Roads

Bobbie Blossosky, Resource Specialist

Cambria County received the FY2011/2012 allocation in the amount of \$16,816.00. An additional \$14,293.60 was made available to townships for use on road improvement projects utilizing environmentally sensitive maintenance practices.

The Quality Assurance Board (QAB) accepted grant applications from Adams, Cambria, Croyle, and Barr Townships. At the QAB meeting held on December 6, 2011, the following projects were recommended for funding: TR-344/Topper Road, Adams Township in the amount of \$4,666.80; TR-471/Springer Road, Barr Township in the amount of \$12,805.00; TR-494/Vetera Road, Cambria Township in the amount of \$11,088.00; and TR-354/Millers Road, Croyle Township in the amount of \$3,038.75. All projects were approved for funding at the December 7, 2011 Conservation District Board Meeting.

Robb Piper, District Manager, continues to serve on two statewide working groups for the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads at Penn State. He attended the annual Maintenance Workshop in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Enhanced Communities

Family Days

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant
Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor



Spectrum of Opportunities

The 11th Annual Family Days, sponsored by the Cambria County Conservation District, was held on July 19th and 20th at our educational facility, Disaster's Edge. The two days were hot and humid, but everyone had a great time thanks to the fun, informative, and hands-on activities for children and adults of all ages. We were pleased to have over 200 people attend this year's event.



Day 1

Natural Treasures: Ellie Bard, CCCD Administrative Assistant; Kelly Hughes, AmeriCorps; and Josh Matson, intern, taught everyone about the difference between good and bad (invasive) weeds. The children were sent on a treasure hunt to find colorful and interesting flowers to be used in making an imprint on paper.

Toxophilite Lessons: The PA Game Commission lent their expertise in the sport of Archery. Campers and Adults were given safety and basic instructions on the use of the bow and arrow. Everyone had a chance to shoot the life size deer targets supplied by the Game Commission. There was something to be learned by all, expert or novice.

Fish Tails/Tales: Chuck Kubasick, DEP California District Office, introduced children to some of Pennsylvania's aquatic life from painted and snapping turtles to crayfish. The kids used nets for small fish and, with supervision, could pick up the painted turtles. Jackie Ritko, CCCD Water Resource Specialist, showed the campers how to make fish prints using rubber fish molds and paints.

Tick Talk: Jacqueline Hakim, Monroe County Vector Control, presented an educational slide show on ticks to help children and adults identify them. Everyone learned about the importance of covering up for long walks in the woods and other ways to protect themselves and their pets.

Cold Blooded & Company: Back for a second year, Dirk Voories kept everyone entertained during lunch with a baby alligator and a lizard. Dirk brought more than 36 animals. He gave an overview of each animal's natural habitat, dietary choices, life span, growth patterns, etc. The real excitement came when brave campers were invited to hold a 240 lb. Reticulated Python!



Day 2



What's the Buzz? Ted Kaminsky, Cambria County Beekeepers Association, brought a hive of honey bees and gave us the buzz on how these fascinating insects live in a community and produce one of the sweetest treats on earth. Ted's assistant quizzed campers about their bee knowledge and one lucky camper was dressed in a beekeeper's protective suit.



Water Wonders: Jackie Ritko and Bryan Rabish, CCCD Water Resource Specialists, and Josh Matson, intern, used a unique method to demonstrate the small percentage of fresh water on our planet. A watershed model, food products representing pollution, and spray bottles depicting rainfall and runoff were used to show the campers how pollution can spread to our fresh water supply and ways to protect our fresh water sources.



No Kid-ding? Shelly Craft, Craft Farms and CCCD Farmer Director, brought her goats. Shelly and her daughters, Annie and Dawn, first talked about how goats came to be a part of Craft Farms and their value to the family personally and professionally. Shelly and Annie shared facts about the goats' behavior

characteristics and the nutritional value of goat's milk. After a question and answer session, everyone was invited to go into the kennel and meet the goats and their babies.

Wildlife Wisdom: The PA Game Commission came back to talk to campers about Pennsylvania wildlife. Using skins from animals and the mounts at the Edge, campers learned how to recognize different animals and birds and the importance of understanding which are native to Pennsylvania.

What's Up Doc? Megan Long, Blacklick Valley 4-H Rabbit Club, and four 4-H participants presented information about rabbits. They talked about the different breeds, proper care, and how to keep rabbits as pets. Campers were allowed to hold the rabbits at the end of the session.



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 2011 Dairy Princess, Brianna Kalwasinski, for stopping by both days with a delicious ice cream treat. A special thanks to the following businesses for their generous donations: Sheetz, Valenty Bottled Water, and Snyders of Berlin.

Public Outreach: Marcellus Gas Well Series

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kourtney Penatzer, AmeriCorps



Keeping the Public Informed

In a continuing effort to provide the public with information pertaining to the environmental impact of happenings in our area, the District offered organized educational presentations on the Marcellus Shale natural gas well drilling. Part 1 of the 6 Part series took place in December 2010. The remaining 5 sessions were held over the course of 2011 at the Cambria County Cooperative Extension Office in Ebensburg. All educational opportunities were provided at no cost to the public.

February 17, Part 2

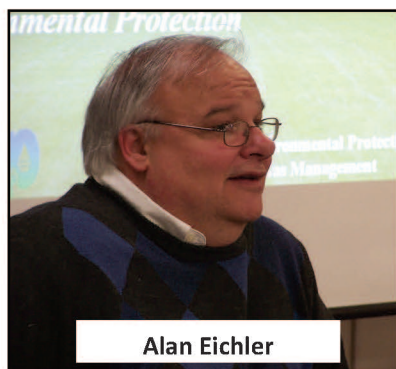
“Environmental Aspects of Natural Gas Well Development in Pennsylvania.”

David Yoxtheimer, a hydrogeologist/extension associate with Penn State University’s *Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research*, discussed the geology of Marcellus shale (thickness and depth) as well as horizontal drilling practice, hydraulic fracturing technologies, water sourcing, disposal issues and methane migration involved with natural gas well drilling. There were 19 people in attendance.

March 24, Part 3

“Above the Shale: Minimizing the Impact to Forests and Wildlife.”

Dr. Margaret Brittingham, a professor of wildlife resources at Penn State University in the School of Forest Resources, a wildlife extension specialist for Pennsylvania and a member of the Natural Gas-Natural Resources Extension Team, was the speaker for this session. Dr. Brittingham was accompanied by Dr. Patrick Drohan, chair of the pedology division in the Soil Science Society of America, an associate editor for *Soil Use and Management* and co-founder of the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit Project, *Dig It*. They discussed how gas well extraction is changing the landscape and the effect on forest wildlife. There were 30 people in attendance.



Alan Eichler



Dr. Margaret Brittingham





Public Outreach: Marcellus Gas Well Series

Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor
Kourtney Penatzer, AmeriCorps

April 7, Part 4 “Marcellus Gas Well Regulations.”

This workshop was directed toward county residents who have a gas well on their property or are considering leasing land. Alan Eichler, a PA-DEP manager for the Southwest region of the Oil and Gas Program, talked about DEP regulations and oversight on the permit process, well drilling and well operations. There were 34 people in attendance.

May 19, Part 5 “Lab Tested Water Quality Analysis and Interpretation.”

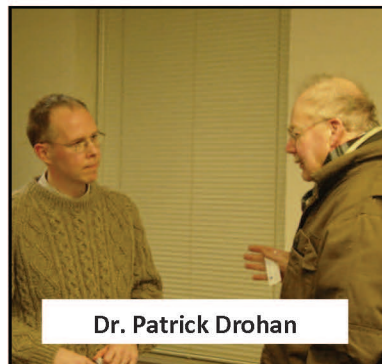
This workshop was of importance to county residents who have had their water tested or would be testing their water because of a Marcellus gas well on or near their property. Dana Rizzo, an Extension Educator in Water Quality and Water Resources, helped attendees gain a better understanding of lab-tested results. People were welcome to bring their results to the workshop. There were 15 people in attendance.

June 2, Part 6 “Flowback Treatment Options.”

The speaker for this session was Quay Schappell, Water/Wastewater Design Engineer for TerrAqua Resource Management (TARM) out of Williamsport, PA. Schappell talked about his participation in multiple studies in characterizing and treating the flowback and produced waters generated during Marcellus Shale natural gas exploration and production activities. He explained how these efforts have largely been guided by various energy companies to determine the regulatory compliance requirements, ultimate disposal options and ability to recycle and reuse these waters for subsequent gas field operations. There were 12 people in attendance.



Quay Schappell



Dr. Patrick Drohan

Public Outreach

The District on the Road 39th Annual Tree and Plant Sale Facebook



Spectrum of Opportunities

The District on the Road

District Staff

The Conservation District Booth was once again travelling this summer. The main area of focus was the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug, an invasive pest currently affecting Cambria County. People could stop in to gather facts about the pest, what to do to prevent an infestation, and how to get rid of an already existing problem. Children could play an educational game in which they learned about a variety of invasive species. Visitors picked up useful tips on using mulch in their gardens. As usual, we had many entries to win the handcrafted Wildlife Boxes. Congratulations to our winners: Kenneth Brown, Bat Box; Jennifer Itle, Bird Feeder; and Debbie Barate, Bluebird Viewing Box.

The District Booth could be seen at the Benshoff Farm Family Day on August 21, The Cambria County Fair in September, and the Apple Cider Festival in Prince Gallitzin State Park on October 2.



39th Annual Tree and Plant Sale

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

The 2011 tree sale was another success with 17,113 items sold to over 380 customers. 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. Flow-erpots are labeled. Orders are filled and organized alphabetically to make pick-up as smooth as possible. District Staff and members of the Board of Directors 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, Plantra Inc, Black Lick Stake Co, Flickingers, Boyers, and Alpha Nursery.



Facebook

Anna Gibbs, AmeriCorps
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, the Conservation District has received 69 "likes" on Facebook. In the Fall of 2011, Jocelyn Sauter instituted Weekly Conservation Tips. These tips are featured every Friday and provide helpful solutions to conserving energy, minimizing waste, and controlling hazardous materials. 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.



Highlights

Annual Legislative Luncheon
Annual District Picnic
Quarterly Breakfast Meetings

Legislative Luncheon

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant
Jocelyn Sauter, AmeriCorps

We gathered for the Conservation District's Annual Legislative Luncheon on Friday, October 7 at the Imperial Room in Ebensburg. The CCCD staff was joined by the Board of Directors, Legislative Officials, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts members, Department of Environmental Protection staff, and Cooperative Extension employees. James Kennedy, Western Pa Regional Director for the PA Department of Agriculture, was our guest speaker. Kennedy talked about the importance of agriculture in relation to Pennsylvania's economic recovery. Robb Piper, CCCD Manager, highlighted the many accomplishments achieved over the course of the 2011 year. Service Recognition Awards were acknowledged for Louis Kopczyk, 10 years, and William Myers, 5 years. Congratulations and a warm thank you to each for their dedicated years of service.



James Kennedy



William Myers



Louis Kopczyk

District Picnic

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

This year's annual Conservation District Picnic was held at Wilmore Reservoir Recreation Area on August 3rd. The monthly Board Meeting was held immediately prior to the picnic. Our picnic was catered by Clark's Deli and everyone attending enjoyed their meal in the Recreation Area pavilion. There were about 40 people in attendance, including our Board of Directors, Associate Directors, District Staff, and family members of the Board and Staff. Jim Greco from the Cambria Somerset Authority talked briefly about the updates within the facility. Greco provided attendees with brochures and a map of the area. After dinner, everyone was welcome to tour the Dam and check out the fishing area. Thank you to everyone who attended!

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.

January
July
April
October

Cambria Co. GIS Program Update
Controlled Burning of Forests
Cancelled
Director Nomination Process

Steve Koscis—CC GIS Center
Terry Stemmler—B. of Forestry
No Speaker
Chuck Kubasik—DEP/SCC

Spectrum of Opportunities

Conservation District Budget—Expenses

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

EXPENDITURES	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
Salaries/Personal Services	286,258.00	297,850.00
Staff Benefits	122,316.25	129,163.60
Office Supplies	1,402.00	1,500.00
Postage	3,145.00	3,100.00
Advertising	1,020.00	1,150.00
Audit	1,975.00	2,125.00
Telephone	2,484.00	2,600.00
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	624.00	600.00
Copier/Fax Leases	7,503.00	7,500.00
Association Dues	3,644.00	3,919.00
Mileage, Tolls, Parking	6,725.00	6,500.00
Meetings, Lodging, Meals	1,433.00	1,300.00
Equipment Repair	426.00	800.00
Vehicle Repair	1,628.00	2,100.00
Water Sampling	-	600.00
Environmental Education Center Operation	4,884.00	7,900.00
Vehicle Lease	2,315.00	-
Project Grass	-	-
AmeriCorps	21,600.00	22,500.00
Chesapeake Bay Program Costs	281.00	500.00
Chesapeake Bay Program - Indiana Costs	-	500.00
Nutrient Management - Mini Grant	1,000.00	-
PACD Mini Grant	225.00	2,500.00
No Till Drill Incentive Program	1,613.00	-
Little Conemaugh Super 7	-	61,700.00
Chesapeake Bay Indiana Admin	-	500.00
Trout Run Phase I	-	161,065.00
South Fork AMD	66,880.00	-
Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization	-	16,288.00
Lieb Heavy Use Stabilization	23,000.00	-
Computer Equipment	1,280.00	-
Chest Creek Restoration III	-	31,003.00
Energy Education - Wren	-	4,250.00
Johnstown Geothermal	-	20,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 563,661.25	\$ 789,513.60

Conservation District Budget—Income

Mary Ellen Bard, Administrative Assistant

INCOME	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
County Commissioners	280,486.38	304,280.60
Erosion & Sediment Fees	33,765.00	32,000.00
No-Till Drill Rental Fees	4,104.20	10,000.00
Copier/Postage/supplies/Mil Reimbursement	227.36	500.00
Manager/1st Technician/2nd Technician	32,229.14	43,500.00
Administrative Assistance	2,512.33	1,120.00
Watershed Specialists	44,589.45	64,000.00
Act 6/Nutrient Management	5,977.86	11,575.00
Agriculture Conservation Engineer	15,780.98	22,425.00
Chesapeake Bay Technician	37,805.55	57,000.00
PACD Mini Grant	475.00	-
Farmland Preservation Admin Reimbursement	-	5,400.00
Keep Cambria County Beautiful	196.10	2,000.00
Education Program Fees	-	2,000.00
No-Till Incentive Grant	1,399.12	-
Trout Run Phase I	-	161,065.00
South Fork AMD	73,272.00	-
Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization Grant	-	16,288.00
Lieb Heavy Use Stabilization	23,000.00	-
USDA/NRCS Contribution	6,778.28	2,070.00
Energy Education - WREN	1,062.50	3,187.00
Johnstown Geothermal	-	20,000.00
Chest Creek Restoration III	-	31,103.00
Total Program Fees & Reimbursement	\$ 283,174.87	\$ 485,233.00

Total Income

\$ 563,661.25

\$ 789,513.60

Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps



John Dryzal, Assistant Manager



Stephen Balamuta—Land Resource Specialist

Steve's duties as a Land Resource Specialist require him to work closely with Mark Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor. Steve assists with Agricultural Preservation easements, grant writing, and stream restoration projects from macro studies to the restoration of the stream. He helps to set up the dates and sites for the Tire and Appliance collections in the Fall and Spring. Steve has also worked with John Dryzal, Assistant Manager, delivering and picking up the No-Till Drills.

A graduate of Penn State University, Steve has a degree in Forest Management. Once his term with AmeriCorps is complete, Steve would be interested in serving another term with the District if an opportunity to work within his major doesn't present itself. Steve also works at McAneny Brothers Food Distributors picking out orders for major supermarket chains and other stores. In his free time, Steve enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking, weightlifting and other sports.

Nathan Marsh—Environmental Education Specialist

Nathan works closely with Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor, helping to plan and host Environmental Education Programs. He also helps to take care of the many animals at Disaster's Edge in addition to cleaning and maintaining the facility. Nate has spent a lot of time working with Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist, on the data loggers. He installs the data loggers and retrieves data, checks field parameters, and takes water samples.

Nathan is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. In addition to his work at the District, Nate works part-time at Shaffer Electric when he is needed. When asked about future career plans, Nathan said he would consider completing another term with AmeriCorps. He would also be interested in working for the National Forest Service, DCNR, the Game Commission, or DEP.



Jocelyn Sauter—Communications Specialist

As the Communications Specialist, Jocelyn is responsible for submitting press releases, public service announcements, and summary articles to local newspapers and radio stations. Announcements and updates are posted on the District's Facebook page and website on a regular basis. Jocelyn also compiles the quarterly newsletter, "A View from the Edge." The Annual Report was primarily designed, formatted, and edited by Jocelyn.

Jocelyn is originally from Easton, PA. She moved to Johnstown in 2008 with her husband, Bryan. In addition to her work with the District, Jocelyn works as Office Manager for her family's business, Reighard Machine, Inc. She graduated from Penn State with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Communications and is currently working on completing her Master's Degree in Curriculum & Instruction. She has expressed a desire to continue with AmeriCorps and the District for another term.

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

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 Kopezyk, 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
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 Krumenacker	Gary Scott

AmeriCorps Members 2010/2011

Anna Gibbs Kelly Hughes
Kourtney Penatzer

AmeriCorps Members 2011/2012

Jocelyn Sauter Nathan Marsh
Stephen Balamuta

UPJ Intern

Josh Matson

2011 Board Meeting Perfect Attendance

Mike Illig, Public Director



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.

Cover Photographs

Listed clockwise from top-left:

Winter Trees in Laurel Ridge in Jackson Township, PA
Spring Flowers at Hughes Farm in Summerhill Township, PA
Summer Fields on Holtz Farm in Clearfield Township, PA
Fall Trees in The 1889 Park in St. Michael, PA



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

