



## 2008 Greene County Envirothon

This year marks the 21st Annual Greene County Envirothon. An environmental challenge of knowledge between the five area school districts. A total of fourteen teams participated in this year's Envirothon held at Ryerson State Park on May 8, 2008. This contest consists of 5 stations that test the teams on their knowledge of environmental issues and test students on habitat, management principles and identification in each topic. The 5 topics this year were: Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils and Land Use, Forestry, and the special topic: "Recreational Impacts on the Environment". The competition consists of various means of testing the student's knowledge and understanding of their environment.

Carmichaels Team 1- Katrina Lawrence, Lindsay Triola, Ethan Virgili, Jonathan Zack and Joseph 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!**



**Carmichaels team 1** (First Place Left to Right) Tom Headlee, Greene County Conservation District Board Member, Jonathan Zack, Joseph Lapkowicz, Ethan Virgili, Lindsay Triola, Katrina Lawrence, Michelle Anderson, Foundation Coal Representative, Kevin Willis, Team Advisor (Back)

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. The Greene County Conservation District would like to thank everyone who participated and made this a successful event.

### Thank You!

#### The Conservation District would like to thank the following for helping with the event:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Susan Funka-Petery and Jennifer Firestone
- Retired employee of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Bill Wentzel
- PA Fish and Boat Commission, Tom Crist, WCO • PA Game Commission, Rodney Burns, WCO - Randy Crago, WCO – Joe Stefko
- Dept of Environmental Protection, Chuck Kubasik
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks, Ryerson Station State Park, Alan Johnson and staff.



**Carmichaels team 2** (Second Place Left to Right) Lucas Cumpston, Nathan Roberts, Christine Broadwater, Robert Kowalewski, Jonathan Nighswander (Back Row) Tom Headlee, Kevin Willis



**Carmichaels team 3** (Third Place Left to Right) Justin Maurin, Travis Prodan, Marcus Tennant, Shana Huseman, Kody Decker (Back Row) Tom Headlee, Kevin Willis

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## WELCOME TO THE STAFF

My name is **Dustin Teegarden** and I am the new West Nile Virus Coordinator for the county. In the spring of 2007 I graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Earth Science. I currently reside in Rices Landing with my parents, Randy and Carol.



As the West Nile Virus Coordinator I will take samples of mosquitoes throughout the different stages of their life cycle and send the samples away to be tested for the virus. After taking each sample they will be entered into the state database. If large numbers of mosquitoes are found pesticide will be applied to control them. Also when a dead bird is found that is suspected to have the virus, I will take the sample and send it to the lab. Only Crows, Blue Jays, Owls, and Hawks can be tested for the virus.

If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me via e-mail at [dteegarden@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:dteegarden@co.greene.pa.us).

**Bill Wentzel** - Old foresters never fully retire; they just take a part-time job with the Conservation District.

Yes, I'm back.

Some of you may remember that I was the state service forester for Greene and Washington counties for 34 years before retiring from the PA Bureau of Forestry (DCNR) in 2006. For the past two years I've been busy with the grandchildren, helping my son with his remodeling business, doing a bit of traveling, and just catching up on projects around the home.

I like to keep in touch with conservation activities so last fall I accepted a position as an associate director with the District.



When I learned that Todd Klaner, the District's Environmental Resource Specialist, needed assistance, I decided to come out of retirement. With the increased amount of earth disturbance activities (gas wells and associated right-of-ways, building developments, etc.) going on in Greene County, Todd was building quite a backlog of places to visit.

As Todd's associate, I will be helping him with site inspections. I look forward to working in this capacity with the great staff at the District. Maybe I'll run into some of the many friends I made over the years traveling about the byways of Greene County.



My name is **April VanDruff** and I am the 21 year old daughter of Roger and Janice VanDruff of Waynesburg. I live on a 600 acre farm on the outskirts of Waynesburg. I graduated from Waynesburg HS in 2005 where I was very active in the FFA and Girls Basketball team. I will be a senior at California University of PA in the fall. I am majoring in Environmental Science/ Environmental Conservation. I also play on the Women's Rugby team.

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## Conservation Leadership School Scholarship Awarded

The Conservation District is proud to announce this years Conservation Leadership School Scholarship was awarded to Lucas Cumpston. Lucas will be a sophomore in the fall at Carmichaels High School and is the son Doug Cumpston and Johnna Katusa of Carmichaels. Over the past few years Lucas has participated in the junior and senior high Envirothon competitions held in the county. He is an avid hunter, trapper and angler enjoying the natural elements available for use in Greene County. Lucas will be attending the Conservation Leadership School that is hosted by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences School of Forest Resources at the Penn State Stone Valley Recreation Area, Petersburg, PA in July.

The Conservation Leadership School (CLS) is a one-week residential program for high school students to learn about the world around through exploration and hands-on activities. It's your ideal school, where the classroom includes over 700 acres of forest, fields, wetlands, and streams...where learning about the environment goes hand-in-hand with having fun, meeting new friends and learning leadership skills. This years study course includes: Analyzing your hometown drinking water, QDMA: deer population management and habitat conservation, In-depth look at the process of recycling, What is wood?, Tour of "green" buildings at Penn State, RULE: leadership development activities and team building ropes course challenge. Students will explore forests, fields, streams, and lakes and will have the opportunity to go canoeing, hiking, bird watching, fishing, and many more recreational activities.

The scholarship was made possible by contributions from PA Services Corporation an affiliate of Foundation Coal. The Conservation District would like to thank Foundation Coal for their contributions that will foster strong, knowledgeable stewards of our local communities, which is an asset to our county.

This scholarship was only offered to those students interested in the environment and a Greene County Resident. Students must be from the ages of 15-18 and have completed their freshman year. To apply for the scholarship, students submitted a typed essay of 500-1000 words giving a brief background about themselves, why they feel they are the best recipient for the scholarship, and how this school experience will benefit them with what they plan to do in the future.

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# WE NEED YOUR HELP

*Are your fields in need of Lime?*

The Conservation District is considering the possibility of a lime spreader rental program but would like to evaluate the level of interest before making this investment. If you feel that this project would benefit your farming operation, please call the office and let us know. We want to provide services that will help keep your farms viable.



## **2008-2009 REAP GUIDELINES, APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Pennsylvania farmers now have a second opportunity to apply for a tax credit program that rewards them for conservation practices that reduce erosion and sedimentation.

REAP is administered by the State Conservation Commission and encourages farmers to use conservation best management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation impacting Pennsylvania's streams and watersheds.

Applications will be accepted by the Commission, beginning August 4, on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications postmarked July 30 or later will be accepted.

Farmers can receive tax credits of up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation for 50 or 75 percent of the total cost of a conservation project, depending on the best management practice implemented. Farmers may qualify for a 50 percent tax credit to purchase no-till planting equipment.

Applicants are encouraged to work with Laurel Rush to ensure that eligibility criteria for the program are met. This includes conservation, agricultural erosion and sedimentation control, and nutrient management plans, if required for a farming operation.

Guidelines and applications for the 2008-09 REAP program are available at [www.agriculture.state.pa.us/REAP](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/REAP). For those without Internet access, the Commission can mail an application. For more information about the program, contact Laurel Rush @ 724-852-5278 at the Greene County Conservation District or REAP Program Administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or via [mabender@state.pa.us](mailto:mabender@state.pa.us).

## **Conservation Planning: Investing in Our Future**

A conservation plan is the beginning point for managing the natural resources on your farm while maintaining production and meeting individual objectives and goals. Every farm has its own unique natural resource concerns, and that is why a conservation plan is a plan developed by farm visits with a certified conservation planner from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and entails walking the farm and discussing with you what your goals are.

A conservation plan combines your farming skills with the science-based knowledge and tools of the conservation planner. With NRCS advice, landowners select the best combination of conservation practices to meet natural resource needs and individual management goals.

A conservation plan includes:

- the producer/landowner objectives/goals
- aerial photograph of your land and fields
- soils map and soils descriptions
- list of treatment decisions
- location and schedule for applying conservation practices and systems
- plan of operation and maintenance of conservation practices and systems

Carrying out your plan will achieve the goals of protecting the environment on and off your farm, as well as meeting your individual management objectives.

For more information call Suzy at 724-627-5821 or visit the website [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

*(resource reference brochure of helping people help the land series)*

# Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan Update *by Laurel Rush*

All farmers know that manure is a necessary bi-product of animal production. With the costs of fertilizer going up manure has become a valuable commodity. More essential though is the ability to manage its application wisely. A nutrient management plan ensures the best use of this resource.

Planning the where, when and how much, manure to spread is the bulk of the plan. But it also has soil and manure test levels plus recommended agronomic rates specific to the crop being grown. Many times a fertilizer recommendation does not factor in manure application.

On October 1, 2006, the newly revised Nutrient Management Law (Act 38) went into effect. It governs concentrated animal operations (CAO's). CAO's are operations having more than 2 animal units (2000 lbs of live animal weight) per acre. Small farms consisting of less than 8 animal units will not fall under this program regardless of the livestock density. Only about 5% of Pennsylvania farms fall under the regulation of ACT 38. So where does this leave the volunteer farms?

Volunteers under the previous law, ACT 6, have an important decision to make; update their plans or lose their limited liability protection that the nutrient management program currently provides. If a volunteer Act 6 plan is not updated, it will not continue to be recognized by the state or county programs.

When should I update my plan? A plan update should take place

during the status review, once every three years. This is the time when the farmer and the planner should evaluate the long term impacts of the current management scheme and if it fits into the long range farm goals. The stumbling block in this process is funding an update. Currently the nutrient management program does not have any funding for plan updates which should be completed by 2009. Other sources could be EQIP contracts or the REAP tax credit program.

A new Act 38 plan is more specific than the old plan you may be familiar with. Adding the Phosphorus Index (P-Index) requires that a farm be broken down into individual fields, not just crop groups. The P- index has thresholds for transport factors (within 150 ft to a body of water) and soil test results for phosphorus (>200 ppm). Fields not falling into these categories are balance for crop removal of nitrogen. Soil and manure tests are required for the development of the plan. Equine operations that are for transportation or recreation also fall under the new regulations and should contact their county conservation district if they need help evaluating their animal density numbers or need a list of certified nutrient management planners.

The Greene County Conservation District strongly recommends that volunteers continue with the program. Having a plan opens doors for funding opportunities for the installation of best management practices not to mention the documentation it provides for a farmer's good stewardship of the land. For more information about an Act 38 plan update please contact our office.

## Whiteley Creek - Total Maximum Daily Load Study

On June 3rd a public meeting was held to discuss the final study report and findings of a Total Maximum Daily Load Study for Whiteley Creek. DEP personnel reported that the main contribution to pollution to the stream was sediment. According to PA Code Chapter 93 all streams must meet the basic stream requirement of "Aquatic Life Use". This means that the local streams and waterways must at a minimum sustain a diverse macro-invertebrate community that meets certain biological criteria. According to PA DEP certain portions of Whiteley Creek do not meet these basic requirements. So a TMDL study must be performed. The streams that were included in the report were; Patterson Run, Dyers Fork and the main stem of Whiteley Creek.

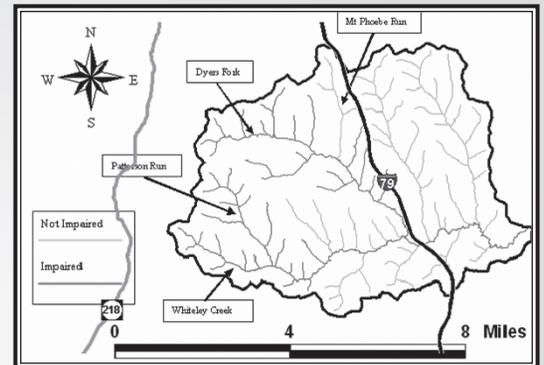
### ***Big deal why is sediment a problem?***

Sediment is a pollutant that has an impact to the macro-invertebrate community that is at the bottom of the food chain. Without that food source stream life cannot survive. The reason PA DEP basis its studies on the macro-invertebrate community is because the wide range of sensitivity to pollution the organisms have, they range from highly tolerant species to highly intolerant species. The type of species found can indicate the pollution level in each section of stream. The macro-invertebrates are not highly mobile and their presence or absence is usually reflective of the water quality and they are typically found in any water.

After the determination was made that the pollutant was sediment, PA DEP biologists determined the source and cause of the pollutant based on water chemistry, land-use and other factors and the streams were listed in the PA Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report as being impaired by sediment due to agriculture. After a field investigation, the main contribution to sediment in the stream was caused by streambank scouring caused by accelerated flow, the accelerated flow is attributed to runoff coming from steep and lightly vegetated hills.

### ***So what does this mean to the residents of the studied area?***

Funding in short. Now that we know the causes of the pollution to the streams and PA DEP has a study to show the causes we will be able to obtain funding that will reduce the sources of sediment from the streams. It is our hopes that if you live in the study area or own property there you might be interested in participating in a grant application. If you think you might be interested in participating please contact our office so that we can start a list of folks that we can call to a meeting to discuss future funding opportunities and how the process works.



# GOLD

## in Them Thar Hills!?

\$5.00? \$10.00? \$50.00? \$150.00? \$2800.00 per acre? Have you been receiving letters and phone calls from oil and gas leasing companies? Should you lease? Been wondering with the rest of us what is a fair oil and gas lease contract for your property?

High energy prices have made formally expensive oil and gas drilling look more appealing. Leasing landmen are out in force. If you haven't been contacted, you soon will. What do you do?

Recent state and national headlines have discussed the existence of the Marcellus Shale layer that is under two-thirds of Pennsylvania and holds a giant supply of natural gas. It is located deep underground, between 8-10,000 feet underground. At about \$1 million per well, it is also an expensive venture.

New drilling techniques, such as horizontal drilling, have

increased the profitability and efficiency of these wells. Drilling is progressing at a rapid pace in northeast PA with other drilling activity taking place in southwest PA.

Prior to drilling though, land must be leased from property owners by the drilling company. This is a time consuming task often times given over to leasing landmen. Their job is to contact landowners to negotiate the rights to the oil and gas that might lay deep below the surface of their property.

Penn State Cooperative Extension in Washington, Greene and Fayette Counties, is holding an oil and gas leasing seminar on Monday, July 21, 2008 from 7:00 – 9:30 PM in the high school auditorium at Carmichaels H.S., in Carmichaels, PA.

You'll hear what the Marcellus Shale is, the personal experiences of people who have leased, and an experienced oil and gas leasing attorney will give you the ins and outs of leasing contracts.

Registration is \$10.00 and payable at the door. Seating is limited by the size of the auditorium, so don't be late. You may pre-register, to assure a seat, by calling the Greene County Extension office at (724) 627-3745. Additional information can be obtained by calling these Penn State Extension offices: Washington County – (724) 229-6881; Fayette County – (724) 438-0111.

## OIL AND GAS WELL INFORMATION

### *Get Informed!!*

Recently I have come across some useful websites for those of you who are interested in oil and gas exploration. These websites are just the beginning on getting information that will assist with making decisions. Remember the best advise I have read or heard is "Get informed, you should treat leases as if you are making a million dollar deal".

Natural Gas & Oil Lease Forum for Landowners [www.pagaslease.com](http://www.pagaslease.com) - educates landowners on oil and gas leases and has some useful information while working with companies on leases.

Penn State Natural Gas Exploration and Leasing Team - [www.naturalgaslease.pbwiki.com](http://www.naturalgaslease.pbwiki.com) – offers workshops and publications on natural gas, coal bed methane, farming issues associated with gas wells and other topics.

PA Department of Environmental Protection – [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) click on "Energy topics", then "oil and gas wells" this site houses laws, regulations, and fact sheets

Landmen.net a Network of Petroleum Landmen - [www.landmen.net](http://www.landmen.net) – offers company directories, landmen directories, forms and clauses.

This information came from the June 2008 edition of "Pennsylvania Township News", The Natural Gas Boom, please check it out if you can.





## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Greene County Conservation District

#### Board Meeting

3rd Tuesday of each month

### Dirt and Gravel Road Environmentally

#### Sensitive Maintenance Training

November 5th-6th

Greene County Fairgrounds

### Great Lakes Manure Handling Expo

#### Molly Caren Agricultural Center

London, Ohio

July 9th

### Agriculture in the Classroom Workshop

#### Penn State University

July 13-18

717-761-2740

### No-tilling for Success

#### PSU Cooperative Extension

July 2

Manheim PA 717-394-6851.

### “How would your business deal with a pandemic or other disaster?”

Greene Co Emergency Management,

July 17

Waynesburg University

Greg Leathers 724-852-5204.

## SERVICES

### USGS Topographic Maps

For sale at the District

Cost: \$6.00/quad

\$7.00/county

\$2.50 postage and handling

### Information Available for Weed Control

Please contact the Conservation District at 724-852-5278 if you would like a copy of one of the following informational fact sheets.

- Managing Japanese Knotweed
- Managing Purple Loosestrife
- Managing Multiflora Rose
- Managing Canada Thistle
- Wildlife Habitat Fact Sheet
- Landowners Guide to Buffer Success

## 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.

Designed to fill a niche left between state and federal grant and cost-share programs that may not address single projects or smaller scale practices, the following are examples of projects that will be considered for funding: Streambank stabilization, Riparian buffer plantings, Aquatic habitat enhancement structures, Conservation practice installations

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with no deadlines for application. 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

### Becky's Recipe Box

#### BLUEBERRY BUCKLE

“Makes a great coffee cake or dessert”

Ingredients:

¾ cup white sugar	¼ cup shortening	½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 egg	½ cup milk	¼ cup butter, softened
2 cups all-purpose flour	½ teaspoon salt	
2 cups fresh blueberries	½ cup white sugar	

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Grease one 8x8 inch pan.
2. Cream together ¾ cup sugar, shortening and egg.
3. In separate bowl mix together 2 cups flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir into sugar mixture, alternating with milk. Stir in blueberries. Pour into greased 8x8 inch pan.
4. To make topping: Combine ½ cup sugar, 1/3 cup flour, cinnamon, and butter. Sprinkle over cake batter.
5. Bake at 375 degrees F for 25-30 minutes. (Printed from Allrecipes.com)

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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Dave Coder, Commissioner  
Archie Trader, Commissioner

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William Wentzel, Environmental Program  
Associate  
Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer  
Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant to  
Program Support  
Laurel Rush, Agriculture Manager  
Dustin Teegarden, WNV Surveillance Monitor

## **COOPERATING AGENCIES**

USDA Natural Resources Conservation  
Service  
Susan Funka-Petery, Supervisory District  
Conservationist

PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
Ralph Campbell, Service Forester

PA DEP Field Representative  
Chuck Kubasik

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