

COLUMBIA CONSERVATIONIST

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

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Volume 14, Issue 18

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

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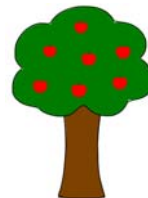
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"NATIVE PLANTS" and SEEDLING SALE NEW VARIETIES AVAILABLE

USE ORDER FORM IN THIS
NEWSLETTER OR GO TO
OUR WEBSITE.

SELLING APPLE TREES THIS
YEAR!! CHECK IT OUT!

ORDERS DUE APRIL 22, 2016.



NEW FACE JOINS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Please Welcome Tracey Oman to the Conservation District Team!



Tracey K. Oman, is the new face at the Conservation District. She has been hired as Administrative Assistant at the district. She replaced Joan Shively following Joan's retirement in June. Tracey, a native of Orangeville, lives on Route 487, with her husband Mike. They have 3 children, Jared, Nick, and Reilley. Tracey will be taking on many duties at the district. She will be the friendly face behind the counter when registering for meetings, tree sale orders, banquet reservations, environmental education events, camps, etc. Tracey is a graduate of Central Columbia High School. She and her family live near Kocher Park. Her hobbies include cooking, spending time with her family and raising and "dressing up" her chickens. Her children have been involved in Central Columbia's FFA program for many years. Her interest and enthusiasm in the environment is a reflection on her work at the district. Stop by and welcome Tracey to the Conservation "Team".

Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Road Program Funding Available!

Purpose: To improve the water quality of our streams

Sediment is the largest pollutant by volume to the waters of Pennsylvania. Dirt and aggregate from rural roads have a large impact on our streams. The Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program (DGLVR) provides funding from the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to help reduce pollution in our streams and waterways through maintenance of municipal roads.

Funding: Available for Columbia County municipalities

Through our Quality Assurance Board, the Conservation District administers SCC funds to improve the water quality of our streams. The District receives approximately \$69,000 for low volume road projects (paved or sealed roads with less than 500 cars per day) that negatively impact a stream, and \$322,000 for dirt and gravel road projects that negatively impact a stream annually.

Eligibility: Projects must meet all environmental requirements below to be considered.

Is Your Municipality Eligible for DGLVR Funding?	YES	NO
Does the road site negatively impact a stream or waterway?	✓	
Does the project reduce environmental impacts to a water body?	✓	
Has the person in charge of the proposed project attended Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) training in past 5 years?	✓	
Has the applicant agreed to obtain all necessary permits?	✓	
LVR only: Is the traffic count 500 vehicles per day or less?	✓	

Training: Save the date for required local ESM training

Upcoming regional Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) training sessions are posted on the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads Center website at <http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/>. A Columbia-Montour session is scheduled for **March 29th and 30th** , Pine Barn Inn, Danville. Register through the Center now to be eligible for funds.

Grader Blade Loan Program: Save time and money, protect water resources

Loan the District’s rotating carbide-tipped grader blades to maintain roads with a refundable deposit of \$150. Thank you to Orange Township for storing the blades and assisting with the loan program.

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



EXPLORE & LEARN THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ENVIROTHON

The 2015 Regional Competition was held on April 28, 2015 at Shikellamy Overlook. **Benton 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: Andrew Cross, Nathan Mueller, Garret Watson, Greg Williams, and Nowell Covington. Advisors were Chris Mitchell and Doug McCracken.

The State Envirothon was held at the University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown, May 19-20, 2015. 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 2015 State event, Benton placed **16th** overall out of 67 teams. Congratulations on a job well done. The 2016 event will be held at Susquehanna University & Camp Mount Luther, May 24 & 25, 2016.

Our local competition, the **2016 Susquehanna Valley Regional Competition** will be held at Shikellamy Overlook State Park on **Tuesday, April 26, 2016**.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENVIROTHON

A total of 28 teams from 4 counties participated in the 17th Annual 2015 Middle School competition. In **2015**, 1st Place went to **Line Mountain**. Other schools from Columbia County participating were Benton, Bloomsburg Christian, Central Columbia, and Millville. On **May 10, 2016**, Columbia County will participate in the 18th 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

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT SUPPORTED COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2015 ENVIROTHON

CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

LARSON DESIGN GROUP

BRIAR CREEK ASSN. FOR WATERSHED SOLUTIONS

ROARING CREEK VALLEY CONSERVATION ASSOC.

FISHING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

UNITED WATER

STACKHOUSE & SON WELL DRILLING

BLOOMSBURG VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 804

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEAGION POST 273

AMERICAN LEGION POST 273

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 273



FISHING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION/CCCD

FISH-N-FUN DAY AT KOCHER PARK

Our 7th 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, 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. Sefa Saracoglu provided music and invited participants to play his drums. The Kocher Park Committee/FCWA/CCCD have been very busy planning for this year's activities which will be held on **June 4, 2016**. 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 4, 2016 from 9am -NOON**. We know it will be another great event by the creek. Contact the District office for more information or visit our website.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR WATERSHED?

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. Currently the group is trying to support efforts to purchase the Butler property where the Audenreid facility is located, so that the system can get back to what it was designed to do--raise the pH to levels necessary to sustain aquatic life in the streams and support successful trout propagation. The group used the 2014 Schuylkill County grant to purchase a leaf guard cover for the Oneida 3 facility. 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 8th annual 5K and Half-Marathon Hellbender Race to be held at Weiser State Forest on August 21, 2016 (pending DCNR approvals and the pipeline construction schedule). Last year's race netted \$3,136, which the association has used to fund Water Education Day for 8th Graders in Columbia County, local scholarships for high school students, clean-ups, the annual Susquehanna Valley Environment, among other projects. The group is now engaged in stream monitoring in the watershed, and keeping an eye out for local Hellbender populations (the elusive aquatic salamander that has suffered decline and for which the race is named). 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 continues to work toward implementing recommendations from their 2013 Coldwater Conservation Plan to improve water quality in the Briar Creek Watershed. They are working to procure grant funding for riparian buffer work and stream bank fencing projects to help reduce the pollutant load on Briar Creek and its tributaries. BCAWS was also busy with watershed education outreach last year. Member Mary Jo Gibson presented many programs throughout the year. BCAWS was proud to have the Conservation District's first Water Education Day event held in their watershed at Briar Creek Lake. BCAWS members were vital volunteers working all day to help make the event for over 500 Columbia County eighth graders a success. Events and educational programs are updated on the BCAWS website so check it often: <http://www.columbiaccd.org/bcaws.html>. BCAWS finished the year with the election of new officers Ben Franek, President, Patti Hosler, Vice-President, Tom Clymer, Secretary, and Ruth Bogart Treasurer.



Fishing Creek Watershed Association (FCWA) – FCWA had a busy year with educational opportunities and projects such as Kocher Park cleanups, Fish n Fun, establishing a pollinator garden, and sponsoring a presentation on the history of the watershed. The group had a wonderful presentation by member Tonya Boston Sagar on the importance of pollinators and the diminishing habitat of the monarch butterfly. FCWA went into action and planted 70 swamp and common milkweed plants in the north meadow of Kocher Park. They are happy to report that monarch caterpillars were found on the plants and are looking forward to establishing more native, pollinator-friendly plants in the meadow to support monarch butterflies and other pollinators crucial to our ecosystem and crop production. The group also enjoyed hosting a county-wide watershed meeting to share network with the other groups and share ideas about conservation projects and outreach. Visit FCWA's website for more information and upcoming events at www.fcwa.net.



**JOIN US FOR THE
7TH ANNUAL
WOODCOCK WATCH
March 30, 2016**

Local birders, wildlife naturalists, scouts, and other interested people will enjoy an evening hike to seek out the wonderful mysterious Woodcock.—mark your calendars for the 7th annual woodcock watch! We will again be monitoring the migration of the woodcock through satellite transmitters and document the rate, stopover length, routes taken, and the final destination for both spring and fall migration. Come join us at the home of Chris and Pam Young, 529 Zaners/Rohrsburg Road, Orangeville, PA on Wednesday, March 30 2016. Presenters will include local representatives from Woodcock Limited of Pennsylvania, PA Game Commission, and Pheasants Forever, Inc./ Quail Forever.

COVER CROP SURVEY

By: Tony Tarlecky SWAT/ACT Technician

This past November, Tony Tarlecky, SWAT/ACT Technician participated in the Columbia County Cover Crop Survey. He assisted Tim Emenheiser, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Susan Richards from Capital RC&D for this two day survey. This was a data collection survey that covered most of Columbia County consisting of over 800 plotted points. Points were previously plotted back in 2013. At every data point, the crew stopped and collected data looking to see if the crop field was cover cropped after fall harvest or not. We looked to see what the previous crop harvested was, if the cover crop was single or multi-species, and also if fall tillage was used. During the survey, we noticed that some of the points we stopped at, the crop was not harvested yet. This data is invaluable in determining soil health and water quality. We will go back out in the spring to the same data points for the Tillage Survey to see if spring tillage is used or not. The purpose of these data collections is to see how of each county is meeting the requirements for the Chesapeake Bay.

COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES		INCOME	
Salaries	\$167,296.93	County Commissioners	\$53,038.00
Staff Expenses	\$9,141.72	State & Bay Cost-Share	\$83,676.33
Payroll Taxes	\$16,461.54	Sales	\$11,905.94
Educational Expenses	\$5,679.23	Miscellaneous	\$1,330.20
Sales	\$6,983.56	Interest	\$6.52
Special Events	\$1,932.34	ACT 13 UGWF	\$55,791.92
Office Expenses	\$4,143.95	Special Projects	\$4,490.51
Insurance, Bonds	\$4,238.00	Kocher Park	92.83
Rent	\$6,888.42	E&S Fee Schedule	\$68,541.25
Equipment & Repair	\$5,031.09	NPDES	\$6000.00
Directors' Expenses	\$2,261.61	Farmland Preservation Admin.	\$2,413.50
Dues	\$1,782.80	Transfer	\$57,837.17
Annual Report/Newsletters	\$970.02	Dirt & Gravel Road	\$9,018.13
Farmland Preservation	\$2,287.25	Watershed Specialist Grant	\$33,968.14
Staff Benefits	\$45,188.91	Environmental Education	\$3,377.23
SWAT	\$34,003.04	Grant	\$43,865.44
Watershed Specialist Salary/	\$41,755.71	Chapter 105 Fees	\$3,525.00
Expenses		SWAT	\$23,437.17
Miscellaneous	\$1,191.03	ACT	\$18,964.66
Transfers	\$10,500.00		
Field Days/Workshops	\$25.00	Balance as of end of 2014	<u>\$23,379.18</u>
Dirt & Gravel Road Program	\$10,755.90		
Grant Expenses	\$50,725.64		
Audit	<u>\$5,776.80</u>	TOTAL INCOME	\$504,659.12
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$435,020.49		

POSTER CONTEST

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 2015 Poster Contest. Students incorporated science and art to learn about the importance of pollinators. Winning contest posters are located on our website at <http://www.columbiaccd.org/poster-contest.html>. Posters for the 2016 Poster Contest will be accepted at the District office until **April 22nd**. Students will be learning about the importance of trees. Contest rules and information are posted on our website.



KOCHER PARK EXPANSION APPRECIATION EVENT

On a beautiful September evening, the Kocher Park Committee and Conservation District sponsored an appreciation event along Fishing Creek on the newly acquired additional property to Kocher Park. The event was a tremendous success, with music, wine, food and displays that highlighted the steps in acquiring the property with the help of many businesses, commissioners, agencies, and people of the community. We felt this was an opportunity to thank everyone that made the purchase of this property a reality. A special thanks to Jack and Dawn Johnson, for their pictures and history about the property. Without them coming to the Conservation District with a proposal to purchase this property, this would not have become a reality. We acquired a grant through DCED/CFA but with that we had to come up with a 50% match of funds. Through the tireless efforts of the district, FCWA, the Kocher Park Committee, and Friends of Kocher Park to find donators we met our goal. We still need donations to help maintain this property with a parking lot, trails, etc. If you would like to support the park, contact the district at 570-784-1310 x102 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.

2015 STREAM STABILIZATION PROJECTS

Jackson Township Property

Owner: Joe and Kay Hoosty

Location: Green Creek, Jackson Township

Scope: Constructed fish habitat structures to stabilize heavily-eroding stream banks along approximately 300 feet of Green Creek.



Roaring Creek Township Property



Owner: Cale and Deanna Beaver

Location: Roaring Creek, Roaring Creek Township

Scope: Constructed fish habitat structures and rock protection to help reduce erosion and sediment load to the headwaters of Roaring Creek. The project stabilized approximately 800 feet of bank along Roaring Creek.

CONNECTING SOILS & PROFITS

NO-TILL, COVER CROPS, SOIL HEALTH, & GRAZING

David Brandt farms 1150 acres all no-till, in Fairfield County, Central Ohio. He began no-till farming in 1971 and has been using cover crops since 1978.



David has participated in yield plots for corn, soybeans, and wheat into various covers. This information has been used by seed growers as well as county agents and universities to encourage other farmers to adapt no-till practices in their farming operations. He has also been planting various blends of cover crops to find out what benefits they provide to improve soil health.

Jim Hoorman is an Assistant Professor and Extension Educator with Ohio State University (OSU) Extension specializing in Cover Crops, Soil Health, and Water Quality in Putnam County (Ottawa) Ohio. Jim has worked in OSU Extension for 23 years.



Jim has a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture (1984), a Masters of Arts degree in Business (1987) and a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics (1987) from OSU. He is working on a PhD in Environmental Sciences at OSU. His research is on using cover crops to increase soil organic matter and to improve soil health, to tie up soil nutrients (N-P), to increase water infiltration, to improve soil structure, and to decrease soil erosion.

Jay Fuhrer is a Conservationist employed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in Bismarck, ND. Growing up on a small grain and livestock farm, Jay's interests have always centered on agriculture. Jay emphasizes Soil Health as a foundation for cropping systems, grazing systems, cover crops, soil biology, pollinators, insects, wildlife, and quality of life. In addition, Jay uses cover crops and livestock integration to connect the cropping and grazing systems together, raising the soil health bar even higher.



**JOIN US AT THE PINE BARN INN -3/17/16
TO REGISTER call 570-784-1310 x 102**

Covering the Counties

By Jennifer Lauri, Resource Conservationist

The Columbia County Conservation District has partnered with Montour and Northumberland County Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in an effort to educate farmers about the importance of soil health and cover crops through a Growing Greener Grant funded by DEP.

Last March, we held our first Soil Health Conference at the Pine Barn Inn, Danville. Over 200 people heard Gabe Brown speak about his diversified operation near Bismarck, North Dakota that includes crops, pastures, and beef cows and focuses on regeneration of soils and farm resources using a systems approach which includes no-till, diverse crop rotations, diverse species cover crops, and grazing. Also in the grant the Districts included money for cover crop incentives targeting first time cover croppers encouraging the use of multi-species crop mixes. We exceeded our goal of 2,000 acres.

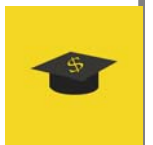
This coming year should hold the same interest or more as participants will discover how last year's cover crop impacted their soils. As part of the program, District staff will pull "Haney soil samples" on the operator's better field and a more difficult field to compare the soil change over the two years.

In addition to a second year of cover crops, comes another Soil Health Conference. This year's conference will be **March 17, 2016** at the Pine Barn Inn, Danville and will feature Dave Brandt, a farmer from Central Ohio; Jay Fuhrer, a conservationist employed by NRCS in Bismarck, North Dakota; and Jim Hoorman, Assistant Professor and Extension Educator with Ohio State University (OSU) Extension specializing in Cover Crops, Soil Health and Water Quality in Putnam County (Ottawa) Ohio. You can register by calling **570-784-1310 x 102**, cost is **\$25/person**.

DISTRICT OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Due APRIL 15, 2016

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 **two - \$300 scholarships** toward two tuitions. Sign up with a friend!!

Visit our website for more details.

49TH ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL BANQUET

This year's "Tri-Ag Banquet" as it was once called, will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, 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 \$16.00/person.**

Kirk and Marion Lehman were the recipients of the R.J. Campbell Award at the 2015 banquet. Their farm is located on Dutch Hill, Hemlock Township, Columbia County. The Lehman Farm houses 60 dairy replacement heifers, 2400 finishing hogs, chickens and horses. The Lehman's farm over 520 acres. They no-till corn and soybeans and are avid believers in cover cropping their land. The Cooperator of the Year 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.



Kirk and Marion Lehman, R.J. CAMPBELL AWARD



**JOIN US FOR THE
49TH ANNUAL
AG—BANQUET
Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 6:00
pm for food, fun & fellowship.**

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM in COLUMBIA COUNTY

Our Columbia County Farmland Preservation Board held its reorganizational meeting. The following recommendations were proposed to the County Commissioners for their approval: Ronnie Rhoads, Chairperson, Eugene Minnick, Vice Chairperson, Dennis Sharrow, Secretary. We are very sorry to report that Ray Levan has resigned his post as board member. He has done a tremendous job on the board and will certainly be missed with his dedication and commitment to farmland Preservation. 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 serving on the Columbia County Farmland Preservation Board have the responsibility of preserving and protecting farmland in our county. Newly appointed Louis O'Neil, Ray Tucker, David Artman, and Judy Kipe-Nolt complete the board. The first easement purchased in Columbia County was in 1993. As of 2015, we have purchased 37 farms for a total of 4,092 acres of preserved land. 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 2016 SALE will include **NATIVE VARIETIES** :

NEW THIS YEAR—Apple Trees—Goldrush, semi-dwarf and Galarina, semi-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, Eastern Redbud, and Sawtooth Oak**. Seedlings will be sold in bundles of 5 seedlings or you may buy individually.
- **Blue Rug Junipers, Coral bells, 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, **“Huron and Blue Crop”**. These bushes are container grown.
- **Native Perennials—Cardinal Plant, Swamp Milkweed, Goldenrod “Fireworks” , Purple Coneflower, Blazing Star Liatris, Mountain Mint, Culvers Root, Obedient Plant, and Raspberry Wine Bee Balm.** These will be available in 4-1/2” plugs.
- **Native Grasses—Tufted hairgrass** will be sold in 4-1/2” plugs.
- **Native Bareroot Shrubs: Arrowwood, Witchhazel, American Cranberry, and Winterberry will be sold.** Note: Winterberry 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: Honeysuckle ‘John Clayton’** for this year.
- **Ferns: ‘Sensitive’ Ferns** will be sold this year.
- **Bluebird Houses are available again this year.**

HELPFUL HINT: Plant a Pollinator Garden to benefit bees, butterflies, beetles, hummingbirds and people!

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.

APRIL 22, 2016—DEADLINE TO ORDER PLANTS/TREES.



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!

“Good Water = Good Life” Water Education Day in Columbia County

On September 16th, Columbia County held its first Water Education Day for 8th grade students. The theme of the day was “Good Water = Good Life”—to emphasize the simple fact that where water is good, life can be good, and when water is bad (dirtied, impaired or contaminated), life struggles. Students rotated through six stations on groundwater, stream studies, conservation art, general water quality, fish ecology and an original musical and theatrical performance by area high school students on water quality and conservation. Throughout the day, students learned about the sources of our drinking water, how it gets polluted, and the connection between land and water.



The water education day was a project of the Columbia-Montour Coalition for Source Water Protection—a group formed in 2012 whose basic mission is to protect and conserve local drinking water sources. The group has held many public outreach events but this was the first large scale event. The event was organized by CCCD watershed specialist Heather Almer along with committee members Nancy Corbin and Mary Wagner also from the district, Dr. Jen Whisner from Bloomsburg University, and Mark Stephens from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Just over 500 8th grade students from six schools in Columbia County attended. The event was sponsored by a grant from Pennsylvania American Water. Approximately 50 volunteers were involved in the station instruction and logistics, including Columbia County Conservation District, who helped organize the event, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service, PA American Water, Bloomsburg University, PA Rural Water Association, United Water, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Larson Design, and local watershed groups (BCAWS, FCWA and RCVCA). All of our Columbia County commissioners came to greet the students in the morning as well! All volunteers wore bright aqua blue “Good Water = Good Life” t-shirts that were designed by a local high school student, and sponsored by United Water, depicting a kayaker drinking a cup of water, demonstrating the concept of how water is both a necessity and a privilege.



Presenters and volunteers were asked to model sustainable habits by bringing their own reusable water bottles and recycling bins were placed around the park. Students made natural mandalas at the art station, working in small groups using locally found natural materials to make beautiful layered pieces that were photographed and then disassembled for the next group to re-use. At the end of the day all the materials were placed in a brush pile to blow away or decompose into the local ecosystem. Based on the success of our first event, we plan on having the second Water Education Day in September 2016...stay tuned!

NPDES RESPONSIBILITIES DURING AND AFTER CONSTRUCTION

Barry Travepiece, P.E.



Landowners are reminded that construction of new buildings may require a special permit issued by the Conservation District before any construction occurs on the site. The permit is titled “NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities” and is required any time the anticipated earth disturbance associated with construction exceeds one acre (approximately 208 ft. x 208 ft.). The calculation of the amount of disturbed area includes all anticipated disturbance associated with the total project. For example, a house construction site would include the house, the area disturbed around the house, the driveway required to access the lot, any onsite septic system and excavation associated with supplying water to the project, soil stockpile areas, and any other miscellaneous disturbance that can be anticipated to be required to develop the lot. The requirements of the permit, in addition to controlling erosion and sediment from the site during construction, include the need to minimize increases in both the rate and volume of stormwater runoff from the site during construction and after the lot is developed. This is usually accomplished by a use of a combination of unique practices and techniques to control the runoff. A typical site might utilize the use of special vegetative areas, installation of infiltration areas or rain gardens, and limiting the amount of paving and concrete that can be installed on the site. Usually the services of an engineer or land surveyor are required to determine the best combination of these options and to document that they meet the requirements of the permit.

The long term success of such plans require routine maintenance and repair of the controls to address any problems as they develop.. These maintenance requirements are specified in the plans and usually are made the responsibility of the landowner. Such responsibilities are transferred to new owners when lots are sold. Anyone purchasing a property should determine if any such controls exist and what their responsibilities may be involving the maintenance of these controls as well and any restrictions on increasing the improvements on the lot.

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR EROSION & SEDIMENTATION PLAN REVIEWS

Barry Travepiece, P.E.

The Columbia County Conservation District has had another busy year implementing the erosion and sediment control program. During 2015, the District issued 8 NPDES permits and two ESCGP permits on behalf of DEP. In addition, over 35 plans for non-permitted projects were also submitted for review. Together these plans impacted projects in excess of 1100 acres with over 700 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.



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ADDRESSES. CALL WITH
ADDRESS CHANGES OR BETTER
YET..... HOW ABOUT AN EMAIL
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Manure Management Workshop



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. This workshop is intended to assist farmers in writing their manure management plan. Participants will also develop the knowledge and skills needed to implement environmentally sound best management practices.

Your County Conservation District is your local resource to get these plans completed. Columbia County Conservation District is holding a free Manure Management Plan Workshop on:

**April 6, 2016 at Columbia County Ag Center,
9:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

Attendees will receive **free** soil test kits as well as a **free** meal! Please register for the workshop by calling Tony or Tracey at the Columbia County Conservation District:

570.784.1310 x 101 or 102

COLUMBIA CONSERVATIONIST

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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
2016
ANNUAL TREE SALE

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Women in Agriculture

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016, 9am-2pm
VFW Post 804, 1258 Millville Road, Bloomsburg

Come get the "dirt" on best practices including pollinator-friendly gardening, healthy soil & native plants, marketing of local products, and legal advice on farm transition

8:45-9:00: Registration (coffee & refreshments)

9:00-10:30: "Making Farms and Gardens Healthy and Sexy: Improving Soil Health and Attracting Pollinators"
John Esslinger (Penn State Extension) and Leah Tewksbury (Tewksbury Grace Farm)

10:45-11:30: "Farming Succession and Transition" Rob Davidson, J.D. RHP Law Group

11:30-12:15: Lunch (soups, sandwiches & dessert), wine tasting, hand treatments

12:15-2:00: "Pitching our Local Products: A Panel of Diverse Experiences"
Todd Hopkins (Forks Farm Market), Denise Bosworth (Rohrbach's Farm Market), Laurie Knoebel (Gib's Farm)

\$10/person. Registration due by March 13, 2016. Send check payable to CCCD, along with your name, address, email and phone number to: Tracey Oman, Columbia County Conservation District, 702 Sawmill Rd, Ste 204, Bloomsburg, PA 17815.
Free Native Plant for first 30 registrants!



www.columbiaccd.org

Financial support for this conference is provided by the Pennsylvania Association for Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Free Native Plant for first 30 registrants!



Local wine tasting!



BONUS!!!!
Relaxing hand treatments compliments of Eden's Spa!

Door Prizes!!!

