
CONSERVATION COMMENTS

APRIL - JUNE 2025

WYOMING COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

6052 SR 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

570-836-2589/info@wccdpa.org

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



DISTRICT STAFF:

Doug Deutch - District Manager Ext. 404

Katie McClain - Admin. Assistant Ext. 406

Bernie Scalzo - Watershed Specialist Ext. 403

Dave Taylor - Resource Cons. Specialist Ext. 405

Chris Faux - Ag. Conservation Prog. Coord. Ext. 407

Laura Anderson - Enviro. Ed. Coord. Ext. 402

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dorne White - Chairman

Neil Tague - Vice Chairman

Butch Sands-Secretary/Treasurer

Commissioner Tom Henry

Jill Tague

Walt Dana

Ken Harvey

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:

Dave McCoy

EVENTS:

2025 Wyoming County
Fair

8/27/25-9/1/25

Come visit us at the
Booth!



LOCAL RESOURCES:

Bureau of Forestry: 570-945-7133

DEP: 570-826-2511

Game Commission: 570-675-1143

NRCS: 570-836-2490

PA Fish & Boat Commission: 570-477-5717

Our Backyard Busy Bee

By: Dave Taylor

Beekeeping has been something that I have been doing now for over 22 years. It all started simply enough tagging along with my then soon to be father in law showing me the ropes with the hives that he kept and produced a decent amount of honey along with catching swarms that were always present in the late spring and early summer.

Fast forward a few years and I have been involved with the Susquehanna Beekeeping Association for many years now going to meetings, doing demonstrations at the Harford Fair, talking to anyone interested in beekeeping and holding office in our club where I have been president and still am the secretary of our association. This past spring I received a call from Shanna Haden who is the STEM and Online Learning Specialist at BLaST IU 17. BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 is an educational service agency meeting the needs of Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties. Serving 19 public schools, two career centers, and 12 non-public schools, BLaST's vision is to transform lives and communities through educational services.

Shanna wanted to do a learning series on pollinators and was looking for a beekeeper to help her out in this production. When I returned her call, it turned out she was looking for someone to help out with putting together six videos talking about and showing all the different parts of beekeeping from starting right with the bees through the harvest of honey and other apiary products.

Our series was given the name of the Bee Aware series and was distributed for the schools in the BLaST IU's range for their use educating the kids in those schools about bees, beekeeping, the products that we can get from our bees and other pollinators and what we can do to help out our pollinators.

In April, I was able to host Shanna and some teachers from the Athens school district who had started their own apiary at their school and wanted to learn more about beekeeping and bring some of the practices back to their school to help with their bees. Even though the day was a little overcast, windy and cool, we had a great time looking into a beehive, talking all things bees and filming our separate lessons.



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Continued with Backyard Busy Bee



Our unit has been a hit with over 20 schools signing up for the unit that includes all the videos and promotional and educational materials that went along with the unit. Those schools that signed up also received a bee hotel to place around their school to promote pollinators in their areas. This was a great opportunity to get the word out about beekeeping and ways that everyone can help out our bees and other pollinators around our area.

Since the release of the unit, there has been some interest generated from some day camps and they have asked us to do a presentation about pollinators and beekeeping. Our first presentation will be at the Eagles Mere Conservancy on July 7th giving a talk about all things pollinator.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE DGLVR PROGRAM

The 2025 Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads grants were awarded at our June Board meeting and we had another great turnout for this year's grant round. Again this year our grant applications totaled over one million dollars in requests. We had 9 requests for the dirt & gravel roads side of the program & 7 applications for the low volume roads program.

This year we are able to fund a total of only 3 dirt & gravel roads projects & 2 low volume road projects. We always hope to fund as many projects that we are able to but with the rising costs of the materials, our money ius just not going as far as it used to.

2025 D&GR RECOMMENDATIONS

MUNICIPALITY	ROAD NAME	GRANT REQUEST	IN-KIND	TOTAL
Windham	Scottsville Road	\$242,364.00	\$81,000.00	\$323,364.00
Overfield	Freeman Road	\$32,526.97	\$19,174.00	\$51,700.97
Lemon	Stonier Road	\$38,207.80	\$95,599.15	\$133,806.95

2025 LVR RECOMMENDATIONS

MUNICIPALITY	ROAD NAME	GRANT REQUEST	IN-KIND	TOTAL
Factoryville	Riverside Drive	\$6,520.00	\$1,955.00	\$8,475.00
Forkston	Bowman Hollow Road	\$39,700.00	\$0.00	\$39,700.00

The program has evolved over the time that I have been in this position working with the Center, the townships and the SCC. It is still a valuable, helpful tool that the District provides to the municipalities throughout our county and the state. Hopefully the program can continue to increase the funding & provide the help that is needed.

Currently I am on a workgroup that is looking into the administrative manual and we are advising making some significant changes in how the program is run on the District side. We are looking at taking back some of the controls that have been removed from the local program and replacing with the local controls that the program had always promised when it was originally created. Our work has been fairly tedious looking into every chapter and line of the manual but I do feel that we are making significant changes that will benefit the Districts and the program for years to come.

2025 CONSERVATION PROJECTS BUS TOUR

The district hosted a free bus tour to view some recent conservation projects within the county on May 21. The first stop allowed participants to view a roofed concrete manure storage facility. Next, we visited a recently completed dirt & gravel roads project with several different features observed. The next stop was Patriots Cove where we were able to learn about the organization and take part in a guided tour of the facility. After wrapping up the tour of the grounds, the group enjoyed a catered lunch before transitioning to the final stop. The last stop on our tour gave an opportunity to see a multifunctional riparian buffer project with a variety of edible plants. The tour was a great opportunity to show some local environmental improvement projects taking place within the county.



KNOWING THE DIFFERENCES

Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac

To identify, look at their appearance:



Poison ivy has three leaflets on each leaf and grows as a bush or vine.



Poison oak has three leaflets on each leaf, with rounded tips, and grows like a shrub or vine.



Poison sumac leaves have clusters of seven to 13 leaflets arranged in pairs and grows as a tree.

What does poison ivy look like?

If you're wondering how to identify poison ivy, look at its leaves. Each leaf of the poison ivy plant has three leaflets. A popular saying is, "leaves of three, let them be." Poison ivy leaves turn reddish in the spring, green in the summer and yellow, orange or red in the fall.

Poison ivy grows as a shrub or a vine. A poison ivy vine is hairy and ropelike. Eastern U.S. poison ivy typically grows as a vine. Western U.S. poison ivy normally grows low to the ground as a shrub. Poison ivy does not have thorns. A poison ivy shrub may have white berries.

What does poison oak look like?

Poison oak leaves have three leaflets like poison ivy but with rounded tips. The undersides of the leaves are fuzzy and lighter in color than the top.

Poison oak typically grows as a shrub in the Eastern and Southern U.S. The shrub sometimes has white or yellow berries. Poison oak grows more commonly as a vine in the Western U.S.

What does poison sumac look like?

Each leaf of a poison sumac plant has clusters of seven to 13 smooth leaflets arranged in pairs. Poison sumac thrives in wet, swampy regions in the Northeast, Midwest and parts of the southeast U.S.

A full-grown poison sumac tree can get up to 20 feet tall. This tall tree has drooping clusters of pale yellow, cream-colored or green berries. Nonpoisonous sumacs have red, upright berries. Contact with nonpoisonous sumacs won't cause an allergic rash.

2025 WC FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB FISHING DERBY

On Saturday, 6/7/25, the WC Federation of Sportsmen's Club held their Annual Fish Derby. The event was hosted at the WCCD pond. Although it was a dreary day, we had about 25 people in attendance.

The kids were able to fish from 9am-11am & once they caught their fish they would get them measured & at the end the 3 largest fish for that age group received a rod, reel, & tackle box. This year we had Tunkhannock Bait & Tackle provide a tray of worms for the event. Also, Dave Sr & Annie Taylor along with the WCCD contributed to the prizes with gift bags. The District provided a light lunch & Kandy Taylor made homemade cookies for the participants to enjoy.

Special thanks to the Sportsmen's Club members: Henry Rahm, Bill Kalinauskas & Paul Brown for keeping this. Also, the District Staff & their families for helping too! Looking forward to next year!



CONCRETE CITY, LUZERNE COUNTY

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BASEMENT
COAL
CONCRETE
COURTYARD
DISREPAIR
DL&W RAILROAD
DRAFTY
DUPLEX
GRAFFITI
(HIGH LEVEL) EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL (STYLE)
LUZERNE COUNTY
NANTICOKE
NINETEEN (11)
(19) TWENTY FOUR
OUTHOUSE
OVERGROWN
POOL
TRUESDALE (COLLIERY)



PROFITABLE PASTURES WORKSHOP

The Wyoming County Conservation District hosted their first ever pasture workshop. The event, titled Profitable Pastures, focused on the area most farms neglect on the operation, their pastures. The event had 42 attendees who learned through out the day how they can make more money from their pastures, enhance soil health, and how to stack enterprises to better cash flow their operation. Speakers included Jono Droege from Trees for Graziers, Chris Canfield from Penn State's Center for Ag, and Chris Faux from Wyoming County Conservation District. Topics presented during the day included pasture raised pigs, using goats for brush control, incorporating cows in a cropping system, warm season annuals, rotational grazing, and silvopasture. Attendees were able to learn basics of building different types of temporary fencing, see cows rotate to new pasture, watch a no till drill in action, and learn about composting manure in a bed pack beef barn in live demos as well.



CROWS AND ANTS; GOOD FRIENDS?

If you spend some time learning about crows, you may very well come to the end of that journey taken aback by how intelligent these birds appear to be as study after study has been clearly showing. They have the ability to use tools to help them gather food, a task only thought to have been possible with high tier primates, and perform tasks like dropping walnuts from the exact right height onto the pavement of a busy city street in order to crack but not shatter the nut, all while watching the street light because they know it's safe to fly down to grab their opened nut only when

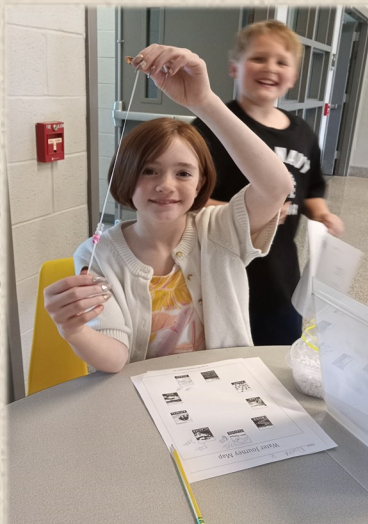
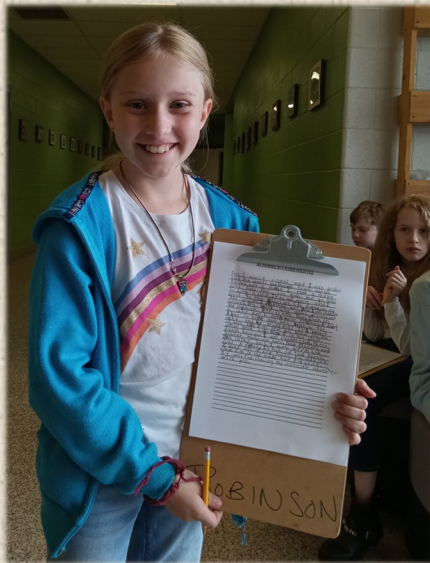


the light is red. When it turns green, they fly back and sit on their perches until traffic passes by and the light turns red again. It's hard to believe! But it's only the tip of the iceberg when talking about these brainiac birds.

According to Bill Chappell, crows do something else that is quite clever, something referred to as "anting". Here's the story; "Photographer Tony Austin knew he had gotten lucky when a murder of crows landed near him on a recent nature walk. But then one of the birds started acting strangely. Austin started shooting – and he was astounded later, when he enlarged his photos: The crow had large black ants all over its body. "I noticed there were like little bumps all over this bird that was flopping around," Austin says. "And sure enough, it was covered in ants." Even stranger, the crow had seemed to purposefully put ants on itself. Austin had been confused; now he was mystified. The answer he found was that the crow was merely "anting" – spreading ants on its feathers and wings. The practice has long been documented, but it's not entirely understood. A leading theory is that it's all about cleanliness. "Ants have defensive secretions, chemical weapons they use to fight off other insects and fungi, so if you smear what they've got all over your feathers, you're stealing their fungicides, miticides, insecticides and biocides", as Robert Krulwich reported. Another theory suggests birds might use ants like an avian after-shave, leaving their skin tingly and soothed after losing their feathers through molting. "It seems that no one is really clear on why they do that, which is kind of mystifying," Austin says, "but exciting as well." It's amazing how nature works in this way throughout the entire system, from top to bottom, all these little symbiotic relationships that make the world go around. In the case of crows, take a little time to get to know a little bit more about them. You'll likely come away amazed at how they and their communities work and exist.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Programs with Fourth grade students at the
Tunkhannock Intermediate Center.



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WYOMING COUNTY ENVIROTHON WINNERS

1st, 2nd & 3rd place teams from
Lackawanna Trail High School



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POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Theme: "Home Is Where the Habitat Is"

3rd through 7th grade students

Tunkhannock Intermediate Center

