

Volume 52
March-December
2018

NORTHERN CAMBRIA & CHERRY TREE FLOOD CONTROL RESTORATION PROJECTS



Inside this issue:

Northern Cambria & Cherry Tree Stream Restoration.....	1
Plan Writing Workshop.....	2
2018 Awards Banquet.....	3
2018 Legislative Breakfast.....	4
2018 Fairbooth.....	4
2018 Family Day.....	5
New Education Programs.....	5
Poster Contest.....	6 & 7
Envirothon.....	8
Spotted Lanternfly.....	9
Tree Sale.....	10
Dates to Remember.....	10
Past and Present AmeriCorps	11

The Northern Cambria Flood Protection Project was designed and built with the traditional wide trapezoidal stream bottom on the West Branch Susquehanna River. At the time, this design seemed logical for flood protection—a wide clean channel—but there were unintended consequences. At low or normal flow, sediment deposition formed islands and bars randomly throughout the project area. These islands and bars can reduce flood protection capacity while creating a maintenance problem. The old way of thinking was to simply dredge the stream channel to remove the sediment bars and islands, but within a short period of time they could form again.

The Conservation District obtained a Growing Greener grant and collaborated with the PA Association of Conservation Districts (Somerset Office), and the PA Fish & Boat Commission Stream Habitat Division to design a flood control restoration project to address the issues. The design included utilizing the islands and bars, lowering some and moving others. The plan used modified mud sills, log faced stone deflectors, random boulders, log faced cross vane deflectors, and saw tooth deflectors, along with installing fish habitat devices to create a narrow low flow, meandering channel. A narrow channel, concentrates the stream flow to run faster and deeper, decreasing sediment deposition. It also increases dissolved oxygen levels, potentially improving flood capacity over time.

The project was completed in August of 2018 utilizing Earth Shapers, LLC, as the contractor to move the stone and logs. The total cost of the project was \$52,840.

An additional Growing Greener grant was obtained to handle a very similar situation on another section of the West Branch in the area of Cherry Tree.

Continued on page 2...

DURING RESTORATION



COMPLETED PROJECT



NORTHERN CAMBRIA AND CHERRY TREE CONTINUED....

The Cherry Tree Phase II project was also made possible by the collaboration with the Conservation District, PACD Somerset Office, the PA Fish & Boat Commission, and Earth Shapers LLC. The stabilization work was completed in August at a cost of \$41,700.

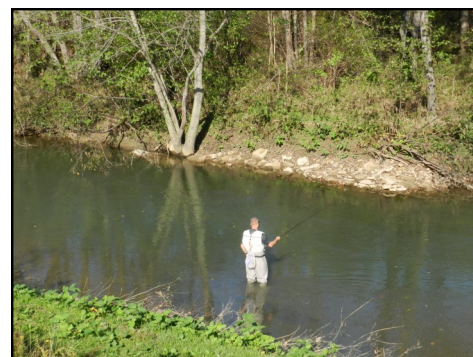
There is now streambank stabilization and fish habitat that will improve the quality of the water as well as sustain aquatic life. Where fishing was once virtually unheard of, anglers gather for their big catch of the day. With the success these types of projects have achieved thus far, it is very possible that future streambank projects will be considered.



CHERRY TREE BEFORE RESTORATION



CHERRY TREE AFTER RESTORATION



FISHING IN THE RIVER

PLAN WRITING WORKSHOPS

DO YOU NEED A MANURE MANAGEMENT PLAN OR AG E&S PLAN?

PA State Law requires *all* farms to have an Agriculture Erosion & Sedimentation Plan. *All* farms that land apply manure or have farm animals must have a Manure Management Plan.

PLAN WRITING WORKSHOPS FOR CAMBRIA & SOMERSET COUNTY PRODUCERS

Manure Management Plan Workshop

When: February 6th and 13th, 2019

Time: Drop in between 2pm and 5pm

Where: Panera Bread Conference Room, Richland Town Center, Johnstown PA

This Workshop will help you update or build a new manure management plan. Workbooks will be provided along with staff assistance

You need not be present for the full 3 hours, but allow time needed to work on your plan.

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED FREE
AT ALL SESSIONS**

Ag E&S Plan Workshop

When: February 6th and 13th, 2019

MUST ATTEND BOTH*

Time: 5:15 pm – 9 pm

Where: Panera Bread Conference Room, Richland Town Center, Johnstown PA

This workshop will focus on the use of PA One Stop farm map planning for your Ag E&S plan. Laptops will be provided or bring your own.

*1 pesticide credit available on each day for a total of 2 credits.

RSVP required by January 25th, 2019.
**Contact Brian Bahorik or Ellie Bard
at 814-472-2120.**

2018 AWARDS BANQUET

One hundred and thirty people gathered together on June 14th, 2018 to honor those who received awards for their conservation efforts through proper practices, public awareness and collaborative work with the Conservation District. The event was held at the Crystal Hall in Ebensburg and a very interesting program was presented by Craig Hicks, USDA Wildlife Services, on the practices and process of handling invasive animals. Our guests received gifts of spiral notebooks and pens, provided by the Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Roads program, and several door prizes, donated from local businesses.



Poster winners from Central Cambria, Bishop Carroll Catholic School, Jackson Elementary, and Forest Hills



Farmer of the Year

Floyd Farabaugh

A 5th generation farmer, managing a 2,700 acre grain operation, on 55 farms in Cambria & Indiana Counties.



Forestry Management Award

Thomas & Joanne Lipple

Their adventure in forest management began in 2008 by obtaining a Forest Stewardship Plan for their 188 acre tract near Dysart.



Chairman's Award

Cambria County Commissioners

District Board Chairman, Dennis Beck recognized the Cambria County Commissioners Mark Wissinger, Tom Chernisky and BJ Smith, for working with the district in our efforts to improve and protect the environment for our county constituents.

This group of Commissioners has collaborated with the district to improve our administrative operations that will allow us to move forward in continuing the much needed stewardship of our resources in Cambria County.



DGLVR Project Completion Award

Summerhill Township

The township completed the first Low Volume Road project in Cambria County—Leck's Road.

2018 LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST



Power Point Presentation

Legislators, partnering organizations, directors, and other interest parties were invited to the 2018 Legislative Breakfast hosted by the district on October 12th. The breakfast was held at Kosta's restaurant in Ebensburg, followed by a tour of various stream-bank stabilization projects.

Public and private partnering was the main theme of the meeting, with a focus on stream side

coal refuse removal. A presentation featuring numerous pictures of before, during, and after coal refuse removal served as an appropriate backdrop as Mark Stockley, Resource Supervisor/Chesapeake Bay Technician with the district, and Todd Coleman of MineTech Engineering Inc., spoke of the common sense approach being used by partnering organizations to get important streamside projects completed. Permitting can be a major stumbling block when removing coal refuse completely down to the stream. Innovative thinking and a partnership between DEP, MineTech Engineering, Robindale Energy, the Conservation District, and private landowners, has resulted in some very successful stabilization projects. It was shown that what was once a huge black coal pile polluting the waterway, can be successfully removed and restored to lush green vegetation and cleaner water.

Following the presentation, our guests were treated to a tour of three projects to see first hand, the positive results of this partnership approach. The tour began in Nanty Glo, moved to Northern Cambria, and concluded in Hastings. Each stop along the tour was a location where coal refuse had been laying extremely close to a stream and inevitably washing into the water, but has since been reclaimed. The tour proved to be successful as guests left with a new sense of understanding.



Nanty Glo project completed and future project



Standing on what used to be a coal refuse pile



Hastings site

2018 AMERICAN LEGION CAMBRIA COUNTY FAIR

As in years past, the district set up a booth at the American Legion Cambria County Fair. The theme this year featured unwanted plants, bugs, and dirt! Passers-by had the opportunity to identify a variety of different nuisance weeds that grow throughout many backyards. Those who entered the fair booth were invited to play a simple game of 'eye-spy', where they were asked to look for Spotted Lantern Fly nymph and adult props, to bring awareness to the ever growing concern regarding the invasive bug. Those who participated in the game were awarded a fly swatter designed to destroy the Spotted Lantern Fly. While looking throughout the booth, people were also able to get a close up look at some of the methods and supplies used to improve township roads through our Dirt & Gravel /Low Volume Road program.



COMMON BACKYARD WEEDS

The district also awarded a bird viewing box and a bat box to two lucky winners who signed up for a free chance to win while visiting our display.

2018 FAMILY DAY



A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

For \$2 a person, families across Cambria county were invited to enjoy a day of education and family fun at Duman Lake County Park hosted by the Conservation District. As in previous years, the day featured different educational stations set up to provide participants with hands on experiences.

H2Oh! On The Go!, a mobile watershed model, was stationed at the park for our families to visit. The display features a variety of water stations that explain the principles and properties of water. One popular station was building a watershed model in the sand, and then viewing the purple light spreading, indicating rain water, to see how water flows throughout the land.

Interns from the PA Game Commission took our guests for “*A Walk On The Wild Side*”. Children and parents were engaged in an interactive walk through the nature trail looking for signs of native animals that could be found and identified.

Those who were 13 years or older were provided with the opportunity to kayak, following a lesson on how to kayak properly and safely. Canoes were provided for younger children and parents wanting to get out on the water as well.

The day wrapped up with an interactive show of unique creatures, from the Critters & Conservation organization. Some of the animals featured were a Flat Rock Scorpion, European Legless Lizard, and a Lesser Tenrec.

The day would not have been complete without snacks and drinks to keep the learners happy and hydrated! Donations were generously provided by Coca Cola, Snyders of Berlin, and a visit from the Cambria County Dairy Ambassadors handing our Dilly Bars donated by the Hollidaysburg Dairy Queen.



CRITTERS & CONSERVATION

NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS-AVALIABLE UPON REQUEST

Four new education programs were recently created and implemented by the District. If you are interested in having a program be featured for your classroom/group, please contact Jackie Ritko at 814-472-2120.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION

Students investigate 14 stations set up along the nature trail in the 1889 Park. They will be asked to figure out the animal habitat based on written clues and evidence at each location in the park.

TRASH TEA

Students are shown water quality tests on trash polluted waters. They then collect their own trash and place it in water for approximately a month. The district staff will visit the group and test the quality of the student's water.

POLLUTION SOLUTION

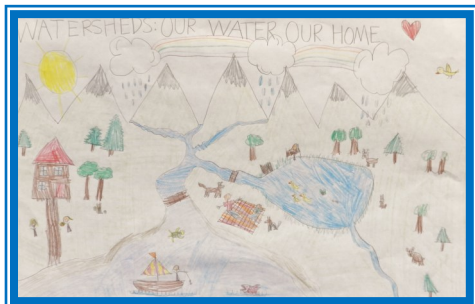
Students will conduct experiments to demonstrate how non-point source pollution can affect our streams and rivers. Followed by discussion on how to prevent non-point source pollution.

SPOTTED SEARCH

Students participate in experiments related to the daily life of the invasive Spotted Lantern Fly. They are shown videos with the effects of the bug, and then are tasked with finding numerous hidden prop bugs throughout the location.

2018 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

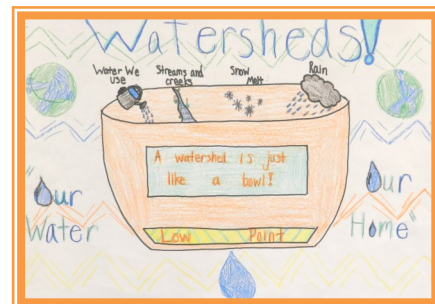
The 2018 poster contest theme was “Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home.”, with 56 total students participating, and had winners in all 5 divisions (K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12). Thanks for all the participation and congratulations to the winners!



Grace Petrunak, K-1 Grade
Cambria Elementary



Karlee Beyer, 2-3 Grade
Forest Hills Elementary



Aubrey Ruddek, 4-6 Grade
Jackson Elementary



Ashley Kubat, 7-9 Grade
Bishop Carroll Catholic High School



Xuerui (Ray) Leng, 10-12 Grade
Bishop Carroll Catholic High School

2019 POSTER CONTEST



CONTEST RULES

1. Poster size must be 14"x22" (half a poster)
2. Clearly print your name and information on the entry form.
3. Theme “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper” MUST be on your poster.
4. Poster must be flat—no 3-D objects.
5. Poster must be created by an individual student. One entry per student.
6. Poster must be the original artwork of the student.

Contest Categories

K—1st
2nd—3rd
4th—6th
7th—9th
10th—12th

What Makes a Good Poster?

Colorful posters are best! Use markers, paint, colored pencils, crayons, charcoal, stickers, etc. Avoid thin-lined, light colored artwork. Hand-drawn or digital posters accepted. Balance a combination of illustrations and words. Text should be large enough to be easily read. Be as neat as you can be. Use colors and white space effectively—attract attention! Research the theme as a way to brainstorm ideas.

Judging Criteria

- ◆ **Conservation Message—50%**
- ◆ **Visual Effectiveness—30%**
- ◆ **Originality—10%**
- ◆ **Universal Appeal—10%**

Cash prizes awarded for top winners in each category at the Local, State and National level.

Entry form available on next page —or on the district website.
<http://www.cambriacountypa.gov>—search Conservation District

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 **May 1st, 2019** at 4:00pm.

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

School Name _____ Grade _____ Age _____

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

2018 ENVIROTHON WINNER CIRCLE



1st Place: Northern Cambria Team I

Coach Mary Beth Kerr, Zach Malicky,
Taylor Sherry, Emily Weaver, Abby Strong,
& Paige Dumm



2nd Place: Forest Hills Team III

Coach Joel Kosmac, Thomas Hockensmith,
Lowe Ayers, Autumn Holdsworth,
Donovan Faith, & Garet Connor



Third Place: Bishop McCort Team I

Hunter Gleason, Devin Nav, Kristin Diehl, Kyleigh
Way, & Coach Jennifer Bradley



Fourth Place: Portage Area Team I

Dominic Davis, Philip Krisko,
Olivia Kissell, Cody Trusik, Alyssa Baxter,
& Coach, Mary Kenny



Fifth Place: Bishop Carroll Team III

Steven Morris, Zach Bohrer, Nick Witham, Wyatt
Kosicki, Marian Farabaugh,
& Coach Carol Carlisle

2019 ENVIROTHON CONTEST

Teachers/Coaches: You and your team of students are invited to attend the 2019 Cambria County Envirothon to be held at Adams/Croyle Recreation Authority 1889 Park on **May 7, 2019**. Students currently in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to compete. Each participating school may send up to three teams to the competition, with each team consisting of three to five members. **Please note that the state rules require that we must send a five member team to the state.**

Envirothon subjects include Wildlife, Aquatics, Forestry, Soil/Land Use, plus the 2019 Current Issue topic - **Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World**. The winning team will be eligible to attend the State Envirothon at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown on May 21 and 22, 2019.



If you intend to participate in the 2019 Envirothon, please contact Jackie Ritko at 814-472-2120 or ritko@co.cambria.pa.us. An "Intent to Participate" form will be sent to you—which must be returned to the Conservation District by **Monday, April 1, 2019**.

Resources are available at the Conservation office to help your team prepare for the contest. **Coaches—select your team members and contact our office if you would like to schedule sessions focusing on topics for the contest. The best time to schedule sessions are during the months of January through March.**

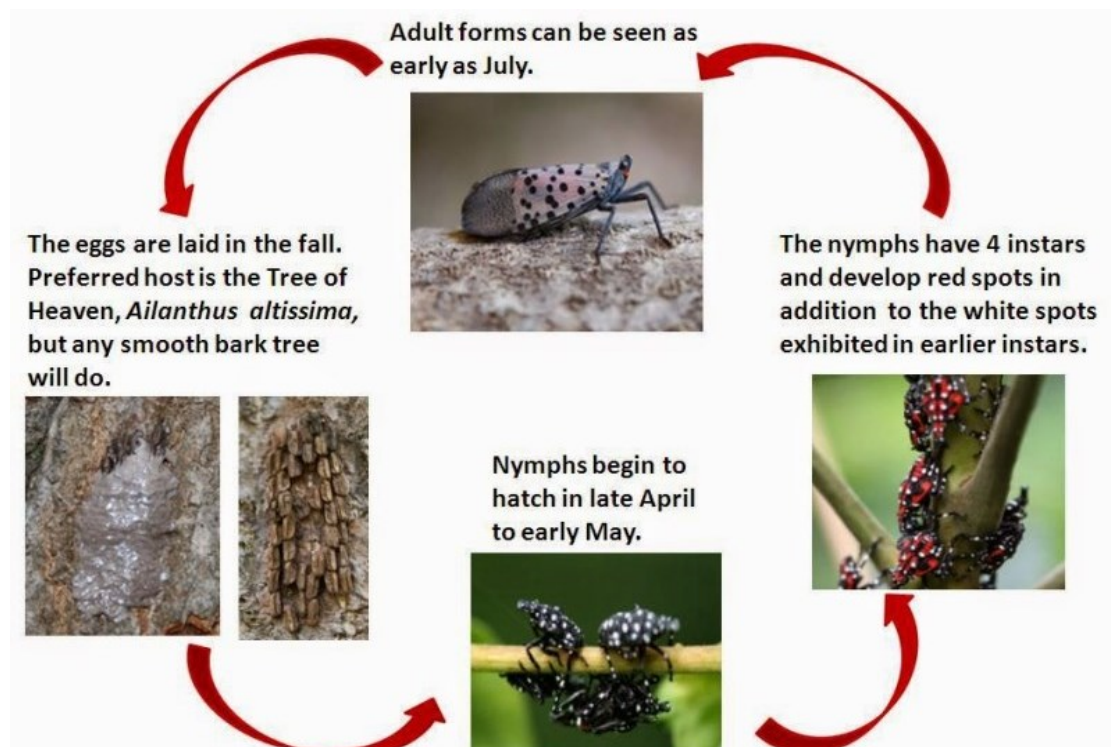
SPOTTED LANTERN FLY

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY INVADER



What is a species called when it invades a new neighborhood and steals food and water from species that have always lived there? Invasive! Students from Forest Hills 5th grade recently learned about a “Bad Bug” that has invaded counties in the eastern portion of Pennsylvania, and could very well be headed in our direction. That invasive species is the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). This insect is causing havoc with grape vines, fruit trees, hops and other crops. The students

learned that the SLF host tree is the Tree of Heaven, but it will also live off of Maple trees, Willow, Black Walnut and Sumac. The insect drives it piercing, sucking mouthpart through the bark of the tree to extract the Xylem of trees, robbing the tree/vines of nutrition and causing death to these plants. This insect goes through several life stages that begin as eggs laid on the outside of trees, building, rocks, and anything that has a smooth surface. The egg mass of 30- 50 eggs is covered with a gray mud. The eggs hatch into nymphs in the spring, which travel up the tree to begin their meal on the Xylem. The nymphs are black and go through several growth stages ending in a bright red and black stage. In late summer the nymph molts into the adult fly stage. This beautiful fly is covered with gray wings with black spots and underlying wings that are bright red. The adult fly will begin laying eggs in September and will not just lay one batch, but several over the next few months, until the temperature goes below 30 degrees at which time the adult fly will die. The eggs however, will overwinter. These insects also excrete a sticky substance called “Honeydew” which is a clear, thick, sticky substance that sticks to surfaces anywhere the bug is present - trees, forest floor, vehicles, decks, sidewalks. This substance can turn into a sooty mold, suffocating other plants and causing safety hazards. The students were encouraged to take the SLF Challenge – to kill any adult Spotted Lanternfly that they come across and to scrape and destroy any egg masses. In order to keep this very prolific, devastating bug from entering our county, we need to educate everyone on what to look for, destroy it, and report it to BadBug@pa.gov.



TREE SALE



The 2018 Tree/Plant sale was a successful event for the district. Over 9,000 items were sold, 136 items donated and a profit of over \$8400 was realized. All proceeds go to carry out education and promotion of our district programs and aid in carrying out projects to improve your environment.



Be sure to look for the 2019 catalog in early February—on our Facebook page, website, or contact the district to get on the email or postal mailing lists.

DATES TO REMEMBER

District Board Meeting— Thursday, December 13, 2018
11:00 am, Hoss's Restaurant, Ebensburg

Tree/Plant Sale Orders Due— Friday, March 22, 2019

Cambria County Farmland Preservation Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 18, 2018—Noon, Kosta's Restaurant

County Envirothon "Intent to Participate" Forms Due
Friday, April 1, 2019

Ag E&S/ Manure Management Workshops RSVP
Friday, January 25, 2019

Tree/Plant Sale Order Pickups – Friday, April 12, 2019
American Legion Fairgrounds, Ebensburg

Ag E&S/ Manure Management Workshop 1
Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Poster Contest Entries Due— Wednesday, May 1, 2019
4:00 pm at the Conservation District office, Ebensburg

Ag E&S/ Manure Management Workshop 2
Wednesday, February 13, 2019

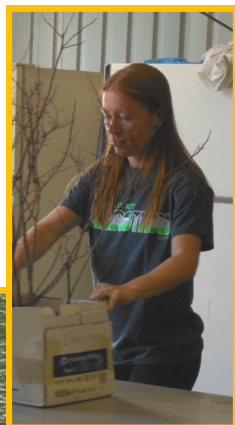
Cambria County Envirothon— Tuesday, May 7, 2019
9:00 am, Adams/Croyle Rec Authority 1889 Park

ATTENTION:

If you would like to help conserve resources and receive your newsletter via email, send your email address to bard@co.cambria.pa.us

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter list, please call 472-2120.

MADELINE BERRY



Madeline joined the district as an AmeriCorps member in August of 2016, after graduating from St. Francis University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Working with the district offered Madeline many new experiences from assisting with permit inspections, conducting education programs for elementary students, assisting with kayak sessions, creating the newsletter and annual reports, and working side by side with staff to prepare and carry out the annual tree and plant sale.

She gained valuable knowledge relating to erosion and sedimentation issues, streambank stabilization, the issues we face here in the county with Acid mine drainage, and more.

Madeline's AmeriCorps term ended in August of 2018 and she has moved to Mississippi where she is enrolled in graduate school at Mississippi State University majoring in Environmental History.

SHANNON JOHNS

The newest AmeriCorps member to join the Conservation District is Shannon Johns. She graduated in December 2017 from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography (Environmental Track), minor in Biology, and a certificate in Homeland Security. Her past environmental experiences took her across Pennsylvania and to the Flight 93 National Memorial, where she worked to collect tree data on trees planted for restoration purposes. Growing up in western Pennsylvania and having a love for the outdoors, she thought the district would be a great fit for her. In her free time, Shannon enjoys traveling, going to concerts, and camping.

While she has only been with the district for a few short months, she has had the opportunity to assist in a variety of activities. She is enjoying her time as an AmeriCorps member at the district and states, "I love how everyday I'm doing something different!" Streams have always been a special interest for her, and while at the district she has had the opportunity to witness restoration firsthand and document different aspects of streambank stabilization and habitat enrichment carried out by the district. She has also been able to assist with Spotted Lanternfly, renewable energy, wildlife, and water quality education programs. Future projects she will be involved in include the Dirt & Gravel Roads program, utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map completed work, streambank stabilization, heavy involvement in creating and assisting in education programs, as well as all other programs the district conducts. Shannon hopes to pursue a career in environmental restoration, and feels her experiences at the district will enrich her knowledge base.





401 Candlelight Drive

Suite 229

Ebensburg, PA 15931

Non-Profit Organization
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Ebensburg, PA 15931

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 bard@co.cambria.pa.us

www.cambriacountypa.gov/conservation-district.aspx

and



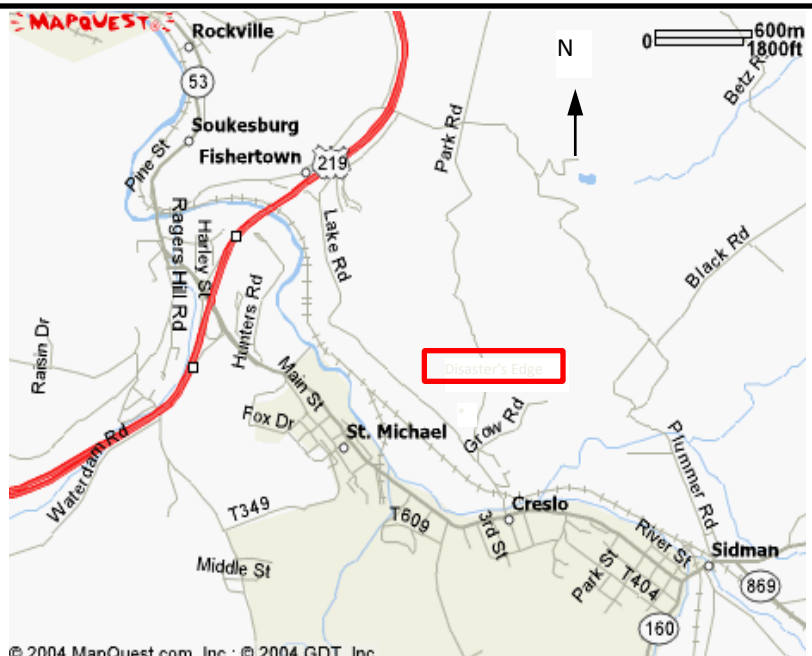
Where is Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center?

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.

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.