



# Greene County Conservation District

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2015

## Carmichaels Team #1 wins Greene County Envirothon, places third in Pennsylvania State Envirothon

Fifty-three high school students from four of Greene County's five school districts competed in the 28th annual Greene County Envirothon held Wednesday, April 29, at Wana B Park in Carmichaels. Teams of five students tested their environmental knowledge in the areas of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and the 2015 current issue, urban and community forestry.

Carmichaels Team #1 won this year's competition with a score of 418 points out of a possible 500 points. Team members Blake Conard, Ashley Dotson, Emma Lowry, Philip Mikalik, Kaleb Wilson and team advisor Kevin Willis represented Greene County at the state Envirothon, held May 19-20 at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and the Windber Recreation Park in Windber, Pa. They finished

with an overall score of 509.33 points, out of a possible 600, finishing in 3rd place.

Mapletown Team #1, consisting of students Reid Griffin, Ryan Kovach, Luke Pecjak, Garrett Phillips, Abby Shipley and advisors Amber Burkett and Sara London, earned second place with a score of 373.

The third-place team was Carmichaels Team #2, which included students Allie Christopher, Zachary Juliani, Joel Spishock, Brady Watters, Parker Woodring and advisor Willis. The team earned 371 points.

The Greene County Envirothon is organized each year by the Greene County Conservation District and is funded through a grant from the Community Foundation of Greene County's Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program through CONSOL Energy. Each student on the winning team secured a \$500 college scholarship funded by Alpha Natural Resources and the Greene County Conservation District.



In addition to the continued financial support of Community Foundation of Greene County, CONSOL Energy and Alpha Natural Resources, other partners that made the event successful include Greene County Commissioners Chuck Morris, Archie Trader and Blair Zimmerman; Greene County Department of Economic Development; Kevin Paul, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Russ Gibbs, state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry; William Wentzel, Greene County Conservation District; Chuck Kubasik, state Department of Environmental Protection; Eric Davis, state Fish and Boat Commission; Jeremy Febinger, Frank Maykuth and Amanda Powell, state Game Commission; Brian Wolyniak, Penn State Extension; and Michelle Anderson, Alpha Natural Resources.

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



Carmichaels Team #1 won this year's Greene County Envirothon with a score of 418. The Envirothon is organized by the Greene County Conservation District and funded through the Community Foundation of Greene County. All winning team members will receive a \$500 scholarship from Alpha Natural Resources and the Greene County Conservation District. Pictured, from l. to r., are Michelle Anderson, Alpha Natural Resources; William Wentzel, GCCD Board of Directors; Greene County Commissioner Chuck Morris; team members Blake Conard, Ashley Dotson, Kaleb Wilson and Emma Lowry; Commissioner Archie Trader; team member Philip Mikalik; team advisor Kevin Willis; Commissioner Blair Zimmerman; Jessica Kearns, CONSOL Energy; and Bettie Stammerjohn, Community Foundation of Greene County.



Mapletown Team #1 won second place at this year's Greene County Envirothon, organized by the Greene County Conservation District. Pictured, from l. to r., are William Wentzel, GCCD Board of Directors; team advisor Sara London; team members Garrett Phillips, Ryan Kovach, Reid Griffin, Luke Pecjak and Abby Shipley; and team advisor Amber Burkett.



Carmichaels Team #2 won third place at this year's Greene County Envirothon, organized by the Greene County Conservation District. Pictured, from l. to r., are Michelle Anderson, Alpha Natural Resources; team members Brady Watters, Zachary Juliani, Joel Spishock and Allie Christopher; William Wentzel, GCCD Board of Directors; team member Parker Woodring; and team advisor Kevin Willis.



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**COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- Natural Resources Conservation Service Rennie Stoy, District Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA DEP Field Representative Chuck Kubasik

*The GCCD Board of Directors meets at 10:00 am on the third Tuesday of each month at the Conservation District office*

**DISTRICT LOCATION**

Our office is located on the Mezzanine Level of the Fort Jackson Building at 19 South Washington Street, Suite 150 Waynesburg, PA 15370  
Phone: 724-852-5278  
gccd@co.greene.pa.us  
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

# New Faces at the Conservation District

The Conservation District welcomes our two summer interns for 2015, Alex Rush and Travis Basinger. Both are Greene County natives and are students at California University of Pennsylvania where they study Environmental Science and Geology, respectively.

Alex and Travis have been working on various projects with the Conservation District since mid-May. They have been instrumental in installing in-stream data loggers at various locations across the county. These devices allow us to continuously monitor water quality in streams. This data is being used to develop a baseline of water quality and to detect changes that may occur over time. The pair has also been completing stream habitat assessment at various locations within the South Fork



*Alex Rush (back) and Travis Basinger anchor an in-stream data logger to a large tree to ensure retention during a high-water event.*

Tenmile Creek Watershed as part of a larger assessment project. In addition to their work on the Conservation District's water quality monitoring projects, they have been trapping mosquitoes as part of the West Nile Virus

monitoring program. They trap mosquitoes at various locations across the county and send them to a state laboratory for testing.

Throughout the summer, Alex and Travis will continue to work on these projects as well as other conservation and environmental education projects.

Their time at the Conservation District will provide them with valuable experience that will help them in their careers. In addition to that, their diligent work as part of the Conservation District team is making a difference in Greene County.

# Conservation District holds Workshop for Engineers



*Jennifer Orr, PA DEP, outlines state stormwater management regulations.*

The Conservation District organized a workshop for engineers on Chapters 102 and 105 of the Pennsylvania Code on April 9th at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Waynesburg. The purpose of the workshop was to help the engineers better understand these state regulations that govern erosion and sediment control and water obstructions and encroachments.

The workshop included presentations from the Conservation District and from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Speakers discussed new rules, permit application processes and requirements, how to handle typical problems encountered, landowner requirements, and examples

of commonly used calculations. Multiple question-and-answer sessions enabled workshop participants to seek clarification of difficult aspects of the 102 and 105 regulations directly from the agencies administering them.

This workshop was a great opportunity for industry and government agencies to come together and increase clarity in these regulations. This proactive approach helps the engineers maintain compliance with state regulations on their projects. Approximately 60 people, from various companies, attended the workshop and were able to earn six professional development hours.



*Darl Rosenquest, PA DEP, discusses commonly encountered problems with projects.*



# Farm Service Agency Programs 2015



## USDA Announces Restart of Biomass Crop Assistance Program for Renewable Energy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that incentives will resume this summer for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners interested in growing and harvesting biomass for renewable energy. The support comes through the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), which was reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. BCAP provides financial assistance to establish and maintain new crops of energy biomass, or to who harvest and deliver forest or agricultural residues to a qualifying energy facility.

Financial assistance is available through BCAP for costs associated with harvesting and transporting agriculture or forest residues to facilities that convert biomass crops into energy. Eligible crops may include corn residue, diseased or insect-infested wood materials, or orchard waste. The energy facility must first be approved by USDA to accept the biomass crop. Facilities can apply for, or renew, their BCAP qualification status beginning today. A total of \$11.5 million of federal funds will be allocated to support the delivery of biomass materials through December 2015. Last year, more than 200,000 tons of dead or diseased trees from National Forests and Bureau of Land Management lands were removed and used to produce

renewable energy, while reducing the risk of forest fire. Nineteen energy facilities in 10 states participated in the program.

Farmers, ranchers and forest landowners can also receive financial assistance to grow biomass crops that will be converted into energy in selected BCAP project areas. New BCAP project area proposals will be solicited beginning this summer and accepted through fall 2015, with new project area announcements and enrollments taking place in early spring 2016. The extended proposal submission period allows project sponsors time to complete any needed environmental assessments and allows producers enough lead time to make informed decisions on whether or not to pursue the BCAP project area enrollment opportunity. This fiscal year, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will allocate up to \$8 million for producer enrollment to expand and enhance existing BCAP project areas. Additionally, in accordance with the 2014 Farm Bill, underserved farmers are eligible for a higher establishment cost share. BCAP projects have supported more than 50,000 acres across 74 counties in 11 different project areas. For more information, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

### 2015 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local county FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for all Pennsylvania counties:

**May 31, 2015:** Nursery

**June 15, 2015:** Spring Barley, Spring Forage Seeding, Spring Oats, Rye, Triticale, Spring Wheat

**July 15, 2015:** All other crops and CRP

**August 15, 2015:** Beans, Cabbage

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.



## Equine Management Workshops

The Washington County Conservation District is hosting an Equine Management Workshop in July. Topics covered are: Equine Environmental Stewardship, Soil Fertility Management in Pastures, Pasture Management and Renovation, Toxic Plants: How to Keep them Under Control, and Manure Management and Composting, Manure Regulations. **Registration is required by July 15th.** Please see details and contact information below.

**Date:** July 22 and July 29th, 2015

**Time:** 6:00-9:00 PM

**Cost:** \$20 (includes both sections)  
Workshop limited to 25 participants.

**Location:** Washington County  
Conservation District  
2800 N. Main Street Suite 105  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-206-9446



## State Forester Update

In the fall 2000 issue of this newsletter, we told you about Russell Gibbs being assigned to work as the new state forester here in Greene and Washington counties (replacing the retired forester, Bill Wentzel).

Well since that time there have been some changes. Russ will also work in Fayette County. His Bureau of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources office is at 10 Nickman Plaza in Lemont Furnace, PA 15456 (located just outside of Uniontown). His office phone number is 724-437-7983.

Russ originally hails from the Uniontown area. After graduating from Penn State University's School of Forest Resources in 2008, he received his bachelor's degree in forest management. He then worked as a forester for two and a half years with the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

From 1999 to 2007, Russell served in the United States Army Reserves as a military policeman. He participated in two tours of duty overseas in Bosnia and Iraq. He enjoys



State Forester Russell Gibbs interacts with high school students at the 2015 Greene County Envirothon. Gibbs served as station advisor for the Forestry station along with retired forester Bill Wentzel.

hunting and coaching youngsters in the midget football program.

## What "Manure Management Manuals" Should Mean to You

If you are NOT producing or using manure, this should not mean anything to you. However, if you are **producing** or **using** manure in any capacity in Pennsylvania, you are required to develop a written Manure Management Plan. Some things to keep in mind:

- Manure Management Manuals are for Animal Operations. They are also for landowners who are applying manure in some capacity.

- Farms that are defined as Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) need to follow a different process. This process is more detailed. It requires a trained person to write your plan.

- Landowners with simple Animal Operations can develop their own plans. You are not required to use a trained nutrient management planner.

- The developed plan for the operation does not need to be submitted for review or approval. The plan does need to be maintained and available on site.

- Livestock & manure on the farm must be managed consistent with the manure mgmt. plan and required records maintained.

Please contact the Office for more information or to pick up a manual. We can also help you complete your manual. We are here to help you.

## Becky's Recipe Box

### Ingredients:

- 1 (.25 ounce) pkg. active dry yeast
- 1 cup warm water
- 1 pinch white sugar
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/4 cup tomato sauce
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- 1/4 cup sliced black olives
- 1/4 cup roasted red peppers
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 4 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

### Directions:

**1.** In a bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water, and mix in sugar. Proof for ten minutes, or until frothy. Mix in the salt, olive oil, and flour until dough pulls away from the sides of the bowl. Turn onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth, about 8 minutes. Place dough in a well oiled bowl, and cover with a damp cloth. Set aside to rise until doubled, about 1 hour. Punch down, and knead in garlic and basil. Set aside to rise for 1 more hour, or until doubled again.

**2.** Preheat grill for high heat. Heat olive oil with garlic for 30 seconds in the microwave. Set aside. Punch down dough, and divide in half. Form each half into an oblong shape 3/8 to 1/2 inch thick.

**3.** Brush grill grate with garlic flavored olive oil. Carefully place one piece of dough on hot grill. The dough will begin to puff almost immediately. When the bottom crust has lightly browned, turn the dough over using two spatulas. Working quickly, brush oil over crust, and then brush with 2 tablespoons tomato sauce. Arrange 1/2 cup chopped tomatoes, 1/8 cup sliced black olives, and 1/8 cup roasted red peppers over crust. Sprinkle with 1 cup cheese and 2 tablespoons basil. Close the lid, and cook until the cheese melts. Remove from grill, and set aside to cool for a few minutes while you prepare the second pizza.

Recipe found on Allrecipes.com  
(<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/pizza-on-the-grill-i/>)  
accessed 6/24/2015



# Addressing Concerns About Decrease in Pollinators

We have all heard the concerns about the decrease in pollinators and the effect it will have on our food supply. Penn State's Horticulture Department has been studying this for a few years. The Penn State Master Gardeners are assisting in the studies. There are 62 counties in Pa. with Master Gardener programs; however not all participate in the study. Greene County has been providing information on pollinators observed at our Pollinator Garden at the Fairgrounds.



Each week, the garden is monitored to observe for specific bees... (honey, carpenter, bumble, and green metallic), butterflies and other pollinators. The plot is also surveyed to

report on the plant size, vigor and blooms. Three families of plants are being monitored, the same three at each of the county's gardens: Agastache (Hyssop), Helenium (Sneezeweed) and Physostegia Virginia

(Obedient Plant). This is the last year of the three-year study. We will monitor the garden from the first blooms in the spring until the beginning of October. Data is sent in monthly to the Horticulture Department.

If you haven't had the opportunity to see our garden, it is located in front of the Greene County Fairground Office Building in Waynesburg. There are signs identifying the plants.

The Penn State Extension in Greene County will offer Master Gardener Classes this fall. For more information, please call the Extension at 724-627-3745.

## Agricultural Security Areas

Do you live on a farm located in one of the following townships: Cumberland, Center, Franklin, Greene, Jefferson, Morgan, Washington, or Wayne? If so you are eligible to be included in an Agricultural Security Area (ASA) that has been established. If you have property in Greene County outside these 8 townships the Conservation District is encouraging you to petition your township to start an ASA. If you have 250 acres of producing farmland or you and some of your friends in your township have 250 acres you can petition your township to become an

ASA. GCCD can help with this process at anytime.

ASAs are intended to help more lasting and viable farming operations over the long term. ASAs are created by townships with support from individual landowners. 250 acres of farmland is necessary to start an ASA. Local officials are encouraged to support agriculture by not passing nuisance laws that would restrict normal farming operations. Another benefit of being in an ASA is that your property becomes eligible for a Farmland Preservation Easement purchase, if you wish.

Farmland preservation is the only way to protect your farm from development.

To participate, the farm parcel must be at least 10 acres in size. The property should be productive agricultural land. Cropland, pasture, and woodland can all be part of an ASA. At least 50% of the land should be in Soil Capability Classes 1 to 4. The property must be zoned to permit agricultural uses.

Please contact the District for more information about the ASA and Farmland Preservation programs.

## What You Need to Know about Winter Cover Crops

Traditionally, cover crops have been used for two main purposes: erosion control and additional spring forage. Today, the uses and benefits have grown to be numerous and is varied among grasses and legumes. Cover crops will add organic matter to your soil, and this will enhance the natural productivity and fertility of your soils. The cover crop can help to hold nutrients which are available for the following crop to uptake. If you are practicing no-till farming, cover crops are an essential tool to your success.

no manure used. When you plant a legume cover crop, you are, in essence, growing your own nitrogen fertilizer. Examples of legume winter cover crops are Hairy Vetch, Crimson Clover, White Clover, and Red Clover.

**Non-Legumes:** Examples of other cover crops include: Annual and Perennial Ryegrass, Barley, Oats, Triticale, and Winter Wheat. These crops will provide erosion control and possibly a more harvestable spring crop compared to some legume crops.

growth present in the spring is proportional to the amount of nutrients contained within the roots and the entire plant. If you need assistance deciding what to use as your winter cover crop or need advice as when to plant, please contact the Conservation District.

### Choosing Your Cover Crop

**Legumes:** Typically legumes are applied most frequently when there is limited or

### When to Plant

Winter crops in this area can be planted from late August to late September. One rule of thumb to remember is that the amount of top



Image courtesy of USDA ([http://www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/30200515/images/PhotoCarousel/IMG\\_20130602\\_202256\\_144.jpg](http://www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/30200515/images/PhotoCarousel/IMG_20130602_202256_144.jpg))

## Are You Curious About the Water Quality in Your Well or Spring?

Many rural residents of Greene County rely on private wells or springs. Groundwater quality can be affected by a number of things like:

- Improper handling & application of manure, fertilizers or nutrients.
- Leaking underground storage tanks and septic systems.
- Pollution associate with landfills, industry, and energy development.

Monitoring our groundwater resources gives us confidence that the water we are drinking is safe. It also allows us to detect and identify problems early so we can take action.



The CATTFish is an easy way to find out about water quality in your well or spring. It installs in your toilet tank in less than five minutes. You may even qualify for comprehensive, professional water testing!

Contact Jared D. Zinn to find out more about the program and how to get involved. 724-852-5278 or email [jjinn@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:jjinn@co.greene.pa.us)



## Putting Water in Perspective

The Conservation District has several water monitoring projects going on right now. We are working with landowners to monitor groundwater quality by installing monitoring devices in drinking water wells. We are also monitoring surface water by installing monitoring devices in Greene County streams. In addition to these projects, we are also undertaking an assessment of water quality throughout the entire South Fork Tenmile Creek Watershed (Greene County's largest watershed by area). Someone might wonder why we spend so much time monitoring water quality.

The main reason is that clean, fresh water is vitally important to our lives. We use it for drinking water, cooking and food prep, sanitation, and personal hygiene. A recommended minimum water requirement for a single person is 50 liters per day, or roughly 13 gallons (Gleick 1996). In developed countries like the United States, a typical person uses much more than this each day. According to the United States Census, the population of

Greene County was 37,843 in 2014 (USCB 2015). That means that for every person in Greene County to have their recommended minimum water requirement, we would need 1,892,150 liters of water each day. That is roughly 500,000 gallons per day.

Although it may not seem like it during Greene County's heavy spring rains, water resources are not unlimited. Less than three percent of the earth's water is fresh water, and much of that is tied up in glaciers and the polar ice caps, leaving only a tiny fraction for use by humans and other organisms (USGS, 2015). From a global perspective, 750 million people do not have access to clean water and more than 840,000 die each year from a water-related disease (Water.org, 2015).

Because clean water is so important to our lives, we must be vigilant in protecting it.

In many cases, we don't realize that water is becoming polluted until some catastrophic event, like a fish kill or human health issue alerts us. By this point, cleaning up the polluted water resources is extremely costly or impossible. Continuously monitoring our water resources allow us to detect changes in water quality early when quick and decisive action can help us avoid catastrophic events.

I hope that this article provide some perspective on the importance of our water resources and on water quality monitoring. I encourage everyone in Greene County to get involved with water quality monitoring activities, no matter whether it is with the Conservation District or with one of the other agencies actively monitoring water



Summer intern, Alex Rush installs an in-stream data logger. Devices like this one will monitor water quality in streams across Greene County.

quality in Greene County. There are lots of programs available and some require very little time and activity on the part of the landowner; in some cases, nothing more than your permission to cross your land and access a stream.

If you have any questions about water quality in Greene County or are interested in getting involved with monitoring programs in the county, please feel free to contact me, Jared D. Zinn, at 724-852-5278, send me an email at [jjinn@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:jjinn@co.greene.pa.us), or stop into the Conservation District office at 19 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

Gleick, P.H. 1996. *Basic Water Requirements for Human Activities: Meeting the Basic Needs*. Water International, 21: 83-92.

USCB. 2014. *Quick Facts. United States Census Bureau*. Available: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42/42059.html> (June 2015).

USGS . 2015. *How Much Water is Available? United States Geological Survey*. Available: [http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs\\_top\\_story/how-much-water-is-available/](http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/how-much-water-is-available/) (June 2015).

Water.org. 2015. *Water Facts*. Water.org. Available: <http://water.org/water-crisis/water-facts/water/> (June 2015).



# Southwest Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association Upcoming Schedule

The Southwest Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association (SWPWO) was formed in 2000 as an organization of individuals dedicated to sound woodland management practices. It continues to promote these values through education and outreach.

Events are open to both members and the general public and there is no cost for participation in events.

For further information, please visit the SWPWO website at <http://busybeaver.cs.pitt.edu/swpwo/index.php>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

## July 13

### *Summer Tour: Day in the Woods at Becket's Run Woodlands*

SWPWO members Raul Ciesa and Janet Sredy have been awarded 2014 Pennsylvania Tree Farmers of the Year. The program will showcase all the hard work that they have accomplished in their woods. Contact the SWPWO for details.

## August 8

### *Summer Tour: Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens*

We will have a group tour of this fairly new natural wonder in Pittsburgh. They have transformed an old strip mine into five woodland areas: Appalachian plateau, cove forest, eastern European woodlands, English woodlands, and Asian woodlands. There is also a historic farmstead on the property. SWPWO members will enjoy a private tour, learn about the history of this important ecological site, and hear about plans for its on-going development. Special emphasis will be on the Garden's efforts to create and manage its diverse woodlands. The cost of this tour is \$10 each and advance registration is required. Contact the SWPWO for details.

## September 16, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### *Vehicle Safety in the Woods with Gary Micsky*

Mr. Micsky will discuss how to safely use tractors, utility vehicles, and ATVs in your woodlot. Most of these vehicles were not built for use in woodlots, but these vehicles certainly are handy around the tree farm and many of us have them. Learn how to safely handle these vehicles for typical chores on your woodlot. To be held at the Washington County Conservation District Office in Washington, PA from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

## September 19, Begins at 10:00 a.m.

### *SWPWO Field Day and Picnic*

10:00am - Share Your Favorite Woodlot Tools: A grown-up show and tell to share what tools work in your woodlot.

As a bonus, Gary Micsky may be present with his vehicle simulator for everyone to try.

12:00pm - Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch

1:00pm - Wildflowers in Your Woodlot with Bill Paxton: We will take a hike and identify wildflowers and lore of the Burnham Woodlot.

4:00pm - SWPWO Picnic: SWPWO will provide the meat, water, and utensils. Bring a side dish to share. BYOB.

To be held at the Burnham tree farm

## As June Fades into July

As June fades into July, spring fades into summer as marked by the passing of the early blooms and growth of both field and garden crops. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Lemont Furnace is no exception to this trend as evidenced by the changing of the proverbial guard serving Greene, Fayette, and Washington counties. The arrival of Soil Conservationist Dennis Thorne in the spring of 2014 was followed by the departure of Supervisory District Conservationist Suzy Funka-Petery for the friendly confines of

NRCS offices in northern West Virginia. Greene, Washington, and Fayette counties then quickly embraced Phil Evans, Supervisory District Conservationist, who most recently traversed Mineral and Hampshire counties in West Virginia on behalf of NRCS and can now be found in Lemont Furnace, working with landowners in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is also pleased to announce its new Client Gateway, a public website that allows clients a

secure means by which to request conservation technical and financial assistance from the USDA. Through Client Gateway, clients can also access their conservation plans, conservation program applications and contracts, financial assistance contract payments, and much more. Through the Client Gateway, you can request technical assistance, apply for conservation program financial assistance, and review, sign, and submit contracts and conservation plans. For more information, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway).



# Greene County Conservation District

*Promoting Soil and Water Conservation in Greene County Since 1956*

## Summer Time is Fair Time

*By: Walt Bumgarner, Penn State Extension  
Livestock Educator*

As most people in this area know, when July and August comes around, it's fair time! Southwest Pennsylvania has a number of the best fairs in the Commonwealth. In fact, there are four fairs in Greene County and Washington County alone.

Our local fair season starts off with the Jacktown Fair, in the western Greene County town of Wind Ridge. The Jacktown Fair runs from July 14 through July 18. The Greene County Fair, which is held in Waynesburg, begins on Sunday,

August 9, and runs through Saturday, August 15.

Then it's Washington County's time for fairs. The Washington County Fair, on North Main St. in Washington, begins Saturday, August 15, and finishes on Saturday, August 22. We finish our fair season with the West Alexander Fair. The West Alexander Fair, held in the western Washington County town of West Alexander, is always the week of Labor Day and this year begins on Monday, September 7, and runs through Saturday, September 12.

4-H and agriculture are a vital part of the fair season. When only 1% of the

population has direct ties to agriculture, the local fair is about as close to agriculture as most people ever get. It is here that the general public gets a chance to view animals and agricultural products and machinery. It's also an opportunity for these folks to talk to the youth and adults that exhibit at the fairs.

Penn State Extension works closely with both the 4-H youth and the adult exhibitors to make sure these events are fun, educational, productive and a positive reflection of the agricultural community. I encourage everyone to attend a fair, in your area, and show support for SW PA agriculture.

