COLUMBIA CONSERVATIONIST

COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
702 SAWMILL ROAD, SUITE 204, BLOOMSBURG, PA 17815
Website www.columbiaccd.org

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Volume 13, Issue 17

PHONE - 570-784-1310 (EXT. 102) FAX: 570-784-3247

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

DONALD EDWARDS, *CHAIRMAN*
DOUG BROWN, *VICE-CHAIRMAN*
LYNN ALLBECK, *FARMER DIRECTOR*
RICHARD FETTERMAN, *FARMER DIRECTOR*
JOSEPH HOOSTY, *URBAN DIRECTOR*
DENNIS LeVAN, *FARMER DIRECTOR*
CHRIS YOUNG, *COMMISSIONER*

STAFF:
MARYRUTH WAGNER, *MANAGER*
BARRY TRAVELPIECE, *RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST II*
JOAN SHIVELY, *ADMIN. ASST. /BOOKKEEPER*
JENNIFER LAURI, *RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST I*
HEATHER ALMER, *WATERSHED SPECIALIST*
NANCY CORBIN, *DGLVR TECHNICIAN/WATERSHED SPECIALIST*
EDWIN LEASE, *FARMLAND PRESERVATION ADMIN..*
ANTHONY TARLECKY, *SWAT / ACT TECHNICIAN*

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:
BRIAN CAMPBELL
GREGORY HALADAY
ROBERT SAGAR
TONYA BOSTON-SAGAR
JOAN McCARTY
EDWIN LEASE
RANDY YOUNG
MARK ROHRBACH

"NATIVE PLANTS" and SEEDLING SALE
NEW VARIETIES AVAILABLE

USE ORDER FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE. SELLING APPLE TREES THIS YEAR!! CHECK IT OUT!

NEW TECHNICIAN JOINS CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Please Welcome Anthony Tarlecky to the Conservation District Team!

Tony Tarlecky has joined the conservation team. Tony worked for the district and NRCS as a student intern from Bloomsburg University during the summer of 2014. After graduation in December 2014, he was hired as the new SWAT/ACT Technician working with NRCS and the Conservation District. Tony graduated from Bloomsburg University with a BA degree in Geography and Environmental Planning and wasted no time in getting right to work with the Conservation District. Tony assists farmers and landowners in development of plans and program requirements for different programs offered by USDA/NRCS and the Conservation District. He will be a valuable team member available to help with farm visits, development of manure management plans, and assisting NRCS with their programs. Tony lives with his parents outside of Bloomsburg in Catawissa Township. Call him if you need assistance with plans. He can be reached at 570-784-1310 ext 101.

DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD PROGRAM GETS A MAJOR FUNDING INCREASE

House Bill 1060 increased funding to the PA Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program. The bill increased Program funding from $5 million to $35 million annually with $7 million going to the Bureau of Forestry and $28 million to the State Conservation Commission. Another notable change was the expansion of the Program to include low-volume sealed or paved roads with less than 500 vehicles per day, and the stipulation that at least $8 million of the commission's $28 million be dedicated to improving these low-volume roads. Municipalities that have received training within the last 5 years are eligible for this funding. Deadline for the first round of applications is **April 15, 2015**. Applications will be reviewed by the district's Quality Assurance Board and ranked according to criteria set by the QAB.

Nancy Corbin is the new DGLVR technician. Call her at the Conservation District office for more information (570-784-1310 ext. 123).

REAP: WHAT IS IT??

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program allows farmers and businesses to earn tax credits in exchange for "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 (Commission) and the tax credits are awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. 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. BMPs could include purchase of No-Till equipment, as well as BMPs for ACAs and barnyard runoff, stream bank fencing, manure storage systems, alternative manure treatment practices, filter strips, grassed waterways, management intensive grazing systems and several more BMPs.

This year the application period for REAP opened in July 2014 and has ended March 2015. The State Conservation Commission will reopen the application period in August 2015, funding dependent. This year Columbia County has applied for $268,029.00. The 2014 – 2015 round brought in 19 applicants. This past year many of the applicants applied for BMPs, primarily cover crops. No-Till equipment remained relatively popular. Either way it's great to see so many people motivated to do better on their farm and in the environment! Contact Jen Lauri for more information on the program at 570-784-1310 ext.124.

FISHING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION/CCCD FISH-N-FUN DAY AT KOCHER PARK

Our 6th Fish-N-Fun Day was held at Kocher Park for over 25 individuals and their families and caregivers. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to bring together people with special needs to spend time at Kocher Park and to enjoy spending time on the stream's edge of Fishing Creek. From fishing to face and body painting, many people enjoyed the great out-of-doors. Whether fishing or just enjoying the fun activities it is always a rewarding event. Hikes, scavenger hunts, face painting, searching for "creek critters", and of course fish printing on shirts provided by First Columbia Bank & Trust was a great hit with the participants. Paul Loomis, folk musician, provided musical selections about Fishing Creek and the Watershed. The Kocher Park Committee/FCWA/CCCD have been very busy planning for this year's activities which will be held on **June 6, 2015.** It has always been an objective of the Kocher Park Committee to open the sport of fishing and outdoor opportunities to individuals who may not otherwise be able to get to a stream to enjoy its fun and beauty. Unlimited volunteers and local Boy Scout Troops help with the fishing event.

Mark your calendars for this year's event on **JUNE 6, 2015 from 9am -NOON**. We know it will be another great event by the creek. Contact the District office for more information.

EXPLORE & LEARN THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ENVIROTHON

The 2014 Regional Competition was held on April 29, 2014 at Shikellamy Overlook. Central Columbia High School took first place in this year's competition for Columbia County and were able to enjoy the experience of the State Envirothon. Members of Columbia County's winning team and those competing in the state's event were: Walker Murphy, Graham Rhone, Austin Young, JD Vance and Zach Taylor. Advisors were Doug Brown and Kirk Seesholtz.

The State Envirothon was held at Susquehanna University May 20 & 21, 2014. The 2014 current environmental issue focused on Sustainable Agriculture—Locally Grown. Five member teams participate in a series of field-oriented tests that focus on five topic areas—Soils and Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and current environmental issues. The teams also prepare and deliver oral presentations to panels of judges who evaluate each team on its problem-solving capabilities, oral presentation skills and recommendations to help solve the specific environmental challenge, which relates to the current environmental issue. At the 2014 State event, Central Columbia placed **16th** overall out of 67 teams. Congratulations on a job well done. The 2015 event will be held at University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown Campus on May 19 & 20, 2015.

Our local competition, the **2015 Susquehanna Valley Regional Competition** will be held at Shikellamy State Park Overlook, on **Tuesday, April 28, 2015.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENVIROTHON

A total of 36 teams from 4 counties participated in the 16th Annual 2014 Middle School competition. In **2014,** 1st Place went to **Bloomsburg Christian School.** Team members were under the advisement of Mr. Joshua Greene. Members of the Bloomsburg Christian team were: Marcie Harman, Josiah Smith, Joanna Stank and Steven Campbell. Other schools from Columbia County participating were Benton, Central Columbia, and Millville. On **May 13**, **2015,** Columbia County will participate in the 17th Middle School Envirothon, which will again be held at the PPL Montour Preserve. This competition has been created to provide a learning session along with the testing at each of 4 stations. The stations are the same as the High School Envirothon except for the Current Issue. There will be activities in the areas of Soils and Land Use, Aquatics, Wildlife, Forestry, and a non-testing "fun" station. Each station will provide an instructional period where the students will listen to a presentation. This event is opened to 7th and 8th grade students in the middle schools. Schools may now bring up 4 teams/school. We hope that this event will encourage students to participate in the high school Envirothon when they get to ninth grade.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT SUPPORTED COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2014 ENVIROTHON :

CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
BCAWS
ROARING CREEK VALLEY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
FISHING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
UNITED WATER
STACKHOUSE & SON WELL DRILLING
BLOOMSBURG VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 804
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEAGION POST 743
AMERICAN LEGION POST 743

Columbia County High School Winners
Central Columbia High School

Columbia County Middle School Winners
Columbia County Christian School

WHAT IS A WATERSHED!

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common body of water. High points serve as watershed boundaries, with water flowing downhill and collecting in tributaries and streams. Columbia County Conservation District (CCCD) works with four volunteer watershed groups in our county. These groups are all dedicated to protecting and conserving the county's natural resources and are always looking for volunteers to join in their efforts. Learn more about what watershed you live in and consider getting involved to make a difference by contacting the CCCD watershed specialists Heather Almer or Nancy Corbin. **Here is what our local watershed groups have been up to:**

Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) – Catawissa Creek Restoration Association continues their work to improve watershed water quality impacted by acid mine drainage and concentrates their efforts on the upkeep and maintenance of three passive water treatment facilities that feed into Catawissa Creek. These facilities are raising the pH to levels necessary to sustain aquatic life in the streams and support successful trout propagation. The group meets on the 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm on even months, at the Banquet Hotel in Ringtown. Check out their website at http://www.thecattie.org for meeting times and project descriptions.

Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association (RCVCA) – Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association is busy planning for the 7th annual 5K and Half-Marathon Hellbender Race to be held at Weiser State Forest on August 16, 2015. Last year's race netted $4720, which the association has used to fund watershed clean-ups, Hellbender studies (an aquatic salamander that has suffered decline and for which the race is named), scholarships for high school students committed to conservation, and the annual Susquehanna Valley Envirothon, among other projects. The group is looking to resume activity with stream monitoring in the near future. They meet monthly at 7pm, the 3rd Thursday of the month at Southern Columbia High School, except for special programs –listed on their website at: http://rcvca.org.

Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions (BCAWS) - BCAWS has been busy working to implement recommendations from their 2013 Coldwater Conservation Plan to improve water quality in the Briar Creek Watershed. Watershed boundary signs were installed to help raise community awareness of the watershed. The group has continued their partnership with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to build and install aquatic habitat structures at Briar Creek Lake. Lightstreet Boy Scout Troop 20 helped BCAWS and the Commission build fish structures last spring. They are planning to do a streambank planting and fencing project, and provided in- kind services toward the completion of the Evansville Motorcross Park streambank stabilization project last fall. BCAWS hosted their fourth annual Columbia County Watershed Roundtable. It is a great opportunity for the watershed groups to network and share ideas. Events and educational programs are updated on the BCAWS website so check it often. www. columbiaccd.org/html/bcaws.html.

Fishing Creek Watershed Association (FCWA) – Fishing Creek Watershed Association had a great 2014 full of educational opportunities and events such as a presentation by Walter Brasch on the fracking industry, a hands on invasive plant workshop series led by DCNR Forester Marty Martynowych, and volunteering at Kocher Park clean ups and Fish- n- Fun. The group also provided in- kind services toward the Greene property streambank stabilization project and had an on-site tour of the project a few months after completion. FCWA finished out the year with the nomination of the following new officers who were voted in at the January 2015 meeting: Susan Webster, President; Clay Corbin, Vice President; Jennifer Whisner, Secretary; and Monica Howell, Treasurer. FCWA continued planning for a water quality monitoring project on Little Fishing Creek and plan to volunteer efforts toward the Fishing Creek Hydro Watch citizen science project led by a group from Bloomsburg University. Visit FCWA's website for more information and upcoming events at http://fcwa.net.

6TH ANNUAL
WOODCOCK WATCH WAS HELD
March 25, 2015

The timberdoodles are back! Local interested birders, wildlife naturalists, scouts, and other interested people enjoyed a wonderful outdoor experience at the home of Chris and Pam Young's, Orangeville, PA on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. Presenters included Joe Faux, President, Woodcock Limited of Pennsylvania, Doug Gross, PA Game Commission, Kurt Bond, Wildlife Biologist with Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever.

Chris Young presented information on tracking woodcocks with satellite transmitters (PTTs) as part of cutting-edge research conducted by the USGS Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Woodcock Limited, and the USFWS. These solar-powered PTTs are small enough to fit on a woodcock's back during migration and powerful enough to transmit multiple locations to the ARGOS satellite network.

The location data from this project will be used to document timing of migration initiation, rate of migration, stopover length, routes taken, and final destination for both spring and fall migration. This data can then be used to identify priority areas to focus habitat management and conservation efforts for woodcock along migration routes. Information was provided by Tom Cooper, a Bloomsburg Native, now working for U. S. Fish & Wildlife.

.

COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES		INCOME	
Salaries	$153,552.62	County Commissioners	$53,038.00
Staff Expenses	$8,431.27	State & Bay Cost-Share	$101,918.61
Payroll Taxes	$11,904.61	Sales	$9,271.28
Educational Expenses	$6,377.19	Miscellaneous	$87.00
Sales	$6,492.48	Interest	$4.07
Special Events	$2,829.51		$0.00
Office Expenses	$2,995.20	Special Projects	$17,667.45
Insurance, Bonds	$5,498.00	Administrative Assistance (102,105, etc.)	$2,847.14
Rent	$7,514.64	E&S Fee Schedule	$29,851.00
Equipment & Repair	$3,976.61	NPDES	$7,500.00
Directors' Expenses	$1,520.38	Farmland Preservation Admin.	$2,550.00
Dues	$1,618.00	Transfer	$21,715.85
Annual Report/Newsletters	$981.36	Dirt & Gravel Road	$7,752.40
Farmland Preservation	$3,117.50	Watershed Specialist Grant	$32,842.88
Staff Benefits	$33,835.76	Environmental Education	$1,680.00
SWAT	$53,394.02	Grant	149,997.94
Watershed Specialist Salary/ Expenses	$37,165.98	Chapter 105 Fees	$4,200.00
Miscellaneous	$1,055.22	SWAT	$50,372.00
Transfers	$3,000.00	Balance as of end of 2013	$23,124.59
Field Days/Workshops	$294.20		
Dirt & Gravel Road Program	$794.35	TOTAL INCOME	$516,420.21
Grant Expenses	$140,99348		
Audit	$5,623.55		
TOTAL EXPENSES	$493,040.93		

CHESAPEAKE BAY NEWS IN COLUMBIA COUNTY
Jennifer Lauri, Resource Conservationist

Chesapeake Bay farm visits continue being conducted in Columbia County. Visits made by District staff are intended to assist landowners and provide them with knowledge of regulations. A visit with the Conservation District can offer prepared Manure Management Plans with a map of your property, planning and technical assistance, as well as prepared Ag Erosion & Sedimentation plans.
A written Agriculture E&S Plan is required for any agricultural plowing or tilling over 5,000 square feet, including no-till cropping, and for animal heavy use areas such as barnyards, feedlots, loafing areas, exercise lots, etc. The Agriculture E&S Plan must include cost-effective and reasonable best management practices (BMPs) to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation. A Conservation Plan that meets the state regulatory requirements, often prepared with the help of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), may be used in place of an Agriculture E&S Plan.
Compliance with these regulations is essential, as more than 5,000 miles of Pennsylvania streams are impaired because of agricultural impacts. In Pennsylvania, agriculture is listed as the most significant source of pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay. Daily the Conservation District strives to improve the Chesapeake Bay in numerous ways.
Manure Management Plans and Ag. Erosion & Sedimentation Plans are executed to put into perspective what happens to your manure as well as your soil.
This past spring and summer much of staff time was directed to visiting with farm and animal owners conducting visits and educating individuals on soil and nutrient loss. Since January 2014, fifty seven people consisting of grain farms, large animal operations, and hobby farms were visited.
The visits have resulted in forty-six completed Manure Management Plans and eleven Agriculture Erosion and Sedimentation Plans. The visits have not only made individuals compliant with the current regulations but they have resulted in interest in other programs.

Please call Jennifer Lauri at 570-784-1310 x 124 for more information.

STREAM STABILIZATION PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Stream stabilization projects can help protect our streams from pollution and improve habitat both in and along the stream banks. Non-point source pollution such as siltation from eroding banks and increased nitrate levels from fertilizer runoff and livestock negatively impacts wildlife and increases costs to treat drinking water. Best management practices such as riparian buffers, stream bank fencing, and agricultural crossings are some solutions to help keep streams protected from non-point source pollution. Habitat structures for fish and other aquatic organisms also help to support stream ecosystems and wildlife populations. If you own land along a stream that could benefit from some of these projects, contact the Conservation District. There is government funding available for stream rehabilitation for streams meeting required criteria.

Evansville Motor cross Park
Owner: Duane and Tracy Fisher
Location: Briar Creek Township
Scope: Significantly reduced sediment load to a Briar Creek tributary by constructing fish habitat structures, plantings and rock protection to stabilize banks and reduce streambed grade near dirt motorcross tracks.

Montour Township Farm
Owner: Joshua and Nichole Greene
Location: Montour Township
Scope: Constructed fish habitat structures, plantings and rock protection to stabilize banks and help reduce occurrence of stream jumping the bank to the adjacent pasture road. An agriculture crossing for livestock was also constructed and stream bank fencing will be installed this season.

Manure Management Workshops

The revised DEP Manure Management Manual released in October 2011 requires everyone in Pennsylvania that produces or land applies animal manure to develop and implement a written Manure Management Plan (MMP). This also includes equine operations (large and small) as well as small animal operations. Any operations having pastures or Animal Concentration Areas are also required to comply. Your County Conservation District is your local resource to get these plans completed. Columbia County Conservation District is holding multiple free Manure Management Plan Workshops near you.

The next workshop will be held on **April 15, 2015 at the Columbia County Ag Center, Bloomsburg from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

Attendees will receive **free** soil test kits as well as a **free** meal!

Please register for the workshop by calling your Columbia County Conservation District:
570.784.1310 x 124

POSTER CONTEST

The District sponsored their annual Poster Contest. We received many creative posters! Thank you to Brian Campbell (Farmer Moofy) for his continued support of the CCCD Earth Day Poster Contest by sponsoring the event with cash prizes and corn certificates to winning students in each grade category.

Hundreds of Columbia county students from kindergarten to twelfth grade participated in the 2014 Poster Contest. Students incorporated science and art to learn about the importance of soil. Winning contest posters are located on our website at http://www.columbiaccd.org/poster-contest.html .

2015 contest is now in full swing. Posters are due to the Conservation District by April 24, 2015. This year's theme is "Local Heroes—Your Hardworking Pollinators". Students Get Creative!!!

Diverse Species Cover Crop Incentive Program

Columbia, Montour, & Northumberland County Conservation Districts announce Diverse Species Cover Crop Incentive Program!

This year will be the first year this program is offered. We are excited to spread the word about soil health and all the benefits. We would like you to see the benefits too!

The goal of the program is to improve soil health by incorporating diverse species cover crop mixes into a systems approach including No-Till and diverse species cover cropping to regenerate soils and profits on farms. We would like to help you appreciate how successful use of cover crops can improve soil health on local farms while reducing production costs and increasing infiltration.

Applicants must reside in or farm acres in Columbia, Montour or Northumberland County. You must be willing to plant cover crops for two consecutive years minimum. To be eligible you must be planting cover crops for the first time OR if you have previously planted cover crops be willing to plant multi – species cover crops in this program rather than a single species cover crop.

For a full list of guidelines and application call your County Conservation District.

Columbia CCD – 570-784-1310 x 124

Montour CCD – 570-271-1140

Northumberland CCD – 570-495-4665

DISTRICT OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Due APRIL 10, 2015

LAVERE McCLURE SCHOLARSHIP—$300 scholarship available to high school seniors planning to pursue a degree in natural sciences/environmental education.

EDGAR "TED" FENSTERMACHER SCHOLARSHIP—$300 scholarship available to high school seniors planning to pursue a degree in agriculture/agriculture related field.
***(*Students must provide an acceptance letter from the college/ university they will be attending.)**

PENN STATE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP SCHOOL—Available to high school students (ages 14-18) that have completed 9th grade. Week long session focusing on natural resource issues, conservation, and wildlife. District will provide **$400** toward the tuition of $525.

48TH ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL BANQUET

WILL FEATURE NEWLY APPOINTED ACTING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE RUSSELL REDDING

We are very excited to announce this year's Guest Speaker for the 48th Agricultural Banquet, Acting Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding. **This year's "Tri-Ag Banquet" as it was once called, will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at the Columbia/ Montour Vo-tech High School.** The annual event is a celebration of the farming community and their accomplishments. The Columbia County Conservation District along with USDA/Farm Services Agency and Penn State Cooperative Extension will sponsor the entertaining evening with awards and accomplishments of our partners in the agricultural arena. The Banquet will begin at 6:00 pm. Tickets can be obtained from the following agencies: CCCD, 784-1310 x102; FSA 784-4722 x106; and PSU Extension 784-6660. Cost is $15.00/person.

Winston and Debbie Jarrard were recipients of the 2013 R.J. Campbell Award at last year's banquet. Their Roaring Creek Evergreen Farm is located in Roaring Creek Township, Columbia County. The Jarrard Farm is over 245 acres and the award is given to a farmer who implements best management practices on their farm and participates in agricultural programs sponsored by the Columbia County Conservation District and USDA/NRCS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBBIE AND WINSTON JARRARD.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM in COLUMBIA COUNTY

Our Columbia County Farmland Preservation Program continues to grow in the county. Under the guidance of the Farmland Preservation Board, and Edwin Lease, program administrator, Columbia County continues to acquire valuable farmland and put farms into permanent conservation easements which protects viable agricultural lands from development or change in land use for any purpose other than agricultural production. The Columbia County Farmland Preservation Board, has been in existence since 1990. Members are appointed by the Columbia County Commissioners. Members serving on the Columbia County Farmland Preservation Board have the responsibility of preserving and protecting farmland in our county. Ray LeVan, Chairman, Eugene Minnick, Vice Chairman, Dennis Sharrow, Secretary, Ray Tucker, David Artman, Ronnie Rhoads and Judy Kipe-Nolt are appointed by the County Commissioners to serve on this committee. The first easement purchased in Columbia County was in 1993. Since then, there are 36 farms with a total of 3,983 acres enrolled in the program.

To get more information on this valuable program in Columbia County, please contact Ed Lease at the Conservation District at 784-1310 ext. 102.

MISSION STATEMENT

TO LEAD THE CITIZENS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY IN SUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR SHARED AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE BEST QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK OR CHECK OUR "NEW" WEBSITE AT

www.columbiaccd.org

ANNUAL TREE SALE NOW IN PROGRESS

Our **2015 SALE** will include **NATIVE VARIETIES** :

NEW THIS YEAR—Apple Trees—Crimson Crisp, dwarf and Golden Delicious, dwarf. Planting two varieties is highly recommended for a good fruit crop. The trees are bareroot.

- **Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern White Pine (NATIVE), Fraser Fir and Douglas Fir,** seedlings sold in bundles of 25 seedlings.
- Our deciduous seedlings will include **White Flowering Dogwoods, Red Oak, and Sugar Maple.** Seedlings will be sold in bundles of 5 seedlings or you may buy individually.
- **Blue Rug Junipers, Goldenstar 'Superstar', Appalachian Blue Violet 'Silver Gem'** will be sold. These ground covers grow low to the ground and spread to cover areas of exposed soil preventing soil erosion.
- **Blueberry Bushes** will be offered again this year with two varieties offered, **"Sweetheart and Blue Crop".** These bushes are container grown.
- **Native Perennials—Blue Star Grande, Swamp Milkweed, Aster 'October Skies', Purple Coneflower, Star tickseed 'Sunshine Superman', Woodland Phlox 'Blue Moon', New Jersey Tea, and 'Claire Grace' Bee Balm.** These will be available in 4 -1/2" plugs.
- **Native Grasses—Little Bluestem 'Standing Ovation' and Oak Sedge** will be sold in 4-1/2" plugs.
- **Native Bareroot Shrubs: Arrowwood, Northern Bayberry, American Cranberry, and Winterberry will be sold.** Note: Winterberry and Bayberry will only be sold in bundles of 5 because they require multiple plants for pollination.
- We are bringing back **Northeast Annual & Perennial Wildflower Seed Mix.** This is a beautiful mix of native and naturalized wildflowers designed to attract birds and butterflies. This will be sold in 1 ounce packets and will cover a 200 sq. area.
  Vines include **Wisteria 'Blue Moon'** for this year.
  Ferns: 'Maidenhair' Ferns will be sold this year.
- **Bluebird Houses are available again this year.**
- **Compost will be available for cash and carry.**

HELPFUL HINT: Use native plants to create a rain garden to collect water runoff and beautify that hard to manage area in your yards.

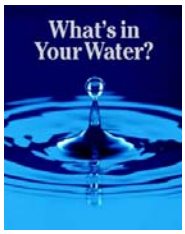
Visit our website @ columbiaccd.org and check out our new catalog for a more in-depth description of plants and shrubs. If you should have difficulty opening the site call us and we will provide the needed information.

COLUMBIA-MONTOUR COALITION for SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

"Working Together to Protect our Water Supplies"

By: Heather Almer, Watershed Specialist

JOIN US IN PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER!



Drinking water clinics: 54 *Well water owners* in our counties had their well water tested for free and attended a session on upkeep of wells and well water quality by Penn State Extension Water Educators in April.

Sustaining your Water Supply through Land Use and Planning tools: for *Municipal officials*- about half of Columbia counties township officials attended this workshop by Stanford Lembeck, the founder of the PA Municipal Planning Education Institute in March.

Drinking water education programs for youth and adults using Enviroscape and groundwater models for 500+ Elementary students and Middle school students at Southern Columbia, Central Columbia, Greenwood Friends, Beaver Main and for the *general public* at the Children's Museum (Adult Learning Series), the Bloomsburg Fair and the Community Expo.

Pipeline Safety Event: hosted an event to educate community of the potential environmental impacts and basic information with Lynda Farrell of the Pipeline Safety Coalition, Julie Kollar and Roberta Winters (League of Women Voters)- reached 75 plus many more on you-tube.

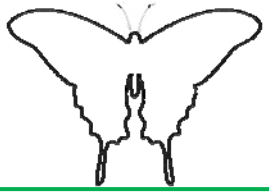
Check out some new CITIZEN SCIENCE projects developed in 2014. Information on these projects is available at the District office or at the Kocher Park Kiosk.

EXPLORE

RECORD

LEARN

A Checklist of the Adult Butterflies of Columbia County, PA



Compiled and Presented by Clay E. Corbin, PhD Bloomsburg University

NPDES REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Barry Travelpiece, P.E.

Many people know that a permit associated with earth disturbance, referred to as an NPDES permit, is required when an earthmoving project will disturb one or more acres of land or is part of a larger plan of development that disturbs over one acre of land. What most people don't realize is that this permit has requirements and obligations for the landowner before, during, and after the projects are completed.

Before construction, the developer is required to prepare plans and drawing showing how the project will be conducted to prevent sediment from leaving the site during construction. A separate set of plans and drawings, referred to as the post construction stormwater management plan (PCSM), must be prepared that identifies potential increases in stormwater runoff rate and volume from the project after development is completed and show how any increases will be eliminated or minimized. Once the plans are approved and the permit is issued, the permittee is required to record the portion of the PCSM that shows all the practices and techniques, and maintenance requirements, collectively known as best management practices (BMP's) required to assure the stormwater discharges meet the long term permit requirements. Currently the regulations required this information to be recorded at the courthouse within 45 days of permit issuance in such a manner that it will be identified with a deed search of the property. Proof of the recording must be provided to the Conservation District within 90 days of permit issuance.

During development of the site, the developer and the earthmover must implement the (BMP's) that are shown on the plans to minimize any offsite impacts. These include BMP's that prevent clean water from coming in contact with disturbed areas, minimizing the area disturbed and the length of disturbance, and treating of any runoff leaving the site to remove sediment and other pollutants. The permittee is also required to inspect the site weekly and after each runoff event to assure that the BMP's are adequate and functioning. Any deficiencies found must be corrected immediately. Each inspection must be documented in a written report and be available at the site.

After the earthmoving on the site is completed and the area stabilized, the permittee or his designee must maintain the BMP's that are required to control stormwater increases and were identified in the second plan mentioned above. These are the same BMPs that were recorded before construction began. When any portion of the property is sold with these required BMP's on it, the new owner is required to maintain the BMP's.

Please contact the Conservation District at 570-784-1310 Ext 102 with any questions.

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR EROSION & SEDIMENTATION PLAN REVIEWS

Barry Travelpiece, P.E.

The Columbia County Conservation District has had another busy year implementing the erosion and sediment control program. During 2014 the District issued 13 NPDES permits and one ESCGP permit on behalf of DEP. In addition, over 50 plans for non-permitted projects were also submitted. Together these plans impacted projects in excess of 7100 acres with over 400 acres of actual planned disturbance.

As always, the Conservation District is ready to assist landowners in understanding requirements related to earth disturbance. It is suggested that anyone planning on doing any development or earthmoving contact the Conservation District early in the planning process to assure that all requirements are known.

COLUMBIA CONSERVATIONIST

Columbia County
Conservation District
702 Sawmill Road, Suite 204
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
BLOOMSBURG, PA 17815
PERMIT No. 147

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
2015
ANNUAL TREE SALE

FRANK KOCHER MEMORIAL PARK
LAND ACQUISITION GRANT

Kocher Park Expands to Almost 60 Acres!

The purchase of 45 acres from Jack and Dawn Johnson was finalized in June of 2014. The land is adjacent to Kocher Park and includes meadow, wooded and riparian (stream) habitats for visitors to enjoy. The District is partnering with a Bloomsburg University ecology class to have a conservation plan created for the new property to help plan trails and inventory natural resources. BU students will also be assisting with educational signage for the new property. Thank you again to the public for supporting the park expansion purchase through donations to serve as a match to the Department of Community and Economic Development Grant.