



# A View from "The Edge"

*"Nature is not a place to visit. It is home." ~Gary Snyder*

Editors  
Mary Ellen Bard  
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## Barnes Watkins Pile Reclamation

The Cambria County Conservation District has once again partnered with the Department of Environmental Protection to stabilize the Acid Mine Drainage at Barnes Watkins. The Barnes Watkins Pile Reclamation Project utilized CoGen Ash to reclaim approximately ½ acre of the remaining hot spots and to shut down the AMD seeps located there while improving the water quality of the West Branch Susquehanna River. With the project completed there are early signs that the AMD seeps may have been eliminated and the project area beginning to show evidence of re-vegetation. The Project was a success because of the partnership between the Conservation District, Earthmovers Unlimited, and Robindale Energy, which then resulted in "on the ground conservation work" being completed in a timely and cost effective manner by government agencies while partnering with the private sector.

The Cambria County Conservation District received a Growing Greener Grant for \$25,998.72. However, the project was completed \$3,872.12 under budget. These kinds of projects cannot happen without the partnership that has developed over the years.

*Before*



*After*



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***Special Dates to Remember***

- June 4: Board Meeting 10 am***
- July 2: Board Meeting 10 am***
- July 4: Holiday/Office Closed***
- July 22: Family Days***
- July 24: Family Days***
- Aug 6: Board Meeting/Picnic 5 pm***

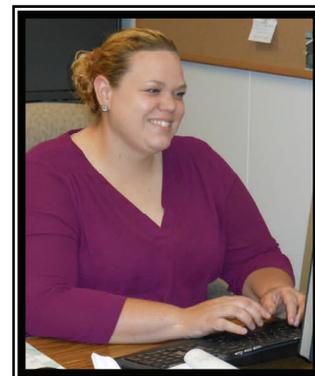
## *New Employees*



**Anna Marie Sybert** comes to us with a strong interest in science and animals which dates back to being a little girl; playing outside always discovering new things, living and working on a farm and taking care of animals her whole life. She is a recent graduate from Mount Aloysius College with a Bachelor's degree in General Science. Her coursework focus through those college years were wildlife and environmental biology classes/internships. Here at Cambria County Conservation District she will be employed as a Resource Specialist. The programs she will cover are Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads

(DGLVR) and Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&S). She looks forward to fulfilling her goals by being able to do her part to protect the waterways and wetlands, which are natural habitats for plants and animals.

**Genny Christ** is our new Agricultural Conservation Specialist. She grew up on a small family farm in Sidman. She participated in 4-H for 10 years and now is a volunteer leader. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Agricultural Science from Penn State University with Minors in Agronomy and Animal Science. She also has a Master's of Science in Agronomy from Iowa State University. She comes to the District with previous work experience in nutrient management and conservation. She enjoys working with farmers and teaching the public about agriculture and conservation. She hopes to make a positive impact on Cambria County agriculture.



## *New Interns*



Nicole Miller is an upcoming junior at Penn State University pursuing a BS degree in Environmental System Engineering. She came to us with a passion for conserving the environment and the wildlife that inhabit those ecosystems. She looks forward to spending the summer with the Cambria County Conservation District in hopes of kick starting her future career and learning everything we have to offer.



Tyler Mehalko comes to us from Shippensburg University and is a senior closing in on a Geo-Environmental Science degree. His focus is geared toward becoming a Water Conservation Officer and he hopes his internship hours at the district will provide him experience with environmental education as well as credits toward his graduation.

# 2015 Cambria County Envirothon



Northern Cambria Team I



Northern Cambria Team II



Northern Cambria Team III

**First Place** - left to right: Nicole Hoover, Adriana Frontino, Victoria Cidor, Charissa Mason, Owen Baker, and Coach Ron Yuhas

**Second Place** - left to right: Logan Marino, Kaylee Krug, Megan Beaulé, Michael Delosh, Mallory Bernard

**Third Place** - left to right: Sarah Tibbott, Grace Hoppel, Jordan Tenerowicz, Jenn Nealen, Abbie Smith

**Fourth Place** - Not pictured: (Bishop Carrol) Ryan Witham, Kelly Deskevich, Sara Minemyer, Thaddeus Lallemand, Jaime Witham

**Fifth Place** - Not Pictured: (Forest Hills) Audrey Ritko, Alyssa Murphy, Travis Varner, Alyssa Madison, Emily Rozum

This year we had 18 teams from 7 different school districts compete. Thank you to all the schools, coaches and students who participated. Congratulations to Northern Cambria for placing in the top three positions. The district received a grant from the State Envirothon which enabled us to award five placings this year. Fourth place went to Bishop Carroll Catholic High School and Fifth place to Forest Hills Middle School. All winning teams received a trophy, t-shirts, and an invitation to this year's Conservation Awards Banquet. Northern Cambria Team II went on to compete at the state event at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown on May 19th and 20th, where they placed 14th out of 65 teams. Nicole Hoover placed 2nd individually in the soils division.



Bishop Carroll Catholic High School



Forest Hills Middle School

Thank you to our sponsors: AC Power/ Colver Operations, Cambria CoGen, Bureau of Forestry, DEP, PA Game Commission, NRCS, and Coca-Cola

# 2015 Cambria County Poster Contest Winners



**Calli Smith**  
10th-12th Division  
Forest Hills High School



**Samantha Gallo**  
7th-9th Division  
Northern Cambria



**Jayden Hess**  
4th-6th Division  
Forest Hills

**First Place winners** received a cash award and a trophy. **Second through Fifth Place winners** received a rosette. All winners were invited to the Awards Banquet for dinner and to be recognized for their accomplishment. **Congratulations to all!**

The First Place posters will be sent to the state competition for judging.

**2nd Place Winners**

7/9 Division: Taylor Sherry,  
Northern Cambria  
10/12 Division: Emily Miller,  
Cambria Heights

**4th Place Winners**

7/9 Division: Lauren Nelson,  
Northern Cambria  
10/12 Division: Madison Brewer,  
Forest Hills

**3rd Place Winners**

7/9 Division: Sara McAndrew,  
Bishop Carroll Catholic  
10/12 Division: Kaitlyn Kline,  
Forest Hills

**5th Place Winners**

7/9 Division: Kaitlyn Kudlawiec,  
Northern Cambria  
10/12 Division: Shayla Kanuch,  
Forest Hills



# NEW Programs

**The Incredible Journey**— A new program being offered to elementary students is the Incredible Journey. This activity was developed through the new Project Wet Curriculum to help younger students understand the journey that water takes in its movement through the water cycle. Students discuss what they understand about water and terms such as condensation, evaporation, precipitation to name a few. They then spend time simulating the water cycle by rolling a cube and moving through different stations to create a water bracelet. Once the bracelet is complete, the students follow their bead colors on a map that shows where they water traveled. An enjoyable program that keeps the students moving and allows them to take a bracelet home to share what they learned with their family.



Forest Hills 2nd Grade



Forest Hills 6th Grade

**H<sub>2</sub>Olympics**— Water is the universal solvent because of its unique chemical nature. In this Project Wet program upper elementary/middle school students see signs of water's adhesive and cohesive properties and how life depends on these qualities. This curriculum allows them to compete in a Water Olympics to investigate the two properties of water and how water molecules can work together to defy gravity. Using water, pennies and other household items, the olympic events included: Pole Vaulting, The Balance Beam, Backstroke and the Slalom. Students teamed up to get the highest score and tried to break personal records.

## Farm to Table

Farm to Table is a new program being offered for school kids from kindergarten to third grade. This program explains what plants and animals are typically found on farms and the form they take at the grocery store. An example would be wheat. Wheat is a plant grown on farms that is then ground into flour and the flour is used to make a variety of foods students eat every day. The students got to place pictures of the different plants and animals found on farms onto a felt board. As they discussed and discovered the different food products that come from the plants and animals, the students also got to place pictures of the food products on the felt board. The students enjoyed learning about the different food products and where things like caviar, chocolate, and nacho chips come from.



Forest Hills 2nd Grade

# Keep Cambria County Beautiful



**KEEP  
CAMBRIA COUNTY**  
*Beautiful*

## Spring 2015 Collection Totals

Tires		Appliances	
On-Rim	Off-Rim	Freon	Non-Freon
61	1545	59	45



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



Keep an eye on our Website, Facebook,  
and your local papers for Fall  
Appliance and Tire Collection dates.

# Run & Row Event at Wilmore Reservoir

## Geocache



Denon Carpenter, physical education teacher at Forest Hills Elementary, contacted the Conservation District and asked us to help organize an event that would introduce 5th & 6th grade students to outdoor recreation that would get their hearts racing and their minds working. The district partnered with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Benscreek Canoe Club, Cambria-Somerset Authority and the Forest Hills Elementary School to conduct an outdoor recreation education event at the Wilmore Reservoir on May 2nd.

In one area, students and their families were given instruction on boating safety and how to properly maneuver a kayak. They were given time on the dam to try out their skills and were pleasantly surprised on how easy and fun this sport can be. Members of the Benscreek Canoe Club were on the water assisting with instruction and safety.

The other event that was new to the students was the sport of geocaching. Conservation District staff gave families instruction on how to use an Etrex GPS Unit and then were given coordinates to find 5 hidden geocaches on the Wilmore dam property. The students enjoyed this technical treasure hunt and found it to be an activity that they would like to do in the future.



## Kayaking

# 2015 Conservation Award Banquet

The Annual Awards Banquet was held on Wednesday, May 27th, at the Carrolltown Fireman's Banquet Hall. Our Master of Ceremonies, Charlie Moyer, opened the evening with introductions, followed by the invocation given by Board Director, Jerome Carl. Following dinner, Darrell Dumm along with his daughters Delaney and Danielle, performed several songs that entertained all ages. Dolly Little, FSA Executive Director, presented a Service award to Robert Beyer, followed by Jackie Ritko who presented trophies and ribbons to our poster winners and Envirothon teams. Board Chairman, Dennis Beck, presented special "Chairman Awards" to two of our outstanding directors—Clair Dumm and Robert Ritchey—for all of their service and dedication to the district. John Dryzal, District Assistant Manager, joined Dennis at the podium to present conservation awards to the categories and recipients listed below. Door prizes were given throughout the evening from various businesses.



**Northern Cambria Envirothon Teams**



**Forest Hills Envirothon Team**



**Soisson Public Recreation Achievement Award  
Adams/Croyle Recreation Authority  
Roger Layton, Ron Young, Chet Sewak, John Nibert**



**Watershed Protection Award  
Pam Milavec**



**Conservation Farmer of the Year  
Skebeck Farms  
George, Jack, Tom Skebeck & Dennis Beck**



**Forestry Management Award  
John & Jody Bakale**



**Natural Area & Heritage  
Preservation Award  
Edward Smith & Ann Jacobson**



**Chairman Awards  
Robert Ritchey & wife Elaine  
Clair Dumm, wife Dee and family**

**Erosion & Sedimentation Pollution  
Control Award  
Cambria Township Supervisors**

**Special Conservation Service Award  
Robert Maiden**

**Conservation Educator of the Year  
Ray Trybus—Portage Area Schools**

**Urban Conservation Award  
Delores Columbus**

## Family Days

Join us at Cambria County Conservation District's

# Family Days

July 22, 2015 at Duman Lake Park

July 24, 2015 at Disaster's Edge/1889 Park



Rain or shine, come join us for two days full of fun activities. You can look forward to learning how to tie flies for your next summer fishing trip and enjoying a ride in the canoe around the lake. Don't miss out on learning about our solar system as you use telescopes and participate in our fun games. Come relax and unwind as you enjoy a delicious snack by conducting a science experiment and dancing with

*"We had a great time, I can't wait until next year!"*

**Registration Deadline is July 10, 2015**

**\$2.00 per Person per Day**

**Pack a Picnic Lunch for the Family - We'll provide drinks and snacks!**

**For more information or to register by phone call 814-472-2120**



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Phone: (814) 472-2120  
Fax: (814) 472-0686  
Email: cccd@co.cambria.pa.us

- If you wish to be added or removed from our mailing list, please contact the Cambria County Conservation District office at (814) 472-2120.
- If you would like to help conserve resources and receive your newsletter via email, send your email address to [jsauter@co.cambria.pa.us](mailto:jsauter@co.cambria.pa.us)
- Help us get the word out—"like" us on Facebook and ask your friends to do the same!

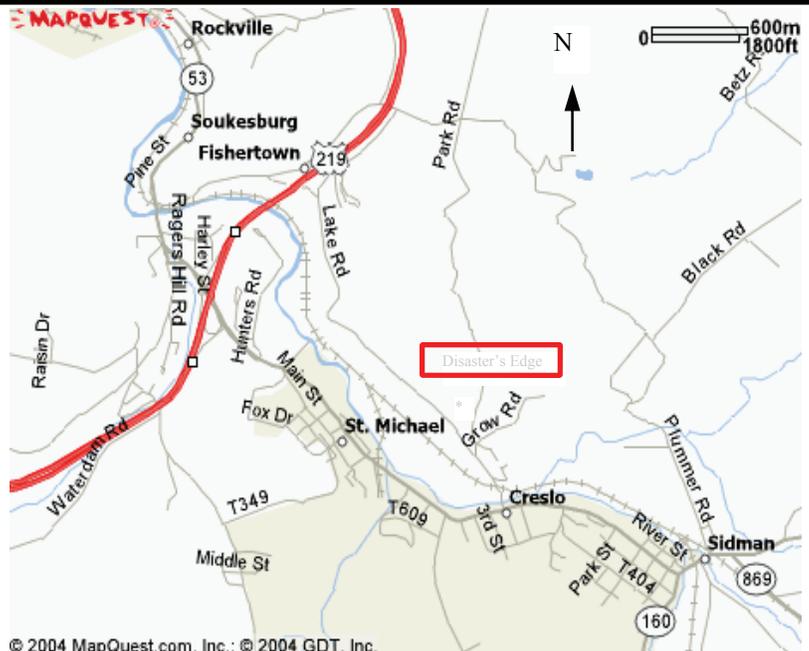
[www.co.cambria.pa.us/conservation](http://www.co.cambria.pa.us/conservation)  
and  
 Find us on  
**Facebook**

## Where is Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center?

Take Route 219 North/South to the Sidman/St. Michael exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn onto Route 869 toward Sidman and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Lake Road, traveling over the bridge then over the railroad tracks and entering the 1889 Park. Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center will be on the right across from the baseball field and the coal miners museum.

Call Jackie Ritko at the Cambria County Conservation District Office to schedule programs or to discuss events.

**138 Park Road  
St. Michael, PA 15951**



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**Road Map to The Disasters Edge Environmental Education Center.**

**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.