



**A View from “The Edge”
Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find
reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.
— Rachel Carson**

Editors
Mary Ellen Bard
Amie Fritchman

2015 Board Members

The Cambria County Conservation District Board of Directors held their first meeting of 2015 on January 8th. The annual election of officers was held with Dennis Beck, Public Director from Portage elected as Chairman; Michael Illig, Public Director from Ebensburg, selected as Vice Chairman; and Shelly Craft, Farmer Director from Mineral Point elected Secretary/Treasurer.



Officers - Mike Illig, Shelly Craft and Dennis Beck
Associate Director Bob Schweitzer, Directors Jerome Carl,
Bob Davis, Jim Benshoff, and Associate Director Dave
Hegemann. Absent from the photo, directors Clair Dumm,
Bob Ritchey and Commissioner Chernisky

Dennis was previously Secretary/Treasurer and replaces long time Chairman and former District Manager Clair Dumm. Mr. Dumm remains on the board as a farmer director. Mike replaces long time board Vice Chairman Robert Ritchey who will also remain on the board. We wish to thank Clair and Bob for their many years of service and dedication as officers of the board.

Our new Chairman, Mr. Beck, has served as a district director since 2001 and is also the chair of the district’s Water Resources & Watershed Development Committee. He also holds the chairman position with the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Dennis holds a Bachelors’ degree in Biology from Duquesne University and a Master’s degree in Environmental Pollution Control from Penn State University. He periodically teaches an environmental class at Mt. Aloysius College in Cresson.



Along with the Board of Directors, the district also gets direction from the Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Roads Program Quality Assurance Board. Members of the 2015 board, pictured on the left are Virgil Wilford (Natural Resource Conservation Service—NRCS), Albert Colian (PA Fish & Boat Commission), Chairman Robert Piper, and David Steele (NRCS). Absent from the photo, Dennis Beck, Conservation District Director.

The Agricultural Land Preservation Board of Directors meet monthly to conduct business in regards to the purchase of farmland easements in Cambria County. Members of that board are pictured on the right. Eugene Eckenrode, Robert Davis, Pat Dumm, Chairman Richard Davis, Commissioner Lengenfelder, Treasurer Walden Vorhauer. Absent from the photo are Larry Neff, Secretary Jim Estep, and Jim McMullen.



Inside this issue:

Staff Continued Education	2
Contest Updates and Reminders	3
Annual Tree/Plant Sale	3
Tree Sale Order Form	4 & 5
Award Nominations	6
Spring Tire and Appliance Collection	7
Email and Family Days	7

Special Dates to Remember

- Feb 19: Tree Planting Workshop
- Mar 5: Board Meeting
- Mar 6: Envirothon Intent to Participate due
- Mar 20: Tree/Plant Sale orders due
- Apr 2: Board Meeting
- Apr 10: Tree/Plant Sale
- Apr 13: Poster Contest Deadline
- Apr 30: County Envirothon

Continued Staff Education

In order to provide the public with effective and informative education programs, it is necessary for the district staff to take part in continuing education. This past fall offered many opportunities to attend workshops that covered some new areas of environmental education, as well as updated curriculum.

GPS 101 and Geocaching



Jackie discovers the Hidden Geocache

On November 20th, members of our staff headed to Drums, Pennsylvania to take part in a Geocache workshop at the Nescopeck State Park. Environmental Education Specialists from the state park system were on hand to give instruction on curriculum developed to introduce people to the newest form of recreation – Geocaching. Many activities were designed to help understand the curriculum, including understanding satellite signals, GPS games, geocache lingo, a cache search and explanation on the proper containers used for cache. Armed with the “Get Outdoors” curriculum and enthusiasm for this new form of recreation, our staff returned to the office and submitted a grant to obtain GPS units in order to offer this educational experience to others.



Signing the Geocache Log Book

Making the Dead Come Alive

Mary Ellen Bard, Jackie Ritko, and Amie Fritchman took part in an interesting workshop at the Olewine Nature Center on November 13th. “Making the Dead Come Alive,” was conducted by the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation science and nature educators. This unique workshop offered instruction on proper preparation and care of natural history collections. Our staff learned how to maintain taxidermy mounts, birds’ nests, eggs, bones, wet specimens, prepare study skins and how to clean and preserve animal skulls. Each person brought home nearly \$100 worth of materials, made possible by a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Pictured above our staff display their completed study skins.



Dive Deeper II

Penn State Extension hosted a multi-state, environmental education summit spotlighting innovative teaching methods for water programs. The Dive Deeper II conference was held in Harrisburg on September 25th. Jackie Ritko and Mary Ellen Bard attended sessions such as: Learning about PA’s future Climate using Google maps and Whiteboard Technology; Exploring your Environment with Underwater Robots; An Experiential Expedition from Classroom to Creek; and much more. A great keynote speaker and the many environmental resource vendors enabled our staff to return with many new ideas, resources and contacts for our own education events.



Amie testing her skills while learning about water in this Penny Challenge

Project Wet

Although Project Wet has been a curriculum that the Conservation District has used for some time, the new curriculum is now available, which includes programming for the Pre School age level and access to the Project Wet portal. Mary Ellen Bard and Amie Fritchman attended a workshop on December 5th in Dauphin where they spent the day learning how to use the curriculum with fellow educators. Participants took part in many “hands on activities” that carried lesson concepts in the Project Wet manual which included: H2O Olympics, Color Me a Watershed, The Incredible Water Journey, and more. The curriculum is packed with great ideas for Pre K through High School programming and we look forward to sharing this information with students of all ages.



Ellie experimenting with conduction between string and water. She succeeded and had the water flowing from pitcher to pitcher via String!

Contest Updates and Reminders

☆ ☆ ☆ *Don't Forget...* ☆ ☆ ☆



2015 Cambria County Envirothon - April 30, 2015
Intent to Participate DEADLINE March 6, 2015

2015 Poster Contest
All entries due by 4 pm April 13, 2015

The forms can be printed from the CCCD Website:
www.cambriacountypa.gov/conservation-district.aspx



Annual Tree/ Plant Sale is HERE!

**Annual Tree & Plant Sale orders are due March 20, 2015. Pick-up date is April 10.
Order form on the following page.**

With the wintery weather we have been having, many people are trying to brighten their spirits by “thinking spring.” We’ve got just the thing to help you with that thought process! The district is holding it’s 43rd Annual Tree and Plant sale and the catalog is ready to view.

This year we have added new varieties of fruit trees that are suited to this area and your needs. Our flowering tree and shade tree selections have some old favorites and some beautiful new varieties. As always we offer evergreen seedlings and ground cover. In the small fruit department we have added blackberries and currants, along with proven strawberry, raspberry, and blueberry varieties. We offer shrubs and small trees to add color and interest to your backyard, along with a nice array of perennial flowers. Items to support your plants and special wildlife boxes are available as well.

An order form has been provided in this newsletter. To view the catalog you can visit our website at www.cambriacountypa.gov/conservation-district.aspx. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to open the Tree Sale file and order form. If you would like to have a copy emailed, or mailed by postal service, contact the district office at 472-2120 or email bard@co.cambria.pa.us.

Deadline for orders is March 20th with pick up of your purchase on April 10th at the Cambria County Fairgrounds. All proceeds of the sale support the mission of our Conservation District.

Name: _____ Phone (H) _____

Address: _____ Cell Phone _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Work Phone _____

Item	# per bundle	# ordered	cost/bundle	Total
Liberty Apple	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Pink Lady Apple	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Jonamac Apple	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Buckeye Gala Apple	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Macoun Apple	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Montmorency Cherry (Sour)	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$17.00 =	
Black Gold Cherry (Sweet)	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$18.00 =	
Compact Stella Cherry (Sweet)	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$18.00 =	
SummerfestPeach	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Flavburst Peach	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Blakes Pride Pear	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Red Clapps Pear	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$15.00 =	
Stanley Plum	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$19.00 =	
Empress Plum	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$19.00 =	
Methley Plum	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$19.00 =	
Bubblegum Plum	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$19.00 =	
Centurian Crabapple (Rose/Red)	1 tree (5'-6' in height)		x \$18.00 =	
Dolgo Crabapple (White)	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$24.00 =	
Prairifire Crabapple (Pink/Red)	1 tree (5'-6' in height)		x \$18.00 =	
Weeping Cherry - Snow Fountain	1 tree (66 inches #1 T)		x \$48.00 =	
Weeping Cherry - Double Pink	1 tree (66 inches #1 T)		x \$48.00 =	
Ivory Silk Tree	1 tree (6' in height)		x 42.00 =	
Cleveland Select Flowering Pear	1 tree (6' in height)		x 45.00 =	
Crimson King Maple	1 tree (6' in height)		x \$48.00 =	
Autumn Blaze Maple	1 tree (6' in height)		x \$38.00 =	
Red Sunset Maple	1 tree (6' in height)		x \$45.00 =	
Scarlet Oak	1 tree (5' in height)		x \$38.00 =	
Colorado Blue Spruce	10/bundle		x \$7.00 =	
Douglas Fir	10/bundle		x \$7.00 =	
Concolor Fir	10/bundle		x \$7.00 =	
White Pine	10/bundle		x \$7.00 =	
Earliglow Strawberries	25 plants		x \$12.00 =	
Jewel Strawberries	25 plants		x \$12.00 =	
Seascape Strawberries	25 plants		x \$12.00 =	
Jewel Black Raspberry	5 cuttings		x \$15.00 =	
Heritage Red Raspberry	5 cuttings		x \$15.00 =	
Hull Thornless Blackberry	5 cuttings		x \$23.00 =	
Black Elderberry	5 seedlings		x \$8.00 =	
Red Lake Currant	2 seedlings		x \$18.00 =	
Duke Blueberry	2 gallon pot		x \$15.00 =	
Bluecrop Blueberry	1 gallon pot		x \$11.00 =	
Liberty Blueberry	1 gallon pot		x \$11.00 =	
Spartan Blueberry	1 gallon pot		x \$11.00 =	

Order Deadline March 20, 2015

Send order with check to: Cambria County Conservation District, 401 Candlelight Dr., Suite 229, Ebensburg, PA 15931

Conservation Award Nominations

Every year for the past fifty-four years, the Cambria County Conservation District has publicly recognized educators, farmers, individuals, businesses and organizations for their efforts, support and activities which further the cause of soil, water and related natural resource conservation in Cambria County and the Allegheny region.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2015 Conservation Awards in eleven award categories. Deadline for all nominations is Thursday, March 12, 2015 by 4:00 PM. Nomination requirements are as follows:

- The work or effort of nominees related to the award should have taken place in the Allegheny region of Pennsylvania – Preferably Cambria County
- Title of Award for your candidate
- One page narrative supporting your candidate's eligibility
- Full name, address and phone number of your candidate
- Full name, address and phone number of supporter submitting candidate

Winners and their supporters will be notified by mail no later than April 1, 2015. Winners will be invited to the Annual Conservation District Banquet as a guest of the District to be held in late May.

Mail nominations to: Cambria County Conservation District, 401 Candlelight Drive Suite 229, Ebensburg, PA, 15931. You may also email your nominations to: hard@co.cambria.pa.us. Narrative should be attached as an MS Word Document. Pictures may accompany the narrative, but are not necessary (pictures become property of the CCCD). Pictures should be in jpeg format. *The CCCD reserves the right to determine the appropriateness and eligibility of all nominees. The CCCD does not always issue awards for every category.*

If you would like any additional information on the nomination process, please call 814-472-2120. To view a list of 2014 Winners, visit our website at www.cambriacountypa.gov/conservation-district.aspx.

2015 Eligible Conservation Awards

Conservation Educator of the Year:

Nominee: Teacher or Educator (actively teaching during the 2014-2015 academic year)

Objective: Demonstrates strong commitment to conservation education programming/activities.

Conservation Farmer of the Year:

Nominee: Farmer

Objective: Furthered conservation through establishment and maintenance of soil, water and nutrient management practices as a Conservation District cooperator.

Special Conservation Service Award:

Nominee: Individual or Group

Objective: Unique and outstanding contribution to the conservation movement in Cambria County.

Conservation Organization of the Year

Nominee: Organization

Objective: Noteworthy contribution to the conservation of Cambria County's soil, water and related natural resources.

Watershed Protection Award:

Nominee: Individual or Organization

Objective: Promotes the protection of a particular watershed through a coordinated land and water resource approach.

Media Conservation Award:

Nominee: Individual/Agency/Company in the communication/advertising field

Objective: Demonstrates outstanding measures to support the conservation effort through design, visuals, and program coverage.

Forestry Management Award:

Nominee: Woodland owner

Objective: Demonstrates the wise use of their forest resources and avoids serious departure from accepted forestry practices, and is a Conservation District cooperator.

Erosion & Sedimentation Pollution Control Award:

Nominee: Individual/Agency/Municipality/Company in the

construction or timber industry

Objective: Demonstrates outstanding erosion and sedimentation control measures.

Natural Area & Heritage Preservation Award:

Nominee: Individual/Group/Program

Objective: Positive impact on the county or region preservation of unique natural, cultural, or man-made historic objects and places in Cambria County.

Soisson Public Recreation Achievement Award:

Nominee: Individual or Organization

Objective: Positive and safe impact on the county or region's public recreation opportunities.

Urban Conservation Award:

Nominee: Individual or Organization

Objective: Unique and outstanding contribution to the conservation of natural resources in an urban area of Cambria County.

Keep Cambria County Beautiful

SPRING TIRE & APPLIANCE COLLECTION APRIL/MAY 2015



**KEEP
CAMBRIA COUNTY**
Beautiful

APPLIANCES ACCEPTED ELECTRONICS NOT ACCEPTED

Refrigerator
Freezer
Microwave
Stove
Washer

Humidifier
Dehumidifier
Air conditioner
Heater
Dryer



Television
Computer and computer components
Cell phones
DVD/CD/BlueRay players
Cameras and Cam Recorders

*For info on proper disposal of electronics, call 472-2109

SPRING COLLECTION DATES AND LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED

TIRE AND APPLIANCE COLLECTION FEES (PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Passenger & Lt. Truck Tires

Off Rim: \$1.00
On Rim: \$2.00

Household Appliances

Freon Containing: \$6.00
Non-Freon Containing: FREE

Email

Be the first to get the Conservation District's newsletter each quarter!

With the increase in postage rates, we are asking anyone who have an email address to consider receiving an electronic version of our newsletter.

Call the District at 814-472-2120 or email bard@co.cambria.pa.us to switch from postal mail to email.

Family Days

We are currently planning the 2015 Family Days events.

We will once again be hosting this event at two locations—Duman Lake County Park and the 1889 Park/Disasters Edge Center

Dates have been set!

Wednesday, July 22 at Duman Lake

Friday, July 24 at Disaster's Edge.

Don't miss future updates! Call our office at 814-472-2120 or email bard@co.cambria.pa.us to sign up for our Family Days mailings.



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 179
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Return Service Requested

401 Candlelight Drive
Suite 229
Ebensburg, PA 15931

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 bard@co.cambria.pa.us
- Help us get the word out—"like" us on Facebook and ask your friends to do the same!

[www.cambriacountypa.gov/
conservation-district.aspx](http://www.cambriacountypa.gov/conservation-district.aspx)

and



Where is Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center?

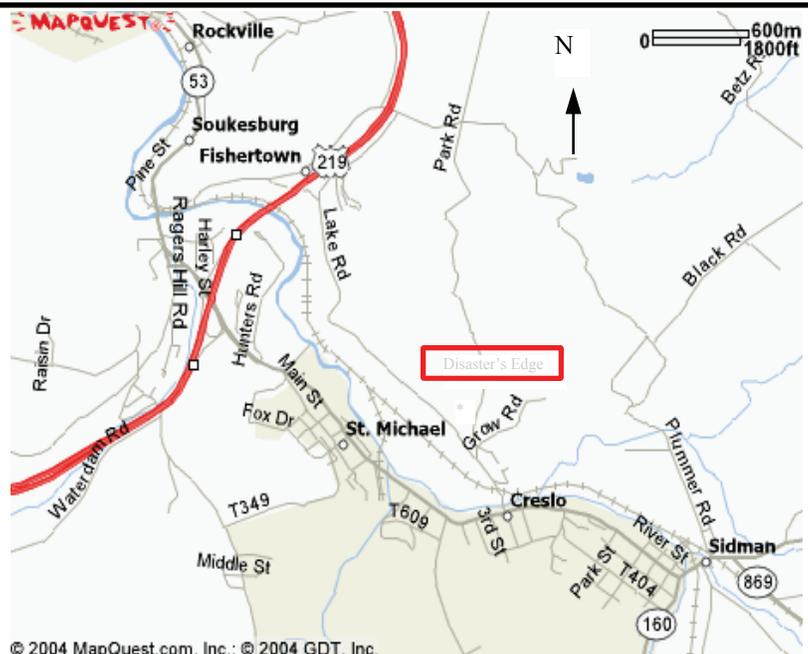
Take Route 219 North/South to the Sidman/St. Michael exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn onto Route 869 toward Sidman and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Lake Road, traveling over the bridge then over the railroad tracks and entering the 1889 Park. 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**

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.



© 2004 MapQuest.com, Inc.; © 2004 GDT, Inc.

Road Map to The Disasters Edge Environmental Education Center.