



Summer Newsletter



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- Natural Resources Conservation Service
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- PA Fish and Boat Commission
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DISTRICT LOCATION

2nd Floor of the
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Suite 204

Waynesburg, PA 15370

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Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

The GCCD Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Conservation District Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building.



Greene County Commissioners Proclaim Conservation Week



During their recent meeting, Greene County Commissioners proclaimed the week of May 5-11, 2019 as Conservation District Week. The proclamation states that Conservation Districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs, and they work with landowners and local governments to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands.

“Local municipalities rely on Conservation District staff to plan development in a way that conserves and protects the local environment,” the proclamation states. “Districts also work with many partners including government agencies, private organizations, businesses, and others to accomplish their mission of supporting and helping landowners to conserve natural resources.”

Finally, the proclamation recognizes that the Districts are each led by a volunteer board of directors with farmers, public members, and a member of county government; each board identifies local conservation needs, decides which programs and services to offer, and develops a strategic plan.

In presenting the proclamation, Commissioners commended “the great work accomplished by the state’s 66 Conservation Districts,” particularly the Greene County district.

The proclamation was presented to Lisa Snider, Greene County Conservation District

Carmichaels Envirothon Team wins County and State Level Competitions, Heads to the International Event



Carmichaels team #1, team #2 and team #3 sweep the Greene County Envirothon. They are pictured here along with (INSERT NAME) of Representative Pam Snyder's office and Greene County Commissioners Dave Coder and Archie Trader

The 32nd Greene County Envirothon competition was held at Hunting Hills on Wednesday, May 9. Sixty high school students from Greene County's five school districts competed in this year's event.

At the Envirothon, five-member teams participated in a series of field station tests that focused on five topic areas – soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and environmental issues. The theme for the 2019 event was "Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World."

Carmichaels Team #1 won this year's competition with a score of 461 points out of a possible 500 points. Team members Christina Adams, Jacob Hair, Joey Kurincak, Ryan Swartz and Stephan Zaoi with team advisors Kevin Willis and Megan Patton will represent Greene County at the PA Envirothon, which is scheduled for May 21 and 22 at the University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown.

Carmichaels Team #2, consisting of students Emily Zaoi, Brooke Watters, Elizabeth Matyus, Ainsley Chadwick and Braelyn Brozik with advisors Willis and Patton, earned second place with a score of 376 points.

The third-place team was Carmichaels Team #3, which included students David Phillips, Trenton Carter, Nicholas Sholtis, Scott Adams and Brady Jones with advisors Willis and Patton. The team earned 349 points.

Each student on the winning team secured a \$500 college scholarship funded by donations from donors and the Greene County Conservation District. Additionally, this team went on to represent Greene County at the 36th Pennsylvania State Envirothon. This event was held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and Windber Recreation Park on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 21 and 22, 2019.

The Carmichaels team beat 65 teams from across the state to win the state competition with a total score of 536 points out of 600! The team had the highest score in the Aquatics Station with 93 points.

Each team member received a \$1250 scholarship from the PA Envirothon. For First place, the team was awarded a wooden plaque made from Pennsylvania hardwoods and medals, along with a framed wildlife



Greene County-Back-to-Back State Champs! Pictured Left to Right: Michael Walsh (PA DCNR Deputy Secretary of Administration), Megan Patton (coach), Ryan Swartz, Joe Kurincak, Jacob Hair, Christina Adams, Stephen Zacoi, Kevin Willis (coach), Patrick McDonnell (PA Dept. of Environmental Protection Secretary), Kelly Stagen (PACD), Russell Redding (PA Dept. of Agriculture Secretary).

print. For the high station Aquatics score, the team received a plaque along with framed Brook Trout print and PA Fish and Boat Commission publication.

This year marks the tenth year in a row and the eleventh time overall that the team has placed in the top 5 and the fourteenth year in a row that the team has placed in the top 10 at the State Envirothon. The team placed 1st in the state in 2018; 2nd in 2006 and 2010, 3rd in 2014, 2016, and 2017, and 4th in 2011 and 2015. In 2012 and 2013 the team placed 5th in the State. In 2009, the team placed 7th, in 2008 the team placed 8th, and in 2007 the team placed 10th in the State.

The Carmichaels team will represent the Commonwealth at the 31st NCF-Envirothon competition from July 28 – August 2 at North Carolina State University, Raleigh. More than 47 states, eight Canadian provinces, one Canadian territory, and two Chinese provinces have initiated Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

The Greene County Envirothon is organized each year by the Greene County Conservation District and is funded through donations and grants from various businesses, agencies and individuals. In addition to the continued financial support of sponsors, other partners that made the event successful include Greene County Commissioners Blair Zimmerman, Dave Coder and Archie Trader; Phil Evans, Kimberlee Moninger, and Mike Hamilton, U.S.D.A. NRCS; Russ Gibbs, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry; Bill Wentzel, Greene County Conservation District; Chuck Kubasik, District Associate Board Members; Michelle Roupe, Farm Service Agency; Eric Davis, PA Fish and Boat Commission. and Brandon Bonin and Chris Bence, PA Game Commission.

At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's sixty-six county conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. The program is managed by a board of directors representing those sponsors. Technical expertise is provided by the following partners: PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Sponsors and partners of the 2019 Envirothon are PA Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Education, National Energy Foundation, Shell Oil Company, PPL, The Hershey Company, EQT Foundation, Weis, Chief Oil & Gas LLC, UGI Utilities, Car Charging Group, Pittsburgh Regional Clean Cities, and National Conservation Foundation Envirothon.

For more information on the Greene County Envirothon, call the Greene County Conservation District at 724-852-5278.

Collaborative Tree Farm Tour of a Sub-watershed

By Gay Thistle

Stroud Water Research Center and Greene County Conservation District worked with the Southwest Woodland owners Association to put on a great tour of the Thistle Tree Farm in southwest PA this June. The Thistle tree farm has about 70 acres of forested land with about thirty acres of a mixture of plantations and early successional forests (see planting chart). As we walked through the sub-watershed of the Thistle farm, the tour covered a few topics including the effects of water on land and land on water, water quality, site selection for walnuts, crop tree release in a plantation, and invasive identification and management. Lamont Garber from Stroud and Jared Zinn from the Greene County Conservation District, as well as the owners of the property shared in leading the tour. We toured the sub-watershed backwards from its mouth to the headwaters.

The Mouth

The entire state has experienced an extremely wet year and all this water has been altering the landscape in unusual ways. Stroud Water Research does much of their work in the eastern and central parts of the state which tend have flatter areas around the waterways. Geologically, southwest PA is an eroded plateau. The hilltops are all at the same elevations and water has worked deep and steep “hollers” (hollows) into the landscape. The area has a long history of fossil fuel extraction. Currently it has the largest underground coal mine in the North America (Bailey Mine) and the county ranks in the top ten for gas well development in PA. The streams show the effects of fossil fuel extraction as well as effects from long ago streamside practices. The tour started near the gazebo where Lamont gave an overview of work from Stroud and showed an example of the effects of good stream management from one on their property in Lancaster, PA. It was pointed out that the science of stream restoration is not an exact science. What works in one site might not be successful in other sites because every stream has a unique environment and ecology that cannot be replicated once disturbed. We then moved to view the farthest downstream of the sub-watershed (for this tour) to the shores of the South Fork of the Tenmile Creek. The Tenmile ultimately empties into the Monongahela River which drains into the Ohio River watershed. Our sub-watershed is the headwaters to drinking supply for many in western PA. While trees are successfully growing near to the edges of the creek, the banks are steep and eroded with evidence of recent high and fast waters. The stream bed is silted with few rocks showing. The effects of legacy sediment was talked about. It refers to the silting that is caused by 250 years of human activity. An example of legacy sediment would be the silt release that occurs when a dam from a mill, say, is removed. It was speculated that the silt buildup in the Tenmile site could have been as deep as 8 feet and include some of this legacy sediment as well as silt from more recent fast water events and human activity that still occurs upstream.

The Confluence and Site Selection

The tour moved upstream, but still low in the sub-watershed, to look at a plantation of Black walnuts that were planted in 2003. Participants were asked to note the size of the trees. This was a successful planting where the black walnuts were planted in the right soils and drainage for optimum growth in our area. Later in the walk and up the slope, we visited a black walnut plantation planted in 2000. It was obvious that the trees from 2003 were larger and healthier than the trees from 2000. Site selection is important when planning. The lesson here is listen to your forester.

We then moved further upstream to an intermittent stream on the Thistle property that empties into the Southfork of the Tenmile viewed earlier. It has been observed by the owners that this stream is less and less intermittent. Until 2001, the stream bank were mostly pasture. In that year the Thistle planted red oak along the stream covering roughly 25' of each side of the stream. Since then, the area has filled in naturally with box elder, sugar maple, hickory (varieties), and some walnut. It is a nice mixed young forest. Some management of multiflora rose, oriental honeysuckle, and autumn olive has been done. Elderberry, osage

orange, and hawthorne take up some of the middle canopy. The stream is shaded this time of year, but signs of big water events are evident. Dams of debris and rock piles show along the stream. Newly exposed banks are visible. However the streambed has rocks and gravel. It is a babbling brook at this point in time. The owners did point out that the stream had not always been this way. The streambed had been covered in silt. Since the area has experienced many high water events and the area of this watershed has been planted in trees, the health of the stream has improved. However, the silt likely was seen in the earlier stop on the Southfork of the Tenmile.

The Headwaters



The group moved farther uphill to an area referred to as “the bowl”. Again this was pasture until the Thistles planted it. This bowl is the source of the intermittent creek that was visited earlier. These springs feed the stream. Before the planting and at high water times, the owners have witnessed banks of water- like waterfalls- in this bowl. The slope is steep in places and before the trees were established slumps were a regular occurrence. In 2001 red oaks were planted and in 2003 black walnuts completed the coverage of the bowl. Since that time, white ash, elm, black walnut, black cherry, boxelder, oriental honeysuckle, multiflora rose, blackberry, and grapevine have filled in the area. The owners have begun working on managing the invasives and freeing the trees from grapevine. The blackberry has been shaded out. The white ash are being cut for firewood. They plan to prune the red oak during the dormant season. The land has stabilized somewhat even though there is definite sign of water in the area.

The Slip

The tour continued along the hillside to another sub-watershed through a pastured field where in early spring, the Thistles discovered a major land slip. A tongue of land about a quarter acre in size has slumped down the hillside forming 3 foot high banks of soil in the shape of a teardrop. The slump was discovered because this 3 foot bank happened to roll into one of the farms access roads. This type of landmass could easily tip over a tractor or farm vehicle of an unsuspecting driver.

Many lessons were learned on this tour. Water is essential to life and growing high quality of trees. The power of water is amazing. Stabilizing land and banks of streams with trees can have positive effects on stream quality. Preserving our headwaters and the forests that help maintain quality should be a priority issue. The information shared in this tour was valuable for everyone in attendance.

Year	Species	Quantity
2000	Black Walnuts (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	800
	White Ash (<i>Fraxinus americana</i>)	400
2001	Northern Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	1000
2003	Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	100
	Sugar Maples (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	900
2008	Chestnuts (variety of; Chinkapin, Chinese, timber hybrid, wildlife hybrid)	12
2010	Northern Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	50
	American Chestnut (<i>Castanea dentata</i>) from seed	20
2012	Butternuts (<i>Juglans cinerea</i>)	24
2014	Black Walnuts (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	60

Thistle Tree Farm planting calendar

Happy Birthday, Smokey Bear!

By Rachael Mahony, Environmental Education Specialist, Forbes Forest District, DCNR Bureau of Forestry



Smokey Bear, Smokey the Bear, Smokey. No matter how his name is said, there's no mistaking the identity of the iconic symbol of our nation's longest-standing advertising campaign. Grandparents, parents and even today's youth can easily identify the brawny brown bear that declares on roadside billboards, television commercials, and posters that, "Only YOU Can Prevent Wildfires!" Smokey's mainstream presence has created a relatable message of fire prevention, which has reached millions of people over the past several decades. Although Smokey's appearance has evolved throughout the past 75 years, the one thing that hasn't changed is his desire to protect our nation's forest from destructive wildfires.

Fire prevention wasn't always a huge concern in the United States but World War II spawned fear and concern over threats to your natural resources. The attack on Pearl Harbor followed by fire bomb assaults on the West Coast created fear that uncontrolled fires could destroy our forests. As a solution to this growing concern, the US Forest Service and War Advertising Council created the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) program to educate the public about fire prevention. The CFFP campaign aimed to encourage people to be more responsible with fire; it created poster advertisements, one of which boldly stated that "forest fires aid the enemy."

Although the initial 1942 campaign was successful the CFFP searched for other means to urge the public to prevent forest fires. Coincidentally, during the first campaign, Disney's movie Bambi was released. What better way to captivate an audience than by using a Disney cartoon to deliver an important message? And who can forget the infamous fire scene, where Bambi and his woodland companions scramble to escape their brush with death when a wildfire swallows their forested home? The

Bambi wildlife advertisements were a great way to

connect popular culture with an important issue, offering a more relatable way for people to understand the importance of wildfire prevention. Although the Bambi advertisement was hugely popular, the character was only on loan for one year's time. The loss of Bambi left the CFFP without a mascot for fire prevention. The preference was to identify a woodland animal that embodied bravery, strength, and courage. Smokey Bear.

On August 9, 1944 the character of Smokey Bear was born. From the Beginning, Smokey urged the public to "take care," highlighting potential risks for careless behavior around fires. The first Smokey poster illustrated a bear pouring a bucket of water over a campfire stating "Care will prevent 9 out of 10 fires." It wasn't until 1947 that Smokey's wildly popular phrase was coined: "Remember... Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!" Smokey was a fictional mascot until 1950 when the real Smokey Bear was rescued from a wildfire in the Capitan Mountains in New Mexico. A helpless bear cub found its way into a raging fire's path, finding refuge from the flames in a tree. The cub survived but suffered severe burns that needed extensive veterinary aid.



Pre-Smokey Prevention Poster 1944



First Smokey Bear Prevention Poster 1944

After several months of recovery, Smokey Bear was given a permanent home at the National Zoon in Washington D.C. where he became the living symbol for forest fire prevention. Smokey Bear's advertisements and real-life mascot continued to capture the attention of the public, but it also began to attract commercial interest.

In 1952, Congress enacted the Smokey Bear Act to place him under the purview of the US Forest Service.

The Smokey campaign raged on, spreading new initiatives and educational tools to children and families. The first Smokey Costume was created in 1951, a song written a year later (causing the confusion of Smokey Bear vs Smokey THE Bear), the junior Forest Ranger program was created (which earned him his own zip code), and a children's book about Smokey was published just a few years later. From the mid-1950s throughout the 1990s, Smokey's face was found on postage stamps and posters, and his cautious message of fire prevention was heard on radio and television advertisements. Change throughout Smokey's campaign was ever-present. In 2001, Smokey Bear's famous fire prevention slogan was changed from "only you can prevent forest fires" to "only you can prevent wildfires." The change in Smokey's message was an attempt to distinguish prescribed fires from wildfires. In recent years, Smokey joined Facebook, Twitter and Instagram addressing the public through a new social media outlet. Smokey continues to appeal to both adults and children with the most recent "Get Your Smokey On: marketing slogan; not too bad for an old bear.

Although Smokey has evolved throughout the past several decades, one thing for sure is that Smokey has been an effective and powerful way to spread the message of wildlife prevention across the nation. What would our forests be today, if it weren't for Smokey's wisdom and insight on fire safety and prevention? That is hard to say, but in a world with a ranger hat-clad bear equipped with a shovel, we can rest assured that help isn't that far out of reach. So let's put on a party hat and have a piece of cake to celebrate 75 years of Smokey Bear!

To find out about Smokey Bear birthday celebrations near you, contact your local forest district.

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Pollinator

June 17-23, 2019 was national Pollinator Week. Each year, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) recognizes pollinator week with the Pollinator Partnership. This week is all about the vital role of pollinators in agriculture and natural ecosystems.

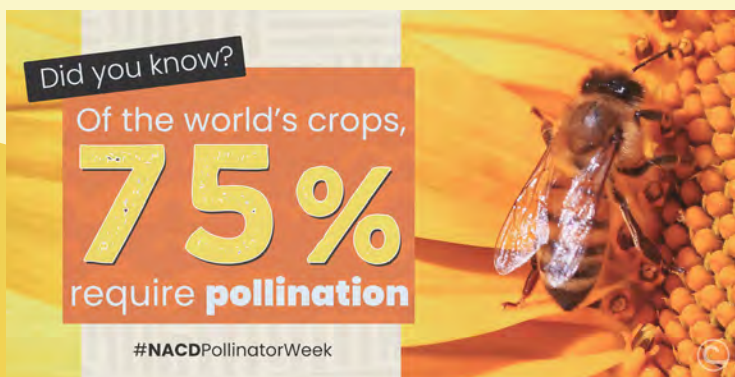
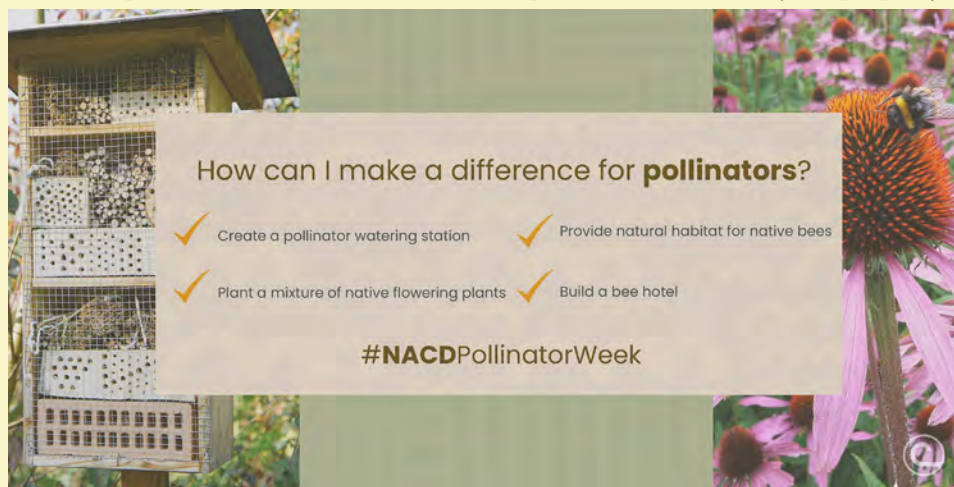
Pollinators have long been something that only farmers, gardeners and horticulturists spent a lot of time thinking about. In the past decade, though, these hard-working creatures have been gaining increased prominence. Rightly so, as pollinators are necessary for around 35 percent of the world's food crops and nearly 80 percent of flowering plants overall. Many of the agricultural commodities that drive Pennsylvania's economy, such as apples, cherries and tomatoes, depend on pollination.

Pollinators come in all shapes and sizes across the world but the ones that we are most concerned with in Pennsylvania are bees, butterflies and other insects. Pennsylvania is home to about 400 species of bees that actively pollinate the state's crops, gardens and wild areas. These species are attracted to the flowers to forage nectar and pollen. While foraging in the flower, sticky pollen grains cling to the pollinator's body and when it moves to the next flower the pollen tags along.

The decline in bee populations is a well-known phenomenon throughout the United States. Honey bee populations have declined as much as 61 percent and bumblebee populations as much as 96 percent. Likewise, Monarch butterfly populations have declined approximately 90 percent in just the last two decades. These declines are attributed to loss of habitat, habitat degradation and/or fragmentation and the introduction of exotic species.

NACD has established a web page full of resources about pollinators and their conservation (<https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/pollinators/>). The Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service offer support for practices that create pollinator habitat. Penn State Extension offers guidance on creating pollinator gardens, or household plantings that promote pollinator habitat. Partners for Fish & Wildlife even offers seed and other resources for pollinator plantings.

Although Pollinator week has passed, we can all do our part to help them help us! Contact the Conservation District if you'd like to learn more about pollinators or would like to create pollinator habitat on your property.



USDA Announces January Income over Feed Cost Margin Triggers First 2019 Dairy Safety Net Payment

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that the January 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$7.99 per hundredweight, triggering the first payment for eligible dairy producers who purchase the appropriate level of coverage under the new but yet-to-be established Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program.

DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy, is a voluntary risk management program for dairy producers that was authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill. DMC offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced that sign up for DMC will open by mid-June of this year. At the time of sign up, producers who elect a DMC coverage level between \$8.00 and \$9.50 would be eligible for a payment for January 2019.

For example, a dairy operation with an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) that elects the \$9.50 coverage level for 50 percent of its production could potentially be eligible to receive \$1,887.50 for January.

Sample calculation:

$\$9.50 - \$7.99 \text{ margin} = \$1.51 \text{ difference}$

$\$1.51 \text{ times } 50 \text{ percent of production times } 2,500 \text{ cwt. } (30,000 \text{ cwt.}/12) = \$1,887.50$

The calculated annual premium for coverage at \$9.50 on 50 percent of a 3-million-pound production history for this example would be \$2,250.

Sample calculation:

$3,000,000 \text{ times } 50 \text{ percent} = 1,500,000/100 = 15,000 \text{ cwt. times } 0.150 \text{ premium fee} = \$2,250$

Operations making a one-time election to participate in DMC through 2023 are eligible to receive a 25 percent discount on their premium for the existing margin coverage rates.

Additional details about DMC and other FSA farm bill program changes can be found at farmers.gov/farmbill.



USDA Outlines Eligibility for 2019 Supplemental Coverage Option Regarding Elections for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced that producers who purchased or plan to purchase the 2019 Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) policy should report Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) election intentions to their crop insurance agent by March 15, 2019, or the acreage reporting date, whichever is later.

Producers have the option to elect either ARC or PLC through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to receive benefits. The 2018 Farm Bill allows producers to make an election in 2019, which covers the 2019 and 2020 crop years.

The Federal Crop Insurance Act prohibits producers from having SCO on farms where they elect ARC. Because of the timing of the Farm Bill, FSA's ARC/PLC election period will not occur until after the SCO sales closing dates and acreage reporting dates.

Producers who purchased SCO policies with sales closing dates of Feb. 28, 2019, or earlier may cancel their SCO policy by March 15, 2019. This allows producers, particularly those who intend to elect ARC for all their acres, to no longer incur crop insurance costs for coverage for which they will not be eligible.

Producers with SCO coverage now have the option to file an ARC/PLC acreage intention report with their crop insurance agent by the later of the acreage reporting date or March 15, 2019. This report will adjust the acreage report by specifying the intended ARC or PLC election by FSA Farm Number. The number of eligible acres on farms with an intention of PLC will be the number of acres insured for SCO regardless of any actual elections made with FSA. If a producer does not file an ARC/PLC acreage intention report, SCO will cover all acres as though the producer elected PLC.

The existing penalties for misreporting eligible acreage on the SCO endorsement will not apply in 2019.

Additional details about SCO can be found at www.rma.usda.gov.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Releases 2018 Integrated Water Quality Report.

Each even-numbered year, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) drafts an integrated report on water quality in streams and lakes across the Commonwealth. This report has two parts (Hence the term, integrated) and is required by the Federal Clean Water Act. The first part is a summary of DEP's statewide water quality assessments and the second is a list of water bodies that are not attaining one or more of their designated uses.

In addition to fulfilling Pennsylvania's federal reporting requirements, the integrated report provides valuable information on water quality that drives conservation activities throughout the commonwealth. Information from this report is used by conservation agencies, watershed organizations, business and even landowners.

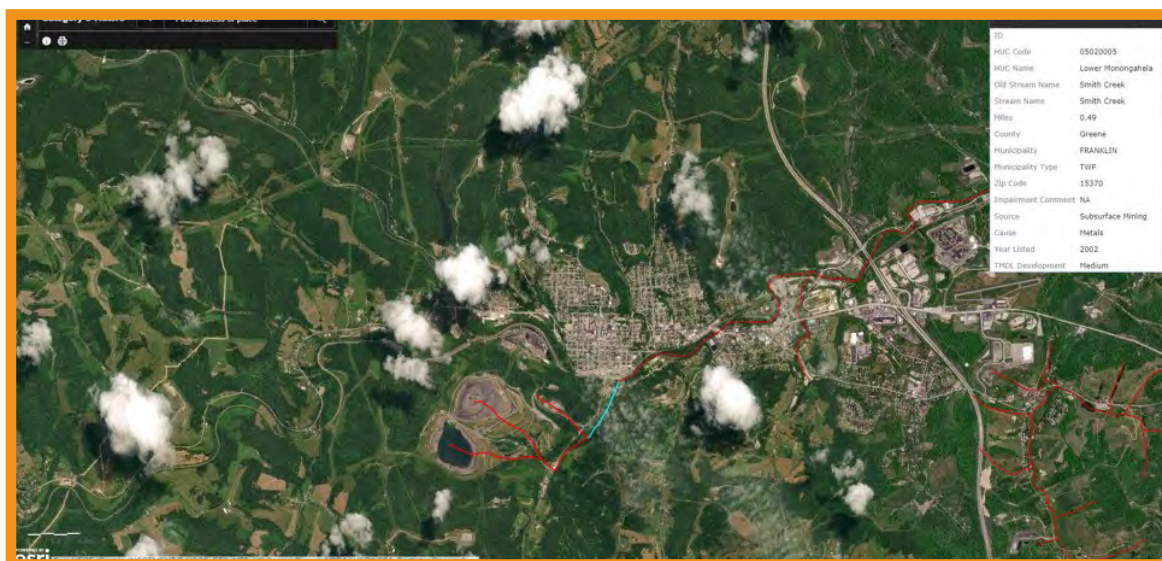
This year represents a major departure from DEP's typical integrated report format. In previous years, the report consisted of a long narrative and several appendices featuring many thousands of pages of tables. The information was there but it took a long time to find it. DEP's Division of Water Quality decided to change this. Over the past two years, they have worked extensively to revamp the integrated report and present it in such a way that makes it more transparent and ensures that many users can gain quick access to the information they need.

Moving to a digital format was simply the first step. DEP has crafted this report in sections that allow users to quickly identify the section that contains the information they are looking for. Once at the section, they find a simple summary with interactive charts and links to the underlying information. For some users, the summary is all they need. For those that do need a little more, clicking the links in the section takes them right to the information they need.

The other major change for this year's integrated report is that the report now includes an online mapping application that ties the report's information to spatial data. The application allows a user to select an area of interest and immediately pull report data for that area. This makes DEP's water quality data easier to access and more readily relatable to most users.

The 2018 Integrated Report may be accessed on the DEP website at the following address.

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/WaterQuality/IntegratedWatersReport/Pages/2018-Integrated-Water-Quality-Report.aspx>



A screenshot from the 2018 Integrated Report showing Category 5 waterways (Waterways impaired for one or more uses by a pollutant that require a Total Maximum Daily Load) near Waynesburg, PA. Clicking a section of stream brings up more information, such as the stream name (Smith Creek in this example), the cause of impairment (in this case, metals) and the source of that cause (in this case, Subsurface mining).

Adopt A Highway



Conservation District staff, Ben Schweiger and Lindsay Kozlowski collect trash during the cleanup event.

Motorists travelling along Garard's Fort Road near Pennsylvania State Game Lands 223 are in for some exciting sights over the next few months. Spring is sure to bring greening trees and blooming wildflowers as well as abundant deer, turkey, and other wildlife. Equally exciting is the thing passing travelers will not see. That is roadside litter.

Roadside litter is a huge problem throughout Pennsylvania that costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year. Aside from being unsightly, litter can result in human health impacts and can cause great harm to the environment, including impacts to plant growth and injury or even death of fish and wildlife.

Greene County Conservation District annually takes part in the Adopt-A-Highway program operated by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). This year, Conservation District staff and Board members were joined by members of the Greene County Farm Bureau to collect nearly fifty bags of trash, car parts other debris.

Tick Bite Prevention

This article presents some background on ticks and tick-borne illnesses. It follows with guidelines to avoid tick bites and protect against tick-borne illnesses.

Most Lyme disease cases are associated with the bite of the nymphal stage of the blacklegged tick, of which up to 36% may be infected with the bacteria that causes the disease. These nymphs are very small, about the size of a pinhead, and are very hard to spot. They do not jump, fly, or drop out of trees, but they grasp passing hosts from the leaf litter, tips of grass, etc. About 75% of Lyme disease cases are associated with activities around the home (play, yard or garden work, etc.).

Personal protection is one of the best ways to fight against tick bites. Avoidance and reduction of time spent in tick infested habitats, using protective clothing and tick repellents, checking the entire body for ticks, and promptly removing attached ticks before transmission of the bacteria that causes Lyme disease (36-48 hours), can be very effective in preventing the disease. It is understood that few people practice these measures regularly, they are inconvenient and uncomfortable; especially in the heat and summer months. Below is some insight into tick behavior that may educate and urge you to wear personal protection more often when going outdoors.

Wear light colored clothing with long pants that are tucked into socks to make the ticks easier to detect and keep them on the outside of clothes. Use a DEET or permethrin based mosquito and tick repellent. As stated earlier, it takes 36-48 hours or more for the transmission of *B. burgdorferi* or *B. microti* (bacteria that causes Lyme disease). Therefore, quickly removing attached ticks can further aid in the protection/prevention of this terrible disease. To remove a tick, use thin-tipped tweezers or forceps to grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible. Pull the tick straight upward with steady even pressure. This should remove the tick with the mouthparts intact.

I hope that a few of these tips and this information helps educate and helps in the protection of against tick borne illnesses. Our office is currently conducting tick surveillance in the county and will continue to do so the rest of the summer. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact our office.

The information in this article comes from the following source: Stafford, Kirby, C. 2004. The Tick Management Handbook, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

Date/Time	Information
Aug 4-10	Greene County Fair – the county fair includes rides, entertainment and agricultural interests. While you are there, be sure to stop by the Conservation District table. Visit the fair’s website for more information at http://www.greenecountyfair.org/
Aug 9	Barrel Stave Factory Tour -Visit to Wilson Forest Products in Jefferson, PA-a local agribusiness that serves international customers from Greene County, PA. See how barrels are made from local white oak and learn how they are prepared for wineries and distilleries around the world. Meet at factory at 1216 Jefferson Rd, Jefferson, PA before 1 PM http://www.swpwopa.com/
Sept 14	Wood Lot Tour and Dinner Social -Tour of conservation practices of Brian Adair’s woodlot in Conneaut, PA, where he manages his property for a variety of recreational uses. The tour will be followed by a social hour and dinner on the water at Iroquois Boating and Fishing Club just down the road. http://www.swpwopa.com/
Sept 28	2019 PFA Annual Symposium: Wildlife & Woodlands , Toftrees Resort & Conference Ctr, State College (http://paforestry.org/) Join other PA woodland owners for educational sessions that will assist you in managing your woods, water and wildlife. http://www.swpwopa.com/
Oct 6	Annual Walk in Penn’s Woods - This is a statewide program where walks in the woods are offered all over the state. Visit this site to find a walk for you: https://sites.psu.edu/walkinpennswoods/ or stay local and walk on the Burnham Wood lot where the tour will take you by vernal ponds, a variety of tree plantings of different age classes, and beautiful Fall foliage on and around the country road. http://www.swpwopa.com/



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Our Mission

It is the mission of the District to commit to protection, stewardship, and conservation of the County's natural resources to ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of the landowners of the County.

It is the District's belief that conservation works best when people living and working in the local area work together to manage their natural resources collectively. Valuable partnerships are formed when diversity is brought into the conversation and decision-making process. Our office is a conservation-oriented organization that offers a wide variety of expertise and knowledge. The District staff can assist with questions related to permitting, offer guidance on planning for farming, and assist landowners with various natural resource related topics.