
CONSERVATION COMMENTS

JANUARY - MARCH 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 Seedling Sale
Pickup
Sat. 4/27/24



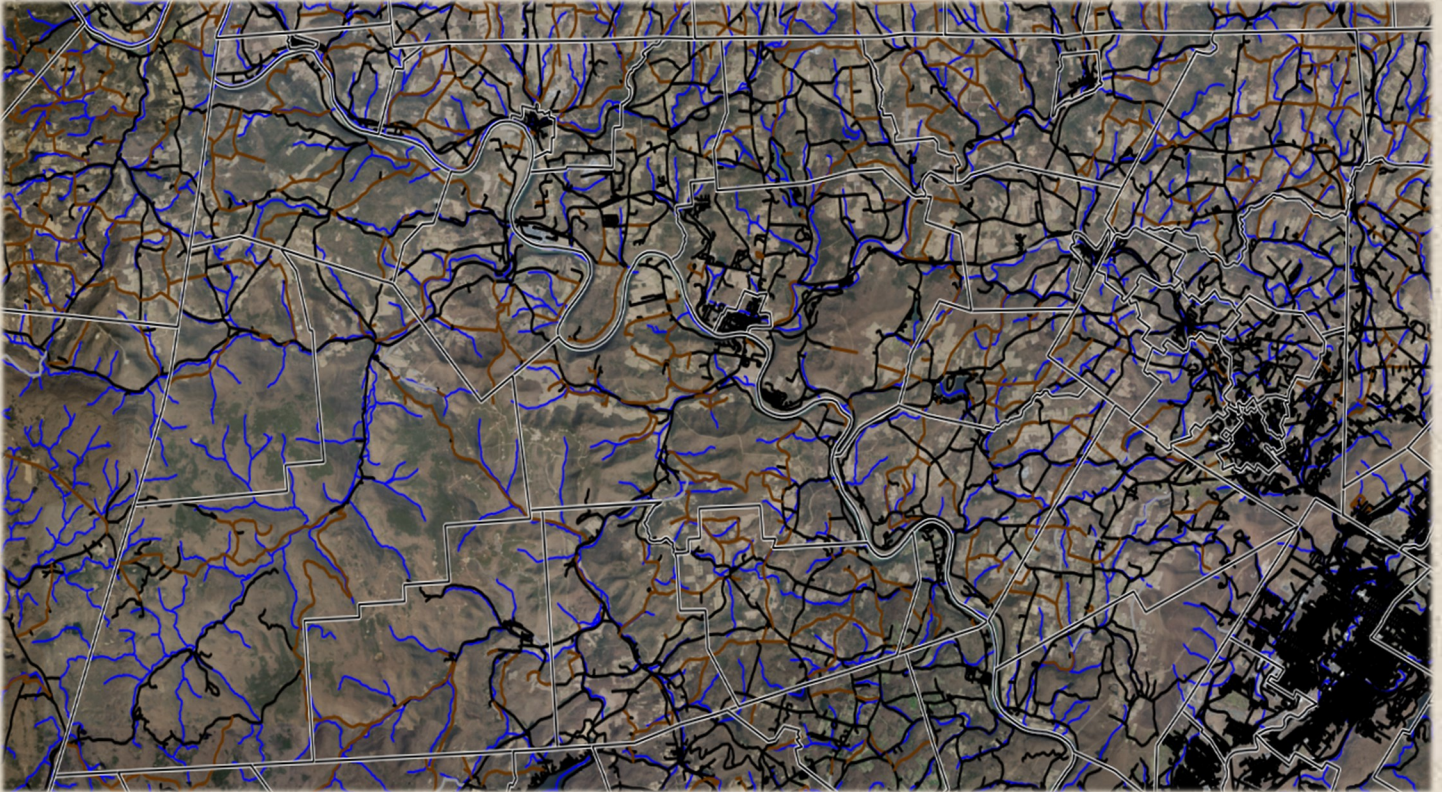
LOCAL RESOURCES:

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

A New DGLVR Tool to Help Townships

The center for Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads Studies has recently released, to the Districts, a new tool to help the townships draw up proposed projects. This new drawing program is located on the Center's website. This uses the same information where the District already enters the project information and shows where the projects are located. At this time, the tool is only available to the Districts but hopefully in the near future the program will be opened up to anyone from the townships who would like to use the program.

Already, we have been out with a couple of townships and have produced maps for them to use as part of their grant applications. The application does require a sketch plan of the proposed project and a way to identify the sections of the road that the township would like to work on. With the new program, the location is easily identified with a larger location map right down to the exact location of where the project is proposed.



This map shows all the roads, dirt and paved, throughout the county along with the streams. This is the beginning screen where we can narrow things down to a specific township and site to start drawing out a project sketch.

Swarming Season is Almost Here!

Spring is a time of year everyone can't wait to start. The warmer temperature starts to bring out signs of life in all the plants and trees all around us. The longer days with stronger sunlight begs us to get out of the house and do more things outdoors in preparation of the warmer days to come.

Beekeepers look forward to this time of year every year and is always the start of the busy season. Starting in late winter with the days that are starting to get longer the bees start laying eggs and start building up brood in anticipation of all the flower and blooms that they will need to visit to collect the pollen and nectar needed for the hive for the coming year. This buildup can be a two edged sword for beekeepers and having a plan for the season is necessary for a good beekeeper. Do you want to increase your number of hives or do you want to produce plenty of honey.

Anytime bees start to buildup and produce plenty of young there is always a chance that they will outgrow the home that the bees are in at the present. Once the bees have outgrown their home and have become so crowded that there is no choice but to move to bigger quarters. This whole process can take place any time of the year but is primarily from April through July. This is swarming season.

In preparation, a queen lays several eggs that the workers then take and turn them into new queens. Once these new queens are grown and just about ready to hatch the old queen flies out of the old hive with about half of the workers. The new queen that is about to hatch is left in charge of the old hive but with half of the number of bees gone this gives her plenty of room to make the old hive her own.

The old queen flies out and lands on a building or a tree branch or somewhere where the workers can search out a new home for her and start a new hive. Here are a few pictures of what a typical swarm looks like.



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Swarming Season is Almost Here! Continued...

Even though they may look intimidating, swarms are very gentle and the bees hardly ever will sting or show any defensive behavior when they are swarming. This is just a natural reproduction of the bees increasing their numbers. With all the difficulties that the bees have had to face recently we always hope to catch and save as many of these swarms as possible.

If anyone gets a chance to see a swarm or wants any assistance removing a swarm, reach out to the District and we can help you get in contact with a local beekeeper to save as many of our pollinators as possible.



ALL ABOUT LAVENDER

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

- ANOUK
- BALLERINA
- BETTY'S BLUE
- FATHEAD
- FOLGATE
- GROSSO
- HIDOTE
- IMPRESS (PURPLE)
- JEAN DAVIS
- KEW RED
- LAVANDIN
- LAVENITE PETITE
- LITTLE LOTTIE
- MELISSA
- (MELISSA) LILAC
- MISS KATHERINE
- MUNSTEAD
- PHENOMENAL
- PRETTY POLLY
- PORTUGUESE GIANT
- PROVENCE
- REGAL SPLENDOR
- ROSEA
- ROYAL (PURPLE)
- SEAL
- THUMELINA LEIGH
- WITH LOVE

Nicholson Borough Flood Mitigation Program

There is a project underway that may provide flood relief for residents within Nicholson Borough. Nicholson Borough has been experiencing flooding for many years as a result of Martins Creek overflowing its streambanks and causing grief for the community. The Conservation District has been in discussions with Nicholson Borough Council for many years to devise a plan to minimize flooding in the area.



After receiving a \$500,000 grant to develop a watershed plan, the Conservation District will be applying for additional funding for construction activities. There are several different alternatives being considered to reduce the impact of flooding. The next step will be to hold a public meeting to gain feedback from the Borough Council and residents. Once there is an alternative selected that everyone is pleased with, we will continue the process. Although there are many options being considered, the most favorably looking approach is a combination of floodwalls, floodproofing, and buyouts. Stay tuned for more information as we are very eager to offer this assistance to the community.

Say Goodbye To Stink Bugs With This Easy And Powerful DIY Repellent

BY ALIA HOYT/FEB. 5, 2024 5:37 PM EST

Stink bugs might not be able to sting a person, but that still doesn't make them ideal houseguests. In fact, they produce a liquid pheromone that not only smells terrible (like rotting fruit) but can also cause people to have allergic reactions like itchy, watery eyes, stuffy nose, a wheezing cough, and more. However, an essential oil or two is all it takes to repel these unattractive little guys away from your home.



Jen Tepp/Getty Images

Stink bugs have turned into quite the problem for farmers in the United States, as the invasive pest loves to nosh on a variety of crops and pretty much ruin them. Because of this, homes near farms are at greater risk for stink bugs to show up uninvited. The smartest thing to do if you know that stink bugs are hanging around is to keep doors and windows firmly shut so that they don't wander in. Ideally, couple those preventative measures with a DIY stink bug repellent, which can be easily and affordably made – and has the added benefit of keeping your home smelling fresh.

The great news for fans of essential oils is that many of those tested are adept at repelling stink bug nymphs and adults alike. The best essential oils for stink bug prevention, according to a study published in the *Journal of Applied Entomology*, include lemongrass, spearmint, clove, and ylang-ylang. Additionally, an oil mixture composed of spearmint, clove, and lemongrass was also extremely effective, preventing almost all stink bugs from finding bug-attractant stations. While less effective, you can also try pennyroyal, rosemary, wintergreen, and geranium oils in your anti-stink bug potion.

So, how are you to use these essential oils to keep stink bugs from coming inside and setting up shop? If you know that they come into your home from one or a few certain access points, simply soak some cotton balls in the oil and place them in those locations. Or, make your own essential oil spray and spritz the likely entry points regularly to keep these bugs at bay. Lastly, place essential oil diffusers strategically near exit points and run them periodically. If you follow one or all of these tips, the house should remain free of these bugs – and their stink.

29th Annual Contractor's & Engineers Workshop

The Conservation District put on the 29th Annual Contractors & Engineers Workshop at Keystone College on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. We had a great line up of speakers including, Louis Zoeller, PPL, Jim Reynolds, PA 1 Call, Jeff Ritter, OSHA, Pam Kania & Brian Mackowski, DEP, Dave Creamer, Center for DGLVR, Trooper Brian Mennig, PA State Police, & Scott Snyder & Jonathan Moses, PennDOT. Although, the last session of the day was canceled there weren't any complaints. The day had hit a high of 70 & was sunny so everyone got to enjoy the weather.

The workshop had about 208 people in attendance including, 33 vendors that had their informational displays & giveaways set up through the main hallway & the Fireplace Lounge. The vendors included, Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., Barry Islett Assoc., Bradco Supply Co., Bradford County Conservation District, Chemung Supply Corp., Community Bank, DGK Insurance, Dominic's Equipment Rental, EcoTech, Force America Inc., H&K Group, Highway Equipment & Supply, JHA Companies, Keystone Fence LLC, Kost, KW Enterprises, LLC, Labella Assoc., Medico Construction Equipment, Milnes Engineering, Native Habitat Restoration, Northern Tier Hardwood Assoc., OSHA, PA 1 Call, PA State Police, Rain for Rent, Shalata's Land Clearing, LLC, Sherwood Freightliner, Sterling & Western Star, Superior Energy Services, Traffic Plan, UGI, Utility Services Group, Warner Tractor & Supply & Williams Co.

The sponsors this year included, Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., Bradco Supply Co., Chemung Supply Corp., Community Bank, DGK Insurance, Dominic's Equipment Rental, EcoTech, Highway Equipment & Supply, KW Enterprises, LLC, Labella Assoc., Milnes Engineering, Native Habitat Restoration, Northern Tier Hardwood Assoc., PA 1 Call, Shalata's Land Clearing, LLC, Sherwood Freightliner, Sterling & Western Star, Superior Energy Services, Utility Services Group, & Williams Co.

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

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



High Tensile History

Did you know that high tensile fencing in the United States has its start in Pennsylvania? John Wall was a farmer who moved to southwest Pennsylvania from New Zealand in the 70's. The farm he purchased needed new fence to control the sheep he planned to raise. Wall was a former fence contractor in New Zealand and was dissatisfied with the effectiveness of barb wire and the cost of woven wire. He wanted to build fences like he had built back home in New Zealand but the wire he needed to built these wasn't available anywhere in the United States.

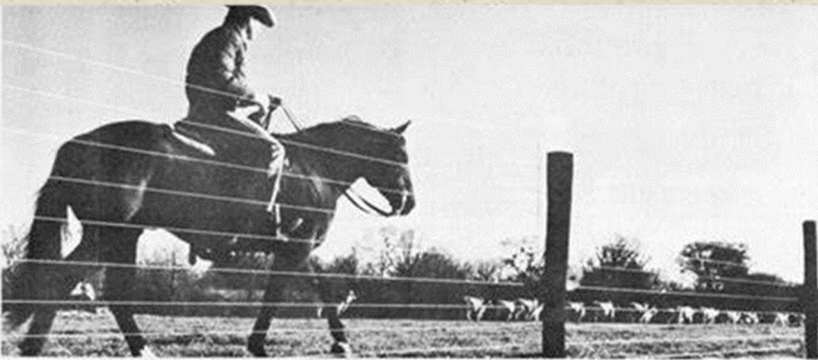
Wall would not compromise and sought out U.S. in Pittsburgh to strike a deal. They began making and marketing the wire Wall wanted. Little did they know high tensile fencing would be hailed as the greatest advance in fence building history for many years to come.

This design was new to the United States but had been used for years in New Zealand and Australia. At the time this fence design had up to 10 strands of 12 gauge galvanized wire with a tensile strength of 200,000 psi. Animals don't like the springy stiffness when they hit the wires especially if they are electrified. When people spoke of Wall's fence they said bulls will literally bounce off of them.

Another unusual feature of Wall's fence was the posts can be up to 60 feet apart on level ground. Because of the smooth simple wire and far distance between posts, this made the price of installation were competitive compared to other types of fences. At the time a high tensile fence with 8 wires costs about the same as a barb wire fence with 4 wires and the high tensile fence would cost as little as half as much of a woven wire fence.

With the idea becoming so popular because of its cheap price, U.S. Steel wrote a 72 page book that explained the history and concept of high tensile, how to plan these fences, the construction of them , and the maintenance in order to help people install these new fences.

Wall started the Kiwi Fence company in 1978 and this company is still in existence today selling high tensile fence supplies and specialized tools they have developed.



Fences using high tensile galvanized wire can be built with posts spaced up to 60 ft. apart, or as close as 16 ft.



New multi-reel fencer can unroll up to 10 high-tensile wires at one time. Its inventors hail from New Zealand.

Environmental Education

Tunkhannock Area School District 4th Grade Students Program: "Enviroscape" Model of a Watershed

Students learned how their everyday activities may affect water quality in their community. Topics covered included: the water cycle, point and non-point source pollution. The students now know that their school is located in the Swalebrook watershed, which is in the Tunkhannock creek watershed, and the Susquehanna River Watershed that leads and flows into the Chesapeake Bay.



Tunkhannock Area School District 2nd Grade Students Program: Ag Literacy Week March 18-22, 2024

Sharing the story of Agriculture, we discussed how farmers raise crops and livestock to provide food, clothing and more. The 2024 Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation's Ag literacy book "Anywhere Farm" allows children to explore the different options where one can plant a farm. Also, the children learned how the produce gets from the farm fields to their dinner table. Then the "Garden in a Bag" activity let the children create their own garden to hang in a window in the classroom to observe the lettuce seeds germinate.

