

Volume 31

June/July/Aug 2012



A View from “The Edge”

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” Native American Proverb

Editors
Mary Ellen Bard
Jocelyn A. Sauter

40th Anniversary Tree/Plant Sale

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Cambria County Conservation District's Tree and Plant Sale. We celebrated by awarding a \$40 certificate to the winner of the first 40 orders, Sue Konvolinka. We had yet another successful year with 11,967 items sold. The tree sale continues to grow every year, which is made possible by a very organized process. Mary Ellen Bard (Ellie), Administrative Assistant, begins placing nursery stock orders in late November/early December. The extensive catalog is put together in January and released in early February. Ellie puts a tremendous amount of time into preparing the Tree Sale catalog making sure to include pictures of the items, detailed descriptions of each tree and plant offered, and proper care suggestions. This year's catalog featured 66 varieties of trees and plants as well as tree protectors, fertilizer tablets, and wildlife boxes. Many old favorites were joined by some exciting new choices such as Pony-tails Grass, Dwarf Alberta Spruce, Green Mountain Boxwood, asparagus and raspberry varieties.

Orders are accepted up through the third week in March. The week leading up to Customer Pick-Up Day is when all the hard work is done. Plants and trees are picked up

and delivered from as far away as Michigan. Trees are sorted and any items with bare roots are dipped in a gel to keep them moist. Flowerpots are labeled and orders are filled and organized alphabetically to make pick-up as smooth as possible. District Staff, Directors and Associate Directors all work together over two days to get the thousands of items ready for pick-up. We are thankful to the many suppliers that stock our Tree and Plant Sale. All nursery stock is PA Certified by the PA Department of Agriculture.

The Tree Sale was originally started as an effort to beautify Cambria County, with a limited variety of trees available. In 1999 the Tree Sale had \$1,776 in sales and 37 customers. The 2012 Tree and Plant Sale boasted nearly \$28,000 in sales and 357 customers! The profits from the sale are used to fund environmental education and conservation efforts. Thank you to all our customers for your continued support. If you missed the opportunity to purchase items from this year's sale, but would like to be added to our mailing list to receive the catalog in the future, please call our office at (814) 472-2120.



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Special Dates to Remember

- Jun 7:** *Board Meeting 10 am*
- Jul 4:** *Holiday/Office Closed*
- Jul 5:** *Board Meeting 10 am*
- Jul 24:** *Family Days*
- Jul 25:** *Family Days*
- Jul 31:** *Breakfast Meeting 7:30 am*
- Aug 2:** *Board Meeting/Picnic 5 pm*

Meet the Board

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

John Nibert Associate Director

In December of 2000, John Nibert became an Associate Director for the Conservation District. He was motivated to become involved when he became aware of the actions of loggers from Texas. They were removing timber from the area where John lives and he felt they had no respect for the land. The loggers were "cutting trees and not using the timber and ruining the roads and trails in the area." Nibert wanted to become involved in the District's conservation efforts in an attempt to prevent this misuse of land from happening in the future.

John graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a B.A. in Economics. He worked as an Operations Staff Manager at Penelec and was responsible for process improvements, equipment, emergency preparedness, and staffing. Since his retirement from Penelec, John has obtained his certifications as a Sewage Enforcement Officer, Substitute Teacher, Driver Instructor, and Real Estate Agent. Nibert also serves on many organizations and committees: Secretary of Adams/Croyle Township Recreation Authority, Adams Township Representative for Forest Hills Regional Alliance, Conservation District committees, and a number of real estate organizations.

Ray Gorman Associate Director

Ray Gorman was initially nominated by the Cambria County Township Officials Association for a position as a Director in 2007. Ray decided to become an Associate Director for the District when he was not selected for the Director position.

In addition to his time spent with the Conservation District, Ray participates in a variety of community organizations. He is the Secretary of the Middle Taylor Township Citizens Group and is currently serving as Chairman of the Middle Taylor Township Board of Supervisors. He has been a lifetime member of the Cambria County Association of Township Officials and has served as President and Secretary in previous years. The PA Association of Township Supervisors appointed Gorman to their Resolutions Committee in 2009-2011 and he presently serves on their Grass Roots Committee. He is also a member of the Nominating Committee for the Cambria City Community Club. Ray is happily married to his wife, Sue Ann, and enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time.

Keep Cambria County Beautiful

Once again, the Conservation District paired up with Keep Cambria County Beautiful to host the Spring Tire and Appliance Collection for county residents. This bi-annual program is held in an effort to encourage proper disposal of tires and both Freon and non-Freon containing appliances. This Spring, a grant was received through the DEP Hazardous Household Waste Collection Program, allowing the cost of tire disposal to be reduced. The reduced cost of \$1.00 for off-rim tires and \$2.00 for on-rim tires resulted in an enormous increase in the amount of tires received. One family brought over 500 tires to the Cambria Township collection! The cost of Freon containing appliances remained the same at \$12.00. If you missed the Spring Collection dates and have tires and appliances in need of disposal, please contact our office at 471-2120. Fall Collection dates will be posted as soon as they are set. We are hopeful that the grant will be available for the Fall 2012 Collections.



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

Below are the numbers from the Spring collection:

Tires		Appliances	
On-Rim	Off-Rim	Freon	Non-Freon
205	2,731	65	33



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

2012 Cambria County Envirothon



2nd Place:
Northern Cambria Team II



1st Place: Northern Cambria Team I



3rd Place:
Northern Cambria Team III

First Place - Front Row: Adrienne Tubo, Mindy Bernard, **Back Row:** Kevin Zedack, Brandon Daisley, Stephen Prasko

Second Place - Front Row: Amy Lieb, Zach Yuhas, Martina Leonard **Back Row:** Justin Tenerowicz, Ron Sharkey

Third Place - Brennen Lee, Kaylee Krug, Katelin Fox, Joe Slesky

This year we had 24 teams from 9 different school districts compete. Thank you to all the schools, coaches and students who participated. Congratulations to Northern Cambria for placing in the top three positions. All winning teams received a trophy, t-shirts, and an invitation to this year's Conservation Awards Banquet. Northern Cambria Team I, the 1st Place Team, went on to represent Cambria County in the State Envirothon at UPJ on May 22-23. Check our Website and Facebook page to see where they placed.

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

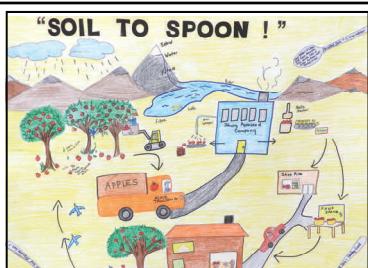
2012 Cambria County Poster Contest Winners



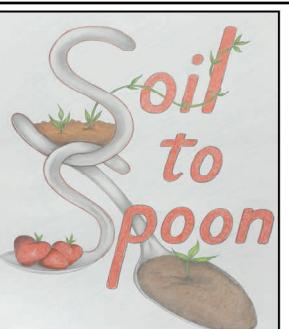
1st Place: Claire Bawiec
2-3 Division
Forest Hills Elementary



1st Place: Alyssa Martinazzi
4-6 Division
All Saints Catholic School



1st Place: Nikolas Suckinos
7-9 Division
Bishop Carroll Catholic High



1st Place: Skyler Baroni
10-12 Division
Greater Johnstown CTC

2nd Place Winners

Josilyn Wehner,
Forest Hills Elementary 2-3 Division

Kayla Simanski
All Saints Catholic 4-6 Division

Ellen Simmerman
Indiana Junior High 7-9 Division

Kelly Beyer
Forest Hills High 10-12 Division

3rd Place Winners

Madeline Cecere
Forest Hills Elementary 2-3 Division

Sarah McAndrew
All Saints Catholic 4-6 Division

Courtney Cecere
Forest Hills Middle 7-9 Division

Nicole Miller
Forest Hills High 10-12 Division

First Place winners received a cash award and a trophy. Second and Third Place winners received a rosette. All winners were invited to the Awards Banquet for dinner and to be recognized for their accomplishment. Congratulations to all!

The First Place posters will be sent to the state competition for judging.

Source Water Protection

In 2011, the Conservation District was approached by the County Commissioners to address water issues dealing with Marcellus Shale. In order to address the concerns about protecting our water quality, the District decided to expand the Water Resource & Watershed Development Committee and concentrate on source water protection. As described by the US EPA, "Source water protection involves preventing the pollution of the groundwater, lakes, rivers, and streams that serve as sources of drinking water for local communities."* The committee added members of local Water Authorities, Municipal Leaders, DEP Staff, along with Associate Directors and District Staff. By expanding this committee, issues pertaining to impacts associated with source water protection will be addressed, not just Marcellus Shale well development.

The Conservation District is currently monitoring nine dataloggers located in Cambria and Somerset Counties. Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist; Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor; and Nathan Marsh, AmeriCorps, visit the sites to gather the data from the devices. They rotate the data collections and visit each site once every 2-3 weeks, weather dependent. Each datalogger takes readings of water temperature, conductivity, and water level. They are all set up to take readings every 15 minutes. In one 24-hour day, each datalogger takes 96 readings. All of the data is then downloaded to a laptop computer and saved in a Microsoft Excel file.

As of June 20, 2012 the readings on all dataloggers have been relatively consistent, with the exception of a datalogger in Allwine Creek in Somerset County. There was a 45-minute time period on September 7, 2011 when there was a slight spike in conductivity. Rabish said the cause of the spike could be a result of salt runoff from a driveway upstream or someone dumping something in the creek. Since that time, there have not been any significant increases.

The following organizations have partnered with the CCCD and have purchased/donated dataloggers for the different sites:

- Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Allwine Creek, North Fork Bens Creek, and Saltlick Run.
- Trout Unlimited: South Fork Branch of the Little Conemaugh and Laurel Run.
- Conservation District: Slate Lick Run and Hinckston Run.
- Patton Borough Municipal Authority: Chest Creek.
- Clearfield Creek Watershed Association: North Witmer Run.

If you want to purchase a datalogger and partner with us to monitor the results, call us at (814) 472-2120 for details.

*For more information on source water protection, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/NPS/ordinance/sourcewater.htm>



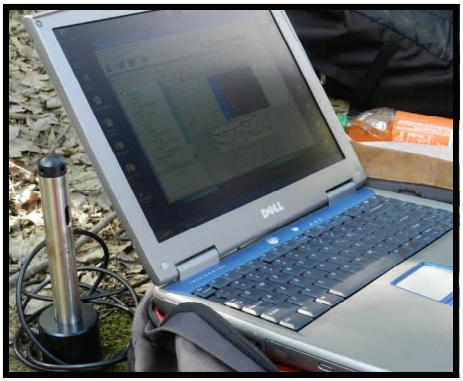
The datalogger is protected by being placed in this pipe in the water.



Nathan Marsh removes the datalogger from the pipe to take a reading.



To protect the datalogger from damage, it is attached to a chain in the pipe.



The data is uploaded onto the laptop using Solinst software.

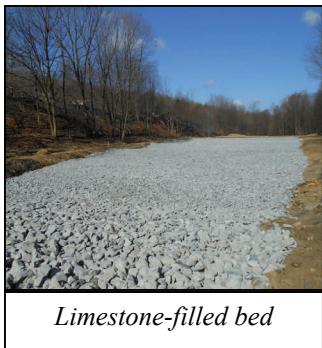
Trout Run AMD Project

The Trout Run Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Project, also known as the Puritan AMD Project, was completed in April. Construction took approximately 6 six weeks and was completed by Earth Shapers, LLC. The funding for the project was obtained through grants from PA's Growing Greener Program and the USDI Office of Surface Mining.

The project is currently treating a portion, approximately 1/3, of the Puritan AMD Discharge. The polluted water enters the system at a pH of 3.2 and exits at a pH above 6. Initial water tests show that the overall pH in the stream is being raised to a point where aluminum is no longer precipitating out in the stream which means that Trout Run no longer flows "white" through Portage.



Excavated treatment bed



Limestone-filled bed



Discharge entering bed



Treated water exiting bed

Conservation District Awards Banquet

On Wednesday, May 16, 2012 the Conservation District held its Annual Awards Banquet at the Carrolltown Firemen's Banquet Hall. Once again, we found people and organizations who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to strive for best conservation practices and support regarding timber, farmland, soil and water. We also recognized businesses, organizations, and education models which carry forward environmental awareness, involvement and support for future generations.

We extend a special thank you to: Mary Ellen Bard for coordinating and planning this event; District employees, AmeriCorps Members, and Interns who assisted in and attended the evening's fun; and to our helpers who distributed the door prizes to the lucky winners. The awards, door prizes, and entertainment went smoothly thanks to our MC, Associate Director, Charlie Moyer. Jerome "Nixie" Carl offered a lovely invocation and we were delighted with laughter by "Just Dana" Fabina's stories about her life and family.



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



Thank you to our door prize donors: Cambria County Conservation District, Cambria County Fair, Stineman Awards, Reighard Machine Inc., Cresson Feed Mill, Dolly Little, Drahnak's Greenhouse, Ebensburg Agway, First National Bank, Italian Village, Kosta's Restaurant, Gittler's, The Long Barn Inc., The Meadows-Ebensburg, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Penn Gables Restaurant, PJ Stevens Carpet One, Southern Alleghenies Advertising, Vale Wood Farms, Hines Equipment, Sharon Burkett-Avon, Bureau of Forestry, Craft Farms, The Ranger, Jerome Carl, Daniel Smith-PA Game Commission

2012 Conservation Award Winners



**Farm Service Award:
10 Years of Service**
Mary Lou Smithmyer and Dennis Hines



2012 Cambria County Poster Contest Winners



Media Conservation Award
Anna Gibbs



Urban Conservation Award
Alternative Community Resource Program



Conservation Organization of the Year
Boy Scout Troop #115



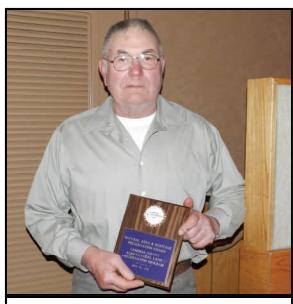
2012 Cambria County Envirothon Winners



**Conservation Educator of the
Year:** Ben Watt
**Special Conservation Service
Award:** East Carroll Township



E & S Pollution Control Award:
Colver Power Project
Watershed Protection Award:
Greater Johnstown Water Authority



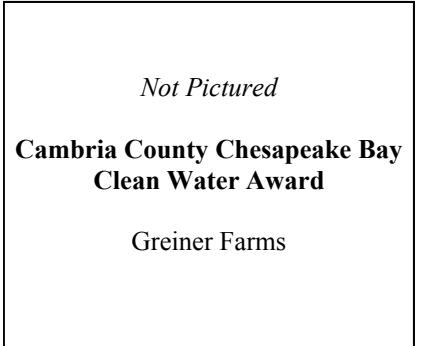
**Natural Area & Heritage
Preservation Award**
CC Agricultural Land
Preservation Program



Soisson Public Recreation:
Cambria County Fair
**Conservation Farmer of the
Year:** Fred Brown



Forest Management Award
Ken and Marianne Borlie



Family Days

Cambria County Conservation District's *Rain or Shine...*

 *F* a *m* ily
*D*ays at
Disaster's Edge
July 24th & 25th 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

**Take a sneak peak
at some of this
year's programs:**

MEET-U

This program will get everyone thinking about how he or she can change the future. MEET-U, a mobile energy education unit spreads awareness of energy creation and consumption with hands-on educational tools. Will you help change the future of our nation?

Wild World of Animals

Lions and Scorpions and Porcupines, OH MY! Wild World of Animals will deliver an exciting and educational wildlife show featuring 14 different animals. They have 85 animals to choose from, so the animals they bring will be a surprise!

Butterfly Guy

Rick Mikula, The Butterfly Guy, is an award-winning author and an expert on all things butterfly. Mounted and live specimens will be used as Rick teaches everyone about the wonder and beauty of butterflies. His book, The Family Butterfly Book, will be available for purchase and signing!

Registration Deadline is July 11, 2012

\$1.00 per Person per Day

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

Ice Cream Treat provided each day

Stop by our office Suite 229 to register or call 472-2120



401 Candlelight Drive
Suite 229
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Phone: (814) 472-2120
Fax: (814) 472-0686
Email: cccd@co.cambria.pa.us

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Return Service Requested

- If you wish to be added or removed from our mailing list, please contact the Cambria County Conservation District office at (814) 472-2120.
- If you would like to help conserve resources and receive your newsletter via email, send your email address to jsauter@co.cambria.pa.us
- Help us get the word out—"like" us on Facebook and ask your friends to do the same!

www.co.cambria.pa.us/conservation

and



Where is Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center?

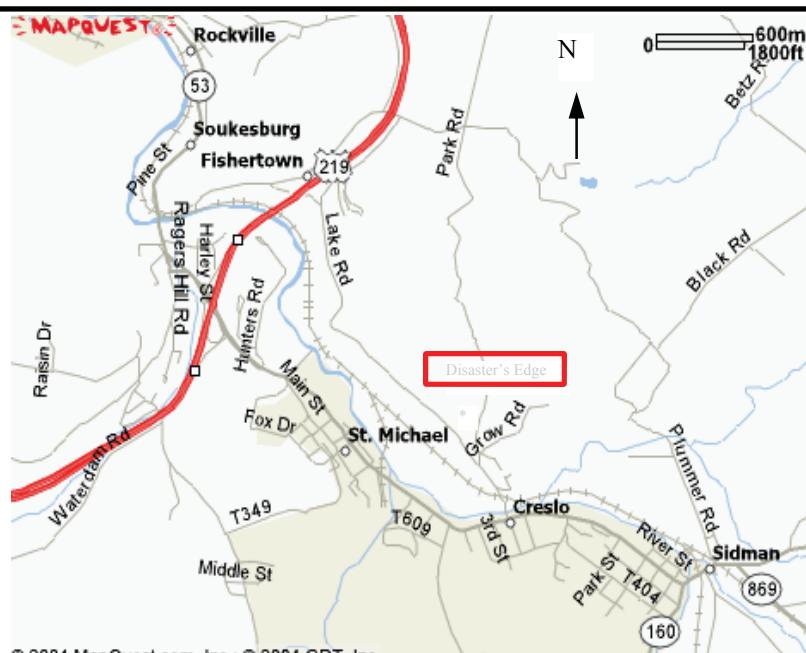
Take Route 219 North/South to the Sidman/St. Michael exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn onto Route 869 toward Sidman and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Lake Road, traveling over the bridge then over the railroad tracks and entering the 1889 Park. Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center will be on the right across from the baseball field and the coal miners museum.

Call Jackie Ritko at the Cambria County Conservation District Office to schedule programs or to discuss events.

**138 Park Road
St. Michael, PA 15951**

Mission Statement

The Cambria County Conservation District educates and assists the public through programs, projects, and leadership in the stewardship of natural resources to sustain and enhance the quality of life.



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Road Map to The Disasters Edge Environmental Education Center.