



WARREN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

4000 Conewango Avenue, Warren, PA 16365

Phone: 814-726-1441 • Fax: 814-406-0005

www.wcconservation.net

Conserving Natural Resources for our Future

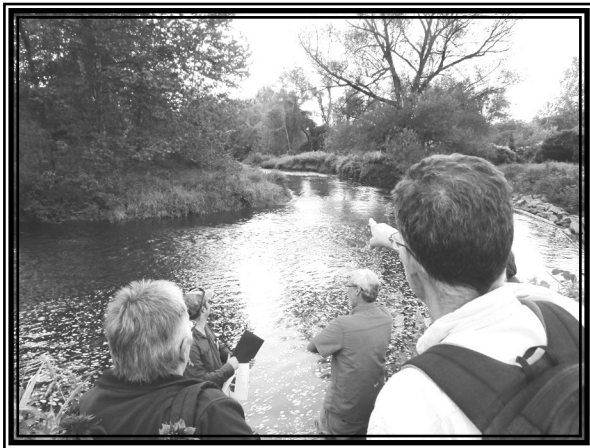
Conservation Newsletter

This publication includes information about the Conservation District, various programs we oversee, educational opportunities and gives you a look at some of our projects.

Included in this issue:

Programs, Workshops, and Updates
2020 Summer Camp Applications
Bits & Pieces

Informative Workshops



Conservation Summer Camps



Who We are & What We Do

The primary goal of the District is the protection, improvement, and conservation of the county's soil, water, and related natural resources as well as educating the community in various conservation and environmental practices and methods.

The Conservation District coordinates educational events, completes conservation projects, and provides assistance to farmers, citizens, land owners, partner organizations, municipalities and more.

The Warren County Conservation District is a local conservation organization formed for the protection and promotion of wise use of land, water, and other natural resources. The District dates back to April 12, 1948 and is governed by a board of eight directors. District staff implement programs, conservation projects, and educational events in cooperation with a number of partnering agencies and organizations. In addition to the District, our building also houses the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council (Penn Soil RC&D) and Conewango Creek Watershed Association (CCWA). The Warren County Conservation District office is located in Warren, PA at the corner of Hatch Run Rd and Conewango Avenue.

Our mission is to promote the wise use and enhancement of Natural Resources for the benefit of all Warren County citizens.

WARREN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors

Barry VanOrd , Chairman
 Dave Trimpey , Vice Chairman
 David Manning, Treasurer
 Dave Miller, Past-Chairman
 Benjamin Kafferlin, Commissioner
 Larry Upton
 Dean Johnson
 Cindy Paulmier
 Robert Sleeman, Associate Director
 Richard Smith, Associate Director
 Dale Upton, Associate Director
 Richard Lauger, Associate Director

Conservation District Staff

Heather Wilcox, District Manager
 Brianna Osborne, District Technician
 Jean Gomory, Watershed Specialist
 Sherry Moore, Conservation Program
 Assistant
 James Marquis, Hatch Run
 Conservation Assistant

Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS)

Laura Ayers, District Conservationist

Board Meetings are held the third
 Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm at
 4000 Conewango Avenue, Warren, PA

**Additional copies of this
 newsletter are available at
www.wcconservation.net
 and the WCCD Office at
 4000 Conewango Avenue,
 Warren, PA.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice or TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-729-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATIONAL HAPPENINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

APRIL

WCCD Annual Meeting - April 21st - Recognizing the WCCD Farmer of the Year, Conservation Educator of the Year, and Forest Landowner of the Year. This year's guest speaker will be Cole Burke talking about his hiking adventures on the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Streambank Workshop - April 25th - Continuing to raise awareness of permitting requirements, BMP's, example designs for Bank Stabilizations along the stream corridor.

MAY

Envirothon - May 7th - An Environmental Academic Competition for children in grades 7-12.

JUNE

Youth Conservation Camp - June 16th - 18th
 Our three-day environmental education camp for children entering grades 7-9.

JULY

**Environmental education camps for children
entering the following grades:**

Children's Nature Camp III - July 13th & 14th - Grades 5 & 6.

Children's Nature Camp II - July 16th & 17th - Grades 3 & 4.

Children's Nature Camp I - July 28th & 29th - Grades 1 & 2.

Kindergarten Nature Camp - July 30th Our one-day environmental education and fun day for kindergarteners.

AUGUST

Conservation kids activities with the Warren County Fair Queen & her court - WCCD presents educational conservation activities for a half an hour each day with the Fair Queen during fair week.

SEPTEMBER

WCCD First annual photo contest submission deadline September 16th at 4:00 pm. See page 6 for more information.

OCTOBER

Walk in Penns Woods - October 4th - Come for a walk in the woods and learn about this intricate ecosystem.

See our website for more information as it becomes available.



Land Development and Permitting.

Working in or near a stream

The PA Code: Title 25 Chapter 105 Program regulates work in and around streams, wetlands and other water bodies with a focus on avoiding or minimizing impacts to water quality, flooding frequency and riparian habitats.

In most cases, a permit is required before starting any activity which changes, expands or diminishes the course, current or cross-section of a stream, floodway or body of water. The District acknowledges General Permits for various types of work in and around waterways. District staff will also conduct inspections of permitted sites, investigate complaints and provide technical, regulatory and permitting assistance.

Chapter 105 General Permits include:

GP01 - Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures

GP02 - Small Docks & Boat Launching Ramps

GP03 - Bank Rehabilitation, Bank Protection and Gravel Bar Removal

GP04 - Intake & Outfall Structures

GP05 - Utility Line Crossings

GP06 - Agricultural Crossings and Ramps

GP07 - Minor Road Crossings

GP08 - Temporary Stream Crossings

GP09 - Agricultural Activities

GP10 - Abandon Mine Reclamation

***GP11 - Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation or Replacement of Water Obstructions and Encroachments**

***GP15 - Private Residential Construction of Wetlands**

***JP - Joint Permit for Water Obstructions and Encroachments**

*** - Reviewed and approved by the DEP Northwest Regional Office**



Earth Disturbances

The PA Code: Title 25: Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Control Plans, Permits, and NPDES Permits regulates Earth Disturbance Activities and Best Management Practices (BMP) of those activities.

If your project's area of earth disturbance is:

A. Under 5,000 sq ft: State Regulations note that these sites are still required to install, implement and maintain BMP's to minimize accelerated erosion and sedimentation.

B. Over 5,000 sq ft - 1 acre (43,560 sq ft): Requires a written E&S Plan to be reviewed and approved by the District. The approved plan should be available on site and implemented.

C. 1 acre or more of earth disturbance: Will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

- Individual NPDES - projects taking place in special protection watersheds will need an Individual Permit.
- General NPDES - all other projects that meet NPDES criteria but are not in a Special Protection Watershed.
- Also an approved, stamped, signed and dated COPY of the E&S plans must be kept on site for both Individual and General NPDES Permits.

D. Timber Harvest or Road Maintenance Activity:

- Over 5,000 sq ft of earth disturbance will require an E&S Plan to be written and available on site. BMP's need to be installed, implemented and maintained just as above.
- 25 acres of earth disturbance or more will require an E&S PERMIT to be submitted to the District for review and approval.

Before any earth disturbance activity can occur required permits and plans must be approved.

Projects requiring earth disturbance or occurring near a watercourse can be subject to the above guidelines and may require special permits and approvals. Check with the Conservation District before you begin your project to obtain accurate information as to what permits are needed.

Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads Program

Grant Applications are due November 6, 2020.

Since the creation of the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program (DGR) in 1997, the Warren County Conservation District has funded the improvement of over a hundred work sites in various municipalities in Warren County, totaling over \$4.5 million spent on local roads. The goal of this program is to create a more environmentally and economically sustainable dirt & gravel roads network in the state of Pennsylvania through education, outreach and project funding.

In Pennsylvania, non-point source pollution is responsible for 88% of all impaired streams. The dust and sediment pollution resulting from the poor maintenance of the more than 27,000 miles of dirt and gravel roads in the Commonwealth has been shown to be a large contributor to this pollution.

For more information about the program and the different practices used you can visit The Penn State Center for Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads Studies website at <http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/index.html>. Municipalities may contact the Warren County Conservation District Manager, Heather Wilcox for an application package and to schedule a site visit.



Filling the road profile and adding cross pipes such as Sugar Grove Township did on Dump Road is an excellent way to improve drainage and reduce maintenance costs on dirt and gravel roads.

The Secret Life of Soil

Soil is complex. No, really; it is. Soil is more than the dirt under our fingernails. It contains an entire living, breathing ecosystem with food cycles, nutrient cycles, water cycles, and life cycles, and is literally the source of all food on the planet. When soil is not treated properly we end up with problems. The Dust Bowl of the 1930's is just one example. Dust was carried over 1800 miles from Colorado to parts of New England as a result of drought and poor farming practices. These dust particles in the air lead to pneumonia, lung infections, and death. As stewards of the earth we have a responsibility to care for the very thing we depend on so strongly.



If you have livestock of any sort on your property; be it one horse for riding, a pig your child is raising for a 4-H project, or chickens you're keeping for eggs, you have a unique opportunity to nourish your soil with the manure produced by your animals. Animal manure contains nutrients and minerals the soil (and micro-organisms living in it) can utilize to help plants grow, retain rain water, and reduce erosion.

Something that will help you achieve this healthy state of abundance is a Manure Management Plan. A Manure Management Plan will help you provide valuable fertilizer to growing crops and build the soil with organic matter. If you don't have a place to land apply the manure, a Manure Management Plan can also help make decisions as to how you might properly stack and store your manure, and maybe share it with a neighbor who has a use for it.

In addition to being a good idea, Manure Management Plans can help you save money. By knowing the nutrient contents of your soil and manure you'll be able to distribute the manure you have to the land that needs it the most. This will reduce the need for fertilizer, thereby saving you money. Properly managing your manure will also keep you in compliance with State regulations. State regulations are not difficult to meet and following a Manure Management Plan will go a long way to benefit the health of your animals, the health of your soil, and the general well-being of your operation.

For more information on how to write your very own Manure Management Plan contact the Warren County Conservation District at 814-726-1441.

2019 Conservation Camp Summary

Last year campers learned about six essential items they would need to survive in case they were ever shipwrecked on a deserted island. They also learned how to find their way by using a compass. But just in case they got lost anyway they saw a demonstration of search and rescue dogs by the Cherry Grove Volunteer Fire Department K-9 SAR.

Pirates of the Great Outdoors



After being found they learned Seneca dancing and heard some native stories. Then, they learned about oceans and ships.

For some fun on dry land campers learned about what animals need to survive, and that bats are not so scary.

They also had fun making crafts then headed back to the water to race the cork boats that they made.



Kids attending the Youth Conservation Camp program (grades 7-9) learned about hunter safety, wetland diversity, wilderness survival, forestry, and mussels. They also saw an electroshocking demonstration on Hatch Run to look for wild trout. Additionally, they built a raingarden with Jeff Carlstrom as their Community Service activity.

2020 Conservation Camp

Where the Wild Things Are

Come learn about the wild things that live in the water and the trees, in the soil and among the leaves. We will follow the tracks to Where the Wild Things Are. Walk the trails then find some fish, salamanders and the ever-popular macroinvertebrates. You will make a craft that you can take home while you get to know your fellow campers and make some new friends.

Applications are available online at www.wcconservation.net or at the office. There are potentially scholarships available to offset the cost of camp registration. For more information please call 814-726-1441 or stop in at 4000 Conewango Ave, Warren, PA 16365.



Summer Camps

*June 16-18, 2019 for children entering 7th-9th grades - Youth Conservation Camp (YCC)
July 13-14, 2019 for children entering 5th-6th grades - Children's Nature Camp (CNC III)
July 16-17, 2019 for children entering 3rd-4th grades - Children's Nature Camp (CNC II)
July 28-29, 2019 for children entering 1st-2nd grades - Children's Nature Camp (CNC I)
July 30, 2019 for children entering Kindergarten - Kindergarten Nature Camp (KNC)*

Application deadline for YCC is May 27th. Application deadline is June 24th for all KNC and CNC camps. (T-shirts are not ordered for late registrations.) Space in each camp is limited so applicant selection will be on a first come, first serve basis.

All Warren County Conservation District Summer Camps are designed to foster an appreciation for the outdoors as kids discover the uniqueness and importance of plants and animals in our local environment through hands-on lessons, crafts, stories, games, presentations and demonstrations. **Children must be potty trained to participate in any of our programs.**

Youth Conservation Camp (YCC) is a twelve hour day camp running from **8am - 8pm** that focuses on the philosophy of Learning by Doing. The majority of the time is spent “in the field” where campers learn about trees and plants, soil, aquatics, ecology, wildlife, farming, and more. Representatives of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, the PA Game Commission, the PA Department of Environmental Protection, the Kalbfus Club, and others along with the Warren County Conservation District present several programs. Lunch and dinner will be provided Tuesday and Wednesday. Lunch will be provided on Thursday and parents will be asked to bring a dish to pass for the Thursday family picnic dinner. YCC is based out of the new Conservation District Building at the corner of Conewango Ave. and Hatch Run Rd. Parents are responsible for dropping off and picking up their children at the beginning and end of each day. YCC is limited to 20 kids. Cost for YCC is \$60 per child.

Children's Nature Camp (CNC) is geared towards elementary school students from 1st-6th grades and is broken up into three age groups. CNC I includes children entering 1st and 2nd grade, CNC II is for children entering 3rd and 4th grade, and CNC III is for 5th and 6th graders for the 20/21 school year. CNC will be held from **8am - 3pm** at the pavilion of the Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area on Hatch Run Road; a quarter mile past Penn DOT's Driver's License Center. A morning snack is provided but children must bring a packed lunch and a water bottle. Children will learn and discover the uniqueness and importance of plants and animals in our local environment. Each day, the campers will be introduced to new, memorable learning experiences through a variety of outdoor activities. Each CNC camp is limited to 25 kids. Cost for all CNC camps is \$40 per child.

Kindergarten Nature Camp (KNC) is for children going into Kindergarten this fall. The camp is based out of the pavilion of the Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area on Hatch Run Road; a quarter mile past Penn DOT's Driver's License Center. The camp will be held from **9am - 2pm**. This is a fun filled camp learning about water, plants, animals, and soil. There will be crafts, games, and exploring in nature. A morning snack and water will be provided. Children must bring a packed lunch and a water bottle. This camp will be limited to 10 kids so act fast! Cost for KNC is \$20 per child.

Application Procedure: Complete the attached application with the parental consent form in addition to the Responsibility Clause, Photo Release Form, and Emergency Medical Information (Pages 7 & 8). Please use separate forms for each child attending. You can make additional copies of this form, call the District office for additional forms, or visit the District's web site (www.wcconservation.net) to print additional forms. There are potentially scholarships available to offset the cost of camp registration. Enclose a check or money order made out to the Warren County Conservation District and mail all of the information to: **Warren County Conservation District, 4000 Conewango Avenue, Warren, PA 16365.**

Summer Camp Application

Please check camp attending:

- ☐ Youth Conservation Camp (YCC) 7th-9th Graders June 16-18 from 8am — 8pm \$60.00 - Registration Deadline **May 27th**
- ☐ Children's Nature Camp (CNC III) 5th-6th Graders July 13-14 from 8am — 3pm \$40.00 - Registration Deadline **June 24th**
- ☐ Children's Nature Camp (CNC II) 3rd-4th Graders July 16-17 from 8am — 3pm \$40.00 - Registration Deadline **June 24th**
- ☐ Children's Nature Camp (CNC I) 1st-2nd Graders July 28-29 from 8am — 3pm \$40.00 - Registration Deadline **June 24th**
- ☐ Kindergarten Nature Camp (KNC) Kindergarteners July 30 from 9am — 2pm \$20.00 - Registration Deadline **June 24th**

There are potentially scholarships available to offset the cost of camp registration.

Camper's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Birth Date _____ **Sex: (Circle) Male / Female**

Grade level for 20/21 School Year _____ **School Attended** _____

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

E-Mail _____

Phone (h) _____ **Phone (c)** _____

Emergency Contact # 1: _____ **Phone:** _____

Relationship to camper: _____

Emergency Contact # 2: _____ **Phone:** _____

Relationship to camper: _____

T-Shirt Size (Circle):

YOUTH - Small Medium Large Extra-Large

ADULT - Small Medium Large Extra-Large

***Note: T-shirts for campers are not ordered if their registration forms arrive past the deadline date.**

PARENTAL CONSENT

I, _____
(Signature) (Please Print Name)

hereby give my consent for my son/daughter, _____
to attend the **Warren County Conservation District Summer Camp at the Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area.**

If you are enrolling more than one child you can include one check for the total cost. Please make checks out to Warren County Conservation District.

EMERGENCY AND MEDICAL FORM

(Please print legibly!)

Circle Applicable Camp: YCC CNC III CNC II CNC I KNC
 June 16-18 July 13-14 July 16-17 July 28-29 July 30

Camper Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent's name: _____ Home/ Work Phone: _____

In case of an emergency, do you approve of us taking your child to Warren General Hospital's emergency room:

Yes _____ No _____ If no, what are your wishes? _____

Please list all food, medical or environmental allergies your child may have. Please notify us if your child has assistance from an outside agency. (This information is to assist the camp staff. It will be kept confidential. Camp staff will not administer medications.)

Suggested strategies for dealing with misbehavior: (Please note - Continued misbehavior will result in the camper being sent home.) _____

Any other information about your child that camp staff should be aware of: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE

It is understood that parents are responsible for any damages incurred by their son or daughter. Should your son or daughter behave inappropriately, and it is deemed necessary for him/her to be sent home prior to the end of camp, parents will assume the responsibility of picking their child up from camp at the designated time and place. Inappropriate behaviors include: being disruptive, disrespectful, expressing abusive behavior or inappropriate language. There will be no refund should your child be dismissed prior to the end of camp due to the inappropriate behaviors.

I have read and will adhere to all of the requirements set forth.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

PHOTO RELEASE FORM

Photographs will be taken of my son/daughter that have the potential to be used in the Warren County Conservation District's exhibits, published in local newspapers and the WCCD website, or other digital media.

☐ I **will allow** photos of my child to be taken ☐ I **will NOT allow** photos of my child to be taken

* Please note that we do a group photograph, and your child will not be included if you do not allow photos.

My signature below verifies that I support my selected choice on the photo release form:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

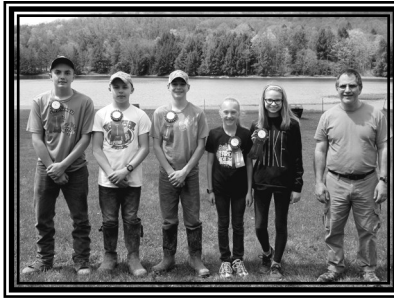
Envirothon



In 2019 Warren Area High School once again came in first place at the Warren County Envirothon. "The American Woodcocks" went on to the State Competition at

Susquehanna University and Camp Mt. Luther and placed 16th out of 65 teams. The Envirothon is an environmental, academic competition where 7th - 12th graders form teams of five students and test their knowledge on forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils, and a current issue topic that changes every year.

Taking first place for Junior Varsity was "Eisenhower JV 2" from Eisenhower Middle/High School.



Tremendous thanks goes out to our sponsors, participating schools, and the many volunteers who come together to make this event possible.

Photo Contest

WCCD will be hosting a photo contest. The four categories will be: Wildlife, Barns, Trees, and Sunsets. Photos must be taken in Warren County and will be accepted until September 16, 2020 at 4:00pm. Prizes will be awarded for 1st place in each category, People's Choice and Best of Show. A People's Choice photo will be awarded in each category so please stop into WCCD and vote between September 21 - October 5, 2020 at noon. On October 7, 2020 judges will select the top three photos in each category and an overall Best of Show. For a list of rules and more information please call 814-726-1441 or go to www.wcconservation.net. Please drop off your photos to the Warren County Conservation district at 4000 Conewango Ave, Warren, PA 16365.



PAVILION RENTAL: The pavilion at the Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area on Hatch Run Road is available for rent for a family reunion, graduation party, birthday party, or any other type of large-group gathering. This area offers plenty of parking, picnic tables, an outdoor privy, plus the beauty of nature. Electricity is not available. Groups can bring their own grill if they wish to cook out. We also ask that you please respect this beautiful outdoor space by carrying out your garbage. The cost is \$25.00 and **reservations are required for all organized events**. Contact the District for more information or to reserve the pavilion for your next picnic or gathering.



COMMUNITY GARDENS: Garden plots will be available again this spring at the Hatch Run Conservation Area. The fee is \$25 for a 25'x25' plot. For more information contact the Conservation



District by calling 814-726-1441. Rain barrels will be placed on site. We cannot guarantee the availability of water during drought conditions.



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Resource Conservation & Development Council

Conservation Education Newsletter

Warren County Conservation District
4000 Conewango Avenue

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WARREN, PA
16365
PERMIT NO.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Conservation Education Newsletter ***INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:***

*Programs, Workshops, and Updates
2020 Summer Camp Applications
Bits & Pieces*



Thank you for your continued support of conservation in Warren County.

Do we have your correct address, are you receiving this newsletter, but no longer use it, or are you receiving more than one copy? Please conserve paper and call us. On the other hand, if you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter have them contact us.