

A View from “The Edge”

*“To cherish what remains of the Earth...to foster its renewal
is our only legitimate hope of survival.” Unknown*

Volume 30
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Editors
Mary Ellen Bard
Jocelyn A. Sauter

It's Getting Warmer at the Edge

A very exciting change has taken place at our educational facility, Disaster’s Edge. A new Geothermal Energy Unit was installed. The project began in late October and was completed in mid December. The installation of the geothermal energy unit was financed by grant monies from the Community Foundation and additional aid from the Cambria County Commissioners.

What is Geothermal Energy?

Geothermal Energy is heat from the earth. People have turned to using geothermal energy as an “affordable and sustainable solution to reducing their dependence on fossil fuels...” Geothermal energy is used to both heat and cool thousands of homes and buildings across the country.

Where does the energy come from?

There is a layer of hot and molten rock, called magma, located below the earth’s crust. The magma continually produces heat – the heat in this layer is equal to “50,000 times more energy than all the oil and natural gas resources in the world.” Areas of the country containing “hot spots,” or volcanos, have higher levels of heat energy. Our region lacks hot spots, and therefore contains lower levels of heat energy. This lower level of heat energy is useful, however, for direct heating purposes. Sources of heat energy can even be found in your own backyard, or in our case, the ground surrounding the Disaster’s Edge!

(See Geothermal, pg. 3)



Left: Wells are drilled into the ground beside Disaster’s Edge.

Right: The landscape looks as good as new once the wells have been drilled and lines have been placed.

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Special Dates to Remember

- Mar 1:** Board Meeting
- Mar 23:** Tree/Plant Sale orders due and Envirothon Intent to Participate due
- Apr 4:** Board Meeting
- Apr 13:** Tree/Plant Sale
- Apr 16:** Poster Contest Deadline
- Apr 24:** Breakfast Meeting
- May 3:** County Envirothon & Board Meeting

Meet the Board

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

Herbert Allen Wilson, Jr **Associate Director**

Herb Wilson became an Associate Director in August of 2010. He was asked to lend his expertise on the Water Resources and Watershed Development Committees. Herb graduated from The University of Pittsburgh in 1975 with a degree in Civil Engineering Technology. In 1987, he attained his Professional Engineer's License. Herb is a four-year U.S. Army Veteran of the Vietnam War. He worked for the Department of Environmental Protection for over 20 years, retiring in June of 2010. Wilson is one of only 72 people in the world to become a Master Ground Water Contractor with the National Ground Water Association. He has designed and constructed water and wastewater facilities all across Pennsylvania.

Herb and his wife have been married for over 38 years and currently reside in Jackson Township. He and his wife enjoy traveling, especially to see their four children and three grandchildren. Wilson is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the PA Society of Professional Engineers, the PA Ground Water Association, and the National Ground Water Association. As if all of that doesn't keep him busy enough, Herb is also an avid model railroader and is currently building a layout in his basement.

Anthony Sossong **Associate Director**

Tony Sossong became an Associate Director in 1998. His decision to be a part of the District is linked to his strong desire to stay informed of the work being done by the Conservation District and to serve the District. In 1956 Tony graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Mining Engineering. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and Surveyor. After 24 years as President of Berwind Natural Resources – Windber Group, Tony retired. Although he is retired, Tony is currently doing work as a consulting engineer and a land developer.

Tony and his wife, who passed away in 2007, have five sons. Sossong has lived in Cambria Township for the past 44 years. He is a Director Emeritus for both the Pennsylvania Coal Association and the Conemaugh Health Foundation. Tony also serves as a Director for the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp

Applications are now being accepted for the 18th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp being held June 17-22, 2012 at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County. The PA Council of Trout Unlimited created the camp with the purpose of educating students in the importance of cold-water conservation.

The classes include principles of ecology, geology, aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate sampling, riparian buffers, hydrology, trout behavior, trout stream entomology, the biology of pollution and the politics of conservation. Hands-on classes in fly tying, fly casting, streamside ethics, water safety and survival, and streamside botany. The students will also participate in a watershed project to repair stream habitat. Plenty of time is set aside for the students to fish the world famous Yellow Breeches Creek.

Faculty includes professionals from various agencies such as the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Dr. Robert Behnke of Colorado State University considered the foremost trout biologist in the world is expected as the keynote speaker.

The camp is limited to 32, aged 14 to 17 so interested applicants should apply as soon as possible. The student must have been born between June 22, 1994 and June 17, 1998 to qualify. A camp selection committee will choose students based upon the required essay. The cost is \$350. Tuition assistance is available for qualified students.

For more information/application go to www.riverscamp.com. You may also email questions and/or your completed application to riverscamp@gmail.com.

Geothermal Energy (Continued)

How do we access and capture the energy?

A ground source heat pump system was installed at Disaster's Edge. Because the heat is located below the ground's surface, wells are drilled and pipes are buried underground. In doing this, we are able to take advantage of the constant year-round temperature of about 50 degrees just a few feet below the surface.

With ground source heat pumps, either air or anti-freeze liquid is pumped through the pipes that are buried underground and recirculated into the building. In the summer, this process removes heat from the building into the ground. In the winter, the ground temperatures provide pre-warmed air to the heating system of the building. This results in less energy usage in heating and cooling.

In areas where temperature extremes exist, such as the winter temperature in the Northern United States, ground-source heat pumps "are the most energy efficient and environmentally clean heating and cooling systems available." These systems are able to move as much as 3-5 times the energy they use in the process of heating and cooling. A heat pump system can save the user hundreds of dollars in energy costs each year, "with the system typically paying for itself in 8-12 years." While it is a long-term cost saver, a ground source system has high up-front expenses. Installing the system in an existing structure drives the cost up more because it involves working around the building.



A large pipe with vents runs along the ceiling to distribute heat throughout the classroom.

More information on Geothermal Energy can be found at: www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/technology_and_impacts/energy_technologies/how-geothermal-energy-works.html

Contest Updates and Reminders

★ ★ ★ *Don't Forget...* ★ ★ ★



2012 Cambria County Envirothon - May 3, 2012
Intent to Participate DEADLINE March 23, 2012

2012 Poster Contest
All entries due by 4 pm April 16, 2012

The forms can be printed from the CCCD Website:
www.co.cambria.pa.us/conservation



2012 ORDER FORM

Name: _____ **Phone (H)** _____

Address: _____ **Phone (W)** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Item	# per bundle	# ordered	cost/bundle	Total
Colorado Blue Spruce	10/bundle		x \$ 7.00 =	
Norway Spruce	10/bundle		x \$ 7.00 =	
Douglas Fir	10/bundle		x \$ 7.00 =	
White Spruce	10/bundle		x \$ 7.00 =	
RubyMac Apple (patented variety)	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 15.00 =	
Gibson Yellow Delicious Apple	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 14.00 =	
Buckeye Gala Apple (patented variety)	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 15.00 =	
Zestar Crisp (patented variety)	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 15.00 =	
Yellow Transparent Apple	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 14.00 =	
Sam Cherry (Sweet)	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 16.00 =	
Bing Cherry (Sweet)	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 16.00 =	
Compact Stella Cherry (Sweet)	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 16.00 =	
Bartlett Pear - Dwarf	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 17.00 =	
Potomac Pear - Dwarf	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 17.00 =	
Moonglow Pear	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 15.00 =	
Glohaven Peach	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 17.00 =	
Loring Peach	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 17.00 =	
Stanley Plum	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 17.00 =	
Bluebird Plum	1 tree (4'-6' in height)		x \$ 17.00 =	
Autumn Blaze Maple	1 tree (5' in height)		x \$ 35.00 =	
Red Sunset Maple	1 tree (6' in height)		x \$ 42.00 =	
Red Oak	1 tree (6' in height)		x \$ 43.00 =	
Green Mountain Sugar Maple	1 tree (6'-8' in height)		x \$ 45.00 =	
Weeping Willow	1 tree (6' in height)		x \$ 32.00 =	
Indian Summer Crabapple	1 tree (4'-5' in height)		x \$ 17.00 =	
Weeping Cherry	1 tree (66 inches #1 T)		x \$ 45.00 =	
Ivory Silk Lilac Tree	1 tree (5' in height)		x \$ 32.00 =	
Jersey Knight Asparagus	5/crowns		x \$ 6.00 =	
Purple Passion Asparagus	5/crowns		x \$ 6.00 =	
Earliglow Strawberries	25/plants		x \$ 12.00 =	
Jewel Strawberries	25/plants		x \$ 12.00 =	
Albion Strawberries (Everbearing)	25/plants		x \$ 12.00 =	
Sierra Blueberry	(1) 2 gallon pot		x \$ 16.00 =	
BlueJay Blueberry	(1) 2 gallon pot		x \$ 16.00 =	
Patriot Blueberry	(1) 2 gallon pot		x \$ 16.00 =	
Chandler Blueberry	(1) 5 gallon pot		x \$ 30.00 =	
Ozark Blue Blueberry	(1) 5 gallon pot		x \$ 30.00 =	
Bluecrop Blueberry	(1) 5 gallon pot		x \$ 30.00 =	
Cumberland Black Raspberry	5/cuttings		x \$ 15.00 =	
Heritage Red Raspberry	5/cuttings		x \$ 11.00 =	
Brandywine Purple Raspberry	5/cuttings		x \$ 15.00 =	

PLEASE CARRY TOTAL TO OTHER SIDE TO COMPLETE ORDER FORM.

Total Page 1

Order Deadline March 23, 2012

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

Order Deadline March 23, 2012

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

Blue Concord Grapes (seedless)	1 vine		x \$ 10.00 =
Red Canadice (seedless)	1 vine		x \$ 10.00 =
Burning Bush	5/seedlings		x \$ 8.00 =
Parade Azalea	(1) 1 gallon pot		x \$ 12.00 =
Tapestry Rhododendron	(1) 1 gallon pot		x \$ 12.00 =
Nova Zembla Rhododendron	(1) 1 gallon pot		x \$ 12.00 =
Landmark PJM Rhododendron	(1) 1 gallon pot		x \$ 12.00 =
Sensation Lilac	1 bare root plant (2'-3')		x \$ 16.00 =
Charles Joly Lilac	1 bare root plant (2'-3')		x \$ 16.00 =
Red Winterberry Holly	3 pots		x \$ 8.00 =
Southern Gentleman Holly	1 pot		x \$ 3.00 =
Dwarf Alberta Spruce	(1) 2 gallon pot		x \$ 10.00 =
Green Mountain Boxwood	2 transplants		x \$ 6.00 =
Blue Rug Juniper	(1) 1 gallon pot		x \$ 10.00 =
Vinca Minor	50 clumps		x \$ 23.00 =
Pachysandra	50/bundle		x \$ 18.00 =
English Ivy	50/bundle		x \$ 18.00 =
Blue Fescue Grass	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Ponytails Grass	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Black-Eyed Susans	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Blue Bellflower	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Purple Coneflower	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Red Magic Daylily	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Fox Glove	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
False Sunflower	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Zing Rose Dianthus	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Iceland Poppy	3 pots		x \$ 6.00 =
Tree Bark Protectors - 24 inch	1 protector		x \$ 4.00 =
Tree Bark Protectors - 36 inch	1 protector		x \$ 5.00 =
Jump Start Tree Tube	Each		x \$ 6.50 =
Fertilizer Tablets	10 tablets		x \$ 3.00 =
Fertilizer Tablets	25 tablets		x \$ 5.00 =
Compost Tea Bags	10 tea bags		x \$ 6.00 =
Classic Eastern Bluebird Box	Each		x \$ 23.00 =
Classic Bluebird w/ Vents & Plugs	Each		x \$ 25.00 =
Viewing Bluebird Nestbox	Each		x \$ 30.00 =
Bat House -1 Chamber	Each		x \$ 23.00 =
Total - This Page			
Total - Page 1			
Total Order			
+ 6% Sales Tax			
Total Due			

Your tax exemption # _____ or

+ 6% Sales Tax

Total Due

**Orders not accepted without payment.
Sorry - unable to accept Credit Cards.**

Checks can be made payable to: Cambria County Conservation District

A full PDF version of the catalog can be viewed and printed at: www.co.cambria.pa.us/conservation

2011 Watershed Summit Tour

On October 25 the Stonycreek Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP) hosted the 2011 Somerset Conservation District Watershed Summit. The event was sponsored by the Somerset Conservation District and was led by Len Lichvar and Greg Shustrick. A Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Mini Grant funded the Summit in honor of SCRIP's 20th Anniversary. This tour took participants to a number of treatment sites in order to display the improvements that have been made in our area and discuss the potential of further remediation. It was a beautiful Fall day and there were many in attendance eager to celebrate and gain knowledge of current and potential SCRIP project locations.

The first stop on the tour was at Whitewater Park, located in the Stonycreek River, adjacent to Greenhouse Park. This is Pennsylvania's first series of constructed rapids, featuring Class II water that allows for practice of basic whitewater techniques. It is a popular recreation location for activities like tubing and fishing. Mike Quinn of the Stonycreek Quemahoning Initiative talked about the efforts and cost involved in placing the structures, which were all a part of the remediation of the Stonycreek led by SCRIP.

After a short bus ride, everyone entered Point Stadium to observe the Incline Plane Discharge. Jackie Ritko, CCCD Resource Conservation Supervisor, and Brad Clemenson, PA Environmental Council, gave an overview of the feasibility studies that have been conducted to explore the use of this water as a geothermal energy source for buildings in downtown Johnstown. Before getting back on the bus, the group took a walk to The Point – the confluence of the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh Rivers, forming the Conemaugh River. The impacts of Ac-

id Mine Drainage (AMD) can easily be seen at the convergence. It is SCRIP's goal to reduce the AMD impacts on both rivers.



Jackie Ritko and Len Lichvar at the Incline Plane Discharge Site



Meeting point of the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh Rivers

In St. Michael, everybody took a short hike to the Topper Run Discharge. This site is the single largest AMD discharge into the Little Conemaugh River. Jackie Ritko pointed out the main source of the problem – a large refuse pile that sits above the site. Aquatic life is nonexistent in Topper Run as 2500 to 5000 gallons per minute of acidic water is released from this mine pool. Jackie explained that the construction of a facility that could treat the discharge is currently awaiting approval.

The next stop was the Oven Run treatment site. Here, Len Lichvar and Eric Robertson explained that Hawk-view and Oak Trail are “two of six separate passive treatment systems constructed

from 1995 through 2002, to treat mine flows from the Ralphton #15 mine pool.” The quality of the water entering the Stonycreek has been positively impacted by these treatment systems. The river's fishery has been extended for seven miles and cleaner water has been seen as far downstream as Johnstown. It was stressed that while these systems have been highly successful, upkeep and maintenance is necessary to ensure continued improvement.

The final stop on the tour was the Boswell Passive Treatment Site, located in Jennerstown, just below the outflow of Stoughton Lake. Len Lichvar told the group about the site's transformation from an active coal mine to a twelve acre passive treatment system. AMD water is treated before it enters the nearby Quemahoning Creek, restoring five miles of fishery.

As the bus returned to Greenhouse Park, it passed the Bens Creek Lion Mining Treatment System Project. Malcolm Crittenden, PA DEP, pointed out the site and gave a brief explanation of how the state and public worked together to treat abandoned mine water entering the South Fork of Bens Creek.

The tour provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about improvements to the water quality in our area. It also shed light on the continuing efforts of local agencies. To cap off the day, a “Green Drinks” event was held at the Crow's Nest in Tire Hill following the tour.



Topper Run Discharge

Keep Cambria County Beautiful

SPRING TIRE & APPLIANCE COLLECTION APRIL/MAY 2012



KEEP
CAMBRIA COUNTY
Beautiful



APPLIANCES

Refrigerator	Humidifier
Freezer	Dehumidifier
Microwave	Air conditioner
Stove	Heater
Washer	Dryer



ELECTRONICS

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

SPRING COLLECTION DATES AND LOCATIONS (8:00 am to 1:00 pm):

April 28, 2012—Croyle Township: 1654 Railroad Street, Summerhill, PA 15958

May 5, 2012—Cambria Township: 184 Municipal Road, Ebensburg, PA 15931

May 12, 2012—Patton Township: Lower Beech Road, Patton, PA 16668 (across from Patton Memorial Football Field)

TIRE AND APPLIANCE COLLECTION FEES

Passenger & Lt. Truck Tires

Off Rim: \$2.00
On Rim: \$3.00

Household Appliances

Freon Containing: \$12.00
Non-Freon Containing: FREE

Agricultural Compliance

State and Federal Regulators are beginning to take a closer look at the Agricultural Industry and their compliance with environmental regulations. Erosion and Sediment Control and Manure Management Regulations have been established since the 1970's and 1980's respectively. However, due to changes in November 2010, agricultural operators who were once in compliance may no longer meet the new requirements.

Most farms have conservation plans, many of which were prepared through the technical assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. In the past, these plans typically met the regulatory requirements relating to Pennsylvania's erosion and sedimentation control regulations. With the regulation change that took effect in November of 2010, this is no longer the case.

As part of a statewide outreach effort to the agricultural community, the Cambria County Conservation District (CCCD) will be meeting with farmers and visiting agricultural operations to inform them of their obligation to maintain compli-

ance with these new regulatory requirements. These visits are NOT inspections or follow-ups on complaints. They are simply a means of clearly communicating these regulatory requirements.

Manure Management regulations have changed. The CCCD will also be conducting Manure Management Planning Workshops. The purpose of the workshops will be to provide one-on-one assistance to agricultural operators with developing a written manure management plan. If you would be interested in attending the workshops, please contact the CCCD at (814) 472-2120. Dates, times, and frequency of the workshops will be determined based on interest. It will be necessary to reserve a spot, as space will be limited.

As a first step in meeting compliance requirements, the CCCD encourages agricultural operators to complete a soil test if one hasn't been done in the past 3 years. Soil test kits can be purchased for \$9 from the CCCD office (814) 472-2120 or the Cooperative Extension Office (814) 472-7986.



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.co.cambria.pa.us/conservation
and



Where is Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center?

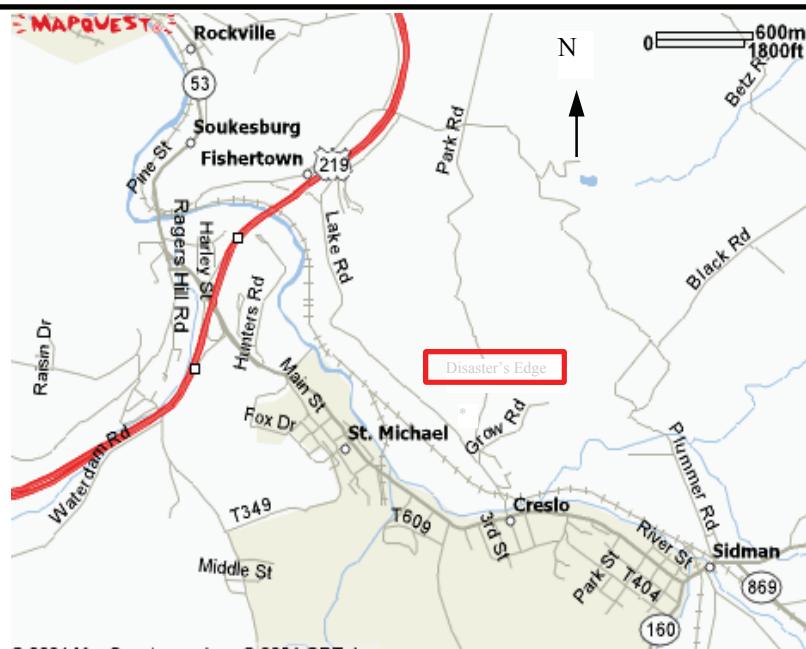
Take Route 219 North/South to the Sidman/St. Michael exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn onto Route 869 toward Sidman and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Lake Road, traveling over the bridge then over the railroad tracks and entering the 1889 Park.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