



A View from "The Edge"

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

Editors
Mary Ellen Bard
Jocelyn A. Sauter

Conservation Awards Banquet

On Wednesday, May 15, 2013 the Conservation District held its Annual Awards Banquet at the Carrolltown Firemen's Banquet Hall. The Conservation Awards honor children, youth, and adults who have put forth an effort to improve their lives and others' through conservation practices and promotion through art, competition, projects, community support & outreach, and best environmental practices in their lives and/or businesses.

Once again, we found people and organizations who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to strive for best conservation practices and support regarding timber, farmland, soil and water. We also recognized businesses, organizations, and education models which carry forward environmental awareness, involvement and support for future generations.

We extend a special thank you to: Mary Ellen Bard for coordinating and planning this event; District employees, Ameri-Corps members, and Board members who assisted in and attended the evening's fun; and to our helpers who distributed the door prizes to the lucky winners. The awards, door prizes, and entertainment went smoothly thanks to our MC, Associate Director, Charlie Moyer. Jerome "Nixie" Carl offered a lovely invocation and we were entertained by the beats, songs, and movement of Kulani Dance and Drum Ensemble.



The evening was fun and the food was delicious, but, as always, we wouldn't have the need to gather if not for the conscious, honorable efforts of all those who are committed to sustaining Cambria County's Environment.

Thank you to our door prize donors: Cambria County Conservation District, Cambria County Fair, Cambria County Cooperative Extension, Stineman Awards, Reighard Machine Inc, Cresson Feed Mill, Dolly Little—FSA, Drahnak's Greenhouse, Ebensburg Agway, Italian Village, Kosta's Restaurant, Gittler's, The Meadows (Ebensburg), USDA NRCS, Penn Gables Restaurant, Southern Alleghenies Advertising, Vale Wood Farms, Bureau of Forestry, Craft Farms, The Ranger, Jerome Carl, Bill McCombie—PA Game Commission.

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Special Dates to Remember

Jun 6: Board Meeting 10 am
Jul 4: Holiday/Office Closed
Jul 11: Board Meeting 10 am
Jul 17: Family Days
Jul 18: Family Days
Jul 30: Breakfast Meeting 7:30 am
Aug 1: Board Meeting/Picnic 5 pm

Meet the Board

*Each issue we'll introduce you to the wonderful people who serve the Conservation District.
Today, meet our
Commissioner Director*

Thomas C. Chernisky *Commissioner Director*

Tom Chernisky is a Cambria County Commissioner. He grew up in Patton, northern Cambria County, and resides in Geistown. He is the father of two daughters, Taylor and Megan.

Tom was a Cambria County Jury Commissioner for 2-1/2 terms and a twice, past President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Jury Commissioners. For his innovative ideas in the Jury Commissioners' Office in Cambria County and the State of Pennsylvania, he earned the Liberty Bell Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. He is also a Financial Services Representative for MetLife with 25 years of experience and has earned the industry designations of CLTC (Certified in Long-Term Care) and LUTCF (Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow). He umpires college baseball games and teaches umpiring throughout Pennsylvania.

He has been very involved within the community over the years. He currently serves as a committee person for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Cambria County Sports Hall of Fame. In the past, he served on the Community Action of Cambria County Board, where he received the Paul Bennett Community Service Award for Leadership. Other boards that he served on in the past are the Cambria County Transit Authority and the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority. He is a past member of the Geistown Borough Planning Commission.

2013 Grasslands Competition



(left to right) Coach Virgil Wilford, Nick Veneskey, Ricky Wagner, Greg Veneskey, Coach Genevieve Christ (overlay) Dawn Craft

The Cambria County 4-H team members placed second in the 2013 Grasslands Evaluation Contest held at Penn State University on May 7th. Each team member was awarded a \$250 college scholarship. That brings Cambria's total earnings to \$23,250 over the last 11 years (out of a total of \$38,250 awarded).

2013 Cambria County Envirothon



2nd Place:
Northern Cambria Team II



1st Place: Northern Cambria Team I



3rd Place:
Northern Cambria Team III

First Place - left to right: Nessa Myers, Adrienne Tubo, Kevin Zedack, Brooke Bernard, Martina Leonard

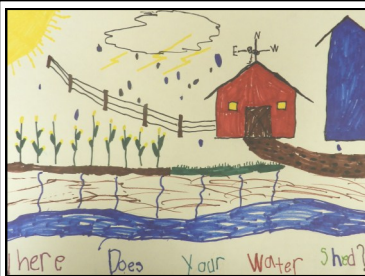
Second Place - left to right: Joe Sclesky, Michael Stolz, Katelin Fox, Renee Paronish, Kaylee Krug

Third Place - left to right: Victoria Cider, Nicole Hoover, Owen Baker, Charissa Mason, Adriana Frontino

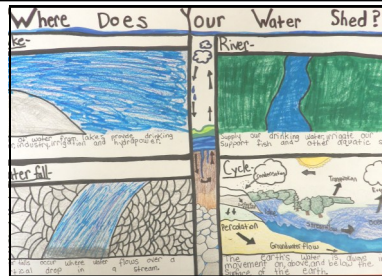
This year we had 21 teams from 9 different school districts compete. Thank you to all the schools, coaches and students who participated. Congratulations to Northern Cambria for placing in the top three positions. All winning teams received a trophy, t-shirts, and an invitation to this year's Conservation Awards Banquet. Northern Cambria Team I, the 1st Place Team, went on to represent Cambria County in the State Envirothon at Juniata College on May 21 & 22. Check our Facebook page to see where they placed.

Thank you to our sponsors: AC Power/Colver Operations, Cambria CoGen, Roaring Spring Bottled Water, Bureau of Forestry, DEP, PA Game Commission, NRCS, and Reighard Machine. Your contributions helped to make our Envirothon a fun educational event for all.

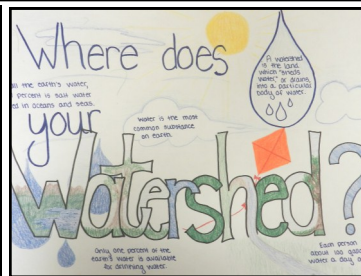
2013 Cambria County Poster Contest Winners



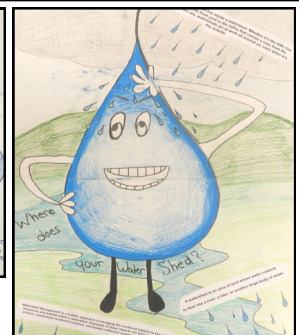
1st Place:
Hannah Beyer
K-1 Division
Forest Hills



1st Place:
Madeline Cecere
4-6 Division
Forest



1st Place:
Courtney Cecere
7-9 Division
Forest Hills



1st Place:
Cheyenne Dull
10-12 Division
Forest Hills

2nd Place Winners

Elisabeth Zajdel
4-6 Division
Forest Hills

Brianna Neff
10-12 Division
Forest Hills

3rd Place Winners

Taylor Schelesky
10-12 Division
Forest Hills

First Place winners received a cash award and a trophy. Second and Third 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.

Trout in the Classroom

On Friday, April 5, 2013 Bryan Rabish, Conservation District Watershed Specialist, and Nathan Marsh, AmeriCorps, joined Ben Watt and his Penn Cambria Middle School science students for a Trout in the Classroom field day. Ben Watt, the 2012 recipient of the Conservation Educator of the Year award, works closely with his students, teaching them the value of our environment, wildlife, and water quality.

The Trout in the Classroom program starts at the beginning of the school year, with the students hatching brook trout from eggs. The students are tasked with monitoring and troubleshooting the water quality daily. Once the fish are hatched, the students raise them until the spring.

On April 5, the trout release day was held at Beaverdam Run and Clearfield Creek. Before releasing the trout, the students must perform a macroinvertebrate study on the streams. Bryan Rabish and Nathan Marsh explained that macroinvertebrates are indicators of water quality and gave the students a lesson on how to kick the water and use their nets to collect macroinvertebrates. Using a reference sheet provided by Rabish and Marsh, the students identified the macroinvertebrates they collected. Based on their findings they were able to determine that the water quality was good. Once the water quality had been tested, each student was given a trout to release into Beaverdam Run.



Keep Cambria County Beautiful



KEEP
CAMBRIA COUNTY
Beautiful

Spring 2013 Collection Totals

Tires		Appliances	
On-Rim	Off-Rim	Freon	Non-Freon
126	808	37	25



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.

2013 Conservation Leadership School

Explore the outdoors like never before!

Conservation Leadership School (CLS) is a one-week residential program for high school students (ages 14-18) in which they will learn about the world around them through exploration and hands-on activities.

It's your ideal school, where the classroom includes more than 700 acres of forest, fields, wetlands, and streams... where learning about the environment goes hand-in-hand with having fun, meeting new friends and learning leadership skills.

CLS will take place the week of **June 23-29**. It is located at Penn State University Stone Valley Recreation Area. Join them as they explore how Pennsylvania's valuable natural resources influence our future, and their value to all of us. You will participate in ropes course activities, leadership activities, green initiatives, shooting sports, a wind farm tour, and much more!

Questions about CLS can be directed to Mike Powell at (814) 863-1113 or by email at mjp175@psu.edu. Registration information can be found at ecosystems.psu.edu/youth/cls.

2013 Conservation Award Winners



Cambria County Poster Contest Winners, Forest Hills School District



Grasslands Evaluation Contest Winners



Cambria County Envirothon Winners



Educator of the Year:
Nate Wharton



**Special Conservation
Service:** Akers Family



Conservation Organization of the Year:
Johnstown Sportsmen's Association



Watershed Protection:
Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited



**Natural Area & Heritage
Preservation:**
Grandview Cemetery



Soisson Public Recreation:
East Hills Recreation
Commission



**Forest Management
Award:**
Michael Caum



Urban Conservation:
Sandyvale Memorial
Gardens

Family Days

Cambria County Conservation District's



What you can expect this year:

We have a variety of programs in store for our Family Days friends this year!

You'll have the opportunity to learn about raptors and owls when Shaver's Creek brings their feathered friends for a visit! Conduct experiments and learn about the importance of agriculture as you walk through the Mobil Ag Lab and participate in their fun classes! Unwind with some songs and stories about the history of coal mining in our area. Join us for these activities and more! As always, Family Days will go on, rain or shine! We can't wait to see everyone for our favorite summer event.

Registration Deadline is July 10, 2013

\$2.00 per Person per Day

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

Ice Cream Treat provided at the End of Each Day

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



401 Candlelight Drive
Suite 229
Ebensburg, PA 15931

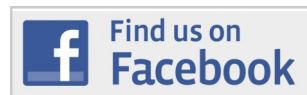
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Fax: (814) 472-0686
Email: cccd@co.cambria.pa.us

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Return Service Requested

- *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*
- *Help us get the word out—"like" us on Facebook and ask your friends to do the same!*

www.co.cambria.pa.us/conservation
and



Where is Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center?

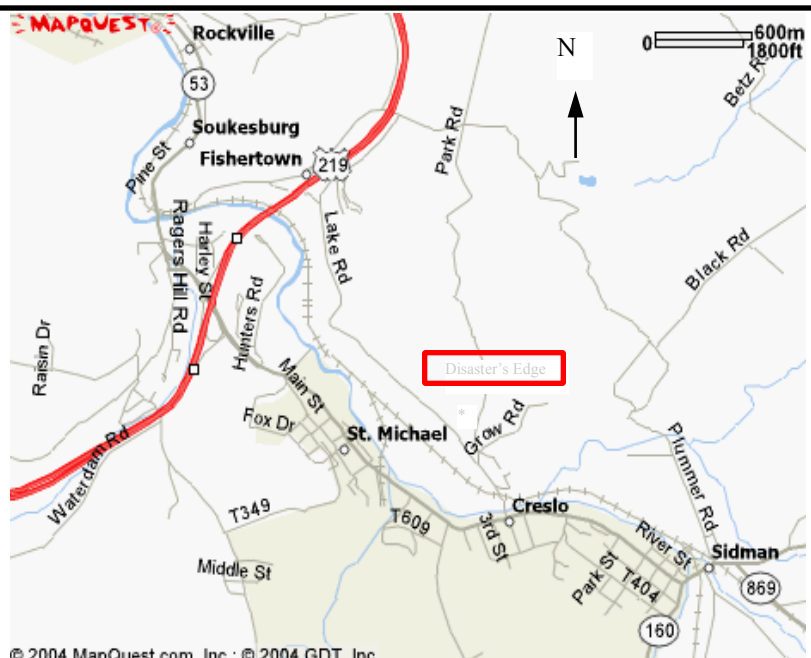
Take Route 219 North/South to the Sidman/St. Michael exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn onto Route 869 toward Sidman and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Lake Road, traveling over the bridge then over the railroad tracks and entering the 1889 Park.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



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Road Map to The Disasters Edge Environmental Education Center.