



# Greene County Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



**724.852.5278**

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19 S. Washington St., Ste. 150 • Fort Jackson Bldg. Mezzanine • Waynesburg, PA

# BOARD MEMBERS

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chuck Morris, Commissioner Chairman  
 Archie Trader, Commissioner Vice Chairman  
 Blair Zimmerman, Commissioner

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bradley Eisiminger, Chairman, Farmer Director  
 Archie Trader, Vice Chairman/Commissioner Representative  
 Tom Headlee, Treasurer, Public Director  
 James Cowell, Jr., Secretary, Farmer Director  
 Jim Kenney, Farmer Director  
 Butch Deter, Public Director  
 Greg Hopkins, Farmer Director

## DIRECTOR EMERITUS

J. Robert Rice

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

William Wentzel  
 Gay Thistle  
 Glodenna Halstead  
 Jeanne Williams  
 Sandy Theis  
 William Cree, Jr.  
 Frank O'Leary  
 Jerry Day

## DISTRICT STAFF

Lisa Snider, District Manager  
 Lindsay Kozlowski, Environmental Program Specialist  
 Warren Dickerson, Environmental Program Specialist  
 Zachary Basinger, Environmental Program Specialist  
 William Wentzel, Environmental Program Associate  
 Laurel Rush, Agriculture Technician  
 Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer  
 Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist

## GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Robbie Matesic, Executive Director  
 Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager

## COOPERATING AGENCIES

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Susan Funka-Petery, District Conservationist

PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
 Russell Gibbs, Service Forester

PA DEP Field Representative  
 Chuck Kubasik

## DISTRICT LOCATION

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



# Financial Statement

January through December 2013

Other Income	2,052.50
UGWF-CDFAP	15,634.00
UGWF-PUC	37,878.78
Donation Income	8,704.00
Grant Income	165,488.61
Interest Income	1,034.74
Lime Spreader	464.00
Program Income	181,312.50
Refund (Income)	19.90
Sales	118.00

**Total Income 412,707.03**

**GROSS PROFIT 412,707.03**

Reconciliation Discrepancies	2,000.00
Farmland Preservation	531.31
Scholarship	2,000.00
Advertising	8,455.68
Automobile Expense	4,139.49
Contracted Work/Contracts	171,042.90
District Mtgs.	600.71
Donation	4,741.00
Dues & Subscriptions	3,986.00
Education Expense	3,384.96
Equipment/Supplies	21,599.14
Events/Workshops	49.85
Insurance Bonds	2,271.20
Miscellaneous	1,063.02
Office Supplies	294.74
Postage	2,039.08
Professional Services Rendered	6,125.00
Salaries & Benefits	140,662.20
Telephone	1,916.42
Travel	4,031.57

**Total Expense 380,934.27**

**NET INCOME 31,772.76**

2013 County of Greene  
 Salary Contributions \$96,661.00

# GREENE COUNTY conservation awards



## The Greene County Conservation District was pleased to present Annual Awards and recognize service honorees for 2013.

The Conservation Restoration Award was given to Edward and Verna Presley of Brave, PA for the removal of a dam across Dunkard Creek, helping to restore the natural flow of this watershed.

This project was completed through funding provided by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Pennsylvania Natural Resources Conservation Service directed this funding into their Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which had a priority of dam removal.

The Presley's, partnering with American Rivers, Princeton Hydro Consultants, PA DEP-Division of Dam Safety and PA USDA-NRCS, developed a plan to complete this project. Along with the removal of the dam, 6 acres were placed in a federal conservation easement, which is monitored annually by the NRCS, and 4 acres of floodplain was planted in native trees and shrubs.

Verna commented "Since the dam's removal in 2010 the town of Brave hasn't flooded. Some of the people that may have questioned the project are definitely reaping the benefits."

The 2013 Cooperator of the Year was awarded to Joseph and Linda Olczak. Their beef farm is located just west of Waynesburg in the Clear Creek watershed in an area known as Knob Hill. This farm has been



### Special Recognition Award

Community Foundation of Greene County was recognized for its support of the Greene County Envirothon since 2007 through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). The EITC program offers tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to a Scholarship Organization, an Educational Improvement Organization, and/or a Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organization. Awarded annually, the gift allows the district to host the event for all 5 school districts. Pictured (L-R): Archie Trader, Commissioner Representative; Connie Grimes, Vice Chair, Community Foundation of Greene County; Bettie Stammerjohn, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Greene County; Bradley Eisiminger, District Chairman.

in Linda's family for 4 generations. Operated as a dairy by her father, Carl Johnston until 1985, Joe and Linda purchased it in 1992, became cooperators with the Conservation District in 2003. They began implementing a USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program contract in 2007 to install a rotational grazing system on 120 acres of pasture consisting of 13000 feet of fence including woodlot exclusion fence, 6 acres of pasture renovation, and 7 livestock watering facilities for a split herd of 25 cows and 10 replacement heifers.

The 2013 Conservation Speaking Award was given to Jenna

Henry a senior at Waynesburg Central High School and president of the Waynesburg FFA Chapter. Her speech was titled the Impact of Natural Gas Wells. It focused on the Marcellus Gas Industry and the multiple impacts that are made throughout the drilling process. She plans to attend West Virginia University to pursue a degree in Environmental Engineering. Jenna is the daughter Jamie and Cherie Henry of Waynesburg.



### Service Award Honorees

(L-R): J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus; Archie Trader-Commissioner Representative-5 years of Service; Jim Cowell-Farmer Director--10 years of Service; and Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman of the Board



### Conservation Speaking Award

(L-R): Archie Trader, Commissioner Representative; Jenna Henry; Bradley Eisiminger, District Chairman



### Cooperator of the Year Award

(L-R): Archie Trader, Commissioner Representative; Joseph and Linda Olczak; Bradley Eisiminger, District Chairman



### Conservation Restoration Award

(L-R): Archie Trader, Commissioner Representative; Edward and Verna Presley; Susan F. Petery, USDA/NRCS; Bradley Eisiminger, District Chairman

# Carmichaels team wins Greene County Envirothon

WIND RIDGE, PA – Fifty-nine high school students from Greene County’s five school districts competed in the 26th annual Greene County Envirothon held Wednesday, May 1, at Ryerson Station State Park in Wind Ridge. Teams of five students tested their environmental knowledge in the areas of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and the 2013 current issue, grazing lands and pasture management.

Carmichaels Team #1 won this year’s Greene County competition with a score of 390 points out of a possible 500 points. Team members; Floretta Chambers, Ashley Dotson, Doug Kowalewski, Mackenzie Metcalf and Philip Mikalik and team advisor Kevin Willis. The team represented Greene County at the state Envirothon which was held May 21-22 at Juniata College in Huntingdon County where they took fifth place, with a score of 494.67 out of a possible 600 points.

Winning second place was the Carmichaels team consisting of Tyler Crago, Taylor Dodson, Michael Donaldson, Hannah Hughes and Parker Woodring. The third-place team was also from Carmichaels and included Allie Christopher, Logan Decker, Molly Roberts, Connor Spangler and Mia Virgili.

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

In addition to the continued financial support of Community Foundation of Greene County, CONSOL Energy and Alpha Natural Resources, other partners that made the event successful include Greene County Commissioners Chuck Morris, Archie Trader and Blair Zimmerman; Greene County Department of Economic Development; Chuck Shrump and Kevin Paul, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service; Russ Gibbs, state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry; Alan Johnson and staff, Ryerson Station State Park, DCNR Bureau of State Parks; Abbey Owoc and Tyler Brown, state Department of Environmental Protection; Joe Stefko, Brandon Bonin and Mike Greiner, state Game Commission; Walt Bumgarner, Penn State Cooperative Extension; Wallace and Pancher, Inc.; and Michelle Anderson, Alpha Natural Resources.



## 1st Place Envirothon Winners

*Carmichaels Team #1 won this year’s Greene County Envirothon with a score of 390. The Envirothon is organized by the Greene County Conservation District and funded through the Community Foundation of Greene County. All winning team members will receive a \$500 scholarship from Alpha Natural Resources. Pictured, from l. to r., are Michelle Anderson, Alpha Natural Resources; team member Ashley Dotson; Bettie Stammerjohn, Community Foundation of Greene County; team member Philip Mikalik; Tom Headlee, GCCD board director; team member Mackenzie Metcalf; Mike Greiner, state Game Commission; team members Floretta Chambers and Doug Kowalewski; and Kevin Willis, team advisor.*



## 2nd Place Envirothon Winners

*Carmichaels Team #2 won second place at this year’s Greene County Envirothon, organized by the Greene County Conservation District. Pictured, from l. to r., are Michelle Anderson, Alpha Natural Resources; team members Parker Woodring, Michael Donaldson and Tyler Crago; Tom Headlee, GCCD board director; team members Taylor Dodson and Hannah Hughes; and Kevin Willis, team advisor.*



## 3rd Place Envirothon Winners

*Carmichaels Team #3 won third place at this year’s Greene County Envirothon, organized by the Greene County Conservation District. Pictured, from l. to r., are team member Logan Decker; Tom Headlee, GCCD board director; team members Connor Spangler, Allie Christopher, Molly Roberts and Mia Virgili; and Kevin Willis, team advisor.]*

# DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD PROGRAM



The Dirt & Gravel Roads Program is a statewide program that was passed into law in 1997, as Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code. The program was established to reduce sediment pollution to nearby streams and dust pollution by utilizing Environmentally Sound Maintenance (ESM) practices generated by unpaved roads. A Quality Assurance Board (QAB) comprised of representatives of the Pa Fish and Boat Commission, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Conservation Board Members review project proposals from municipalities and scores the environmental benefits of the proposed work. The QAB recommends which projects should be funded by the Conservation District through the available Dirt and Gravel Road Funding. The 2013 funds enabled the District to initiate 10 contracts totaling \$167,233.07 with 4 local municipalities.

Although the program only considers work that benefits stream water quality, it is still a beneficial program for the municipality. Consider where most problems occur on dirt and gravel roads, generally near streams, steep grades and areas where culverts are needed or need to be maintained. These areas will more than likely qualify for funding under the program since most of the time they drain to a local stream. If you live on a dirt or gravel road or frequently travel one, take note of some conditions that might be eligible for funding in your travels, and let your local municipality know about the problem so that it might be fixed without using funds provided by local taxes. Areas like: Ruts or pot holes caused by moisture accumulated by improper drainage, lack of crowning the road or aggregate; Runoff outfalls that are causing severe erosion; Scoured ditches caused by high velocities of water that may be caused by the lack of culverts for the slope of the road; Blocked, damaged or irregularly aligned culverts; Roads that are below the elevation of a nearby stream; Road flooding caused by restricted flow or improper pipe size.

## 2013 REMAINING PROJECTS

**Aleppo Township—Quiet Dell Road • Stream Crossing Replacement**  
Grant—\$11,079.20 | In-kind match—\$1,396.50 | Project total = \$12,475.70

**Greene Township—Roberts Run • Install five new cross drain pipes, and Add 2 additional.**  
Grant—\$10,978.00 | In-kind—\$7,670.00 | Project total—\$18,648.00

**Gilmore Township—Six Run Road • Replace a 36" culvert pipe.**  
Grant—\$2,350.00 | In-kind match—\$1,090.00 | Permit—\$400.00 | Project Total—\$3,840.00

**Gilmore Township—Shough Creek Road • Replace an 18" culvert pipe.**  
Grant—\$2,035.00 | In-kind match—\$500.00 | Permit—\$400.00 | Project Total—\$2,935.00

**Aleppo Township—Blacks Creek/Kuhn Hill Road • Stream crossing replacement.**  
Grant—\$9,600.77 | In-kind match—\$2,021.25 | Project Total—\$11,622.02

**Aleppo Township—Hewitt Run Road • 2 Stream crossing replacement.**  
Grant—\$19,667.07 | In-kind match—\$3,651.92 | Project Total—\$23,318.99

**Aleppo Township—Allman Road • Stream crossing replacement.**  
Grant—\$9,905.05 | In-kind match—\$2,034.80 | Project Total—\$11,939.85

**Aleppo Township—Blacks Creek/Martin Road • Stream crossing replacement.**  
Grant—\$8,618.98 | In-kind match—\$1,721.25 | Project Total—\$10,340.23

## 2013 REMAINING PROJECTS

**Gilmore Township—Wildman Hill Road • Replace a 36" culvert pipe and add geotextile material to the road.**  
Grant—\$5,857.09 | In-kind match—\$2,026.09 | Project Total—\$7,883.18

**Gilmore Township—Crabapple Road • Replace stream culvert, and add geotextile material to the road**  
Grant—\$4,697.46 | In-kind match—\$1,275.60 | Project total—\$6,105.52

**Gilmore Township—Meighen Run Road • Install 36" pipe to replace existing culvert**  
Grant—\$3,966.00 | In-kind match—\$114.00 | Project total—\$3,996.00

**Gilmore Township Renner Creek Road • Full depth reclamation with Portland cement additive-14 sq. yards to stabilize the road base.**  
Grant—\$92,224.00 | In-kind—\$7,000.00 | Project Total—\$99,224.00

**Gilmore Township Renner Creek Road • Added 7 cross drains and 2500 feet of drains within the ditchline .**  
Grant—\$26,827.20 | In-kind—\$2,743.20 | Project Total—\$29,570.40

**Dunkard Township—Glade Run • Replaced and added 12 crossdrains**  
Stabilized 300 sq.ft. of outlets  
Grant—\$12,979.00 | In-kind match—\$5,632.02 | Project Total—\$18,611.02

# RUFF CREEK/PUMPKIN RUN/WHITELEY CREEK STREAM REHABILITATION GRANT

In 2009 the conservation district submitted a Growing Greener Grant application to the Pennsylvania DEP to reduce non-point source pollution in the Ruff Creek and Pumpkin Run watersheds. Awarded in 2010 the original scope of work identified 2 stream bank stabilization project in the Ruff Creek watershed and 1 agricultural best management practices project in the Pumpkin Run watershed for completion by June 2012. The Pumpkin Run watershed has a TMDL with the primary source of impairment being nutrients stemming from crop and grazing related activities. Participants in the program provide a 25% match for each project. After two extension requests and several project revisions this grant has placed many beneficial practices on the ground in multiple watersheds.

## PROJECT SUMMARY



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

◀ The Willis agricultural best management practices project located in the Pumpkin Run watershed was completed in May of 2012. Components of the project included the development of a PA Act 38 Nutrient management plan and the construction of a Heavy Use Area Protection with a waste storage facility, animal walkways, stream bank fencing and spring developments to address an unimproved winter feeding area.

◀ The Eisiminger agricultural best management practices project located on Dyers Fork in the Whiteley Creek watershed was completed in May 2013. Components of the project included the construction of an animal walkway; an underground outlet and streambank fencing address a barnyard area.

◀ The Taylor streambank stabilization project located on the main stem of the South Fork of Ten Mile Creek was completed in May of 2013. Components of the project included the removal of vegetation on the streambank, and the installation of R-5 rock to stabilize the stream bank that was collapsing next to a structure. Morgan Township was a key partner in getting this project on the ground.

*This grant has a additional projects which are scheduled for installation in 2014.*



# Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

The County of Greene has; in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, West Virginia University, and the Nature Conservancy, undertaken an assessment of the Monongahela River Watershed. This represents a large undertaking as this watershed spans multiple municipalities across Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. The goal of this assessment is to incorporate social, economic, and environmental considerations into a sustainable, regional water resource management plan. An initial assessment, completed in 2011, identified several key concerns that are currently being addressed in a final assessment.

This final assessment will provide guidelines for water budgeting to ensure adequate supply for multiple, competing stakeholders. It will develop recommendations for unification of water quality data across agencies and groups. The plan will address major concerns within the watershed by providing improvement options for stormwater management, flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration. Finally, it will evaluate USACE

operations and options for development of a regional management perspective.

The Greene County Conservation District in conjunction with the Greene County Department of Economic Development are tasked with oversight of the plan to ensure that the local issues are evaluated and recommendations fit the counties needs.



## Trout in the Classroom

Greene County Conservation District has partnered with Mapletown High School to implement the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. TIC is an interdisciplinary program that educates students about coldwater fisheries while allowing them to take an active role in conservation. Students observe and monitor a coldwater fishery by raising Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) right in the classroom. They learn to identify salmonid life cycle stages as they watch their trout grow from eggs to fingerlings. They gain hands on understanding of coldwater fishery health and are introduced to the concept of an indicator species. Finally, they take what they have learned and grown in the classroom and put it into action by stocking their trout in a state approved waterway.



# West Nile Virus Annual Report



2013 was a relatively quiet year in Greene County in the terms of mosquitoes. Numbers were down for most of the year until the later part of summer arrived. Numbers rose drastically in late July and August, into September which is typical. As numbers increased, Greene County did have one sample that came back positive for West Nile Virus on August 8th. The sample was taken at the Rices Landing waste water treatment plant. Secondary traps were set within a one mile radius of the plant in the following weeks, but no positives were recorded.

Out of 136 samples taken and sent for analysis out of Greene County, only one sample came back positive for the Virus. If you do the math, that's roughly 0.7% that tested positive. If you add that to the fact that West Nile Virus only affects around 20% of the population (typically elderly and young children), the chances of contracting the virus are quite minimal.

Just for precaution in the upcoming mosquito season, wear bug spray and keep containers empty that can hold water and things should be just fine. If 2013 was any indication, 2014 should be a relatively quiet year for mosquitoes also.



# Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Program



The Greene County Conservation District has a delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer the PA Title 25 Chapter 102, Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S), PA Title 25 Chapter 105, Dam Safety and Waterway Management, and the Clean Streams Law. This entails the review of Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans (E&S), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits (NPDES), Erosion and Sediment Control General Permits 2 (ESCGP-2), and Water Obstruction and Encroachment permits.

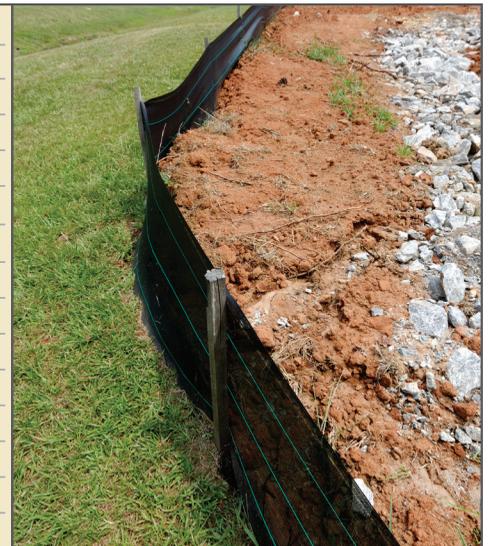
Chapter 102 requires persons proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities to develop, implement, and maintain best management practices to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation and to manage post construction stormwater. This chapter also requires an NPDES if the disturbance is one acre or more over the life of the project. Projects less than one acre but greater than 5,000 square feet must have a written E&S plan on site and BMPs implemented. Projects under 5,000 square feet must implement effective BMPs but do not require a written plan. E&S plans do not have to be approved unless they are part of a permit or if another agency or municipality requires it.

Chapter 105 regulates dams, water obstructions and encroachments. The DEP Central Office reviews all permits for dams. GCCD reviews water obstruction and encroachment permits (General Permits). The General Permits reviewed by GCCD are:

- GP-1 – Fish Habitat and Enhancement Structures**
- GP-2 – Small Docks and Boat Launching Ramps**
- GP-3 – Streambank Stabilization and Gravel bar Removal**
- GP-4 – Intake and Outfall Structures**
- GP-5 – Utility Line Crossings**
- GP-6 – Agricultural Crossing**
- GP-7 – Minor Road Crossing**
- GP-8 – Temporary Road Crossing**
- GP-9 – Agricultural Activities**

At the end of 2012, new permit review procedures and requirements were put in place which kept the Conservation District very busy. In February of 2013, DEP placed fee requirements on Chapter 105 permits. The following is a highlight of 2013 fees and projects.

<b>2013 CHAPTER 102/105 &amp; NPDES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b>	
Plans Received & Reviewed	99
Inspections & Sites Visited	100
NPDES Permits	11
ESCGP-2 Permits	8
<b>CHAPTER 105 GENERAL PERMITS ISSUED</b>	
GP-2—Small docks and boat launching ramps	2
GP-3—Bank rehab/protection & gravel bar removal	5
GP-4—Intake/outfall structure	2
GP-5—Utility line stream crossing	20
GP-6—Agricultural crossings and ramps	2
GP-7—Minor road crossings	12
GP-8—Temporary road crossings	21
GP-9—Agricultural activities	2
<b>Review Fees</b>	<b>\$184,812.50</b>



Some of the larger projects in 2013 included:

**West Greene School District:**

The project includes the building of a new elementary school connected to the existing Middle-Senior High School. The proposed building will be a 48,000 square foot, three story building addition for the consolidation of students onto one centrally located campus, resulting in the closure of two existing elementary schools.

**Carmichaels Area School District:**

The school district proposes to build an addition onto the existing Junior/Senior High School. This includes enclosing an existing underpass and revising and altering parking areas, the driveway, bus drop-off areas, and pedestrian walkways.

**Consol PA Coal Company:**

Manor Spur Railroad Siding—Richhill Township—two mile long railroad siding, minor realignment of the existing tracks, and extension of the existing drainage facilities.

**Castle Oaks Subdivision:**

Kirby Development in Franklin Township to create a 33 lot subdivision.





**Morris Township – Nineveh Sewage Treatment Plant:**

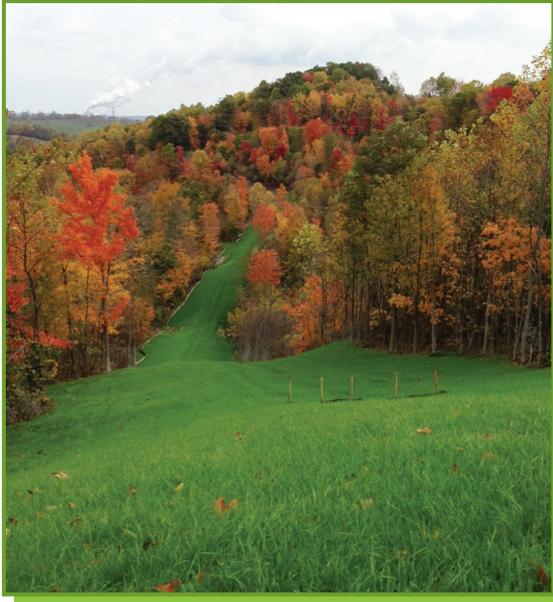
Morris Township is proposing a new sewage treatment plant and sanitary sewer lines located in Nineveh to service the residents of Nineveh and the new BMX Mine.

**Consol PA Coal Company:**

Road widening Patterson Creek Road in Morris Township to the new BMX Mine Facility.

**Southwestern PA Water Authority:**

Waterline in Center and Wayne Townships.



**Columbia Gas Line 40 Modernization Project:**

Greene and Washington Counties-- Morgan and Washington Townships.

**Columbia Gas Line 36 Modernization Project:**

Greene and Washington Counties-- Franklin and Washington Townships

**Equitable Gas:**

Waynesburg Station on Elm Drive to the existing Get-Go Station on Route 21 for Compressed Natural Gas.

**Columbia Gas Line 1570:**

Waynesburg Compressor Station and extend over 18 miles north into Washington County.

Program changes in 2013 resulted in a larger workload which increased our fee collection for permitting. This allowed the District to hire two new employees who assist with the implementation of the Chapter 102 and 105 programs. Warren Dickerson and Zack Basinger were hired and are being trained to conduct inspections, administration of both programs and permitting reviews.

# Meet Our New Staff Members

**Zack Basinger - Environmental Program Specialist**



I'm a December graduate from California University of Pennsylvania where I majored in Environmental Science. I'm from Clarksville, PA and I've been a resident of Greene County all my life. I've had two summer internships with the Conservation District as the West Nile Virus Monitor and I am more than happy to receive a full time position.

I was hired at the Conservation District as an Environmental Program Specialist part-time in October and became full-time after graduation in December. The majority of my time will be spent assisting with administration of the program, as well as performing site inspections and plan reviews for environmental permitting projects.

**Warren Dickerson - Environmental Program Specialist**



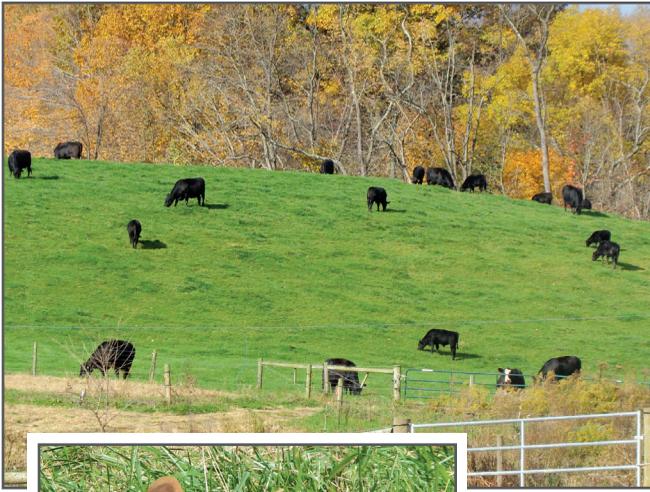
I was hired on July 12, 2013 as an Environmental Program Specialist. My job description includes- to perform specialized environmental duties and implement and review the Districts DEP Programs and Initiatives and to carry out any other duties or responsibilities delegated by the District Manager. I am a recent graduate of West Virginia University. I graduated with a degree in Geography with an emphasis in Geographic Information Systems, Urban and Regional Planning, Remote Sensing and Satellite Imagery, and Human Geography. I have also had special training in Environmental Science and Chemistry while at WVU. I was a member of the Greene County Envirothon Team for two years during my high school career at Mapletown High School. I am excited to start a new chapter in my life and start a career that I will love and have worked so hard to achieve. I hope to continue my education and gain more experience that I will put to use to in my career.

**Jared Zinn - Watershed Specialist**

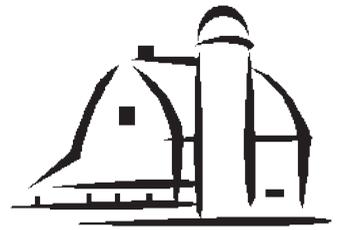


Jared D. Zinn took over as watershed specialist on November 12, 2013. He is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania (B.S. Environmental Science; Fisheries and Wildlife Concentration). Jared has worked as a researcher for various government agencies and academic institutions. As a watershed specialist; Jared has two major functions. First, he seeks out and undertakes opportunities to restore and protect Greene County's water resources. Second, he works to promote public stewardship of water resources through education and outreach.

## FARMLAND PRESERVATION - EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM



The Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation program was developed in 1988 to help slow the loss of prime farmland to nonagricultural uses through easement purchases. Pennsylvania leads the nation with over 4,500 farms and 484,000 acres preserved. This program enables state, county, and local governments to purchase conservation easements, sometimes called development rights, from owners of quality farmland.



The Greene County Farmland Preservation Board (GCFLPB), a seven member board comprised of local farmers, municipal leaders and residents, has seen growth in Agriculture Security Program activity and Farmland Preservation applications during recent years. Farm applications meeting program requirements are ranked and then forwarded to the state board for approval after offers have been made. Only farm owners located in approved ASA's can apply to the county program.

Greene County preserved its first farm, the Cree Dairy farm in 2009 and followed with the James F. & Pearl Willis Living Trust beef & crop farm in 2012, then in 2013 added the Harley and Janet Gapen crop farm. Over the past year the GCFLPB has worked towards the encumbrance of the Charles A. and Thelma Harry crop farm, which was successfully encumbered in October of 2013 by the PA State Farmland Preservation Program. With the addition of the Harry farm, Greene County will have 485 acres of farmland preserved for future generations. This represents an investment of \$410,382 coming from state and county sources.

Five farms were submitted for consideration during the 2013 application period. The top three farms are actively being pursued for inclusion into the agricultural easement program. Greene County Farmland Preservation Board Members include: William Cree III, Chairman; David Shipman, Vice-Chairman; Richard Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Charles Day, Secretary; Richard Belding; James Willis; Corbly Orndorff; Archie Trader, Commissioner.

## GREENE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA PROGRAM

The Agriculture Security Area Law (Pennsylvania Act 43 of 1981) allows any owner or owners of land used for agricultural production to petition their township supervisor for creation of an agricultural security area (ASA). An ASA is a tool for strengthening and protecting quality farmland from urbanization. The Bureau of Farmland Preservation administers the ASA program at the state level.

Landowners voluntarily apply to become an ASA through their township supervisor. ASA's are reviewed every seven years; however, new parcels of farmland may be added to an established ASA at any time. A minimum of 250 acres from among all participating farmers is required to begin an ASA. An ASA may include non-adjacent farmland parcels of at least 10 acres or that are able to produce \$2,000 annually from the sale of agricultural products. Participants receive special consideration regarding:

- Local ordinances affecting farming activities
- Nuisance complaints
- Review of farmland condemnation by state and local government agencies

If the landowner chooses, lands within an ASA may be considered for the Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program so long as the ASA has at least 500 acres enrolled.

Additional parcels were added to an established ASA located in Cumberland Township during 2013. Jefferson Township created a new ASA with 4 landowners and 429.63 acres. This brings Greene County's total to 76 landowners with 10,109.7 acres enrolled in ASA programs throughout; Center, Cumberland, Greene, Jefferson, Morgan, Washington, and Wayne townships.

## RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM (REAP)

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program allows farmers and businesses to earn tax credits in exchange for installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources. The program is administered by the State Conservation Commission and the tax credits are awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Last year 10 million dollars of tax credit were available through this program.

Eligible applicants may receive between 50% and 75% of project costs as state tax credits for up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation. The amount of tax credit available to a recipient is dependent on the type of BMP implemented.

In 2013, one new application was submitted for agricultural best management practices.



## PROJECT GRASS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Project Grass committee is a grass roots movement dedicated to promoting improved pasture systems and rotational grazing systems for better forage production, quality, and utilization. The committee holds meetings 4 times per year, which are attended by Conservation District staff and agricultural producers.

Four broad objectives have been identified by the Project Grass committee:

1. Enhance Pennsylvania agriculture through better utilization of grasslands.
2. Improve the economic position of Pennsylvania farmers, particularly small farms.
3. Increase the amount of livestock production in the Commonwealth by increasing energy efficiency and developing improved marketing capabilities for cattle, sheep, hay, and other livestock.
4. Achieve better utilization of land and water resources for improved environmental quality.

In 2013, the committee pursued grant funding through several local foundations. The committee supports and promotes the Appalachian Grazing Conference. They continue to organize the PA Grassland Contest held in State College. The committee is planning to host the SWPA Grazing Conference in Butler and Beaver Counties in 2014. This conference will be held every other year and rotate throughout the region.



## APPALACHIAN GRAZING CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A sub-committee of the WV State Conservation Agency started this bi-annual conference in 2003. The group will host their seventh conference on March 13-14, 2015, in Morgantown, WV. The committee is planning for 400 attendees from 10 states.

The planning committee is comprised of representatives from five states in the Appalachian region (PA, OH, MD, VA, and WV). Greene County was approached directly to have a representative on the committee. Currently, Laurel Rush, Ag. Technician is the Vice Chairman of the planning committee and serves on the speakers and publicity committees. JB Harrold, PA NRCS Grazing Specialist, also participates on the vendor committee. The goal in participating with this committee is to hold a premier local grazing conference that assists Greene County farmers in addressing the unique challenges of grazing in the Appalachian region.

## NUTRIENT & MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The GCCD delegation agreement was amended in 2012 to administer the nutrient and manure management programs for Greene County. This program regulates Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), Act 38 volunteer animal operations (VAO's) and any landowner utilizing manure in Pennsylvania.

With funding provided through a PACD mini-grant, a manure management workshop was held in October of 2013. Approximately 17 people attended the event and five additional plans were written in one-on-one sessions. In addition to this, many manure management manuals were distributed through various outreach events and direct mail. Several educational articles were published in local newspapers and presentations were given to The West Greene FFA, the Greene County Farm Bureau, and the Penn State Cooperative Extension board.

One Act 38 plan update was submitted and one new plan covering 200 acres was received for review during 2013. In Greene County, there are 1,870.5 acres and 490 animal units under voluntary Act 38 compliance nutrient management plans.

One manure-related complaint was received in 2013.

## BENEFITS OF BEING A DISTRICT COOPERATOR

The Greene County Conservation District is proud to offer assistance to all landowners within Greene County. The District's Technical Assistance Program aids landowners not only in planning and executing projects but also in obtaining financial assistance when funds are available. District staff can assist landowners with cropland, woodland, agricultural waste, wildlife habitat and grassland management, streambank protection, erosion and sedimentation control practices, surface water control, irrigation and livestock watering, planned grazing systems as well as many other practices. This program is purely voluntary and encouraged by staff and board members.

Seven landowners, totaling 599 acres, enlisted as new cooperators during 2013; all of which requested assistance with their agriculture production. District Staff also completed updates on two conservation plans, covering 142 acres. One landowner is currently undergoing conservation plan development which covers 157 acres. The district received 77 general agricultural information requests from landowners in 2013.

## CONSERVATION PLANNING

The district's role in conservation planning is to conduct a site assessment, discuss landowner goals, assess resource needs, and visually inspect operations. Staff then map operations using Customer Service Toolkit, a specialized ArcView GIS program, and develop a best management practice (BMP) implementation schedule/conservation plan. The landowner can also use this visit to request additional information on programs or practices that may be suited for their management style. Others enroll as cooperators to qualify for Farm Bill Programs through the USDA-NRCS.

## GCCD WATER QUALITY MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The Water Quality Mini-Grant Program supplements federal, state, and private grant and incentive programs that are designated to offset costs associated with Best Management Practice (BMP) installation. BMPs are designed to prevent erosion, mitigate non-point source nutrient and sediment runoff, and generally improve downstream water quality.

Funding for this program comes from the GCCD Clean Water Fund. In 2013, four mini-grant applications were approved; 3 at \$1,000 and 1 at \$1,200. Funded projects included two spring development projects for livestock, one heavy use area protection project, and one streambank stabilization project. All of these projects will be completed in 2014.



## GCCD LIME SPREADER RENTAL PROGRAM

As livestock production in the region has transitioned into more grass-based rotational grazing systems, the need for lime to help support quality forage production has become imperative. 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 difficulty is getting lime where it is most needed and at the correct time.

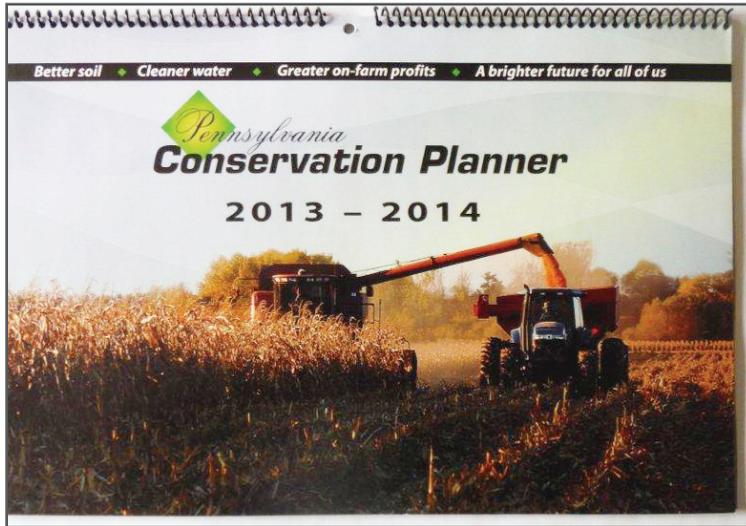
Greene County Conservation District assists producers in getting lime to their fields by maintaining and renting out a specialized lime spreader. A spreader of this size and type is easier to use on steep ground and more maneuverable in smaller pasture paddocks. Additionally, this specific machine is equipped with surge brakes and a longer axle to provide better control and stability on Greene County's hillsides. In 2013, the program's fifth season, the lime spreader was rented to 4 producers, spreading 144 tons of lime on hay and pasture ground in Greene County.

To rent the lime spreader, producers must complete the Lime Spreader Rental Agreement, provide proof of insurance, and pay a \$50 deposit. The standard rental period is three days, and the final rental charge is based on total tons of lime spread. To receive their deposit back, producers must return the machine clean and undamaged.



## PENN'S CORNER RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) councils were created out of the Federal Food and Agriculture Act of 1962. The purpose of this act was to expand opportunities for conservation districts, local governments and individuals to improve their communities by enhancing social, economic, and environmental well-being. Penn's Corner RC&D was officially recognized by the USDA on Dec 10, 1973, and currently has representatives from eight Southwestern Pennsylvania counties. County Conservation Districts and County Commissioners appoint a representative and an alternate. Conservation Districts also appoint a member-at-large. Laurel Rush, our agricultural technician currently serves on the Executive Committee as the Secretary and on the Agriculture & Budget committees.



In 2011, federal funding was lost for RC&D coordinators. The Penn's Corner Charitable Trust continues to function through executive council members and counties that continue to pay dues. The Council has entered into a fiduciary agreement with the River Alert Information Network (RAIN). RAIN is a regional source water protection program dedicated to protecting shared drinking water resources used by community water systems. RAIN's mission is to serve the public by creating an Early Warning System (EWS) in the Ohio River Basin to address public health issues, watershed protection and environmental accountability. They are actively pursuing funding to continue promoting and implementing their goals.

The Agriculture committee has several active projects:

- An encore PA Conservation Planner for 2013-14 was developed with funding provided by the PA DEP.
- The Annual SW No-Till Conference was held January 30, 2013 at the Fred Rogers Center located on the campus of St. Vincent College, with approximately 125 farmers attending.
- PA GLCI continues to partner with SW PA Project Grass Chapter and the Council for the State Grasslands Evaluation Contest which is held annually in May in State College, PA.

## BUY LOCAL BUY GREENE NETWORK

The Buy Local Buy Greene program was launched in 2011 to promote Greene County businesses and educate consumers on the power of buying local. Several local organizations have partnered to provide funding for this initiative which includes a social media campaign, promotional materials, and give-a-way items. There is no cost involved to join the network. Seventeen businesses signed on to the network in 2013 and nearly 50 consumers pledged to spend a total of \$4829/month at local businesses through our online survey.

The Buy Local, Buy Greene campaign is successful due to the partnership of Community Bank, Greene County Conservation District, Greene County Tourism, University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center, Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful, and Waynesburg University Center for Research and Economic Development. The conservation district provides technical assistance in reaching agricultural communities in Greene County. Additionally, Laurel Rush serves as the conservation district's representative on the Economic Restructuring Committee of Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful.



*Unleashing the Power of the  
Consumer Dollar in Greene County*



# COOPERATING AGENCY 2013 REPORTS

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE GREENE COUNTY 2013 REVIEW

2013 was a year of challenges for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Greene County (NRCS), but it was not without its rewards. Abnormally long periods of rain plagued the summer construction season while at the same time temporary NRCS staff changes in the Lemont Furnace Service Center at times called for a redoubled team effort in order to assist Greene County farmers and landowners meet their conservation goals. NRCS was pleased to assist the Greene County Conservation District (GCCD) with the Dirt and Gravel Roads program in Greene, Jackson, and Gilmore Townships. In May representatives of NRCS participated in the 26th annual Greene County Envirothon at Ryerson Station State Park.

NRCS is pleased to report the following conservation practices were completed by Greene County farmers and landowners during 2013:

Soil & water/grazing conservation plans written	421 acres		
<b>Practices Designed and Installed</b>			
Access control	50 acres	Nutrient management	58 acres
Brush management	29 acres	Prescribed grazing	465 acres
Fencing installed	11,024 feet	Spring developments	2
Forage & biomass planting	28 acres	Stream crossings	1
Forest management plan	2 acres	Watering facilities	2
Forest stand improvement	10 acres		

NRCS is appreciative of the continued support and assistance received from the GCCD and its Board of Directors. It is important to note that without partnering agencies such as the Greene County Conservation District it would be difficult if not impossible for NRCS to plan and implement conservation practices throughout Greene County.



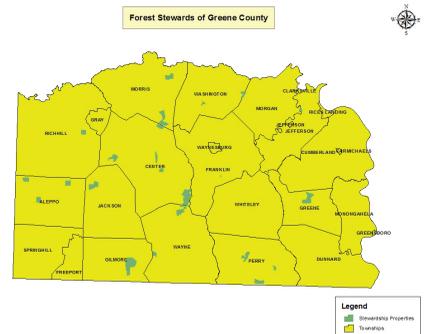
## DCNR BUREAU OF FORESTRY DISTRICT FOUR 2013 REPORT



DCNR assisted 15 private woodland owners throughout Greene County during 2013. Visits included a site examination with landowners and data collection. DCNR sent each landowner a post-visit letter explaining observations, concerns, conclusions, and recommendations. Forest landowners are encouraged to have a Stewardship Plan prepared by a certified technical service provider (consulting forester). Topics covered during visits included NRCS practice certifications, planting assistance, insect and disease recognition, and management plan assistance. There are currently 28 active Stewardship Plans in Greene County.

Russ Gibbs, DCNR Service Forester, conducted various educational forestry demonstrations and programs throughout the county. Groups associated with these programs include Carmichaels Area School District, The Walnut Council, Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association, and Ryerson Station State Park. He currently serves as the DCNR District 4\* Seed Collection Coordinator and Ecological Services (Invasive Species) Liaison. During the spring fire season, he serves as our fire program aircraft dispatcher at the Somerset County Airport.

\*District 4 includes Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Somerset and Washington counties.



# COOPERATING AGENCY CONTACTS

## Farm Service Agency

Michal Kunsman  
Service Center Office  
2800 North Main St., Suite 1  
Washington, PA 15301  
**Bus:** (724) 222-3060 ext 2  
**Fax:** (855) 847-3602  
**Email:** [michal.kunsman@pa.usda.gov](mailto:michal.kunsman@pa.usda.gov)

## USDA / NRCS

Susan C. Funka-Petery  
Lamont Furnace Service Center  
1359 Connellsville Road, Suite 10  
Lamont Furnace, PA 15456  
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**E-mail:** [susan.funka-petery@pa.usda.gov](mailto:susan.funka-petery@pa.usda.gov)

## PA Fish & Boat Commission

Eric Davis  
236 Lake Road  
Somerset, PA 15501-1644  
**Bus:** (814) 445-8974  
**Bus Fax:** (814) 445-3497  
**E-mail:** [erdavis@state.pa.us](mailto:erdavis@state.pa.us)

## PA Game Commission

Steve Leiendecker  
SW Regional Field Office  
4820 Route 711  
Bolivar, PA 15923  
**Bus:** (724) 238-9523  
**E-mail:** [sleiendeck@state.pa.us](mailto:sleiendeck@state.pa.us)

## Penn's Corner RC&D Council

Council Chair: Jan Lauer (Allegheny County)  
Allegheny County Conservation District  
River Walk Corporate Centre  
33 Terminal Way, Suite 325 B  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**Bus:** (412) 241-7645  
**Fax:** (412) 242-6165  
**Email:** [jlauer@accdpa.org](mailto:jlauer@accdpa.org)

## Pennsylvania DEP

Southwest Regional Office  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15322  
**Bus:** (412) 412-4000

## Greene County Commissioners

Greene County Office Building  
3rd Floor  
93 East High Street  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
**Bus:** 724-852-5210  
**Fax:** 724-627-5428  
**Email:**  
Chuck Morris, Chairman  
[cmorris@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:cmorris@co.greene.pa.us)  
Archie Trader, Vice Chairman  
[atrader@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:atrader@co.greene.pa.us)  
Blair Zimmerman, Secretary  
[bzimmerman@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:bzimmerman@co.greene.pa.us)

## DCNR, Bureau of Forestry

Russell Gibbs  
2800 N. Main Street Suite 1  
Washington, PA 15301  
**Bus:** (724) 437-7983  
**E-mail:** [rugibbs@pa.gov](mailto:rugibbs@pa.gov)

## Penn State Cooperative Extension

26 West High Street, Room 1  
Waynesburg, PA 15370-1324  
**Contact:** Joseph Conklin  
**Bus:** 724-627-3745  
**Fax:** 724-852-4318  
**GreeneExt@psu.edu**

### BUREAU DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

JC Thomas  
412-973-0215  
**Dog violations**

DEP CALIFORNIA DISTRICT MINING OFFICE  
724-769-1100  
**Surface or underground mining complaints**

DEP OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
412-442-4006  
**Oil and gas complaints**

GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
724-852-5300  
**Zoning, lot splits, development issues**

NUMBER TO REPORT FOR FINDING DEAD BIRDS/WNV  
1-877-724-3258 EXT.4  
**To report a dead bird of interest**

PENN DOT-GREENE COUNTY  
724-627-6131

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS -  
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT  
412-395-7500  
**Permitting, river and wetland issues**

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
814-234-4090

DEP EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS  
1-800-541-2050  
**Chemical and oil spills from transport  
trucks,  
trains and industrial facilities**



**Greene County  
Conservation District**

19 S. Washington St.,  
Fort Jackson Bldg. Mezzanine  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 503



**Greene County  
Conservation District**

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



## OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the District to commit to protection, stewardship, and conservation of the County's natural resources to ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of the landowners of the County. Over the past year, the Greene County Conservation District Board Members and staff have worked diligently and thoughtfully to promote and protect a diverse range of natural resources within the County. It is the District's belief that conservation works best when people living and working in the local area work together to manage their natural resources collectively. Valuable partnerships are formed when diversity is brought into the conversation and decision-making process. Our office is a conservation-oriented organization that offers a wide variety of expertise and knowledge. The District staff can assist with questions related to permitting, offer guidance on planning for farming, and assist landowners with various topics. The following is a summary of our 2013 accomplishments.

Our District would like to thank the County of Greene and those cooperating agencies and organizations that assist us with our programs. Without the support of these entities, our programs would not be effective for the residents Greene County.

## Display & Outreach Opportunities

- Greene County Fair Display
- Waynesburg Farmers' Market-Planning
- FFA Local and Regional Speaking Contest Judging
- GreeneSaver articles and advertisements
- Quarterly newsletter
- Observer-Reporter news articles



- Southwestern PA Woodlot Owners Association
- Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful
- Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency
- Greene County Farm Bureau
- Greene County Penn State Cooperative Extension
- Greene County Township Association
- Izaak Walton League of America, Harry Enstrom Chapter
- Margaret Belle Miller Middle School
- Greene County Business Expo