

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

APRIL - JUNE 2024

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
Bob Robinson
Walt Dana
Ken Harvey

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:

Jill Tague

EVENTS:

2024 Wyoming County
Fair
8/28/24-9/2/24
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

2024 Wyoming County Federation of Sportmen's Club Fishing Derby

By: Katie McClain

On Saturday, 6/8/24, the Wyoming County Federation of Sportsmen's Club held their Annual Fish Derby. The event was hosted at the Wyoming County Conservation District pond. There were over 45 people in attendance this year.

The kids were able to catch & release all types of fish species including: Blue Gills, Crappies, & Bass.

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 bait & mini tackle boxes. 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!



Fishing at the District



Big catch for local resident, Connell Ramage. One of many Mirror Carp at the pond.



Our E&S Tech, Dave Taylor, holding a Bluegill.



And Dave caught a Crappie too!!!

US National Forests

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

-
- ALLEGHENY
 - (BEAVERHEAD) DEERLODGE
 - BRIDGER-TETON
 - CIBOLA
 - COCONINO
 - DANIEL BOONE
 - FINGER LAKES
 - GIFFORD PINCHOT
 - GREEN (MOUNTAIN)
 - HOOSIER
 - MONONGAHELA
 - MT. HOOD
 - NANTAHALA
 - OCHOCO
 - OLYMPIC
 - PISGAH
 - RIO GRANDE
 - SABINE
 - SALMON-CHALLIS
 - SEQUOIA
 - SIERRA
 - SUPERIOR
 - TONGASS
 - (WHITE) MOUNTAIN
 - WHITE (RIVER)
-

2024 Seedling Sale

By: Katie McClain

The Wyoming County Conservation District staff packed & held its Seedling Sale on Saturday, 4/27/24, at the district office.

This year we sold over 530 seedlings. This included: Norway Spruce, Concolor Firs, Red Pines, Sugar Maples, Red & Chestnut Oaks, Black Locusts, American Chestnuts, Paw Paws, Persimmons, Rhododendrons, Lilacs, Nannyberries, & Northeast Wildflower mix.

These seedlings are all wildlife enhancement species that benefit the purchaser & the environment. We appreciate the continued support with this event & any suggestions please let us know!



Nannyberries

The Peppered Moth

Sources: Wiki, Max Planck Society & The Wildlife Trusts

About

A medium-sized moth, the peppered moth is renowned for its markings, which provide camouflage against lichen-covered rocks and tree bark. It is on the wing between May and August in parks and gardens, woodland, scrub and hedgerows. The twig-like caterpillars feed on the leaves of a variety of trees and shrubs, including silver birch, oak, bramble and hawthorn. They have a deep cleft in their heads just like a broken stem, and legs that resemble thorns, making them perfectly camouflaged against the rose species they frequent.

Did you know?

The peppered moth is one of the most famous examples of evolution in action: in areas with a history of air pollution, such as big cities, where trees and rocks were once covered with soot instead of lichen, the black form of the peppered moth is the most common. In the countryside, where lichens cover the tree trunks, the mottled form dominates. This changing form is the result of natural selection; during the industrial revolution, when trees were black with soot, those forms that had white markings would stand out and inevitably be predated upon.

How to identify

The peppered moth has a broad, furry body and long, narrow wings that it holds straight out to the side. It is usually whitish with intricate black markings all over, but some individuals are entirely sooty black (melanic forms). The similar oak beauty has two brownish bands on the wings, and holds its wings further back.



Biston betularia f. typica, the white-bodied peppered moth.



Biston betularia f. carbonaria, the black-bodied peppered moth.



The Peppered Moth caterpillars will mimic twigs to blend in.

Controlling Nutrients Within A High Quality Watershed

By: Bernie Scalzo

There was recently a project completed utilizing a DEP Growing Greener grant obtained by the Conservation District. The project was completed in order to address nutrient pollution concerns resulting from improper manure storage. Since the farm is located adjacent to Bowmans Creek, stacking the manure uncovered allows for rainfall to transport polluted water directly to the nearby waterway.

In order to address this issue, there was a roofed concrete manure stacking pad built. The stacking pad will allow manure to be stored and used when conditions are appropriate. The roof provides protection from stormwater. The project will improve water quality by minimizing the polluted water leaving the site.



Another Successful Year for the DGLVR Program

By Dave Taylor

The 2024 Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads grants were awarded at our June Board meeting and we another great turnout for this year's grant round. We had an incredible number of projects coming in this year. Applicants are looking for grant requests for more than \$1,200,000. This amount is the highest, by far, that I have ever seen come into the District for help requested by the townships. We had 24 requests for the dirt & gravel roads side of the program & 5 applications for the low volume roads program. This is also the highest number of projects that I have seen come into the District during my tenure.

Before 2014 the District was only allocated approximately \$58,000 to do projects throughout the county on the dirt & gravel roads. At that time, we were only able to fund about 4 or 5 projects with the money that we received and that most normally was some smaller projects that focused on drainage. After 2014 when we received the boost to the program & the increased funding up to around \$320,000, we were finally able to do some larger projects and some more extensive projects. Unfortunately, with inflation and the cost of materials & labor these days we have slipped back into the pre 2014 range of how many projects we will be able to fund and afford.

It may be time again for the center to focus their efforts on lobbying our representatives in Harrisburg again to look at an increase in our funding through this program. The townships still value this program highly & the number & dollar amount of applications that have come into the District this year clearly shows that the need for the program is still out there.

This year we can fund a total of 11 dirt & gravel roads projects & 2 low volume road projects. This was made possible by the townships looking to do smaller projects such as a single pipe in several cases. We are always looking to help any township with any size project they may need help with.

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This year we helped design several of the projects using the new design tool that the Center has placed on their website. Here is a list of the projects and amounts for the awarded grants.

2024 D&GR Recommendations

Municipality	Road Name	Grant Request	In-Kind	Total	Sum
Overfield	Harding Lane	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Windham	Scottsville Road	\$135,724.28	\$58,167.51	\$193,891.79	\$144,724.28
Falls	Stoneridge Road	\$15,000.00	\$1,080.00	\$16,080.00	\$159,724.28
Northmoreland	Schoonover Road	\$55,929.31	\$16,806.08	\$72,735.39	\$215,653.59
Tunkhannock	Osterhout Road	\$11,160.00	\$10,301.96	\$21,461.96	\$226,813.59
Nicholson	Carey Hill Road	\$90,200.00	\$29,223.60	\$119,423.60	\$317,013.59
Northmoreland	Storytown Road	\$121,569.31	\$21,898.20	\$143,467.51	\$438,582.90
Noxen	Dimmick Hill Road #7	\$4,075.00	\$2,220.00	\$6,295.00	\$442,657.90
Noxen	Dimmick Hill Road #1	\$7,710.00	\$2,555.00	\$10,265.00	\$450,367.90
Noxen	Dimmick Hill Road #2	\$7,490.00	\$2,370.00	\$9,860.00	\$457,857.90
Noxen	Dimmick Hill Road #3	\$11,125.00	\$3,630.00	\$14,755.00	\$468,982.90

2024 LVR Recommendations

Municipality	Road Name	Grant Request	In-Kind	Total	Sum
Factoryville	Reynolds Street	\$12,945.00	\$7,497.50	\$20,442.50	\$12,945.00
Noxen	Weaver Street	\$35,635.00	\$21,475.00	\$57,110.00	\$35,635.00

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. And that the District will be able to maintain the local control over this program that was promised us in the original manual for this program. That control has been slowly eroded away over time, but that is another fight with the SCC for another day.

Environmental Education

By Laura Anderson



2024 Wyoming County Envirothon winners included:

1st & 2nd Place: Lackawanna Trail High School

3rd Place: Tunkhannock Area High School



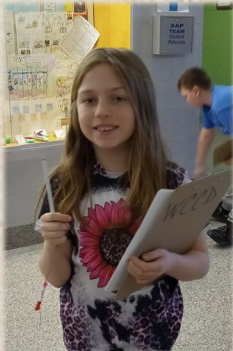
4th Grade School Programs:

The Importance of Water to Living Systems, Wildlife of PA, & Terrific Trees.

Poster Contest & Theme:

"May the Forest Be With You Always"

3rd - 7th Grade Winners



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2024
Conservation
Field Day
with
Tunkhannock
Area 6th Grade
Students

