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# CONSERVATION COMMENTS

JANUARY - MARCH 2025

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## 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.

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### 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 Fish Derby  
Sat. 6/7/25  
Registration: 8am  
Event: 9am-12pm



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### LOCAL RESOURCES:

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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

# 30th Annual Contractor's & Engineers Workshop

The Conservation District put on the 30th Annual Contractors & Engineers Workshop at Keystone College on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

We had a great line up of speakers including: Trevor Tochykowski, Wayne Conservation District, Maria White, PA 1 Call, Lori Mendez, Ecotech, Robert Jevin, Justine Armanini, Brooke Millisock, & Peter Kawash, DEP, Tim Ziegler, Center for DGLVR, Bobby Hughes, EPCAMR, Barb Idhaw, GPI, Tina Henning, EMT, & Kathryn Bommer, GCMC Trauma Ed.

The workshop had about 215 people in attendance including, 33 vendors that had their informational displays & giveaways set up through the main hallway & the Fireplace Lounge. The vendors included: Ace Robbins, A&H Equipment Co., Barry Islett Assoc., Bradco Supply Co., Bradford County Conservation District, Chemung Supply Corp., Community Bank, Dennison Supply, DGK/Gannon Insurance, Dominic's Equipment Rental, EcoTech, GPI Inc., Geisinger, Highway Equipment & Supply, JHA Companies, Keystone Fence LLC, Labella Assoc., LB Water, Medico Construction Equipment, Merut Construction, Milnes Engineering, Native Habitat Restoration, Northern Tier Hardwood Assoc., OSHA, PA 1 Call, PA Rural Water, PA State Police, Shalata's Land Clearing, LLC, Sherwood Freightliner, Sterling & Western Star, Traffic Plan, Warner Tractor & Supply, Wiles Valley Weather, LLC, & Williams Co.

The sponsors this year included, Ace Robbins, Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., A&H Equipment, Barry Islett Assoc., Bradco Supply Co., Chemung Supply Corp., Community Bank, Dennison Supply, DGK/Gannon Insurance, Dominic's Equipment Rental, EcoTech, JHA Companies, Keystone Fencing, Labella Assoc., Medico Construction Equip., Merut Construction, Milnes Engineering, Native Habitat Restoration, Northern Tier Hardwood Assoc., PA 1 Call, Sherwood Freightliner, Sterling & Western Star, Traffic Plan, & Williams Co.

The attendees/vendors were able to enjoy the delicious lunch & dessert bar put on by Sodexo Dining Services. That's always a huge hit. The day concluded with the door prize giveaway that included: tools, various gift baskets, 32" TV, & other amazing items provided by the vendors & CWS Committee.

The WCCD & CWS Committee would like to thank everyone that sponsored, presented, exhibited, attended, & everyone else that helped make this another successful year.



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# DGLVR Program

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Spring is almost here and the Wyoming County Conservation District has opened the application period for the Spring 2025 grant round for the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads program.

Last year we had a record setting year for applications that came into the District. We had applications totaling over 1.2 million dollars in grants requested. This just proves how much of a need is out there and that the townships and municipalities in the county are relying on these funds to help out with their road maintenance.

We are extremely proud that we have been able to assist our townships and municipalities with many projects. The DGR projects have helped in the amount of \$3,893,940.92. Along with the money that the District has been able to apply to these projects, the municipalities have been able to include their in-kind help to these projects. The LVR totals have added up to \$393,319.34 from the District.

This program has become one of the most successful and well liked programs throughout the state, for the help that it can provide the townships in maintaining their roads and also slowing or preventing pollution from occurring from our roadways.

Here at the District we are happy to take on this responsibility for the program and hope that this worthwhile program stays for many more years to come. And hopefully we will continue to increase the amount of money that we receive to help our townships. In the last few months there has been some movement to appeal to the legislature in Harrisburg to increase the funding for the program. We encourage everyone to reach out to your representatives in Harrisburg to fund this increase so we may continue to do more good for our roads.



Past Project:  
DSA project in  
Forkston Twp.

Past Project: Completed  
mattress in  
Monroe Twp., showing  
flow of water in the  
created ditch.



# DISCOVER NEPA

[www.discovernepa.com](http://www.discovernepa.com)

(Select Above Link to Visit Site)

OUTDOORS

OUTDOORS

MARCH 17, 2025

## Spring is in the Air: Things to Do This Spring in NEPA

Celebrate the arrival of spring in NEPA! Enjoy blooming landscapes, scenic hikes, and outdoor adventures as the region comes to life. Explore parks, trails, and seasonal activities perfect for welcoming warmer days.



Ireland Davies,  
Intern  
WRITER



Jonathan Davies  
WRITER



## Sinkholes of the World

A R V X C O G W P F R Z Y I K B S C T J R H  
F W A I X C A V E O F S W A L L O W S E S X  
R L C S E Q Y N W A B Y C A U G E W Q L A J  
E N K P B K I O D G B L N S K I N Z M O R M  
S G A I G C A Y V M K E S X L O C O X H O K  
R G R E A T S L U P P N U F T F N I T N K H  
Q B H I Z W U N D M A J E A F T Q L R O Y E  
K L Q A O D Y S I E Q G C R E V E S U G Z P  
X O Z N M B Q N D A R A L Z I T H E S A H V  
S T R D M M Y J I E Z B U A R Q G A V R I J  
X H U U T E I F E L Z M H A N E S U U D B R  
I E N U C X V B E S A M M X X V S S R F L Y  
A S R Q E X Z D G W W Q O F D A H A B X X N  
O K B E N D W I E E S D O R O C M F M P D K  
Z N S I O N X L T Z J V Z T H C O V E I A E  
H I K G T O L C A F W Q T D W A E T Q K Z S  
A S F N E P D I B A K U E L S R E U B E A C  
I R D U I T G W L K L R X O A I O J N C I L  
Q E F C K U N M L B Z G X B Q D H U N R K B  
K T K A K O S C W Z Y B L M W A M T C E D H  
Y E B M I R N G O L L Y W U I P T P Q E J U  
O P N R L T Z I L P D J L H U D I F D K E U

### BIMMAH

(BLUE HOLE) OF DAHAB

CAVE OF SHALLOWS

CENOTE IK KIL

DEAN'S (BLUE HOLE)

DRAGON HOLE

EL ZACATON

GOLLY

GREAT (BLUE HOLE)

MACUNGIE

MINYE

MONTEZUMA WELL

NUMBY NUMBY

PADIRAC CAVE

PETER SINKS

PIKE CREEK

RED LAKE

(SIMA) HUMBOLDT

(SIMA) MARTEL

TEIQ

TROUT POND

XIAOZHAI (TIANKENG)

# Diversify with tree/forage systems

Utilizing the same acreage for both forage and trees can produce many benefits. By planting the right kinds of crop trees, the air space over existing forage lands can provide income beyond that produced by livestock alone. With proper management to insure adequate sunlight for forage, a pasture with trees can produce substantial beef gains and tree crop returns.

Farm 3-dimensionally — increase your usable acreage

Trees  
Livestock  
& forage



## A Benefits from adding trees

On pastures or grasslands without existing trees, plant rows of pines or nut-producing trees, spaced to allow adequate sunlight penetration for forage growth. If needed, spaces between rows can be planted in shade-tolerant grasses suitable for your area and climate. When livestock are used to graze the forage, a planned grazing system will be needed to assure proper management of the forage, trees and wildlife habitat.



### Wood products

Timber harvesting for lumber, furniture or pulpwood can be an ongoing source of income as trees are thinned, selectively cut or harvested at maturity.



### Nuts & fruit

Nuts in commercial demand include walnuts, almonds, pecans and hazelnuts. A wide variety of orchard fruits and berries may also be produced.



### Wildlife

Many songbirds, game birds and animal species are attracted by the food, nesting sites and protection provided by trees that are added to existing forage land.



## B Benefits from adding forage

Many coniferous woodlands and a few select hardwood plantations can be transformed into tree/forage systems. By selectively removing/harvesting the correct number of trees, enough light will reach the soil to allow growth of forage under the tree canopy. Remaining trees should grow faster and have increased value. Proper livestock grazing or haying of the forages provide annual returns. Desirable wildlife are often attracted to the extra food and cover.



### Hay

Forage not utilized for your own cattle can be mowed, baled and sold as a source of supplemental income. Or, a pasture may be rented to others for grazing.



### Livestock

The shaded and sheltered forest pasture environment provides protected grazing where livestock can grow faster with less environmental stress.



### Wildlife

A forested area that also includes forage is often a more attractive habitat for wildlife than an area with trees alone.



# Protect your livestock with trees



## C Pasture windbreaks

A windbreak at the edge of a pasture provides herds with protection from wind and blowing snow.



## D Living barns

The encircling trees of a living barn can be the difference in herd survival in open pastures or range in the winter.



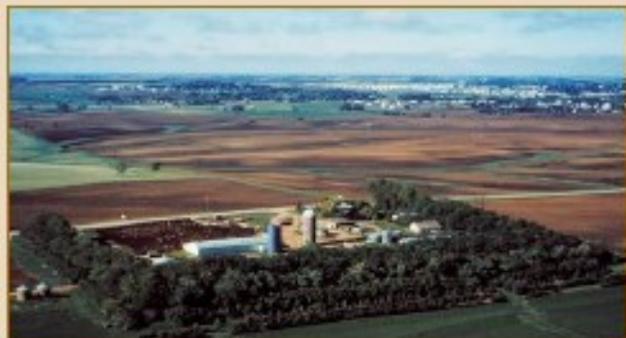
## E Shade trees

Shade trees in a pasture provide welcome places where livestock can find relief on hot summer days.



## F Hog & poultry facilities

Swine and poultry benefit from protective windbreaks and shade-providing trees.



## G Feedlot windbreaks

A feedlot windbreak like this one can reduce wind velocity as much as 70 percent, reducing animal stress.



## H Dairy herd protection

Barns, pens and milking parlors that are protected by trees can increase milk yields from dairy herds.



## SRBC Releases Natural Gas Industry Water Use Report

SRBC remains committed to its legally-required balance between protecting the waters of the basin and their sustainable uses. SRBC's regulation of water withdrawals and consumptive uses of water by the natural gas industry continues to evolve through comprehensive technical analyses of water availability and instream protections. As for all regulated water users, SRBC maintains its position of assistance to the natural gas industry in terms of focusing water withdrawals in areas where water availability is robust and mandating the reporting of where and how that water is used.

Data show that total water use, from all sources by the industry, increased from 3.193 bg in 2019 to 3.759 bg in 2023, a difference of approximately 566 mg over that 5-year span. Surface water sources remain the majority component of water used for industry operations, representing 96% of water use in 2019 to 98% of water used in 2023.

Between 2019–2023, the Susquehanna River was the predominant source for natural gas industry water withdrawals with 20 sources withdrawing water in that time period. This is followed by West Branch Susquehanna River with 7 sources withdrawing water, and Wyalusing Creek with 6 sources withdrawing water in that time period. The Susquehanna River sourced the largest annual volume of withdrawals, ranging from a low of 851 mg in 2019 to a high of 1,564 mg in 2020. In 2019, the total volume of surface water withdrawn by the entire industry in the basin was 3.069 bg. The withdrawals on the Susquehanna River represent nearly 28% of that total volume. In 2023, the total volume of surface water withdrawn by the entire industry in the basin was roughly 3.694 bg, and the withdrawals on the Susquehanna River (1.513 bg) represented nearly 41% of that total volume.

The Susquehanna River delivers approximately 26 bg per day, or more than 9 trillion gallons per year, where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay. The natural gas industry's surface water use for an entire year, in 2019, was 3.068 bg, meaning that the majority of the industry's water use was ~ 0.32%, or less than one-third of 1 percent of River flow to the Bay. Using 2023 data, the similar trend holds, with the majority of the industry's water use was ~ 0.38%, or just over one-third of 1 percent, of River flow to the Bay.

# Environmental Education

## Tunkhannock Intermediate Center "Owl Program"

Activity: 7 classes of 5th Graders got to dissect owl pellets.

