



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

Legislative Luncheon

On October 5th, 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 those in attendance for helping to making this year's Legislative Luncheon another success.

The guest speaker for the Luncheon was David F. Reifsnyder, CEO of Aspen Fluid Logistics (AFL). Reifsnyder delivered a presentation educating our guests on the plans for a new water treatment facility located in downtown Johnstown.



Reifsnyder with District Manager, Robb Piper

The water treatment facility is a joint venture between AFL and the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority and will operate under the name Aspen Johnstown (AJ). Aspen Johnstown's mission is to fully recycle water that's generated during gas exploration and production activity, making the exploration for gas an environmentally friendly process.

Reifsnyder gave a brief history of industrial water treatment procedures. Until recently, there was no technology or system in place to remove the contaminants generated as a result of the gas exploration process. Instead, water was being diluted and reused, received by publicly owned water treatment works and discharged in diluted form into local rivers. Reifsnyder pointed out that treatment by dilution is not a solution.

The drilling process in gas exploration uses millions of gallons of water for each well that is drilled. Some of this water is injected into the shale under high pressure in order to fracture the shale. This is the origination of the term "frac water." The fracking process uses chemicals, referred to as "frac fluid" and these chemicals are seen as contaminants when the water comes back to the surface. On average, twenty to twenty-five percent of the water put into the ground during the drilling and fracking process comes back immediately, over the course of several weeks, and is called Flowback Water. The rest of the water will come back gradually over a much longer period of time, typically decades, and is referred to as Production Water. As the well produces gas it also produces water, generally five to ten thousand gallons per week for an active well. The water is collected by truck every week. As a rule, production water contains even more contaminants than the Flowback Water because it has been in the earth over a much longer period.

Reifsnyder went on to explain that AJ plans to build a large scale production facility that will treat both the Production and Flowback Water. AJ will implement a combined process of chemical precipitation and electro-flocculation to remove contaminants from the frac water and encapsulate them in compounds that will not leach into the environment. AJ will also implement evaporation and crystallization to remove the high levels of salt remaining in the treated water after the contaminants have been removed. These steps will result in the contaminated water being brought to a drinking water standard.

The first of two phases, the Pilot Facility, is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2013. This will be a small scale facility processing a small volume of water (~5,000-10,000 gallons of water per day). The AJ Pilot Facility will be used to demonstrate the water treatment process to gas exploration companies in the Marcellus Shale region. It is expected that a larger production facility, phase two, will be operational by the end of 2014. Phase two will have the potential to treat ~2 million gallons of water per day.

(cont. pg 2)

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Special Dates to Remember

Dec 6:	Board Meeting, 10 am
Dec 25:	Office Closed, Holiday
Jan 1:	Office Closed, Holiday
Jan 3:	Board Meeting, 10 am
Jan 21:	Office Closed, Holiday
Jan 29:	Breakfast Meeting, 7:30 am
Feb 7:	Board Meeting, 10 am

Meet the CCCD Board of Directors

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

Charlie Moyer

Charlie Moyer joined the Board of Directors (BOD) as an Associate Director in January of 2010. Moyer's interest in conservation practices began with his work in power line construction and the many interactions he had with farmers through his work. As a board member of the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority (CCCRA), his concern for Cambria County's environment and our environment as a whole has grown, spurring his decision to join the Conservation District's Board.

Moyer is a lifelong resident of Ebensburg. He retired as the Line Supervisor at Penelec in 1996. Charlie's passion and concern for his community is exemplified by his past and present involvement in many organizations and offices. Moyer has served on the PA State Association of Boroughs, BOD United Cerebral Palsy Allegheny Region, BOD Cambria Somerset Authority, and Ebensburg Borough Council. He served as Ebensburg Borough Mayor from 1993-2009 and was past president of the Cambria County Boroughs Association, Cambria Somerset Council of Governments, and Pennsylvania Council of Governments. In addition to his service to the Conservation District and the CCCRA, Moyer is also currently a board member for United Way/Laurel Highlands, Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway Alliance, and Senior Life/Ebensburg.

Gary E. Scott

Gary Scott joined the Conservation District BOD as an Associate Director in 1997. In 2002, Scott was elected to serve as a Public Director. When his second term as Public Director ended, he resumed his position as Associate Director. Gary joined the BOD after his retirement from the PA Bureau of Forestry in order to stay active and keep up-to-date on conservation issues.

In addition to the time spent serving on the Conservation District BOD, Scott has also served on many other organizations such as the Ebensburg Rotary Club, Adopt-a-Highway, Boy Scouts of America North District, Society of American Foresters, PA Forestry Association, and PA Forest Fire Museum Association. Gary has received much recognition for his efforts including the PA Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Award in 1997 and the 50-year Forest Fire Warden Certificate in 2010.

Gary is a Penn State graduate with a BS in Forest Science. He began his employment with the PA Bureau of Forestry in 1960 and was promoted to District Forester for Gallitzin Forest District in 1970. He and his wife have 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. In his spare time, Gary enjoys visiting family, traveling throughout the US and Canada, fishing, gardening, and studying reptiles.

Legislative Luncheon (cont.)



Facility at the proposed site.

Johnstown is an ideal location for this pilot facility as it is centrally located within the Marcellus Shale region. The road and rail infrastructure also make Johnstown prime real estate for the water treatment facility. Trucks and railcars will be used to transport large volumes of water in and out of Johnstown.

Today's water treatment options are limited. Contaminated frac water is either sitting idle in storage tanks due to the small number of disposal sites or it is being reused. Reusing frac water involves diluting it in order to lower the concentration of contaminants to a level at which it can be re-used in the drilling process. Because the frac water still contains contaminants, the equipment will corrode and deteriorate more rapidly and faulty pipe joints may also result, allowing water to leak into the earth. AJ's ability to fully recycle the frac water to a drinking water standard will remove the issue of frac water shortening the life span of drilling equipment and dramatically reduce risk of drilling and production activity contaminating the environment.

In the coming years, Reifsnyder stated, well drilling will very likely see a large increase in our area and the already high demand to process the frac water will grow. With the new water treatment facility, Aspen Johnstown intends to meet that demand. In addition to the benefit of fully recycling frac and production water, this facility will also increase job opportunities in the Johnstown region.

Fall Landscape and Garden Workshop

On Thursday, October 18, the Conservation District hosted a free workshop on Fall Landscape and Garden Chores. Tom Ford, Area Commercial Horticulture Educator from the Penn State Extension Office, delivered an informative presentation on the importance of preparing your trees and plants for the upcoming winter season.

As always, Ford provided all attendees with invaluable information to help them achieve a beautiful, thriving landscape. Below is a brief overview of Ford's suggestions for proper fall landscape maintenance:

Fruit Trees:

- Evaluate your harvested fruit. Begin sanitation efforts by raking leaves and removing dropped fruit in order to prevent infection via spores.
- Assess tree vigor and look for injury. If you notice any cankers or infected areas, plan to prune your trees in March. March temperatures allow for pruning infected limbs without disinfecting pruning utensils.
- Protect your fruit trees from deer. Place a bar of soap on the tree trunk to keep deer at bay.



Landscape

- Test soil in early fall. Soil test kits can be purchased through the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office (814) 472-7986. Testing your soil will give you an accurate reading of the pH level and the nutrients needed.
- Apply nutrients prescriptively. Once you receive your soil test results, apply appropriate nutrients.
- Select appropriate grass species for soil type, shade/sun availability, and maintenance needs.
- Keep turf at preferred mowing height.
- Plant bulbs in the fall. The earlier you purchase your bulbs, the greater chance they will have to thrive.

Rid Problem Areas

- Manage weeds. Weeds reduce the growth of nearby plants/trees, they encourage insects, and they harbor viruses.
- Manage rodents. Voles or Meadow Mice feed on plants and the bark of trees. This can lead to infection, eventually resulting in the death of the plant.
- Remove girdling roots from trees. Fall is the best time for removal. Girdling roots will kill the tree if left untreated.
- Follow suggested mulching guidelines in order to prevent leeching nutrients or tree rot.
- Remove dead and/or declining plants. Insects attacking the dying plants will eventually begin to attack any surrounding healthy plants.

Fall opportunities to prepare your landscape, trees, and plants for winter have since passed, but please hold on to this guide for future reference. More information can be obtained by contacting the Penn State Cooperative Extension office at (814) 472-7986. The Conservation District will be hosting Spring Planting Workshops in conjunction with our Annual Tree and Plant Sale. If you would like to be notified when dates are released for the workshops, please email jsauter@co.cambria.pa.us or call the Conservation District office at (814) 472-2120.

Keep CC Beautiful

2013 Spring Tree Sale



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
247	1281	35	20



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 **41st 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*."

2013 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 2013 title "Where Does Your Water Shed?" must be on your poster.** (Don't use any 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 15, 2013**

Grade Categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9,10-12. For more info, visit: <http://nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/2013/index.phtml>

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!!

2012 Poster Contest State Winner:

Grades 10-12:
Skyler Baroni, Grade 10
Greater Johnstown CTC

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 15, 2013 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

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 experi-
ence 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 2013:

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



*Bat Program at the Nanty Glo Library
Summer Reading Program:
"Dream Big—READ!"*



*Forest Hills Elementary School
Fifth Grade
Birds of a Feather Program*



*Johnstown Christian School
Amphibians & Reptiles Program*

Envirothon 2013



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, or strengthened by, their

Envirothon experience. Envirothon advisors credit the Envirothon with increasing student interest and involvement in environmental sciences.

2013 Team Packets Now Available!

The Conservation District will host the Cambria County Envirothon on **Thursday, May 2, 2013** 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.org.

The 2013 Pennsylvania State Envirothon will be held at Juniata College, Huntingdon County on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 21 and 22, 2013. The Oral Component

has been reinstated for the state contest, which will fall in line with the current issue – **"Grazing livestock for improved herd health and land management."** 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 2013 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.

Disaster's Edge Gets a Facelift

Thanks to Jacob Smith, a local Boy Scout with Troop #53, the Disaster's Edge Environmental Facility is looking quite refreshed! As part of the requirements for Jake to obtain his Eagle Scout rank he needed to plan, develop, and complete a service project for an organization in his community. Jake chose Disaster's Edge for his project "because of his positive experiences there during his participation in the Envirothon competitions." He said that he always felt that the staff welcomed all the schools and students with open arms and he wanted to do something meaningful to return the kindness.

Jake met with Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor, to discuss areas of need at the Edge. He then wrote a proposal which was approved by his Scout Master, Paul Glacken, and the Laurel Highlands Council of Boy Scouts. It was decided that Jake would paint the windows, doors, outside of the building, and stain the porch. The materials for this portion of the project were provided by the Conservation District. Jacob also noticed that the cement pads by the back porch needed to be reset and he generously did this with his own resources. The help of Michael Smith, Jacob's father, was enlisted to build birdhouses and feeders to be placed throughout the garden area. Jacob, his family, and Boy Scout Troop #53 worked together to complete the proposed updates.

Jacob said he is very grateful to have had the opportunity to do his service project for Disaster's Edge. He said, "It feels good to do something nice for people who do nice things for others." He is currently awaiting his Board of Review, where, if approved, he will receive his Eagle Scout rank. Best of luck, Jacob! The Conservation District truly appreciates all of your hard work.



Jacob proudly stands by his completed work.



Jacob works with other Troop members.



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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.cambriacountypa.gov



Where is Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center?

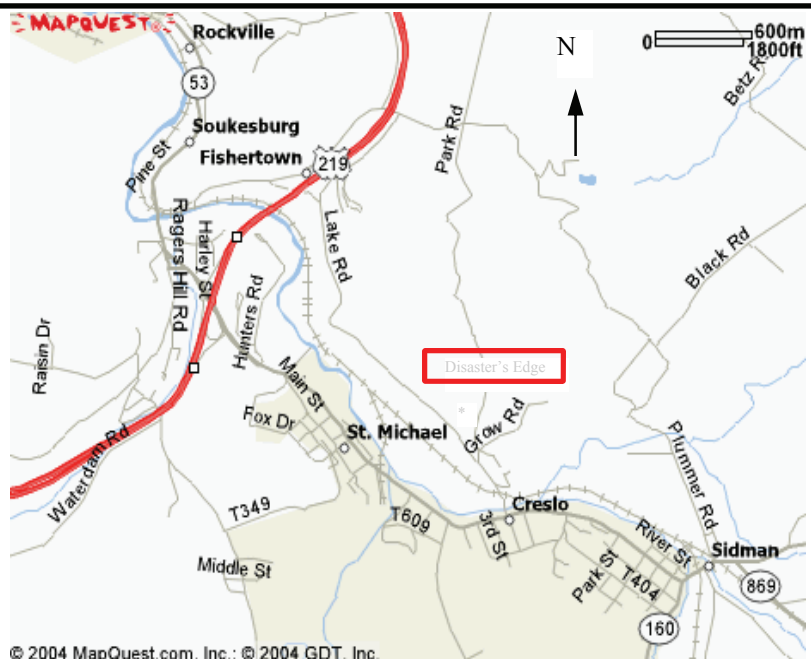
Take Route 219 North/South to the Sidman/St. Michael exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn onto Route 869 toward Sidman and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Lake Road, traveling over the bridge then over the railroad tracks and entering the 1889 Park.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