



Conservation District 2008 Annual Report

The Greene County Conservation District had a busy and productive year in 2008 which saw, among other things:

1) The burgeoning of what was once just a small part of Greene County industry...natural gas production and storage. The exploitation of coal-bed methane and the gas-bearing Marcellus Shale Formation saw an exponential and still-continuing expansion of all elements associated with the industry. Drilling, transmission piping, storage and treatment facilities were seemingly springing up overnight with associated environmental and infrastructure problems. The PA DEP created the ESCGP-1 Permit to deal with the erosion & sediment control portion of this industry, and Conservation Districts were given the responsibility of dealing with its issuance.

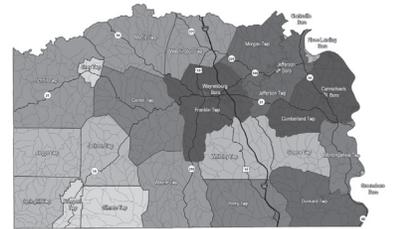


2) The beginning processes of a County Water Plan. Undertaken by the Conservation District's parent agency, the Greene County Department of Economic Development, this is an ambitious undertaking aimed toward establishing both county-wide Storm Water Management and Flood Plain Management ordinances as well as quantifying and qualifying our surface and subterranean water resource bases. This will enable the project targeting and funding necessary to fulfill the objective of stabilizing the good aspects of the resource base and improving those that are substandard. The Conservation District has an integral role in the development of our County Water Plan.

3) A new cooperative effort between the Conservation District and the County Planning Commission. Under this new effort, the Conservation District will contribute toward the development of a new county-wide Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). The Conservation District's contribution has been geared toward universalizing

E&S Control Plan review, incorporating new elements into existing storm water management ordinances, and adding "Green Development" initiatives to existing ordinances.

Greene County's future will be a distinct and shocking departure from its past. This is a fact that must be dealt with as opposed to argued over. And it must be dealt with locally to the greatest extent possible. The Conservation District is committed to meeting this challenge with the belief that expansion and quality of life can ultimately share the fruits of the same table at the same time.



EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL:

In 2008, the E&S Program has issued 161 Stream Encroachment Permits, 12 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits and 6 Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan General Permits (ESCGP-1), respectively. With the boom of the gas industry in our county our permit issuance continues to increase. Of the 181 permits that were issued 75% of them were gas related. Also approved was the Trans-Alleghany 502 Junction Substation. This is the second largest earth disturbance operation the county has ever seen moving just under 2 million cubic yards of material!

WEST NILE VIRUS MONITORING:

It was quite an exciting and eventful year for the West Nile Virus Program in 2008. Throughout the year the county sampled at 93 sites, 3 of which tested positive for the West Nile Virus. The last time the county had seen a positive was in 2004. A total of 237 Adult Traps were set capturing 4104 mosquitoes, of 16 different species, which were sent away to Harrisburg to be tested for the virus. Also 231 Larval samples were taken which produced 1429 immature mosquitoes.

Eight adult treatments were conducted which include; Thermal Fogging, Ultra Low Volume (ULV) spraying, and Barrier Treatments. An additional 21 larval treatments were also carried out. With 2009 just around the corner we will soon be gearing up for 2009 West Nile Virus Season and remember, "Only you can prevent the spread of the West Nile Virus".



AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Field Days:

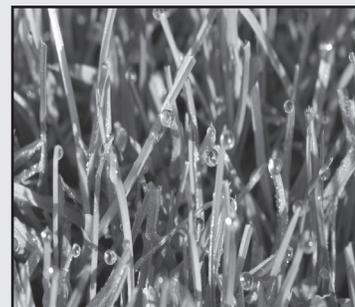
The District hosted “The Grass Whisperer” Troy Bishopp; he spoke about profitable and innovative grazing techniques. Ron Gargaszk spoke about organic beef production and marketing. Approximately 70 people attended from Greene, Washington and Fayette counties.

The District also hosted a pasture walk on two Conservation Farm award winners farms highlighting their grazing systems and the various BMP’s installed. We had a demonstration of the 2 Ton Wet lime spreader that the district has purchased to rent. Other topics covered included on farm bio-security and interpreting soil test results. Approximately 20 people attended from Greene and Washington Counties.

The District in cooperation with Sustaining Greene County assisted with a field day for the Waynesburg FFA. Topics covered included: Erosion and sedimentation control and permitting, nutrient management, and conservation planning. Approximately 20 students attended with two advisors.

Agricultural Security Areas:

Greene County has increased the acreage enrolled in the Agricultural Security Area program.
Greene Township added 3 landowners with 506 acres
Center Township added 7 landowners with 1691 acres.
This brings the total to 5 townships with 6845 acres designated as important agricultural areas.



Farmland Preservation:

In August 2008 the State Farmland Preservation Board approved the first agricultural easement for Greene County. Two applications were received for consideration in the 2008-09 application round.

Cooperators:

The District had 5 landowners with 431 acres sign up as cooperators in 2008.

3 mini-grant applications (2 spring developments and 1 diversion repair)

3 Resource Enhancement and Protection program (REAP) recipients (2 BMP’s and 1 no-till equipment)

1 Project Grass Contract for a rotational grazing system

PACD Mini-grant received for the conservation farmer signs and associated educational programs.

Participating on the Appalachian Grazing Conference Planning committee.

Outreach:

Waynesburg Farmers’ Market sponsorship

Greene Co. Business Expo

FFA local and regional speaking contest

Greene Co. Fair Display

Waynesburg University Service Fair

Continued articles in the GreeneSaver focused on conservation and environmental issues.



DIRT AND GRAVEL ROADS

7 road sites located in 5 townships funded this year totaling \$37,356.90.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Aleppo Township - Mudlick Road-- \$3,120.00 | Gunn Hill Road--\$2,450.00 |
| Gilmore Township - Renner Creek Road--\$4,280.40 | |
| Monongahela Township - Sugar Grove Road--\$6,977.24 | Kiger Road--\$5,421.76 |
| Washington Township - Bailey Hollow Road--\$5,615.00 | Edgar Hill Road--\$4,315.00 |
| Wayne Township - Tustin Hill Road--\$5,177.50 | |



A 1.2 mile section of Falls Hollow Road in Greene Township was completed this year. The supervisors and district worked together to hold a work day to show local supervisors how to install a French Mattress and the reason for the need of the mattress.

Jackson Township completed installation of 2 arch culverts and installation of numerous pipe on Muddy Hollow Road.

Dirt and Gravel Road assessment has been completed on time and the updated GIS information has been sent with the 2008 annual report for Dirt and Gravel Road Program to the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads. We are on track with our spending and will not need to rush into contracts in order to get our allotment this year from the state. We have increased the road worksites from 110 to 367 fundable worksites. We have currently 9 worksites under contract.

Mary Jane and Lisa Snider worked extensively during the months of October to December to finish the assessment. If funding is increased for the program our budget should increase tremendously. We found that the original assessment was inaccurate and worksites were not included in the second assessment completed in 2001. The funding is based on worksite length, not miles of dirt and gravel roads. .

GRIGSBY SITE AMD REMEDIATION this site was once funded for remediation and funding was lost due to a DEP oversight. The conservation District is now working with the landowner and current lessee to prepare for future funding to remediate and high aluminum discharge from the Whiteley Creek Watershed. A growing greener application was submitted for this years round.



WHITELEY CREEK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

This project was submitted for funding through the Growing Greener program. This projects main goal is to curb instream erosion caused by the extremely unstable banks throughout Gamelands #223. It is our hope we will receive this funding from the Growing Greener program.

2008 CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Lucas Cumpston-Junior-Carmichaels High School
Sponsored by Foundation Coal

TREES TO SCHOOLS

On Arbor Day, April 25th, over 2500 seedlings were handed out to K-5th graders in each school district. Thanks to the PA Game Commission Food and Cover Headquarter staff we were able to distribute to each school trees for their students.

ENVIROTHON

Carmichaels Team 1- Katrina Lawrence, Lindsay Triola, Ethan Virgili, Jonathan Zack and Joesph Lapkowicz and their advisor Kevin Willis took 1st place this year at the county competition and now will move on to the state competition. Carmichaels team 1 won the competition with 405 out of 500 point's total. The 25th Pennsylvania State Envirothon took place on May 19th and 20th at the Pennsylvania State University, Centre County. Out of sixty-five teams of high school students Carmichaels walked away with 8th place. Great Job!

This year's Envirothon was sponsored by a grant received from the Community Foundation of Greene County PA which was funded by Consol Energy. The event is organized each year by the Greene County Conservation District. The Conservation District was able to secure funds to award the competition winners each with a college scholarship of \$500 to each team member. The Conservation District would like to thank Foundation Coal for their donation to make this scholarship possible for the students.

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

The County of Greene and the Greene County Conservation District are partnering to establish a Water Resources Program to assist local municipalities and state agencies with certain aspects of water within the County. The program will result in an inventory and evaluation of the water resources as it relates to flood plains, stormwater, cultural, natural and recreational resource issues and concerns voiced by local municipalities. We are currently working with municipalities to inventory various issues of concern by interviewing each township or borough individually so that a needs assessment can be made for each municipality individually. Once this assessment is made then the County can assist the municipalities with finding proper resources to remedy situations.

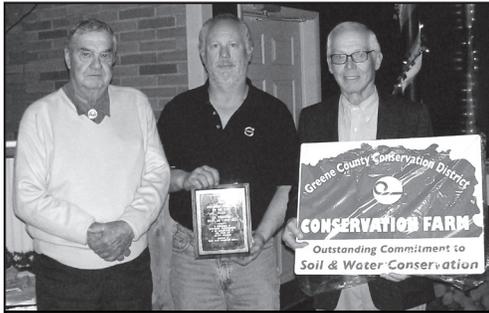


In order to complete the Water Resource Program the County and Conservation District have employed certain programs that will lead to knowledgeable local input that will provide each municipality with a starting point to protect, preserve and enhance their water resources. These plans and programs are the Stormwater Management Plan and the Floodplain Monitoring Program.

Currently all but 2 of the local municipalities and boroughs have been initially interviewed.

CELEBRATING LOCAL CONSERVATION

The Greene County Conservation District held their annual awards luncheon on December 5, 2008 at Stryker's Banquet Hall in Waynesburg. Martin Niverth, District Manager, presided over the event recognizing local landowners that have shown an outstanding commitment to conserving the soil, water, wildlife and forestry resources in Greene County.



Outstanding Farmer Award
Bradley Eisiminger, Warren and Burkley Lilly

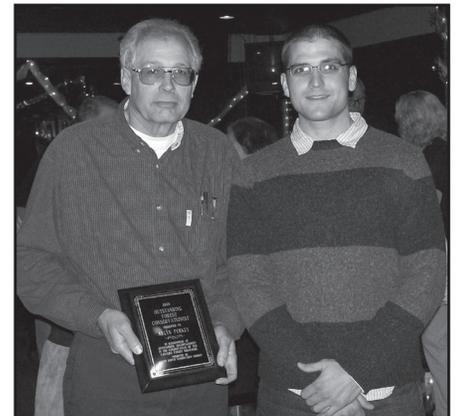
Burkey and Warren Lilly, owners of The Ponderosa, a farm located in Dunkard Township, were honored with the 2008 Cooperator of the Year Award. The Lilly's started this operation with 188 acres know as the Garlow Farm, it has grown to 800 acres, 200 in WV and 600 in PA, draining into the headwaters of Crooked Run, a direct tributary to the Monongahela River. Burkey graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture Education and a Masters of Agriculture from West Virginia University. He spent 12 years as a county agent in Hardee, Lewis and Monongalia Counties (WV). Warren, his son, farmed with him from 1969 to 1982 and rejoined the farming operation in 1993 and currently lives on the farm. They have a 200 cow commercial Angus herd with 30 replacement heifers. Extremely poor soils from strip mining and water have been their main challenges.

In 1972 they first signed up as cooperators and renewed their commitment in 2002. In the beginning they reclaimed their pastures with Kentucky 31 tall fescue; Birds foot Trefoil, lime, fertilizer and biosolids. They also developed a series of ponds for the animals to access for water. They signed up for the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program and began developing a 469 acre grazing system. Which includes: 9500 ft. of perimeter fence, 17800 ft of interior fence, (which includes 3000 ft. of stream fence and 3000 ft. of pond fencing) 5000 ft. of pipeline, 6 watering troughs, 1 stream crossing, 7 ac. of warm season grasses, 112 ac. of livestock exclusion, 2.5 ac. of pasture & hayland planting, 27 ac. of upland wildlife habitat and 1 portable solar pump.

Burkey described his dedication to this project as a "40 year labor of love." Warren said "My dad and I don't always see 'eye to eye' when it comes to farm decisions", but that their disagreements give them a better end product.

Mark and Christy Barto are the recipients of the 2008 Wildlife Conservationist Award. In 1999 Mark and Christy purchased a 130 acre farm in Washington Twp on Craynes Run. They were looking for a way to enhance the privacy of the new home they had just built and they wanted to improve the land for their children. In 2007 they signed up for the Ohio Basin, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, through the local USDA NRCS office. A plan was developed that allowed them to keep a few beef cattle and protect and improve the stream corridor. This 15 year CREP project includes: 300 ft of animal trails and walkways, 4425 ft of fence, 750 ft of pipeline, 1 spring development, 1 stream crossing, and 15.7 acres of riparian forest buffer and upland wildlife habitat. In the riparian buffer over 2,500 seedlings representing 16 varieties of tree and shrubs species were planted. Many of the practices in this project were installed by Jose Teracido, with Partners for Fish and Wildlife, through the Foundation for California University. In the future Mark and Christy would like to complete a wetland restoration project.

Arlyn Perkey received the 2008 Forest Conservationist. Ralph Campbell, DCNR Service Forester presented this award. Mr. Perkey is a silviculturist who worked for the



Forestry Award
Arlyn Perkey and Ralph Campbell

USDA Forest Service in the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry field office in Morgantown, West Virginia. He is known nationwide for his work on Crop Tree Management. He has written Crop Tree Management books, field guides and numerous articles on the subject. Arlyn previously won this award in 1992. He owns a 78 acre Tree Farm in Center Township, Greene County. This farm is a demonstration area where many people have learned about forest management. He serves as an advisor to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Group and does numerous presentations annually on various forestry related topics. "There is no one who willingly volunteers more time to teach residents of the County how to manage their properties and achieve their goals" said Campbell. Last year Arlyn hosted four Saturday field trips on winter tree identification, and he is looking forward to doing another program this winter. The wealth of knowledge that he conveys is invaluable.

Board members Bradley Eisiminger (15 years) and Jim Cowell (5 years) were recognized for their service milestones and Susan C. Funka-Petery, USDA-NRCS, was given special recognition for her 24 years of dedication to the conservation of Greene County natural resources.

The Conservation District also unveiled a new outdoor signage program which identifies previous Cooperator of the Year farms. Along with their public education efforts to explain the significance of how the day to day management of these projects reduces nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality.



William A. and Lura Ann Cree,
Commissioner Archie Trader



The Conservation District's new outdoor signage program which identifies previous Cooperator of the year farms.

THE CREE DAIRY FARM

On January 27, 2009 the final documents were signed to officially preserve Greene County's first farm through the Farmland Preservation Program. Several letters of commendation from the Honorable J. Barry Stout, and H. William DeWeese and the Greene County Board of Commissioners' were presented to the Cree's to mark the event.

"This is the result of almost two years of work by the Greene County Farmland Preservation Board and staff." said David Shipman, Vice Chairman of the Greene County Farmland Preservation Board.

"The persistence of the Commissioner's and several board members to make this program a reality shows the county's commitment to its' agricultural resources." said Laurel Rush, Agricultural Manager and coordinator for the program.

William A Cree Jr. and Lura Ann Cree initiated this process in 2007 when they ask the Cumberland Township Supervisors to create an agricultural security area. This is when the real work began; an application, ranking, appraisal, survey, title research and conservation plan are just part of the required documentation to see if the 108 acre parcel could be preserved.

An agricultural easement is an interest in a piece of land that represents the right to prevent development or improvement of a parcel for anything other than agricultural production. This easement is granted by the land owner to the Commonwealth, the county governing body or unit of local government usually based on the source of funding. Pennsylvania leads the nation in preserving farmland. Being able to feed clothe and shelter ourselves makes our state and nation stronger. Preserving farmland helps protect our agricultural economy for future generations. When the Cree's were ask why they wanted to be part of the Farmland Preservation program Lura Ann answered" The process was worth it, because the goal was keeping this land a farm for our grandkids."

For more information please contact the office.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FORUM

Homeowners, Business and Farmers

Please plan to attend the Alternative Energy Forum March 28th at the Waynesburg Central Elementary School. The goal of this program is to offer varying technologies and ideas that will work in Greene County. We are planning to have speakers, various vendors and demonstrations available to inform the residents of technologies available to them in today's every changing market.

Some of the possibilities that will be discussed are:

- ▶ **Solar Energy**
- ▶ **Wind Energy**
- ▶ **Hydroelectric Energy**
- ▶ **Geothermal Energy**
- ▶ **Ethanol and biodiesel production**
- ▶ **Funding opportunities**



An agenda will be published in the newspaper for further details.

Sponsored by the Greene County Conservation District funded by a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Grant.

Date: March 28, 2009

Where: Waynesburg Central Elementary School

Time: 9 am to 3 pm

Lunch will be provided to attendees at a nominal fee of \$5.00
Please make your lunch reservations through the district by emailing,
calling or sending back the attached coupon by March 23rd

Contact information:

gccd@co.greene.pa.us

724-852-5278



△ CUT HERE AND RETURN TO:

R.S.V.P.

Greene County Conservation District
19 South Washington Street
Fort Jackson Bldg., Mezzanine
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Name: _____

Phone # _____

How many will be attending? _____

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Greene County Conservation District Board
Meeting
3rd Tuesday of each month

Alternative Energy Forum
March 28, 2009
Waynesburg Central Elementary
9 am to 3 pm

Greene County Envirothon
April 23rd
9 to noon
Ryerson Station State Park

Attention Woodland Owners

APPLY NOW!!!

Conservation funds may be available thru the Farm Bill to do Forestry practices
Call NRCS at 724-627-5821

SERVICES

USGS Topographic Maps
For sale at the District
Cost: \$6.00/quad
\$7.00/county
\$2.50 postage and handling

LIME SPREADER RENTAL

2 Ton wet lime spreader available
Please call the office for further rental information

Greene County Conservation District - Water Quality Improvement Mini-Grant Program

The program will enable Best Management Practices to be implemented on properties throughout Greene County with the overall goal of improving the water quality of Greene County streams and tributaries.

The following are examples of projects that will be considered for funding: Streambank stabilization, Riparian buffer plantings, Aquatic habitat enhancement structures, Conservation practice installations

The following individuals and organizations may apply for grants of up to \$ 1,000.00 to offset project costs: Locally-based environmental organizations, School-based environmental groups, Homeowners and Homeowner Associations, Scouting Organizations, Civic Organizations, Sportsman's Groups

Further information and applications are available by visiting or calling the Greene County Conservation District, 724-852-5278

Mary Jane's Recipe Box

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

I particularly like this for those Easter Breakfasts at church, or Christmas breakfast at home.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound bacon, ham or sausage – thoroughly cooked
- 12 eggs
- 4 tablespoons butter (Life's too short to use anything but REAL butter!)
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups shredded cheese, any kind

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Fry bacon over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain, crumble and set aside.
3. Place eggs in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring water to a boil and immediately remove from heat. Cover and let eggs stand in hot water for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool, peel and chop or slice eggs.
4. Lightly grease a 2 quart casserole dish. Sprinkle half of the chopped egg in the bottom of the casserole, add half of the bacon; repeat.
5. Melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and cook until softened and transparent. Stir in flour.
6. Slowly and carefully add milk and shredded cheese. Stir until cheese is melted and sauce is smooth and creamy. Take care that cheese does not stick to bottom of saucepan.
7. Pour milk and cheese mixture over layered eggs and bacon.
8. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes. Let stand to "set up" for about 20 minutes before serving.

If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter "FREE OF CHARGE" please complete and return this form to the District.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

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COOPERATING AGENCIES

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Susan Funka-Petery, District
Conservationist

PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Ralph Campbell, Service Forester

PA DEP field Representative
Chuck Kubasik

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