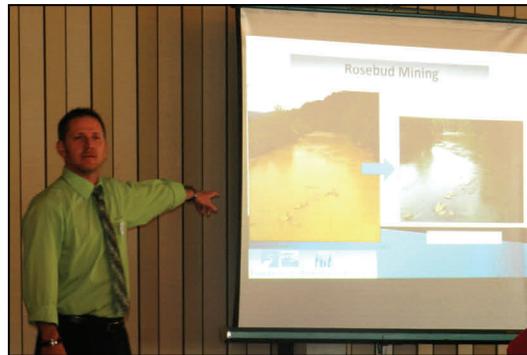




Legislative Luncheon

On October 4th, the Cambria County Conservation District held its annual Legislative Luncheon at the Imperial Room in Ebensburg. The District staff and Board members were joined by local and state legislators as well as staff from many other county and state organizations. We would like to thank all of those in attendance for helping to make this year's Legislative Luncheon another success.

The guest speaker for the Luncheon was Branden S. Diehl, a consultant for the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW). Diehl delivered a presentation educating our guests on the Little Conemaugh River Strategy. He addressed the ongoing efforts and outlined strategies for funding and water treatment options.



FPW is a privately funded non-profit organization with a small grants program. FPW provides funding for restoration and conservation projects, in addition to providing assistance with project, policy, permit, and grant writing.

Diehl began his presentation by highlighting FPW's past achievements: the restoration of the Stoneycreek River, funding \$1 million in small projects, starting the Conemaugh Strategy & Tech

Advisory Groups, and assisting with the Topper Run Treatment by Rosebud Mining—just to name a few.

As with any large-scale project, there are many steps that must be taken and Diehl gave us a brief overview of the steps that are currently underway. FPW has received \$2.5 million in GenOn funds and is hoping to benefit from the \$5 million AmFire Agreement funds. The Rosebud Treatment system in St. Michael has placed money in a trust fund. FPW is working with the American Chestnut Foundation to create a mixed forested landscape over approximately 33 acres. The spoil piles, health and safety issues, and comprehensive restoration are being addressed in Ehrenfeld and St. Michael. Finally, minepool mapping, monitoring and data enhancement, a risk analysis, the creation of a restoration plan, and the revision of the Kiski-Conemaugh restoration conservation plan are all being done to move the project forward.

The plan involves two separate tiers:

- Tier II: Restoration, where possible, of the main stem reaches of both the Little Conemaugh River and the South Fork of the Little Conemaugh River below the major abandoned mine discharges to support fish and aquatic life--allowing for boating, swimming, and fishing.
- Tier I: Restoration, where possible, of the main stem reaches of Little Conemaugh River, the South Fork of the Little Conemaugh River and of the various named and un-named tributaries to meet their state-wide designated uses.

Diehl concluded his presentation with a timeline for the many project details—with an estimated launch date of the summer of 2014.

CAMBRIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A View from "The Edge"

"The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river." Ross Perot

Editors
Mary Ellen Bard
Jocelyn A. Sauter

Inside this issue:

Meet the CCCD Staff	2
Cambria Heights Ecology Field Trip	2
Chapter 105 Permits	3
Spring Environmental Education Programs	4
2014 Poster Contest Rules	5
2014 Poster Contest Entry Form	6
2014 Envirothon	7
Keep Cambria County Beautiful	7
2014 Spring Tree Sale	7

Special Dates to Remember

Dec 5:	Board Meeting, 10 am
Dec 25:	Office Closed, Holiday
Jan 1:	Office Closed, Holiday
Jan 2:	Board Meeting, 10 am
Jan 20:	Office Closed, Holiday
Feb 6:	Board Meeting, 10 am

Meet the CCCD Staff

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

John Dryzal Assistant Manager

John was hired as the first watershed specialist in 1993 and became assistant manager in 1997. John directly administers No-Till Drill rentals, internships, AmeriCorps and grant administration and is involved in nearly every program the District provides.

He was certified in nutrient management planning, completed a watershed assessment, reviewed E&S plans and continues to assist with environmental education. He is a member of the PACD Ways and Means Committee and chairs the Southern Alleghenies RC&D Land/Resource Conservation Committee. From 1997-2008 John was park director for Duman Lake County Park where he made significant improvements.

John graduated from St. Francis College with a degree in biology. He lives in Jackson Township with his wife Lisa, and two children.

Mary Ellen Bard Administrative Assistant

Mary Ellen (Ellie) was hired at the District in 1999. Ellie keeps the office organized, but she does so much more, adding her creativity and conservation ideals to the District's mission. She took the Tree Sale from 2500 pine seedlings in 2000 to 12,121 plants, trees and shrubs in 2013 making this a viable fundraiser.

Ellie has been a 4-H leader for 31 years, which prompted her to create a one day *4-H Youth Day* in 2000 and then developed it into a two day *Family Days* event. She offers her expertise in Environmental Education with lessons on birds, pumpkin seeds and soy beans. She assists with the Envirothon and up until Oct. 2010 has handled all the public relations responsibilities.

Ellie and her family operate Bard Farms raising cattle, hogs and crops. Ellie lives in Summerhill Township with her husband and three children.

Cambria Heights Ecology Field Trip

On September 26, the CCCD was invited to participate in an Ecology Field Trip for the 6th grade classes of Cambria Heights Middle School. Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor, and Jocelyn Sauter, AmeriCorps, hosted a session on macroinvertebrates. Ritko and Sauter explained that macroinvertebrates are indicators of water quality and gave the students a lesson how to "kick" the water and use nets to collect macroinvertebrates. Using a reference sheet provided by Ritko and Sauter, the students identified the macroinvertebrates they collected. Based on their findings they were able to determine that the water quality was good.

The students had a great time splashing around in the water and turning over rocks to discover Mayflies, Caddisflies, and Stoneflies. There was extra excitement when one group found a Dragonfly Nymph.

The macroinvertebrate session was one of six separate stations hosted during the field trip. The other sessions included "Biodiversity and its Role in Food Webs," led by Nathaniel Wharton (Cambria Heights Educator); "Migration for Survival," led by Stephanie Hornick (St. Francis University); "Tree Identification," led by James Blake (Cambria Heights Educator); "Adaptations for Survival," led by Beth Garner (DCNR); and "Fishing," led by the PA Fish & Boat Commission.



Chapter 105 Permits

Reprinted from the Washington County Conservation District Newsletter.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has regulations governing waterways, known as Chapter 105. These rules and regulations were created to protect health, safety, welfare and property; and to protect natural resources and water quality. Chapter 105 is primarily administered by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), however, the Cambria County Conservation District has been delegated to administer parts of the Chapter 105 program by providing information and acknowledging certain types of permits for activities that encroach on or obstruct waterways.

Activities and structures in or near a regulated stream or its adjacent floodway fall under this program. A regulated stream is any channel with defined bed and banks that can convey water. It can be natural or manmade, perennial or intermittent. In most cases, a permit is required before starting any activity which alters, expands or diminishes the course, current or cross-section of a stream, floodway or body of water. Activities that are typically permitted include driveway culverts, highway bridges, utility line stream crossings, stream bank stabilization projects, boat docks, etc.

The Cambria County Conservation District acknowledges the following types of Permits:

- GP-1 Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures:** This permit authorizes the installation of fish habitat structures that have been approved by the PA Fish & Boat Commission.
- GP-2 Small Docks & Boat Launching Ramps:** This permit is for the construction of docks on lakes & rivers.
- GP-3 Bank Rehabilitation, Bank Stabilization, & Gravel Bar Removal:** This permit authorizes projects that involve bank stabilization or gravel bar removal along and in streams.
- GP-4 Intake & Outfall Structures:** This permit is used for projects involving the installation of pipes or channels to convey water from a stream or body of water and/or pipes or channels to discharge storm water or waste water into a stream or body of water.
- GP-5 Utility Line Stream Crossings:** The GP-5 applies to any utility line that crosses under or over a stream or wetlands. This includes gas, oil, water, electric & sewer lines.
- GP-6 Agricultural Crossings & Ramps:** This permit is to be used when crossings and ramps are installed for agricultural purposes.
- GP-7 Minor Road Crossings:** This permit is used when establishing a permanent roadway crossing through a stream or wetland using a bridge or culvert.
- GP-8 Temporary Road Crossings:** This permit is used to establish a temporary culvert or bridge crossing. The structure must be removed within 1 year.
- GP-9 Agricultural Activities:** This permit authorizes agricultural activities such as grassed waterways, terraces, diversions, manure storage facilities and spring developments that encroach into streams or their flood ways. A current conservation plan is required for this permit.

Please contact the Cambria County Conservation District at 814-472-2120 for more information on Chapter 105 permits or for information on what permits to apply to your specific project.

Disaster's Edge Spring Programs

"The Best field trip EVER!"

**In School Programs—\$2.00/person
Programs at Disaster's Edge—\$1.00/person**

"A wonderful experience for our students."

Environmental Education programs are for area schools, scout troops, and clubs. Programs can be brought to you or you can come to The Edge in St. Michael. Here are some of the programs being offered for the Spring of 2014:

Who's Clues – Students will learn to use their senses to explore the outdoors by listening and looking for clues (tracks, scat, nests, and burrows) that the animals leave behind. (Edge)

4.3 Environmental Health; 4.6 Ecosystems and their Interactions; 4.7 Threatened, Endangered and Extinct Species; 4.8 Humans & the Environment.

Amphibians & Reptiles – Students will be introduced to the life cycle of local amphibians and reptiles; and learn how they survive the long cold winters in Pennsylvania. Live animals are featured. (Edge or Classroom)

4.1 Watersheds & Wetlands; 4.3 Environmental Health; 4.5 Integrated Pest Management; 4.6 Ecosystems and their Interactions; 4.7 Threatened, Endangered and Extinct Species.

Wetland Ecology—Students tour a local wetland as they learn about the characteristics and function of wetlands and the important role they play for wildlife and humans. (Edge)

4.1 Watersheds & Wetlands; 4.2 Renewable and nonrenewable Resources; 4.3 Environmental Health; 4.6 Ecosystems and their Interactions

Birds of a Feather— We'll investigate bird habitats, adaptations, and the mysteries of migration. (Edge or in classroom).

4.3 Environmental Health; 4.6 Ecosystems and their Interactions; 4.7 Threatened, Endangered and Extinct Species, 4.8 Humans and the Environment.

Go Green with Trees—Students learn the effects of trees on the ecosystem, test for levels of chlorophyll using Chromatography, learn how to identify tree species, and determine the stage of succession of a woodland or forest. (Edge).

4.2 Renewable and nonrenewable Resources; 4.3 Environmental Health; 4.4 Agriculture and Society; 4.6 Ecosystems and their Interactions; 4.7 Threatened, Endangered and Extinct Species; 4.8 Humans and the Environment.

Seeds & Frogs—Students investigate the life cycles of plants and animals, recycle a plastic bottle to create a miniature terrarium, and observe the various stages of tadpole development (Edge or Classroom)

4.1 Watershed & Wetlands; 4.3 Environmental Health; 4.4 Agriculture and Society; 4.6 Ecosystems and their Interactions; 4.7 Threatened, Endangered and Extinct Species.

Dirt...you got to Dig It—Students learn the secrets of soil composition, percolation and the effects these qualities play on the local ecosystem. (Edge or outdoor classroom area at school).

4.3 Environmental Health; 4.4 Agriculture and society; 4.6 Ecosystems and their Interactions; 4.8 Humans and the Environment.

NOTE: We can design a program which fits your needs, and is aligned with PDE Environment & Ecology Standards. All activities are geared toward the age and skill level of our participants. Please call our Education staff for more information.

District Office (814) 472-2120

Disaster's Edge (814) 495-4380 or 243-5069



Soil Program at the Nanty Glo Library Summer Reading Program: "Dig Into Reading!"

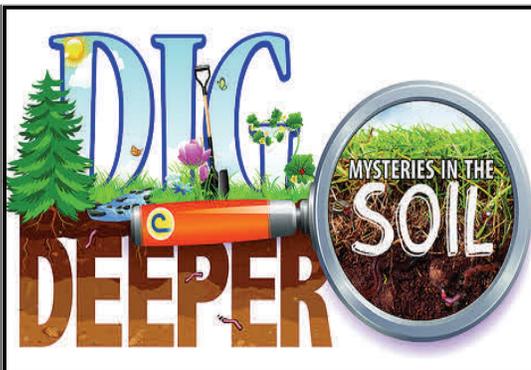


*Our Mother of Sorrows 3rd—6th Grade
Birds of a Feather Program*



*Forest Hills 4th Grade
Macroinvertebrate Program*

2014 Poster Contest Rules



Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters). (No computer category this year)

Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28" (or as rules at your local or state level)

All posters entered must have the entry form completed and attached to the back of the poster. (Local winners will be asked to complete an additional entry form in order to send the poster on to the state competition.)

Posters should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.

- ◆ All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- ◆ The 2014 title “Dig Deeper” or “Dig Deeper-Mysteries in the Soil” must be on your poster. (No other title.)
- ◆ Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students in their handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored by adult assistance.
- ◆ Posters must be submitted to the Cambria County Conservation District office by **April 14, 2014**

Grade Categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9,10-12.

For more info, visit: <http://nacdn.net.org/education/contests/poster/2014>

POSTER EVALUATIONS

Posters will be evaluated on the following

Conservation message (50%)

Visual Effectiveness (30%)

Originality (10%)

Universal Appeal (10%)

PRIZES

Local Contest: **1st Place** – trophy/\$50 Savings Bond
Dinner at Awards Banquet

2nd & 3rd Place – Rosettes & Dinner

State & National Contest: 1st Place - \$100 2nd Place - \$75

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Don't use too many words.
- Use a combination of illustrations and words.
- Be as neat as you can.
- Blend colors when using crayons or colored pencils.
- Depending on design leave white space on the poster.
- Make sure the poster is balanced.
- Brainstorm ideas and make a list.
- Decide on information to include on the poster.
- Research the theme topic.
- Sketch out your idea.
- Mark guidelines for lettering (lightly).
- Clean up the poster so it is neat. Erase any guidelines that are showing.

THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT DO

- Use staples, tacks or tape
- Use fluorescent poster board
- Create a poster that is all words or a poster that is all pictures.
- Have your parent or others draw your poster for you to color in.
- Include too many ideas or activities on your poster.
- Make up another theme title.

CHOOSE COLORS CAREFULLY

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| Black: | formal, neat, rich, strong |
| Blue: | cool, melancholy |
| Purple: | royal, rich |
| Yellow: | warm, light, or ripe |
| Green: | fresh, young, growing |
| White: | clean and neat |
| Red: | attracts the eye, high energy |
| Orange: | attracts the eye, high energy |

CONGRATULATIONS!!

2013 Poster Contest State Winner:

**Grades K-1st:
Hannah Beyer
Forest Hills Elementary**

Posters will be sent to NACD for judging at the national level in February.



Local Entry Form
NACD/PACD Auxiliary National Conservation Poster Contest

Attach a completed copy of this entry form to the back of each poster being entered. Entries must be received by the Cambria County Conservation District office no later than April 14, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

STUDENT

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

School Name _____ Grade _____ Age _____

____ The poster is an original completed by the student.

____ The student received assistance from another person or materials/ideas from another source. (Please explain on separate page)

**** 1st Place Winning posters become the property of the Conservation District.**

Please **CHECK** appropriate category
____(K-1) ____ (2-3) ____ (4-6) ____ (7-9) ____ (10-12)

SCHOOL

Teacher _____ Phone(____) _____

Public School _____ Private School _____ Home School _____ Other _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Parent or guardian name (printed) _____

_____ Date _____

Signature of parent or guardian allowing permission to utilize the poster for educational or promotional purposes.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Name: Cambria County Conservation District Contact: Jackie Ritko Title: Education Coordinator

Address: 401 Candlelight Drive, Suite 229 City: Ebensburg State: PA Zip: 15931

Phone: (814) 472-2120 Email: ritko@co.cambria.pa.us

STATE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, STATE AUXILIARY OR STATE AGENCY

Name: Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.

Contact: Shannon Wehinger Title: Communication Specialist

Address: 25 N. Front St. City: Harrisburg State: PA Zip: 17101 Phone: 717-238-7223

Envirothon 2014



Young minds thrive on challenges. The Envirothon is a program designed to cultivate a desire to learn more about our natural environment through competitive events. For over 20 years, high schools in PA have been recognizing the value of the Envirothon experience. Students and their teachers become empowered by their own motivation as the Envirothon engages them in an exciting, multi-faceted study of the environment. For many people involved, the Envirothon is more than just a competition. Participating students often pursue further education in environmental fields. Many Envirothon participants pursuing college degrees in various natural resource studies have indicated that their education choice was partly due to, or strengthened by, their Envirothon experience. Students earn scholarships through the competition, which help to offset the cost of education. The

CCCD Board of Directors donated \$300 to the State Envirothon to help support the distribution of scholarships to the winning teams. Envirothon advisors credit the Envirothon with increasing student interest and involvement in environmental sciences.

2014 Team Packets Now Available!

The Conservation District will host the Cambria County Envirothon on **Thursday, May 1, 2014** at the Disaster's Edge Environmental Center and the 1889 Park in St. Michael. More information will be sent in the near future, along with team/advisor packets, which include compact discs containing study materials for each station. Advisors can also go online now and download the Teacher Resource Packet at www.envirothonpa.net.

The 2013 Pennsylvania State Envirothon will be held at Susquehanna University, Susquehanna County on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20 and 21, 2014. The Oral

Component has been reinstated for the state contest, which will fall in line with the current issue – **“Sustainable Agriculture/Locally Grown.”** A power point program is available on the Envirothon website with regards to the current issue.

If your school has never participated in the Envirothon, but would like to be a part of the 2014 contest, please contact Jackie Ritko at ritko@co.cambria.pa.us or call 472-2120 to be put on the mailing list for all future correspondence regarding the contest.

Keep CC Beautiful

2014 Spring Tree Sale



**KEEP
CAMBRIA COUNTY
Beautiful**

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

Below are the numbers from the Fall collection:

Tires		Appliances	
On-Rim	Off-Rim	Freon	Non-Freon
428	1,339	31	7



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

In Cambria County we've had a pretty pleasant fall season so you should have had plenty of time to cut back perennials, trim bushes and mulch for the winter season. If you haven't put in your spring bulbs – there's still time as long as the ground is not frozen, but be sure to add a shot of bulb fertilizer.

Over the next few months the evenings will be cold and the nights long, and many of us will look forward to the coming of spring. A sure sign that spring is around the corner is the arrival of seed and gardening catalogs, including the **42nd Annual Conservation District Tree/Plant Sale** catalog! Items listed in the catalog include a variety of fruit trees, evergreen seedlings, berries, ground cover, shrubbery, perennial flowers, and more.

The catalog will be sent in February with orders to be taken through March. Your order will be available for pick-up in early April. If you do not already receive a catalog, call 472-2120 or email jsauter@co.cambria.pa.us to get your name and address on the mailing list. For those who would prefer to receive the catalog via email, please include your email address.

Additional information will be printed in the spring edition of **“A View from the Edge.”**



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 jsauter@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
and


Where is Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center?

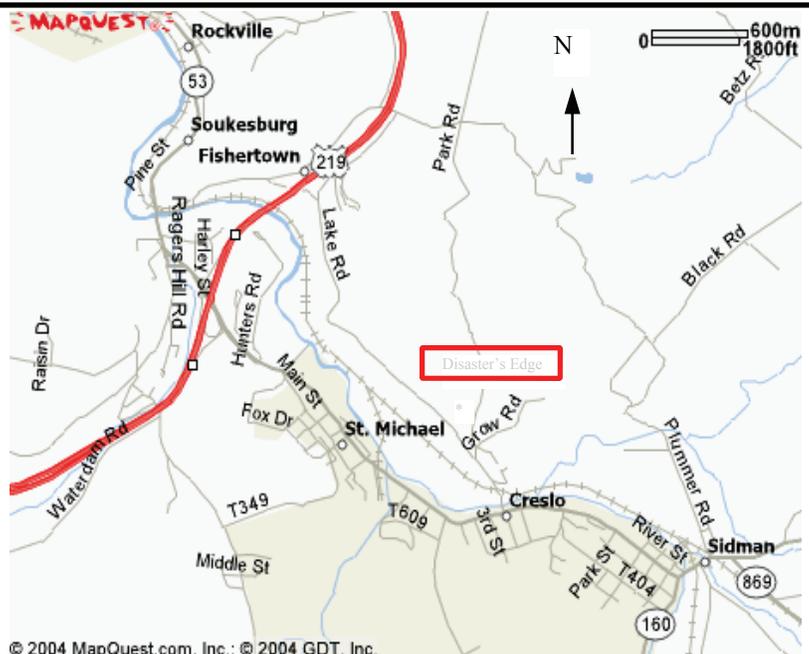
Take Route 219 North/South to the Sidman/St. Michael exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn onto Route 869 toward Sidman and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Lake Road, traveling over the bridge then over the railroad tracks and entering the 1889 Park.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