



THE CONSERVATION REPORT

(717) 240-7812

Cumberland County Conservation District

Summer 2008

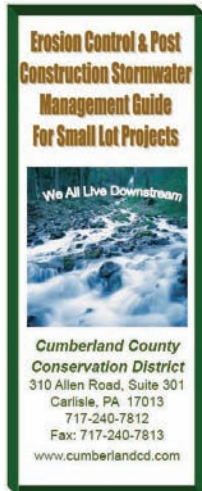
Brochures Available

The erosion control and post construction stormwater management guide for small lot projects brochure is now available at the District office and on our website. The brochure was developed by the District through a grant provided by Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program. The District has seen an increasing problem with the development of small lots within the County. There appears to be a lack of erosion control

implementation and little incorporation of water quality and stormwater best management practices (BMP's). The District developed this brochure to educate people involved with the development of small lots about the importance of on-lot erosion control BMP's, wetland and waterway protection and stormwater management.

The brochure details specific practices and BMP's appropriate for small lots and describes when an erosion and sedimentation plan and national pollutant discharge elimination system permit are required. It also includes a section on post construction stormwater management which describes ways of managing stormwater run-off from a small lot.

Brochures are available at the District office from 8:00 to 4:30 Monday through Friday.



Brochure Cover



Bioretention/infiltration area receiving runoff from a paved drive.

6th Annual Cumberland County Conservation District Golf Tournament Scheduled



The 6th Annual Cumberland County Conservation District Golf Tournament will be held at Mayapple Golf Links on Friday September 26th 2008 with a shotgun start at 12:00 pm. The entry fee is \$60/participant and is due to the Cumberland County Conservation District no later than September 19th. The entry fee includes hot dogs and beverages during registration, golf, cart, prizes, snacks & non-alcoholic beverages on the course, and a steak and chicken dinner afterward. Practice balls will be provided for warm-up before the event and a raffle and skill hole will be offered for added entertainment. For more information about the tournament and for an entry form please visit our website at www.cumberlandcd.com. For information and directions to Mayapple Golf Links please, log on to www.mayapplegolflinks.com.

All proceeds from the event support environmental education scholarships for Cumberland County students. Register early to make sure you get a spot and share this announcement with your friends and co-workers. Please contact Vince or Mike at (717) 240-7812 with any questions you may have. We hope to see you on September 26th.



THE CONSERVATION REPORT

Cumberland County Envirothon

Mechanicsburg, PA – Students from nine area high schools competed in the annual Cumberland County Envirothon on Tuesday, May 6, at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association's Club. The weather was perfect for the outdoor environmental education competition. The top three overall scores were The Vermicious Kanids from Cedar Cliff High School in first place, The Duckies from Cumberland Valley in second place, and The Coots from Carlisle Area in third place. The Vermicious Kanids represented Cumberland County at the 2008 Pennsylvania Envirothon held at Penn State University, University Park Campus, in State College, on May 19 and 20.

The annual Cumberland County Envirothon, presented by the Cumberland County Conservation District, gives high school students hands-on field experience dealing with environmental issues. Students complete five exams that present problems focusing on wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and a current issue; this year's issue was Recreational Impact on the Natural Environment. Nine schools totaling 30 teams representing 130 students participated. A picnic style lunch was served by volunteers from the Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association and all participants and advisors received a Cumberland County Envirothon t-shirt. Li Kohr, Assistant to Senator Pat Vance, and Commissioner Rick Rovegno helped to handout trophies to the overall winners of the event. Additionally, the Conservation District received financial support from the following local businesses, which helped to provide for lunch, trophies and t-shirts for the event.

2008 Cumberland County Envirothon Donation List

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc	Alpha Consulting Engineers, Inc
H. Edward Black & Associates, P.C.	Brehm-Lebo Engineering, Inc.
J. Michael Brill & Associates, Inc.	Conewago Enterprises, Inc
Michael C. D'Angelo, PLS	Dawood Engineering, Inc.
Diffenbaugh Surveying	J. D. Eckman, Inc.
Evans Engineering, Inc.	Gannett Fleming, Inc.
John W. Gleim, Jr., Inc.	Hoover Engineering Services Inc.
Liberty Excavators, Inc	Madden Engineering Services, Inc.
Nesbit Development, LLC	Pennoni Associates Inc.
R.S. Mowery & Sons, Inc.	Skelly & Loy, Inc.
Triple Crown Corporation, Inc.	Leon W. Wintermyer, Inc.



Left to Right: Assistant to Senator Pat Vance, Li Kohr, Liz Limacher, Casey Johnson, Miranda Cover, Connie Chon, Katie Clark, and Commissioner Rick Rovegno

Cumberland County Ranks 12TH at the Pennsylvania Envirothon

State College, PA - The Vermicious Kanids from Cedar Cliff High School represented Cumberland County at the Pennsylvania Envirothon on May 19th and 20th. The first day of the Envirothon was specifically for the Oral Component part of the competition. This was the first year that the State Envirothon counted the score of the Oral Component as part of the final score for the competition. The students were asked to identify two Critical Recreational Activities that negatively affects the Appalachian Trail and to present valid solutions explaining how they would minimize the negative impacts on Wildlife, Soils, Aquatics, and Forestry.

The second day the teams completed five exams focusing on wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and a current issue; this year's issue was Recreational Impact on the Natural Environment. There was also an extra station that taught the students about producing biodiesel. The students dealt with continual rain for the entire day, but canopies were erected above each station to give the students some relief from the rain.

The Vermicious Kanids ranked 12th out of 66 teams for the event. This was one of the highest finishes that Cumberland County has ever received at the state level. The Vermicious Kanids were advised by Justin Weaver. The Cumberland County Conservation District would like to congratulate the team for their excellent work and great performance at the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

New County Nutrient Management Specialist



In February, the Cumberland County Conservation District welcomed Kristen Kitchen as the Nutrient Management Specialist.

Kristen grew up on a small dairy farm in Newville, Pennsylvania and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1994. In 1999, she graduated from Shippensburg University with a bachelor's degree in Geography with a concentration in Regional Development. Ms. Kitchen worked in the private sector for Geo-Technical and Environmental consultants as an Environmental Scientist for 7 years prior to accepting a position with the District.

When she is not at work, Kristen enjoys spending time with her family, reading, hiking, and dreaming up home projects for her husband to work on. She also enjoys traveling but doesn't get to do it as often as she'd like! She is happy to be returning to her farming roots and looking forward to getting to know the producers of the county and assisting them in their nutrient management needs. She has enjoyed her time with the District so far

and hopes for a long and successful career with the District. Kristen can be reached at 717-240-5360 or kkitchen@ccpa.net.

Good Bugs Needed to Restore the Middle Spring Watershed

Is there such a thing as good bugs? In the news, we often hear about bugs that are bad for either the environment or our health. Bugs like the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Gypsy Moth attack the leaves of native trees and causes the loss forest habitat and important riparian buffers (forested areas along streams that provide food, shade, and shelter for animals and insects). Also, there are bugs like deer ticks and mosquitoes that cause health problems like Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus. But believe it or not, there are good bugs.

The bugs that I am talking about are unlike the ones mentioned above and need clean fresh water and are very sensitive to water pollution. Some of these good bugs are species like Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies, which spend part of their life cycle in healthy streams. These sensitive bugs are known as indicator species and can be used to show the health of a stream. By having sensitive bugs in a stream, you can conclude that the stream is healthy and that the pollution levels are very low or not present. When the sensitive bugs are absent, then we know that the pollution levels are too high and that actions are needed to reduce this pollution. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) calls these streams lacking sensitive bugs "Impaired Streams".

Recently, the Cumberland County Conservation District received a grant from PA DEP to write a management plan that identifies pollution sources that enter the Middle Spring Watershed (MSW). The MSW is located in the Shippensburg area and is listed on PA DEP's list of Impaired Streams. Once the plan is written, MSW will become a priority for funding from PA DEP's Non Point Source Pollution program.

The pollution sources for the MSW are suspended solids and sediment. The causes of the pollution are from urban runoff/storm sewers and agriculture. To take this stream off PA DEP's Impaired List, sensitive bugs will need to return to the MSW. By implementing practices on the ground to reduce the causes of pollution, the sensitive bugs will have the clean fresh water they need to survive. The plan is intended to be completed by September 2009 and improvement practices on the MSW will begin shortly after the plan is approved.



Pictured is a Mayfly nymph (a nymph is an aquatic phase of the insect) taken from Doubling Gap creek in Colonel Denning State Park

Cumberland County Farm Receives Clean Water Award

Charles Carothers III, who owns a beef and cropland operation on 115 acres in Boiling Springs, was recently named as one of the 2008 Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award recipients. Mr. Carothers, along with the William Hess Farms of Columbia County, and the Smith Hollow Farm of Blair County were recognized on July 29, 2008, during the Annual Conservation Awards program of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD). In recognition of their conservation achievements, award recipients received framed certificates and large "Clean Water Farm Award" signs to erect on their farm.

The Clean Water Farm Award, initiated in 1986, recognizes farmers within Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, who manage their daily farm operation while maintaining clean water. The farms' conservation plans address issues that help control potential pollutants such as eroded soil, pesticides, and fertilizers from entering streams or groundwater supplies. Recipients of the annual Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award are nominated by county conservation district staff.

The Cumberland County Conservation District nominated Charles Carothers III because he implements numerous conservation practices to reduce pollution on his farm. For example, this farm uses rotational grazing, fencing, and established animal trails and walkways to reduce soil erosion. The farm has a long tradition of conservation and Mr. Carothers goes out of his way to protect water quality in an area impacted by mounting development pressure.

"Car Wood Farm is an oasis in a sea of development. The Carothers family is an excellent example of people who care about the environmental impact of their farm. While they work hard to make the farm a viable business, they are also taking the time, and making the effort to protect the waters of not only our local waterways, but ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay," said Carl Goshorn, Cumberland County Conservation District manager.

This Clean Water Farm Award program is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office (administered by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization representing Pennsylvania's sixty-six county conservation districts). The awards are sponsored jointly by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to recognize farmers who implement conservation practices.

The Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office conducts numerous activities promoting the theme, "We All Live Downstream." For more information, visit www.pacd.org.

To learn more call the Cumberland County Conservation District at (717) 240-7812.



Pictured from left to right is PACD President Larry Kehl, Shyrl Carothers, Charles Carothers III and Charles Carothers IV. Absent from photo is Corey Carothers.

Chesapeake Bay Program

With the costs of everything escalating, we are all looking to cut costs wherever possible. Unfortunately, cutting costs up front, may lead to an expense in the end. Cover crops are a vital component of a no-till system, providing a source to absorb nutrients from manure, loosening the soil and providing a 'cushioning' effect when applying manure. Cover crops also provide valuable cover to reduce soil erosion over the winter and early spring months, when the soils are most vulnerable.

The Conservation District has funding available for the producers of Cumberland County to plant a small grain winter cover crop. For further details, or an application for the Cover Crop Program, contact Pam Eyer at 717-240-5357, or peyer@ccpa.net. The deadline for completed applications is September 15, 2008.

With the high value of crops right now, protect your soils so they will be the most productive they can be.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Carlisle Field Office
43 Brookwood Avenue, Suite 3
Carlisle, PA 17015

phone: 717-249-1037 ext. 3
fax: 717-243-9256

NEWS RELEASE

PENNSYLVANIA AG PRODUCERS URGED TO APPLY NOW FOR FEDERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Pennsylvania farmers and landowners interested in receiving financial assistance through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) conservation programs should apply by August 29, 2008 to be considered in initial funding allocations for 2009.

NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, improve air and water quality, improve and increase wildlife habitat, restore and enhance wetlands, and improve water conservation. The programs are voluntary and provide financial payments and technical assistance for the planning, design and installation of conservation practices and systems. Applications are currently being accepted for the Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

AMA and EQIP offer assistance to agriculture and forestry producers to install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices. Help is available for erosion control practices, livestock grazing, livestock manure and nutrient management systems, improvement of irrigation systems efficiency, wildlife habitat establishment, forest management, pest management/IPM, conversion to No Till; cover crops, and CNMP Plan Development. Applicants for AMA and EQIP must be farmers and producers engaged in agricultural production on eligible agricultural land.

The WHIP program aims to enhance wildlife habitat on private agricultural land or forest land. WHIP provides cost-share assistance for practices that establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. In Pennsylvania, high priorities for WHIP include addressing issues such as declining wildlife species' habitats such as grassland habitat, stream habitat and early successional habitat.

Through WRP, NRCS provides financial assistance in the form of easement payments and wetland restoration cost-share assistance, and technical assistance for wetland restoration and management. Participating landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration, or can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In all instances, landowners continue to control access to their land.

For all programs, the applicant must have control of the land for the life of the proposed contract. All applications will be evaluated and ranked according to environmental benefits and cost effectiveness. In most projects NRCS does not cover all the costs of installation practices; participants must pay a portion.

To learn more about these and other conservation programs, please contact the Cumberland County USDA Service Center at 717-249-1037 extension 3, or visit <http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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Cumberland County Conservation District
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 www.cumberlandcd.com
 conserve@pa.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 13...Water Testing – District Office
- 26...Board Meeting/District Picnic - 6:00 PM Letort Park, Carlisle

SEPTEMBER

- 1.....Labor Day – Office Closed
- 10.....Water Testing – District Office
- 23.....Board Meeting – District Office 6:00 PM
- 26...Annual Conservation District Golf Tournament - Mayapple Golf Links

OCTOBER

- 1 - 3.... Annual Dirt & Gravel Road Conference - Ligonier, PA
- 8.....Water Testing – District Office
- 28.....Board Meeting – District Office 6:00 PM

NOVEMBER

- 11.....Veteran's Day – Office Closed
- 12.....Water Testing – District Office
- 25.....Board Meeting – District Office 6:00 PM
- 27.....Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
- 28.....Day after Thanksgiving – Office Closed

DECEMBER

- 10.....Water Testing – District Office
- 23.....Board Meeting – District Office 8:00 AM
- 24Christmas Holiday – Office Closed
- 25Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

District Directors		Associate Directors		District Staff	
Chairman	Wilbur Wolf	John Bixler		District Manager	Carl Goshorn
Vice Chairman	Daniel Mains	Alan Williams		District Technician	Brian Jaymes
Commissioner	Richard L. Rovegno	Alvin Myers		District Technician	Kim Falvey
Farmer Director	Dennis Garman	Kingsley Blasco		District Technician	Vince McCollum
Farmer Director	Donald Deckman			District Engineer	Mike Lubinsky
Farmer Director	Todd Chestnut	County Commissioners		Chesapeake Bay Tech	Pam Eyer
Public Director	Michael Ward	Gary Eichelberger		Nutrient Mgmt Spec	Kristen Kitchen
		Richard L. Rovegno		Watershed Spec	Adam McClain
		Barbara B. Cross		District Secretary	Brenda Sheaffer