

Greene County CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Newsletter

Volume 12

Summer 2009



2009 Greene County Envirothon

This year marks the 22nd 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 April 23, 2009. 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: "Biodiversity in a Changing World". The competition consists of various means of testing the student's knowledge and understanding of the natural environment.



Carmichaels Team 1
First Place (From Left to Right)
Robert Kowalewski, Tom Headlee (Greene County Conservation District Board Member), Joby Lapkowitz, Luke Cumpston, Kevin Willis (Team Advisor), Christine Broadwater, Jon Zack and Michelle Anderson (Foundation Coal Representative)

Carmichaels Team 1- Robert Kowalewski, Joby Lapkowitz, Luke Cumpston, Christine Broadwater, Jon Zack 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 404 out of 500 point's total. The 26th Pennsylvania State Envirothon will take place on Tuesday, May 19th at Bald Eagle State Park, Howard, PA, Centre County. Over sixty teams of high school students are expected to compete at this year's event.

This year's Envirothon was funded through the Community Foundation of Greene County's Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program. The event is organized each year by the Greene County Conservation District. This year the Conservation District was able to secure funds to award the competition winners each with a college scholarship of \$500 for

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 and "Good Luck" to the team as they advance to the state competition.

Participants were as follows:

- Greene County Commissioners, Pam Snyder, Chairman, Dave Coder and Archie Trader
- Greene County Department of Economic Development
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Susan Funka-Petery and Laura Smith
- DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, Ralph Campbell and retiree Bill Wentzel
- PA Fish and Boat Commission, Tom Crist, WCO
- PA Game Commission, Rodney Burns, WCO - Randy Crago, WCO
- Wallace and Pancher, Inc.- Matt Wachob and Joshua Kelly

- Foundation Coal- Michelle Anderson
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks, Ryerson Station State Park, Alan Johnson and staff.



Carmichaels Team 3
Second Place
(From Left to Right)
Jacob Cumpston, Shana Huseman, Tom Headlee (back), Marcus Tennant, Kevin Willis (back), Sabrina Snyder and Kody Decker

Carmichaels Team 2
Third Place
(From Left to Right)
Tom Headlee, Justin Maurin, Travis Prodan, Quincy Hathaway, Kevin Willis
(Not pictured Kasey Osborne and Samantha May)



Effectiveness Of Fall Liming

By Laurel Rush

Agricultural Manager

Applying lime to pasture and hay fields in the fall 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. Appalachian soils tend to be acidic; liming neutralizes acidity in the soil. A more neutral pH allows nutrients like, phosphorus, calcium and magnesium to be more available for plant uptake. While plants will adapt to soil pH, they definitely perform better in an optimum range.

Soil testing is the most reliable way to determine your liming needs. The County Cooperative Extension Service can provide you with soil sampling bags. By providing some basic background information such as soil type and what crop you are trying to grow, the lab will be able to provide you with a report of your present soil needs. Recommendations are not intended to neutralize all of your soil acidity, only to provide for optimum plant growth. The quality of aglime is regulated by Pennsylvania state law.

Aglime materials must be labeled to include the following:

- Identify the source material
- Show the total calcium and magnesium percentage by weight
- Show classification by particle size
- Identify the minimum Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) value
- Show the Effective Neutralizing Value (ENV)
- List the minimum moisture content
- List the Dry Weight analysis

A 2% tolerance is allowed for the minimum CCE and fineness values, all other values are allowed a 10% tolerance.

References: Article: Liming – Your key to better pasture next spring By Rick Blanke, CPSSc, King Conservation District, Washington.

Publication: Agronomy Facts 3, Soil acidity and aglime. By Beegle and Lingenfelter, 1995, Penn State Cooperative Extension, State College, Pennsylvania.



Potentially, there are also some industrial by-products that can be used for liming. Care should be taken to identify what you are spreading on your fields. Some may contain high sand content or hazardous elements which could contaminate your soils.

Lime application and soil testing can be done on a 3-year cycle. Depending on the size of your farm this can be done in a reasonable rotation to spread the cost out. Liming changes the balance of your soil so it is important to make sure that you are not adversely affecting your crops.

Order your lime in late summer for your fall application. Lime is usually broadcast when fields are dry; which makes getting a machine across our steep hillsides easier. Winter rains will provide the soil moisture that lime needs to become active.

In these tight financial times, investing in lime for your pastures and hayfields will give you the best return in forage production for a relatively small monetary investment.

Help Stop The Spread Of West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus causes an infection in the brain called encephalitis which makes the brain swell. The virus has an incubation period in humans from 3 to 14 days. Most people who are infected with the virus are typically asymptomatic however; a small percentage will develop a severe infection. The virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no vaccine for West Nile Virus so it is very important to prevent and control the number of mosquitoes around your home. Here are a few simple things to do to eliminate mosquito breeding areas:



- Keep wheelbarrows, buckets, ceramic pots, etc. flipped over when not in use
- Clean roof gutters and window wells every year
- Dispose of used tires
- Drill holes in bottom of recycling containers
- Keep water from becoming stagnant in birdbaths and ornamental pools

There have been no confirmed human cases of West Nile in Pennsylvania so far this year and since the state began the surveillance program there has not been more than 25 cases in any given year. So please remember to protect yourself when you are outdoors because the best way to prevent West Nile is to prevent mosquito bites in the first place.

2009 Conservation Leadership School

Scholarship Winner

The Greene County Conservation District would like to congratulate Samantha May a student of Carmichaels Area High School on winning the Conservation Leadership Scholarship. Samantha is an active student at Carmichaels, participating in advanced Math and English, Envirothon, Softball, band and various community activities. Last year at our Annual Envirothon Competition Samantha was on the third place team.

This 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.

Penn State hosted the Conservation Leadership School that is a weeklong session where students are in a classroom environment that is moved outdoors. Students explored forests, fields, streams, and lakes and had the opportunity to go canoeing, hiking, bird watching, fishing, and do other recreational activities.

The Greene County Conservation District offered one full scholarship to this school to those students interested in the environment and a Greene County Resident. 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.

Farewell To A Fellow Employee

There will be a new face in the conservation district office starting August 10, 2009. Dustin Teegarden, the Environmental Program Specialist, will be moving on in his career. Dustin started his career with the conservation district back in May of 2008 as the West Nile Virus Coordinator. With the departure of Todd Klaner in the fall of 2008 Dustin transferred into his position as the Environmental Program Specialist. Dustin will be starting his new career with EQT (the new name for Equitable) as a Permitting Technician. There he will be responsible for obtaining permits necessary for drilling operations. He will also interface with surveyors, consultants, and environmental personnel, to help manage and coordinate the construction and operation of well sites.



Tire And Electronic Cleanup

Sponsored by PA Cleanways of Greene County and JVS Environmental

- **Where:** Greene County Fairgrounds Horse Arena
- **When:** September 12th, 2009
- **Time:** 9 am to 2 pm

Charge for Tires:

- \$2.50 Passenger Tires/Small Truck
- \$10.00 Large Truck
- \$30.00 Tractor or Large Equipment Truck



Materials Accepted Free:

Electronic waste including –

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Keyboards/printers/mice/fax machines/copiers/scanners
- Telecommunication equipment
- Lead-acid automobile batteries
- Charge for computer monitors - \$5.00
- Charge for TVs - \$1.00 per inch of screen

For more information, call Theresa at 724-627-7097

Dirt & Gravel Roads Program

Interest is growing in the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program as more municipalities have taken advantage of this program in the past several months. The primary conditions for qualification here are that the work site must be on a dirt and gravel road, and the site must be negatively impacting a waterway.

So far this summer, final payments have been approved for three completed projects.

On Bailey Hollow Road #561 in Washington Township at Crayne's Creek, eight cross pipes were added and one stream culvert was replaced. Extensive stabilization work was necessary on the road banks and ditches on this hill. On Renner Creek Road #305 a large culvert was replaced across Taylor Run/Renner Creek. Inlets and outlets were lined with riprap. This project also required significant vegetative management work, but is now well stabilized. On Gunn Hill Road #327 at Gunn Run in Aleppo Township, culverts were replaced and remediation work was done to the inadequate crown of the road. Riprap was put in place to stabilize the eroded stream bank.

During the most recent cycle of applications, completed applications were received for eight worksites in four different townships. The Quality Assurance Board

visited these sites to evaluate them according to criteria including road surface, stability, slope, condition of cross pipes, inlets and outlets all factors that impact our waterways.

In Washington Township, Grays Run Road #555 at Crayne's Run was determined to be a priority. The proposal is to double the existing number of cross-drains, and to stabilize a slip in the road. Existing cross pipes will be cleaned out, and some of the old pipes that are not sufficient for water flow during rain events will be replaced. There are also plans to improve the crown on Grays Run Road.

Another high priority site is Shoestring Road #639 at Browns Creek in Morris Township. The proposal here is to replace twenty-one inadequate culvert pipes on this 1.7 mile stretch of road between Beulah Ridge and Andrew Road. Plans are also included to improve the ditches and remedy the crown of Shoestring Road.



Bailey Hollow Road, Washington Township

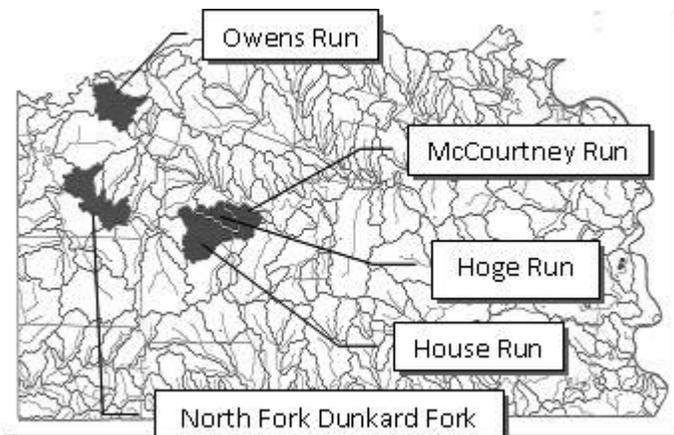
New Exceptional Value Streams Designated In Greene County

We are excited to share with you that Greene County now has 7 streams named as Exceptional Value streams (EV). Over the past couple of years the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection have been conducting surveys on various streams located in the Western Greene area. Particularly on the tributaries that are the headwater streams of the South Fork of Ten Mile, up stream of Golden Oaks intersection west of Rogersville. As a result of the surveys undertaken by DEP we now have streams designated for special protection. These streams are tributaries to the watershed boundaries shown on the map below. The watersheds

that are in which the tributaries are located are Owens Run, McCourtney Run, Hoge Run, House Run and the North Fork of the Dunkard Fork of Wheeling Creek.

Under this new designation, existing facilities are grandfathered and no changes are required unless expansion is proposed after the EV status is granted. Impacts to the community are minimal,

- New on-lot sewage systems will have no impact
- No impacts to small farms with the exception of winter application of manure
- No impact to pesticide and herbicide use, plowing or tilling
- Logging will require an E&S plan and special protection BMP's
- Road maintenance will require E&S plans if a potential there is a potential discharge to the EV Stream
- New dams will require an environmental assessment if within the EV watershed
- Mining facilities are grandfathered although new or expansions will require an anti-degradation review
- Refuse facilities for mining may not be sited unless it is a "preferred site"
- Gravel bar removal requires an individual permit



The Beginning of Greene County Stormwater Management

The County of Greene has entered into an agreement with PA DEP to develop an Act 167 Stormwater Plan. This agreement will allow the county to develop Phase I of the plan. The Phase I planning process is used to prepare a scope of study (the level of effort, personnel details undertaking the effort, time frame, and cost estimates for the Phase II development of the plan).

The Act 167 Plan's basic goals are to insure that stormwater runoff shall not cause harm to property or persons. The management of the plan will allow for the prevention of damage caused by land use activities, avoid expanding flood hazard areas and maintain and improve stormwater quality. Stormwater will be managed to the extent practicable that of quantity, velocity, direction, and quality of runoff. Determining what is practicable will be accomplished by developing watershed specific action plans, prioritizing what we need to do and evaluating that in light of what we can do (funding/implementation limitations).

It is the responsibility of the County to prepare and update stormwater plans. Municipalities will adopt the final implementation plan and enforcement decisions will be made at that time.

During the Rain Day Festival and the Greene County Fair displays were set up to inform the general public on issues related to Stormwater. During the two events we were able to obtain a rain barrel for display and it was to be raffled during the fair. The winner of the rain barrel was a resident of the Mt. Morris area Corben Russell. The rain barrel was donated to the County by the Streets Run Watershed Association. The Streets Run Watershed is comprised of the Boroughs of Baldwin, Brentwood, West Homestead, West Mifflin, Whitehall and the



Rain Barrel Winner: (left to right)
Corben Russell, Laurel Rush, Lindsay Kozlowski

City of Pittsburgh.

How do you make your own Rain Barrel?

Materials

- 1-55 gallon polyethelene plastic barrel
- 1-10 ft length of 2 inch PVC pipe
- 1-2 inch PVC elbow
- 1-2 inch female threaded by 2 inch PVC elbow
- 1-2inch male treaded by 2 inch pipe adapter
- 1-tube silicone sealer/cement
- 1-1/2 inch female threaded silcock (aka outdoor faucet or hose bib)
- 1-1/2 inch threaded bushing
- 1-1/2 inch female threaded socket
- 1-roll Teflon tape
- 1-1 foot by 2 foot piece of old or new screen fabric
- 1-1 gallon platic bucket, tub or flowerpot
- 4-cinder blocks
- Optional-paint to match your house

Tools

- Jig Saw
- Power Drill with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch Spade Bit
- Scissors
- Pipe Wrench and Pump Pliers
- Screw Driver
- Hack Saw
- Tape Measure
- Level

Step 1- Inflow- Cut a hole in the top of the barrel to allow rainwater to enter the barrel and to access the inside of the barrel. The hole should be just large enough to snugly fit the 1 gallon plastic bucket, tub or flowerpot. The bucket will be used to support

the screen to keep mosquitoes and debris out. Cut $\frac{3}{4}$ inch holes in the bucket.

Step 2-Spigot- Drill a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hole close to the bottom of the 55 gallon barrel (not too far down that you cannot reach the hole from inside the access of the top of the barrel) Put Teflon tape on the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch bush-

ing and thread it into the silcock or hose bib. Now carefully thread the other end of the bushing into the $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hole in the bottom of the barrel. It should fit snugly in the hole and cut threads in the plastic as you screw it in. Now unscrew it from the barrel, apply silicone to the outside of the flange on the silcock. Screw it back into the hole and into a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch socket on the inside of the barrel.

Step 3 -Down Spout Modification- Prepare the area under the down spout where you want to install the rain barrel. Remove the old down spout and splash block and level the area where the barrel will sit. Place the concrete blocks so they are sloped slightly downward away from the house. Set the barrel on the blocks. With a hacksaw cut the down spout so it is just long enough to fit into the bucket on top of the rain barrel.

Step 4 -Overflow-You should provide an over flow for water if the barrel fills to the top. With a jig saw, cut a hole in the side of the barrel large enough to fit the 2 inch male threaded by 2 inch pipe adapter. Place this fitting inside the barrel and thread it into the 2 inch female threaded y 2 inch PVC elbow on the outside of the barrel. Seal with silicone. Cut a length of 2 inch PVC pipe long enough to reach the ground. Attach a 2 inch PVC elbow to the bottom of this pipe and cut another length of 2 inch pipe and to connect to a splash block.

American Herbataurus Society
And
Greene County Conservation District

Present:
Meeting the Challenges
Of Producing
Grass-fed Beef



Saturday

September 19, 2009
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location:
Rick Miller Farm
Mt. Morris, PA

Guest speaker is:
Gearld Fry
Of Rose Bud, AR

Pre-registration is required

Rick Miller and his family have owned this 145-acre farm since 1994. The land was surface mined for coal over 30 years ago. Producing 100% grass-fed beef is challenging enough, trying to do so on reclaimed ground definitely complicates matters. The Millers have developed a rotational grazing system using a pressurized water system with Jug brand waters and spring developments with tire troughs for their Angus crossbred cattle. They raise Suffolk draft horses and use them to do some of the farm work.

Gearld Fry of Bovine Engineering & Consulting defines "Cattle Expert". He has extensive experience with both dairy and beef production including operating his own embryo transfer and herd bull fertility business. If your interest is grass-fed beef production, you won't want to miss learning about:

- Linear measuring as a tool for building your grass-fed genetics herd.
- What defines a superior herd bull?
- Why pasture is more than just grass – are your cattle reaching full genetic expression?
- Why minerals are critical for the health and productivity of your livestock - using soil tests and plant tissue analysis for balancing minerals.

Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:30 Pasture Quality and Genetic Expression

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:15 Using soil tests and plant tissue analysis to balance mineral supplements.

12:15 – 1:15 Lunch

1:15 – 2:30 The importance of a superior herd sire.

2:30 – 4:30 Chute side demonstrations of linear measuring and visual appraisals of cattle for grass utilization.



Rick invites you to come early and stay late.

Registration Form

Fee is \$40.00 per person

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number attending ____ X \$40.

Amount enclosed _____

Complete & return to:

American Herbataurus Society
1680 Maple Road
New Bethlehem, PA 16242

Questions: Call Laurel Hoffman
at
814-256-3707 email:
theanimalkeeper@yahoo.com

Registration is limited and
must be received by
September 14, 2009.

Thank you



for your generous sponsorship.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Greene County Conservation District Board Meeting

3rd Tuesday of each month

Ag Progress Day

August 18th – 20th, 2009
Rock Springs, PA

PA Renewable Energy Festival

September 18th, 19th & 20th, 2009
Kempton, PA

Geard Fry at the Miller Farm

September 19th, 2009
Mt. Morris, Greene County
Contact the GCCD for more information

PASA's Western Region Harvest Celebration Dinner

September 25th, 2009
Phipps Conservatory, Pittsburgh, PA
www.pasafarming.org

Cover Crop Field Day

October 9th, 2009
Brookville, Jefferson County
Contact Jim Berry 814-849-7463

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

GCCD – 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

Diana Moskola's Recipe

Zucchini Crisp

FILLING INGREDIENTS:

- 8 cups Zucchini (measure before cooking)
- 2/3 Lemon Juice
- 1 cup Sugar
- 1 tsp Cinnamon

CRISP INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups Flour
- 2 cups Sugar
- 3 Sticks Butter or Margarine
- 1 tsp Cinnamon

DIRECTIONS:

1. Peel and seed the zucchini, cut into chunks.
2. Cook the zucchini chunks, lemon juice, sugar and cinnamon until the zucchini is tender.
3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
4. Mix flour, sugar and butter until crumbly.
5. Press half of this mixture into a 9" x 13" baking dish. Bake 10 minutes.
6. Cool slightly before adding the cooked zucchini mixture.
7. Stir ½ to 1 cup of the flour mixture into the cooked zucchini mixture, stir; spread over the baked crust.
8. Add the 1 teaspoon of cinnamon to the remaining flour mixture, and crumble over the top.
9. Bake for 35 minutes.

NOTE:

Diana Moskola is a teacher in the Jefferson-Morgan School District, and is an intern in the Greene County Conservation District.

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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Natural Resources Conservation Service
Susan Funka-Petery, District
Conservationist

PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Ralph Campbell, Service Forester

PA DEP field Representative
Chuck Kubasik

We've Moved!

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Office
has moved to Fayette County.

The new address is:
1359 Connellsville Rd., Suite 10
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456

You may still contact Suzy via telephone at 724-627-5821 – Ext. 3

Greene County
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