

WCCD Newsletter

July - September 2022



Photo: K. McClain

2022 Fair

The Wyoming County Fair was held over the Labor Day weekend with another great showing by the Conservation District along with our booth partner, Bureau of Forestry.

Two informative "Who Am I???" banners decorated the walls giving fair goers the chance to identify native insects & butterflies. Along with the banners we had our mounts & infamous pond with plant life & fish. The District, Forestry & NRCS provided stickers, posters, wildflower pollinator mix & canvas backpacks for the kids to decorate with stencils & markers. This has been a huge hit over the years for young & old alike. Also, this year, we provided information on the Endangered Monarch Butterfly & had Milkweed seeds to hand out.

Many thanks go out to our Staff and Director's who took shifts working at the Conservation District's booth. We had a great time talking to the fair patrons & answering as many of their questions as we could. Plenty of informational pamphlets were there for the taking from all different topics ranging from Pa Fish & Boat Commission flyers to E&S, Ag, Watershed & other educational information.

It was great to see so many people out to enjoy the fair & planning has already started for the 2023 Wyoming County Fair. I'm sure we will come up with some more great ideas for next year.



EVENTS:

Annual Banquet
Thursday, 11/10/22
@ Stonehedge
Contact Katie for more
details!

CONSERVATION COMMENTS



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DISTRICT STAFF

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DAVE TAYLOR - RESOURCE CONSERVATION SPECIALIST EXT. 405
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DORNE WHITE - CHAIRMAN
NEIL TAGUE - VICE CHAIRMAN
BUTCH SANDS - SECRETARY/ TREASURER
COMMISSIONER TOM HENRY
BOB ROBINSON
WALT DANA
KEN HARVEY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

JILL TAGUE

MEETING THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH,
9:30AM, DISTRICT OFFICE.

LOCAL RESOURCES:

BUREAU OF FORESTRY: 570-945-7133
DEP: 570-826-2511
GAME COMMISSION: 570-675-1143
PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION:
570-477-5717

Hubble Street Dirt & Gravel Roads Project

With Dave Taylor

Back in the spring of 2022, the WCCD had the opportunity to fund a project located on Hubble Street in Noxen Township. The road is a lightly travelled road that sits on the outskirts of Noxen but was causing some fairly large issues for the township & several residents that live along the road.

The issue is the same one that we see here in the county in many different places, there is a fairly large drainage area with some very steep mountains & all the runoff is coming down one small stream. Usually, the small streams stay within their banks and the pipes that are in place, where the stream flows under the road, can handle the amount of water. Other times, during some of the flash thunderstorms, the water comes rushing down the hillside & overwhelms the pipes that usually handle the flow. The water jumps over the pipe, tears down the road & the roadside ditch leaving only the largest of rocks still in place and depositing the



Picture 1:
Taking picture near inlet of pipe under road showing where the water leaves the channel & begins flowing down the road.



Picture 2:
Road Ditch that is badly eroded and showing where houses are along road that get flooded.

In the Spring of 2021, we invited Tim Ziegler, Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads, up to look at this project to give us another take on what could be done. We met with Tim & Dave Hettesheimer, Noxen Township, out at the site & devised a plan. This plan we feel would be able to protect the road from erosion & to stop the residents from receiving that road material into their yards.

During that visit, a plan was to add an additional pipe to this location to handle those periodic storms that the existing pipe, that is in good shape can't handle. The additional pipe will catch the water that overtops the original pipe & gets that water back into the stream channel that it left.

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This way, there will no longer be water flowing down the road causing any erosion. Also, taking the road material into the stream & causing sedimentation polluting that stream.

This road has been a fairly large thorn in the Township's side, due to all of the flooding issues. The Township has had to spend many hours & thousands of dollars into materials multiple times, getting the road opened back up & into drivable conditions.

Environmentally, we are saving tons of sediment from running into the stream before it can cause any pollution events when it rains. Our total cost for the project came out to \$17,147. Hopefully this road won't be an issue again for a very long time.



Picture 3:

Inlet of new pipe showing large rock used as a headwall to turn water into the pipe.



Picture 4:

Outlet of pipe showing large rock used to cover pipe as an endwall and showing where the water that had just left the stream channel will be returning back into that channel.



Picture 5:

Start of new ditch line that has been armored with fresh stone and new road material has been placed onto the road to keep any water into the ditch and not flow out onto the road.



Picture 6:

New ditch line and road surface. Compare to picture 2 and hopefully the residents will not be receiving any further road material in their yards.

How Well Do You Know Your Fungi?



- A. FAIRY FINGERS
- B. WHITE WORM CORAL
- C. WHITE SPINDLES
- D. ALL OF THE ABOVE



- A. POWDERY BRITTLLEGILL
- B. MILK-WHITE BRITTLLEGILL
- C. CHARCOAL BURNER
- D. GREEN BRITTLLEGILL



- A. GEMMED AMANITA
- B. ORANGE GRISETTE
- C. BLUSHER
- D. TAWNY GRISETTE



- A. BLOODY BRITTLLEGILL
- B. BEECHWOOD SICKENER
- C. FRUITY BRITTLLEGILL
- D. ROSY BRITTLLEGILL



- A. YELLOW PATCHES
- B. YELLOW WART
- C. YELLOW DUST AMANITA
- D. ALL THE ABOVE

Answers on Next Page...

Growing Greener Grant Update

With Bernie Scalzo

We recently received a DEP Growing Greener Grant to install agricultural BMPs at 3 different farms in the county. The first project was completed in September by Bellinger Fencing. It involved placing approximately 5,200' of livestock fencing and a solar powered fence charger. The goal of the project was to provide a grazing area for the animals and prevent them from accessing sensitive streamside areas.



ANSWERS - D, A, B, C, D...

RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKS

Species 'Extinct' for Nearly 100 Years Bought Back to Life in Colorado

By: Robyn White

A species considered extinct for nearly 100 years has been brought back to life in Colorado.



A picture shows a greenback cutthroat trout, a species once thought extinct.© CPW

The Greenback cutthroat trout, Colorado's state fish, was thought to be extinct in the 1930s, when it had been decimated due to mining pollution, overfishing and competition from other species.

Biologists from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) said on Friday that the fish is naturally reproducing, marking the official recovery of the once-extinct species.

CPW said in a statement that "this is huge," after more than a decade of "intensive efforts" to rescue the species from the brink of extinction.

The naturally reproducing fish were found in Herman Gulch, in Clear Creek County, Colorado, one of the first places in which CPW stocked the fish.

"The long-term survival and natural reproduction of the greenbacks discovered is a major milestone for our recovery efforts and a huge win for conservation," the CPW statement read.

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Several endangered populations were found in 1957, 1965, and the 1970s, but it was discovered that they weren't pure-bred trout, but rather a type of subspecies, CPW said in a news release.

The only pure population of the species was discovered in 2012, near Bear Creek, central Colorado, and biologists began making the trek there every spring to collect sperm and egg samples from the population of fish in the region.

Biologists then gradually implemented the species in several places, including the Herman Gulch in 2016.

Now, six years later, that population has been recorded thriving and populating without their help. There are other, fledgling populations in four other streams, but the Herman Gulch batch is the only one so far to reach adulthood and begin populating on its own.

CPW will continue to place the sperm and eggs in other areas to stabilize the species.

Josh Nehring, CPW's assistant aquatic section manager, said the reproduction of the species was "truly monumental."

"CPW aquatic biologists in the Southeast Region have worked incredibly hard to protect and preserve the only known population of greenbacks in Bear Creek," Nehring said in a news release.

"Our hatchery staff along with our federal hatchery partners overcame immense obstacles to be able to replicate the species in captivity. Now to see them on the landscape in their native habitat replicating on their own is a huge sense of accomplishment for everyone involved."



Greenback cutthroat trout are seen during spawning events on Bear Creek. Photo: Colorado Outdoor

2022 Fourth Grade Ag Day

With Laura Anderson



North Central & Northeast Regional Forestry Education Symposium

The Forestry Education Program was developed to provide in-person forestry education and materials to provide landowners, private foresters and forestry professionals to continue and expand knowledge and understanding of forestry practices, forester selection, sustainability and forest health with a partnership of Susquehanna, Bradford and Wyoming County Conservation Districts. Funding is provided through a 2022 DEP Environmental Education Grant. Presentations included: "Managing Your Woodlot for Wildlife" by Adam Chorba, BCCD Forest Specialist and Lead Project Manager for the Symposium, "Forest Disease, Insects and Invasives" by Chad Gadsby, DCNR Service Forester, "How to Assess Your Woodlot" by Julian Maza, DCNR Service Forester, "Forestry Management BMPS for Logging and Forestry Application" by John Hopkins, "The Tale of the American Chestnut" by Dan Rhodes, BCCD Education Specialist, "The Basics of Silviculture and Forestry Regeneration" by Chad Gadsby, "Forestry and Timber Harvest Regulations and Updates by Shane Kleiner, DEP. A Guided Field Tour was then provided by Bob Hobbles and John Hopkins to a previously timbered site to learn first hand what proper management and maintenance can do for your woodlot.



UNTIL NEXT TIME WITH CONSERVATION COMMENTS...