

District Digest

The BCCD Newsletter



**BERKS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

BERKS COUNTY ENVIROTHON TEAM PLACES 8TH IN THE STATE!

This past May, the Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) held its annual Envirothon at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center.

The Envirothon is the most popular high school environmental knowledge competition in North America. Students were rigorously tested in areas of aquatics, wildlife, soils and land use, forestry, and ground water. With help from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, thirteen teams from various Berks County High Schools competed for the opportunity to go on to the Pennsylvania Envirothon. The winning high school team was Oley Valley's Team C. Oley Valley Team K and Con-



Oley Valley High School - Team C and advisor poses with their trophy

rad Weiser Team O took second and third place respectively. Oley Valley's Team C then represented Berks County in the Pennsylvania Envirothon and placed 8th out of 65 Teams!

The BCCD also hosted a Junior Envirothon, which specifically focuses on Middle Schools. A total of fourteen teams competed. The winning middle school team was Tulpehocken Team A with Oley Valley Team C, and Fleetwood Team R taking second and third place respectively.

Congratulations to all of the participating schools and a big thank you to the partners and volunteers that helped make the 2010 Envirothon a success!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Envirothon Results	Page 1
Managers Message	Page 2
New 102 Regulation	Page 3
Water Drops	Page 4
Stormwater Delegation	Page 4
Rain Barrels	Page 5
West Nile Update	Page 6
Annual Banquet	Page 7

*Berks County Conservation
District
1238 County Welfare Road
Suite 200
Leesport, PA 19533
610-372-4657*



Tulpehocken Middle School - Team A are all smiles as they win the Junior Envirothon

**2011 Envirothon
Dates have been set!**
Senior: May 5th
Junior: May 10th

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ecologist

M. Kathryn O'Brien

*Watershed Specialist/Env. Educator***MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER:
WORKING PROGRESS**

It is hard to believe that it has almost been a year since the Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) transitioned from County employees to an independent agency with a completely new staff.

To me: I am back home after living out West for the past ten years working in the environmental consulting industry throughout the country. I must admit that it has been a challenge getting reacquainted to the change in lifestyle, scenery, food, and most of all the quality and pace of work. Since coming on board as the new BCCD Manager, I've encountered a great opportunity of learning how to develop and operate a small business (with help from some partners/agencies).

Currently, the BCCD has nine new outstanding staff personnel and our programs continue to flourish despite the lack of adequate funding. What it boils down to is that the BCCD can continue to service our clients; however, we can only do so if there is adequate funding available. Feedback from the public and private sectors has been positive and in most cases gratitude has been extended to the BCCD for outstanding client service.

The main challenge ahead is to ensure that the BCCD is not only sustaining existing programs, but also dynamically growing those programs and embarking on new endeavors to service our clients county-wide and to a greater extent, those beyond the county who are part of an overall watershed(s). Key components to moving forward are that operations need to be based on solid business principles and a staff who is both motivated and innovative.

Since coming on board, I have seen the BCCD go through positive changes and much thanks goes out to our Board of Directors and key partners who helped to keep this District rolling. To put it into better perspective: We are working and making progress!

Sincerely,
Joe Crea
District Manager

Congratulations to Chairman Glenn Seidel!

Chairman Seidel was awarded the President's Award by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Each year the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts honors staff, volunteers and board members from conservation districts around the Commonwealth. Chairman Seidel was recognized for the vast amount of volunteer time he offered in reorganizing the BCCD. ***Congrats Glenn!***



NEW CHAPTER 102 REGULATIONS: WILL IT AFFECT YOU?

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has recently published its intent to implement the revised Chapter 102 Regulations. Chapter 102 defines specific procedures and requirements of a program to help provide for the conservation of soil, water and related resources, for the control and prevention of soil erosion, and for preservation of natural resources. The Chapter 102 regulations require erosion control planning for all types of earthmoving. The new Chapter 102 regulations will become effective on November 19, 2010. Below is a brief summary of how the changes may affect you:

Construction/Development

- New requirements for post-construction stormwater management, and riparian buffer requirements in Special Protection Watersheds.
- Requires Licensed Professional oversight and final certification of "Record Drawings."
- The base administrative filing fees for NPDES General Permit fee remains at \$500. The base administrative filing fees for NPDES Individual Permit fee was raised to \$1,500. An escalator fee for all NPDES Permits has been added to include an additional \$100 per disturbed acre.

Agriculture

- Under the previous regulations, Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Plans were required for agricultural plowing, tilling and no-tilling activities that disturbed more than 5,000 square feet of land. In the revised regulations, this section was modified to require written E&S Plans for animal heavy use areas that disturb land of that same size.
- The Department of Environmental Protection defines "animal heavy use areas" as: barnyards, feedlots, loafing areas, exercise lots, or other similar areas on an agricultural operation where it is not possible to establish and maintain vegetative cover of a density capable of minimizing accelerated erosion and sedimentation by usual planting methods. The term does not include entrances, pathways and walkways between areas where animals are housed or kept in concentration.

The BCCD is always available for information and assistance on understanding and implementing the new regulations. You can get obtain a copy of the revised regulations at the following address: http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol40/40-34/40_34_p3.pdf.



**BERKS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Fall Engineer's Seminar

Tuesday, November 9th, 2010

Check-in 7:30 AM

Presentation 8:00 – 12:00 PM

Breakfast Provided

Topics include: Introduction of New Staff, New Chapter 102 Regulations, and Post Construction Stormwater.

**Workshop is \$50 and Participants will earn 4 PDH's, Register Today!
Registration deadline is Nov. 2nd.**

*Please register by contacting Jason Bailey at 610-372-4657 or by email at
Jason.Bailey@pa.nacdnet.net*



WATER DROPS: STORM DRAINS

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not quickly soak into the ground. Stormwater flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns and fields. As it flows, this runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, leaves, litter and other potential pollutants. You do not need a heavy rainstorm to send pollutants rushing toward Berks County's streams, wetlands, and lakes—in fact even a single garden hose can supply enough water. Storm drains and sewers are designed to move runoff from your neighborhood to the nearest body of water so that flooding does not occur.



Water that has washed the soil off the land will flow directly into a nearby stream

Contrary to popular belief, storm sewers do not carry stormwater to wastewater treatment plants. They flow directly into our rivers and streams!

Every street, parking lot, sidewalk, driveway, yard, and garden can potentially contribute to the problem. The issue can only be solved with everyone's help.

Here are EASY things that you can do to help prevent the pollution of Berks County streams.

- 1.** Never dump used oil, antifreeze or gasoline down a storm drain, in a ditch or on the ground.
- 2.** Wash your car on the lawn or, better yet, take it to a commercial car wash or spray booth that sends its dirty water to a wastewater treatment plant. Washing your car in the driveway creates runoff and the dirty, soapy runoff drains directly into storm sewers, picking up oil and other pollutants as it goes.
- 3.** Pick up after your pet. Take a plastic bag or pooper scooper along on your next walk!
- 4.** Aim downspouts onto grassy areas where water can soak into the ground, or you collect the roof water with a rain barrel. The water can then be used for your gardening and landscaping needs

The BCCD is currently offering Rain Barrels at \$75.00. Please see the flyer on page 5 for more information!

POST-CONSTRUCTION DELEGATION AGREEMENT

The BCCD has accepted additional post-construction stormwater management responsibilities through a delegation agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The BCCD will now be delegated to make technical review comments on post-construction stormwater management plans in accordance with DEP requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and new Chapter 102 regulations. The BCCD will charge fees for these additional services and are confident that additional review of the submitted stormwater plans will result in better plans and subsequently, better quality of runoff water from completed projects.





**BERKS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**The Berks County Conservation District is offering
hand-made, custom-crafted rain barrels!**

Each rain barrel is a 55 Gallon Plastic Drum with a spigot,
drain hole, and inlet.

Fill out your order below to purchase your
Rain barrel*

Benefits for You:

- ☞ Reduces roof runoff
- ☞ Conserves water use
- ☞ Reduces pollutants from entering streams
- ☞ Clean water for gardens, lawns, washing cars, etc.!

Maintenance:

- ☞ Keep openings covered with a fine-mesh screen to prevent mosquito breeding; You can also use "dunks", a non-toxic bacteria to kill larvae.
- ☞ Empty barrel frequently to keep stored water from developing odors.
- ☞ Check barrel and connections frequently to remove debris.
- ☞ Drain barrel and connections and place in storage during winter to avoid freezing damage.
- ☞ *Water from barrel should NEVER be used for drinking, cooking, or bathing!*

A **RAIN BARREL** is a rainwater collection system that stores rooftop runoff that can be used for irrigating gardens and lawns, and conserves water!



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Rain Barrels (\$75.00 each) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Choose your rain barrel color: ___ Blue ___ Green ___ White

Please detach and mail this order form to:
Berks County Conservation District
1238 County Welfare Road / Suite 200
Leesport, PA 19533
Phone: 610-372-4657

Please make all checks out to *Berks County Conservation District*.



**Please allow for 15-20 days to fulfill your order. You will receive a phone call or email when your rain barrel is ready to be picked up.*

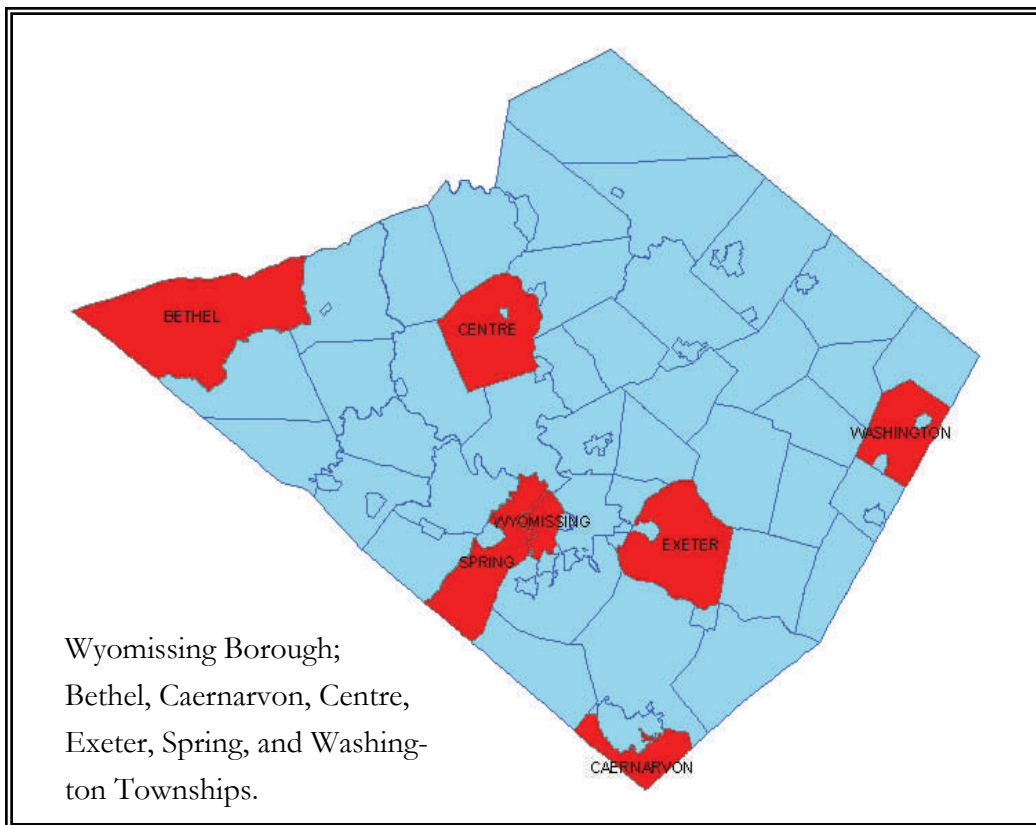
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WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE

Each summer, since 1999, the West Nile Virus (WNV) has been transmitted between birds and mosquitoes in the United State. The virus amplifies over the season becoming more prevalent by September. WNV has taken off this year in Pennsylvania. By the end of September 2010, mosquito surveillance in Berks County has resulted in detecting West Nile Virus (WNV) in 19 mosquito samples for the season.

These mosquitoes that tested positive for WNV were located



in Wyomissing Borough; Bethel, Caernarvon, Centre, Exeter, Spring, and Washington Townships. DEP and BCCD Staff are responding by increasing surveillance and conducting control activities as needed. Detection of more virus is expected; visit our website for the most up-to-date information. Visit www.BerksCD.com and select the Insect Management tab.

This is the second highest year on record for WNV positive mosquitoes in Berks County.

AG CORNER

The deadline to apply to the Berks County Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program is December 31, 2010 for more information, please call Berks Agricultural Land Preservation at 610-378-1844.

The annual October Farm Tour in Berks County is scheduled for October 23, 2010. Cost is \$10 per vehicle. There will be a dozen stops for tour participants to choose to visit at their own pace between 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Maps will go on sale at 8:30 a.m. at three locations: Mountain View Supply, Old Route 22, Hamburg; Zimmerman Farm Service, 180 School Road, Bethel; and Way-Har Farms Store, Route 183. The event is sponsored by the Berks Agricultural Resource Network. For more information, contact Sheila Miller, Berks Agricultural Coordinator, at 610-898-5482 or smiller@countyofberks.com.

Join Adopt an Acre Inc. on October 16-17th at Duncan's Corn Maze (Robesonia, PA) for farm family fun and entertainment and help raise funds for farmland preservation!



2010 ANNUAL BANQUET RECAP

On April 12, 2010 the BCCD and the Farm Service Agency celebrated its annual banquet at Pike Township Sportsman's Association.

The fun - (and food) - filled night was highlighted by presentations from Theresa Tracey, Farm Service Agency-County Executive Director and Frank Plucinski - Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc. The BCCD also awarded scholarships and its annual awards.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who attended!



Outstanding Conservation Farmer

Forrest Stricker (pictured below)

Outstanding Conservation Educator

"Possum Pat" Catucci

Media/Public Outreach Award

Bill Zollers

Erosion and Sediment Control Award

Landis C. Deck & Sons Site Contractors

Conservation Service Individual of the Year

Donald W. Reinert

Conservation Organization of the Year

Schuylkill Action Network

Berks Conservation District Scholarship

Brett Morgan

Kaitlyn Mae Sterner

Solon Phillips Memorial Scholarship

James W. Oswald

Continuing Education Scholarship

Shannon Wade

Memorial Endowment Scholarship

Magen Majeski

THE BERKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR CURRENT & FUTURE GENERATIONS

CALENDAR

October	7th 27th 28th	7:00-9:00AM 1:00PM 6:30PM	Legislative Breakfast BCCD Board Meeting BCCD on BCTV's Our City Our World	Berks Agricultural Center Berks Agricultural Center
November	9th 24th	7:30AM-Noon 1:00PM	Fall Engineer Workshop BCCD Board Meeting	Berks Agricultural Center Berks Agricultural Center
December	29th	1:00PM	BCCD Board Meeting	Berks Agricultural Center
January	26th	1:00PM	BCCD Board Meeting	Berks Agricultural Center
February	23rd	1:00PM	BCCD Board Meeting	Berks Agricultural Center

Want to receive this Newsletter electronically?
 Visit: <http://berkscd.com/education/newsletter>



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