

Greene County Conservation District

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2016

CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEMBERS

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- Dave Coder, Commissioner Vice Chairman
- Archie Trader, Commissioner Secretary

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- Archie Trader, Vice Chairman, Commissioner Representative
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- Mike Belding, Farmer Director

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- J. Robert Rice

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- Gay Thistle
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- Jeff Rode

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- Lisa Snider, District Manager
- Lindsay Kozlowski, Environmental Program Specialist
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Program Specialist
- William Wentzel, Environmental Program Associate
- Karlie Wright, Agriculture Technician
- Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer
- Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist
- April Brummage, Environmental Program Specialist/Agriculture Tech. Assistant

Equipment Available for Rent

The Greene County Conservation District has purchased a seven-foot Great Plains End Wheel No-Till Drill equipped with three seed boxes that is available for rent to Greene County farmers and landowners. The Conservation District's goal is to reduce soil loss, protect and promote the wise use of precious soils, raise animals and support the natural world around each of us.



No-Till Drill

The Conservation District's drill rental program encourages and assists farmers in implementing no-till crop production systems, which includes cover crops and promotes good pasture management. No-till involves planting the seed directly into the soil without plowing, tilling or disking. Advantages of no-till practices include: reducing operator's time and expenses; promoting healthier soils through building soil structure and adding organic matter; feeding beneficial microorganisms; reducing soil loss from erosion and increasing infiltration and increasing yields due to optimal soil conditions.

The drill will be available from the Conservation District on a first-come, first-served basis. A refundable deposit of \$150 is required to schedule

a three-day rental. A 55hp or larger tractor is required for operating the drill and a heavy duty truck is required for transport.



Lime Spreader

The Conservation District also offers a two-ton wet lime spreader for rent. Applying lime to pasture and hay fields is one of the simplest management decisions to make. Increasing soil pH can increase forage yields and palatability, with relatively low cost to the producer. The 2 Ton Wet Lime Spreader Rental Program is designed to give producers another option when managing their forages. Soil testing is the most reliable way to determine your liming needs. The County Cooperative Extension Service can provide you with soil sampling bags.

Same as the drill rental, the lime spreader will be available from Conservation District on a first-come, first-served basis. A refundable deposit of \$50 is required to schedule a three-day rental. A 50hp or larger tractor is required for operating the spreader.

For more details, please contact Karlie Wright at the Greene County Conservation District at kwright@co.greene.pa.us or 724-852-5278.



Welcome to April Brummage, who joined the Greene County Conservation District staff at the beginning of June serving as Environmental Specialist. April brings diversity with both agricultural and environmental experience to the team. She grew up on a family farm in Kirby where she helped with beef cattle

production, and was an active Greene County 4-H member for many years. April is a 2010 graduate of California University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor of science in Environmental Studies. She has worked for several consulting and engineering firms serving the coal and pipeline industries. April currently lives in Wayne Township, with her husband Clint. "I am excited about working closer to my home and family, and I look forward to serving the residents of Greene County," she said.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Greene County Department of Economic Development
Robbie Matesic, Executive Director
Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager
- Natural Resources Conservation Service - Phil Evans, District Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry - Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA DEP Field Representative - Chuck Kubasik
- PA Fish and Boat Commission - Eric Davis, Wildlife Conservation Officer
- Penn State Cooperative Extension - Joseph C. Conklin, District 10 Director
- PA Game Commission - Jeremy Febinger

DISTRICT LOCATION

Our office is located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building at 22 West High Street Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone: 724-852-5278
gccd@co.greene.pa.us
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

The GCCD Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the second floor conference room of the Greene County Office Building located at 93 East High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

CONSERVATION DISTRICT CELEBRATES NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

Highlighting Soil and Water Stewardship Week

Soil and Water Stewardship Week April 24 – May 1, 2016 marked the National Association of Conservation District's 61st year of celebrating a Stewardship Week. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. This year's theme was "We All Need Trees." Trees provide us with a multitude of benefits and services including, but not limited to: clean air and water, healthy soil, shade, wood products, fuel and jobs.

The Greene County Commissioners proclaimed April 24-May 1, 2016, Soil and Water Stewardship Week during their April 21st regular meeting. The Greene County Conservation District is a member of the NACD, which oversees the Stewardship

Week program. NACD represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

The Greene County Conservation District is also celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The District was formed with the mission of committing to the protection, stewardship and conservation of Greene County's natural resources to ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of county landowners. The District Board Members and staff work diligently and thoughtfully to promote and protect a diverse range of natural resources within the County.

It has always been the District's belief that conservation works best when people who live and work

in a community come together to collectively manage the natural resources within their community.



Pictured, from L-R, are Commissioner Dave Coder; Jim Cowell, Secretary of the GCCD Board; Commissioner Archie Trader; Bradley Eisiminger, Chairman of the GCCD Board; Lisa Snider, GCCD District Manager; and Commissioner Blair Zimmerman. The Greene County Commissioners proclaimed April 24-May 1, 2016, Soil and Water Stewardship Week during their April 21 regular meeting.

Conservation District Honors J. Robert Rice



The Greene County Conservation District honored J. Robert Rice at a dedication ceremony during at the Greene County Historical Society Museum. A tri-colored beech tree was planted in recognition of Rice's fifty years of service to the Greene County Conservation District Board.

Rice was first appointed to the Conservation District Board as a farmer director in 1965 and remains active today as the director emeritus and the Dirt and Gravel Program Quality Assurance board member. Rice's service to the board includes three years as farmer director, nine years as district treasurer, thirty-three years

as district chairman and the past five years as director emeritus.

Rice, a life-long resident of Greene County, operated a 327-acre farm in Gilmore Township, owned and operated the general store in Jollytown, a former Gilmore Township Supervisor, a local historian and a respected voice for the conservation movement both inside and outside the county borders. Rice was involved in many large projects undertaken during his tenure on the board as Chairman and director including: the building of the flood control project PA 647 that protects the

city of Wheeling, WV; the development of the Southwest Project Grass; the development of the Greene County soils mapping in the late 70's; the USGS groundwater study that surveyed drilled water wells in the county; and encouraged the hiring of a full-time district staff to oversee the county's natural resources.

The Greene County Conservation District Board commends Mr. J. Robert Rice for his many years of service to the community, conservation district and local farmers.



From L-R: Names. Greg Hopkins, Director; Bill Wentzel, Director; Gay Thistle, Associate Director; Thomas Headlee, Director; Jim Cowell, Director; J. Robert Rice, Director Emeritus; Bradley Eisiminger, Chairman; Back Row: Jeff Rode, Associate Director; Bill Cree, Jr., Associate Director.

Students Awarded Conservation Leadership School Scholarships



From L-R, Gabrielle Muilenburg, of Mapletown High School, Ryan Swartz and Stephen Zaco, both of Carmichaels Area High School.

Three Greene County High School Students were awarded full scholarships to attend Penn State University's Conservation Leadership School later this summer. The Conservation District Board of Directors awarded these scholarships based on the merits of essays these and other students submitted. Gabrielle Muilenburg, of Mapletown High School, Ryan Swartz and Stephen Zaco, both of Carmichaels Area High School were awarded full scholarships at the April 26th Conservation District monthly meeting.

All three scholarships were funded in part by Columbia Pipeline Group and by the Greene County Conservation District. These scholarships will provide these students with a tremendous opportunity and experience they will remember for the rest of their lives.

The Conservation Leadership School is hosted by Penn State each year at the Stone Valley Recreation Area in Petersburg, PA. Students spend one full week learning about the environment and our role as stewards through fun hands-on activities and field trips. For more information about the school, visit their website (<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/youth/cls>).

The Conservation District is proud to continue the tradition of offering this annual scholarship and believes that this experience will help these young people grow into wise leaders whose decisions will ensure the future of our natural resources in Greene County and beyond.

Conservation District Poster and Coloring Contest Winners



Coloring Contest Winners received bicycles and helmets. Winners were (L-R) Elaina Beazell, 4 yrs old - Christian Sandbox, daughter of Noah and Joni Beazell; Abigail Kalka, 4 yrs. old - Christian Sandbox, daughter of are Jeremy and Nicole Kalka; Aria Finley, 4 yrs. old - St. Ann's Pre-School, daughter of Lauren and Drew Finley; Nora Christner, 5 yrs. old - St. Ann's Pre-School, daughter of Sara and Mark Christner.

Greene County

Conservation District poster contest winners received cash prizes. The theme for this year's contest was "We All Need Trees." Entries were judged on their conservation message, visual effectiveness, originality and universal appeal. Winners were (L-R) 1st Place, Landon Matthews-3rd Grade West Greene Elementary School, son of Summer Matthews; 2nd place Karissa Thompson-3rd Grade West Greene Elementary School, daughter of Gary and Debbie Thompson; Pieper Whipkey-3rd Grade West Greene Elementary School, daughter of Toby and Jim Whipkey.



Greene County Conservation District Welcomes New Interns!

My name is Jenna Henry and I am one of the summer interns for the GCCD this year. I am going to be a junior at WVU where I major in civil and environmental engineering. I live in



Sycamore with my parents, Jamie and Cherie Henry. Growing up I was very active playing softball and participating in FFA and the 4-H Market Lamb Club. Other hobbies of mine include hunting and helping with my family's Angus cattle farm in Nineveh. I've only been here for a few weeks and I

have already learned so much! A typical day for me includes collecting mosquitoes to test for West Nile Virus, inspecting pipelines, monitoring stream quality through in-stream

data loggers, learning about various permits, visiting local farms to improve operations, and more! Along with the field experience I get, I love the amount of people I meet on a daily basis. I look forward to the rest of the summer and gaining even more knowledge to help my career.

Hi, my name is Michaela Hildreth, and I am a new summer intern for the Greene County Conservation District. I am studying Environmental



Protection at West Virginia University, where I will be a senior this fall. After graduation I hope to become a pipeline environmental inspector. I live with my parents Bill and Sharon Hildreth, on our beef cattle farm in Nineveh. I was a very active member of the FFA during high school at

West Greene, and was also one of the founding members of the West Greene rifle team. In my free time I enjoy hunting, fishing, and spending time on the farm with my family. While interning I will be involved in a variety of things including collecting mosquitoes to be tested for West Nile virus, pipeline inspections, and farm visits. I look forward to learning as much as I can this summer with the Conservation District!

West Greene FFA Annual Awards Banquet 2016



Jeremy Earnest presenting Haleigh Thomas, Courtney Ross, Makenzie Thomas, and Savannah Pettit with their Greenhand degrees.



Sierra Pettit receiving her supervised agricultural experience proficiency award for diversified livestock production from her sister, Savannah.



The 2016-2017 West Greene FFA officers Haley Pierson (reporter), Jeremy Earnest (sentinel), Austin Smith (student advisor), Patrick Hughes (treasurer), Sierra Pettit (president), Rodney Parson (vice-president), and Brittany Bonnema (secretary).



Patrick Hughes receiving the shop award for welding from Rodney Parson.

West Greene FFA held their annual Parent-Member Banquet on May 6, 2016 in the high school cafeteria.

Many guests and parents were introduced and thanked for their support of the West Greene FFA Chapter.

The Discovery, Greenhand, and Chapter Degrees were presented to the selected members.

The Star Chapter Degree was awarded to Rodney Parson. The Star Greenhand Degree was presented to Savannah Pettit. Vanessa Black received the Kalah Cheek memorial/FFA scholarship. Vanessa was also presented the Dekalb Award.

Supervised Agricultural Experience proficiency awards were presented to: Haleigh and Makenzie Thomas for swine production, Courtney Ross and Jeremy Earnest for sheep production, Rodney Parson for beef production, Sierra Pettit for diversified livestock production, Samantha Lambeth for goat production, Dennis Phillips for poultry production, and Brittany Bonnema for extemporaneous public speaking.

Shop Awards were presented to Patrick Hughes for welding, Garret Ross for building trades, and Austin Smith for Top Shop.

The Greenhouse Green Thumb award was presented to Vanessa Black and Bobby Ward.

Calling All Farmers To Invite Us To Visit Their Operation

Greene County Conservation District has support to offer to our county's agricultural producers; you only need to ask. Karlie Wright, Agricultural Technician and Provisionally Certified Nutrient Management Specialist, can provide educational and technical advice, help make connections with other agricultural agencies, assist with general permit applications for livestock crossings, and help with other common farm activities. She can also assist in developing a manure management plan or agricultural erosion and sedimentation control plan. The Conservation District also coordinates the Farmland Preservation Program for Greene County.

Farming has a long tradition in Greene County with many

farms spanning multiple generations. Across the US, there has been a decline in farm ownership since the early 1980's. The 2012 Census of Agriculture reports that 7 million acres of farmland has been taken out of production since 2007. Many people leave the rural life for school and jobs and then find themselves returning to a farm that they haven't been involved with for many years. "Our goal is to give farmers the tools they need to sustain their operations," said Wright. "Whether you are just starting out or have been farming for years, we have something to offer to everyone."

To schedule a visit with our staff, please call 724-852-5278 or email kwright@co.greene.pa.us. We look forward to hearing from you.



Bradley & Shirley Eisiminger and Jim & Billie Cowell eating lunch at the Young Farm Tour put together by Southwest Project Grass at the Young Cattle Company (Rick & Jayne Young) in Belmont, Ohio.



Host, Tom Ulrich, showing the group at the 2016 SWPG Grazing Field Day how to calibrate their fertilizer.

FREE Workshop and Tour for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Saturday, June 25th • 9 am GREENE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS / LOCAL FARM

If you own land with a stream and fields with low, wet spots, you might qualify for CREP and **GET PAID TO CONSERVE YOUR PROPERTY**

Register by June 20th (free lunch included)

Call 724-852-5278

Email kwright@co.greene.pa.us

Organized by Greene County Conservation District

Presentations by USDA's Farm Service Agency and Pheasants Forever



Looking For Cooperators In The Brown's Creek Watershed



The Greene County Conservation District hosted an informational meeting at the Morris Township Community Center on Thursday, April 28. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss potential water quality improvement projects with any and all landowners that live in the Brown's Creek Watershed. The Brown's Creek Watershed includes most of Morris Township, the southwestern section of Washington Township and small portions of both Center and Franklin Townships, as well as the communities of Swarts, Nineveh, Sycamore, West Union, Deer

Lick and Reese Mill.

The Conservation District is dedicated to restoring and protecting water quality in Greene County streams. The goal in the Brown's Creek Watershed is to reduce sediment pollution and the district is actively recruiting landowners who would like assistance with agriculture practices and streamside residents who wish to restore and protect eroding stream banks. All home, farm and recreational property landowners are encouraged to contact the district if they would like assistance with agriculture practices such as; stabilized

Farm Storage Facility Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that producers who chose coverage from the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit FSA county offices through Aug. 1, 2016, to sign contracts to enroll in coverage for 2016.

Although the choice between ARC and PLC is completed and remains in effect through 2018, producers must still enroll their farm by signing a contract each year to receive coverage.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2016 enrollment period, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue

benchmarks established by the program.

The two programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

REMINDER
Enrollment
Period for 2016
USDA Safety Net
Coverage Ends
Aug. 1

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

stream crossings, animal heavy-use areas, woodlot exclusions, grazing systems and animal walkways/trails.

The cost of these types of projects is often more than a landowner can afford. The Conservation District is trying to determine the need to seek additional funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that could assist landowners in the watershed. For this type of funding, landowner support is needed along with those that desire clean water, willing to install practices to protect water quality and willing to work with the Conservation District.

We are still looking for the interested people, if you are interested and were unable to attend the meeting you are encouraged to call the Greene County Conservation District at 724-852-5278 and speak with Karlie or Jared.



Sprout Up with 4-H Day Camp Offered by Penn State Extension

Greene County youth 8 to 12 can participate in an exciting "Sprout Up with 4-H Day Camp on Wednesday, June 29. The day begins at 8:00 am in the 4-H building at the Greene County Fairgrounds with registration and mixers before boarding a bus to Ryerson Station State Park to learn the value and importance of trees. Russell Gibbs, PA State Forester; Alan Johnson, Ryerson Station Park Ranger; and Gay Thistle, owner of Thistle Tree Farm will provide informative sessions for the youth. Campers will participate in crafts, a scavenger hunt and games before returning to the fairgrounds. Each camper will receive a pine seedling to take home to plant.

The cost is \$15.00 per person and includes bus, lunch, and a camp t-shirt. Space is limited to 40 campers and reservations must be made at the Penn State Extension Office, Greene County by Friday, June 10 to receive a t-shirt. Check should be made payable to Extension Special Fund.

Call the Penn State Extension Office—Greene County, 724-627-3745 for more information. Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Christina Becker, 724-627-3745, in advance of your participation or visit.

Projects To Test Water For Lead, Other Impurities In Underserved Pennsylvania Counties

Private water supplies in nine Pennsylvania counties underserved by water-quality educational programs and water testing will be the focus of two new Penn State Extension projects aimed at helping well owners detect and remediate lead and other common contaminants.

Despite the highly publicized lead contamination in the municipal water supply serving Flint, Michigan, the vast majority of public water systems meet federal safe drinking water standards. However, the same cannot be said for private supplies -- such as wells, springs and cisterns -- in Pennsylvania, according to Bryan Swistock, water resources extension specialist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"More than 3 million Pennsylvanians rely on about 1 million private wells for their drinking water, yet the state is one of only a few that does not mandate minimum well-construction and maintenance standards," he said. "In addition, our research has shown that more than 40 percent of these wells fail to meet at least one health-based drinking-water standard."

The two projects combined, funded by grants from the Pennsylvania Water Resources

Research Center based at Penn State and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will provide free water testing for 380 homes and farms in nine counties: Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Jefferson, Montour, Northampton and Venango.

The test results will add to a Penn State Extension database that helps Swistock and colleagues track the extent of contamination in private water supplies across the state.

Swistock noted that many of these counties also lack any state-accredited water testing laboratories. "These counties have more than 100,000 homes using private water supplies but very few groundwater samples in the Penn State database, resulting in less comprehensive groundwater quality information for those counties."

The projects also will provide opportunities for local residents to learn how to manage their private water supplies, to receive detailed interpretations of their test results and to get recommendations for mitigating any contamination issues found.

To learn more about maintaining and testing private water supplies, visit the Penn State Extension Water quality website at <http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water>

Greene County 4-H helps Kids Learn, Grow, and Succeed

Research shows that kids who participate in 4-H do great things. Here in Greene County, 4-H is proud of the many opportunities to help kids aspire to the 4-H motto and "make the best better."

The 4-H program focuses on STEM educational principles offered through many engaging activities including traditional 4-H clubs, in-school projects to supplement classroom education, and special events and activities all organized and guided by caring adults.

This year alone, nearly 200 Greene County youth participate in the traditional 4-H program in 13 4-H clubs including air rifle and shotgun shooting sports programs; engineering robotics; clothing and textiles; and many animal project clubs carrying sheep, beef, swine, goat, dairy, rabbit, horse, and dog projects. These members will engage in education at their club meetings

and through special activities. At the end of the summer members will come together for organized project evaluations including a fashion review, communications contest, shooting competition, and livestock shows at the county level. Most will take place at the Jacktown and Greene County fairs where, as an added bonus, market livestock members will sell their project animals at an organized auction.

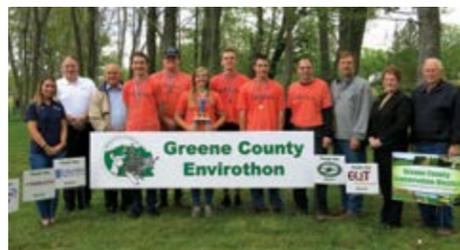
4-H members also engage in other educational activities that help them grow as young adults and leaders. This year members have or will attend regional camp, Teen Leader Retreat, Capital Days, State Livestock and Equine Camp, State Livestock Judging Camp, State Achievement Days, and National 4-H Congress. Every experience develops members into our leaders of tomorrow. The county program also has a teen leadership club. The club brings teens together to increase their leadership skills

through hands-on activities that increase their knowledge, responsibility, and self-confidence.

The 4-H program is also proud to offer outreach activities to the general population of young people in the county. In May, a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day is held for third grade students. Each June, the teen council coordinates a county day camp for 8-12 year old children. Whenever possible, the county program engages in outreach in local communities across the county including the Bituminous Coal Show, the Waynesburg Light-up Night and Christmas Parade, Tractor Clover Days in the Spring and Fall, Waynesburg University Easter Egg Hunt, and the Sheep and Fiber Festival to name a few. All these activities help the children involved understand the importance of learning, networking, advocating, connecting, and being an active participant in their communities. 4-H helps kids grow up great!

2016 ENVIROTHON

Carmichaels Area High Takes Greene County & The State By Storm



Carmichaels Team #1 won this year's Greene County Envirothon with a score of 429. The Envirothon is organized by the Greene County Conservation. All winning team members will receive a \$500 scholarship. L-R: Anastasia Roof, Columbia Pipeline Group; Steve Morgan, CONSOL Energy; Greene Co. Commissioner Archie Trader; team members Brady Watters-11th, Kaleb Wilson-11th, Emma Lowry-12th, Blake Conard-12th, Ryan Swartz-9th, team advisor Kevin Willis; Mike Belding, GCCD Board of Directors; Bettie Stammerjohn, Community Foundation of Greene County; Bill Wentzel, GCCD Board of Directors.



Carmichaels Team #2 won second place at this year's Greene County Envirothon. L-R: Anastasia Roof, Columbia Pipeline Group; Steve Morgan, CONSOL Energy; Greene Co. Commissioner Archie Trader; team members Joey Kurincak-9th, Finn Dobosh-9th, Joel Spishock-11th, Jacob Hair-9th, Stephen Zacoi-9th, team advisor Kevin Willis; Mike Belding and Greg Hopkins, GCCD Board of Directors; Bettie Stammerjohn, Community Foundation of Greene County; Bill Wentzel, GCCD Board of Directors.



Carmichaels Team #3 won third place at this year's Greene County Envirothon. L-R: Anastasia Roof, Columbia Pipeline Group; Steve Morgan, CONSOL Energy; Greene Co. Commissioner Archie Trader; team members Ashley Jones-10th, Chris Ross-12th, Keiriel Neel-11th, Britney Pollock-9th, Katelyn Sinn-10th, team advisor Kevin Willis; Mike Belding and Greg Hopkins, GCCD Board of Directors; Bettie Stammerjohn, Community Foundation of Greene County; Bill Wentzel, GCCD Board of Directors.

Sixty-five high school students from Greene County's five school districts competed in the 29th annual Greene County Envirothon held Wednesday, May 4, at Wana B Park in Carmichaels. Teams of five students tested their environmental knowledge in the areas of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and the 2016 current issue, Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy, and Society.

Carmichaels Team #1 won this year's competition with a score of 429 points out of a possible 500 points. Team members Blake Conard, Emma Lowry, Ryan Swartz, Brady Watters, Kaleb Wilson and team advisor Kevin Willis represented Greene County at the PA Envirothon, May 24-25 at the Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove and Camp Mount Luther located in Mifflinburg, PA. The team representing Greene County from Carmichaels Area High School placed third overall in the 2016 State Envirothon competition. The team had the highest score in the Current Issue station with a 94, second highest Forestry Station score of 91, an Oral Component score of 94.7, and a total score of 522.7 points for the competition, only 25.6 points away from first place.

Each team member received a \$500 scholarship from the PA Envirothon. For third place, the team was awarded a wooden plaque made from Pennsylvania hardwoods. For the high station score, the team received the Donna Hays Memorial Award plaque along with preserved invasive species specimens and field guides.

This year marks the seventh year in a row and the eighth time overall that the team has placed in the top 5 and the eleventh year in a row that the team has placed in the top 10 at the State Envirothon. The team placed 2nd in 2010 and 2006, 3rd in 2014, 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 Greene County Envirothon is organized each year by the Greene County Conservation District and is funded through various donations and grants including Community Foundation of Greene County's Community Grants Program, EQT Foundation, CONSOL Energy, Columbia Pipeline Group, Spectra Energy, Rice Energy, Inc.,



The team representing Greene County from Carmichaels Area High School placed third overall in the 2016 State Envirothon competition held at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24 and 25, 2016. High school students from 65 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event. L-R: Brady Watters, Blake Conard, Emma Lowry, Kaleb Wilson, Kevin Willis, team coach, and Ryan Swartz

PA Envirothon. Each student on the winning team secured a \$500 college scholarship funded by donations made by these organizations and the Greene County Conservation District.

In addition to the continued financial support of sponsors and, other partners that made the event successful include Greene County Commissioners Blair Zimmerman, Dave Coder and Archie Trader; Kimberlee Moninger, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Russ Gibbs, state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry; Jeremy Kelly, Greene Co. Planning Commission; Ann Bargerstock, Cumberland Township, Zoning/Code Enforcement; William Wentzel, Greene County Conservation District; Chuck Kubasik, state Department of Environmental Protection; Eric Davis, state Fish and Boat Commission; Jeremy Febinger, WCO and Bill Lubich, state Game Commission; Jake Blaker and Pam Blaker, Greene County Parks and Recreation; Cumberland Township Parks and Recreation Chairman, Ken Ganocy; and Lou Ann Abbadini.

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

Thanks To Our Sponsors





Greene County Conservation District

Promoting Soil and Water Conservation in Greene County Since 1956

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/>.

July 9, 1- 4:00PM - **Tour SWPWO Member Tony Knaus's Washington County property.** Learn first hand about Tony's successes and lessons learned with chestnut and walnut plantings. Bonus: Learn about "Horses with Hope," a therapeutic riding and learning center, on the property.

Aug. 6, 1- 4:00PM - **Tour SWPWO Members Ryan and Sarah Edigi's Greene County property.** Observe their reforestation of red oaks and a 5 acre timber stand improvement. Additionally, see an aspen cut and regeneration that is developing habitat for grouse, woodcock, and turkey.

Sept. 14, 7 - 8:00PM - **How can you increase the biodiversity on your land** with *Jose Taracido*? Be it forest, field, or water, the opportunities for habitat improvement and biodiversity expansion are unbounded. - Washington Crown Center, Gander Mountain meeting room, Washington, PA

Sept. 17, 1 - 4:00PM - **Tour Jose Taracido's Washington County property and experience biodiversity enhancement in action.**

Oct. 1 - **SWPWO Picnic** - Location to be announced

Nov. 9, 7- 8:00PM - **From Acorn To Mighty Oak** with *Gary Miller* - Learn how you can encourage and enhance the development and maintenance of oaks in your woods. Oak trees are important for wildlife food, habitat, structure, timber, and recreation in our Appalachian Forests. - Greene County Fairground, Building 10, downstairs

Nov. 12. 1- 4:PM - **Crop Tree Management in Oaks** with *Arlyn Perkey & Gary Miller* - Your forest is a garden. How does your garden grow? - Perkey Tree Farm in western Greene County

Stream Water Quality Monitoring



Water quality monitoring is a large part of conserving Greene County's water resources. The Conservation District installs and maintains water quality monitors in streams across the county. We also sample streams throughout the spring and fall. We are currently installing monitors for our spring/summer water sampling season and are looking for landowners who would allow access this year to a stream located on their property.

Greene County residents who have a stream on their property can assist us by either hosting a stream monitor for the season and simply allowing us to cross their property a couple of times throughout the season.

Whether you view streams as a source of recreation, a source of drinking water or just part of nature, it is important that we conserve them. We hope that you will join with us in monitoring and conserving our water resources for future generations.

If you are interested in taking part in water monitoring activities with the Conservation District, please call Jared Zinn at 724-852-5278.