



THE CONSERVATION REPORT

(717) 240-7812

Cumberland County Conservation District

Winter 2007

Conservation District on the Move

The Cumberland County Conservation District office, which has been located at our current site of 43 Brookwood Avenue in Carlisle for over 20 years, will be picking up our belongings and moving to a new location the second week of April.

Cumberland County Commissioners purchased the office building previously owned by Dickinson School of Law located at 310 Allen Road, across from Sheetz, off the Plainfield exit of I81. Several agriculture related agencies are looking to move into the building later in 2007 or 2008 including the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Penn State Cooperative Extension.



Due to office space restrictions at this time, the NRCS and FSA office will not be moving at the same time as the Conservation District. We hope that this arrangement will only be a temporary inconvenience for those farmers who need to work with all the agencies mentioned.

We will do our best to keep the public informed on the progress of the office arrangements, not only for the Conservation District, but the other agricultural related agencies as well.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT TREE SEEDLING SALE

The Cumberland County Conservation District has scheduled their 30th annual Tree Seedling Sale for April 19 & 20 2007. If you haven't ordered from the Conservation District in the past and would like to receive an order form you can call the District Office at 240-7812 or go to the district website at www.cumberlandccd.com and download the order form listed under the tree sale category.

Tree seedlings available for 2007 include: White Pine, Douglas Fir, Colorado Blue Spruce, Concolor Fir, White Oak, Scarlet Maple, Red Oak & Serviceberry. Also, the district is offering three types of Apple trees (Liberty, Freedom & Goldrush) plus two Pear trees (Potomac and Red Clapps).

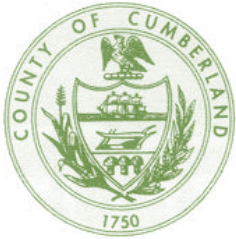
Myrtle Clumps and a northeast wildflower mix will be sold as groundcover and Red oak acorns are available for those who want to start their own seedlings. Four varieties of flowering bulbs and tree shelters ranging from two to five feet will also be included in the list of items for sale. Profits from the tree seedling sale will help offset costs associated with environmental education projects in Cumberland County.

Tree orders must be received at the Conservation District Office by March 30, 2007.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS



The Cumberland County Conservation District provided three \$500.00 college scholarships to local students majoring in an environmental or natural resources related field. District Manager Carl Goshorn presented checks to the following students: Joshua McCulloch of Newville attending Delaware Valley College in Ornamental Horticulture, Aaron Covalt of Newville attending Penn State in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and Christopher Ilgenritz of Carlisle attending Shippensburg University in Ecology and Environmental Science. Scholarship funding was made available through profits from the Conservation District golf tournament held at Mayapple Golf Course.



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County Envirothon Participants Go Vegetarian

The Conservation District is always trying to get more schools to participate in the Envirothon. For 2007, Trinity High School will be participating in the County Envirothon for the first time. Through working with the teacher and the students, we realized some of the great projects that Envirothon students are a part of in the classroom. Since the 2007 Current Issue for the Envirothon is *Alternative and Renewable Energy*, this summary of a current class project written by a student at Trinity High School is very appropriate.

Fuel of the Future: Biodiesel by
Angela Dolson
January 15, 2007

The latest trends today involve energy independence. Within the past few years, consumers have seen fuel efficient cars become more and more popular. It was only a matter of time before the use of biodiesel as an alternative to fossil fuel would become one of those trends. Biodiesel is a "vegetable based" fuel that is made from domestic, renewable resources. It is biodegradable, nontoxic, and devoid of sulfur and aromatics. Biodiesel is made through the process of transesterification. In this process, the glycerin is separated from the vegetable oil thus leaving behind biodiesel and glycerin.

Back in September, the seniors in the environmental science class at Trinity High School were researching the idea of making biodiesel. The only obstacle for completing the project was the money needed to purchase the parts for the processing equipment. After several months, the project was presented to Trinity's Development Board, and the money was donated by Hilton and Diminick Orthodontic Association. The environmental science class, under the guidance of Mr. Steve Gotwols, is in the process of designing and building the processing equipment. The biodiesel produced in class will help to heat the school, and the Trinity Development Office is investigating the possibility of donating the biodiesel to a family who may be in need of home heating oil.



Trinity High School senior class standing beside the biodiesel processor they are constructing for their class project.

Opossum Lake Project

Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation committed to restoring and preserving Opossum Lake as a valued natural and recreational resource through working collaboratively with Lower Frankford Township, Cumberland County, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and our state legislators.

Since FOLC's incorporation on April 20, 2006, we have actively advocated for restoration of the dam and spillway at Opossum Lake with Governor Rendell. House Bill 2317 (page 355, lines 7-9) specifically authorizes \$3,050,000 for "Opossum Lake – design and construct a new dam according to current standards."

More than 150 FOLC members have logged over 700 volunteer hours cleaning up the lake bed and surrounding areas and establishing a four mile long Anglers Access Trail around the perimeter of the lake, and additional projects and improvements are planned in the coming months. The next Work Day is scheduled for Sunday, March 25, 2007 beginning at 9:00 AM (meet at the main parking lot) and will include trash pick-up, installation of three FOLC kiosks, and construction of two additional bridges on the Angler's Access Trail.

We believe the Opossum Lake habitat and ecosystem must be restored and preserved. Please visit our web site (www.opossumlakefriends.org) or contact us at 1205 Easy Road, Carlisle, PA 17015 to learn more about future activities and membership opportunities.

Upcoming Erosion Control and Stormwater Workshops and New Antidegradation Regulations

The Cumberland and Franklin County Conservation Districts are hosting a erosion control workshops for contractors and engineers on March 21, 2007. The workshop is intended to provide information on types of erosion control stabilization practices and requirements, and how to prepare a practical and workable sequence of construction for a project. A panel consisting of a contractor, engineer and developer will be organized to discuss what each player needs in the development and construction of a successful, well-managed project. The workshop will be held at the Shippensburg Firefighters Activity Center from 8:00-3:00. For a brochure and registration form, contact Kim Falvey at 240-7812.

During February and March, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is sponsoring training sessions on the Stormwater BMP Manual at various locations throughout the state. Specific dates and locations are located on DEP's website at www.dep.state.pa.us under keyword "stormwater". If you are unable to attend one of these training sessions, powerpoint presentations are available on the website.

In order to assure compliance with the antidegradation requirement of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 93, DEP has incorporated Sections A, G and H into the Notice of Intent for Coverage Under the General NPDES Permit or Application for an Individual NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. These sections are required with all new permit applications in order to be determined administratively complete.

2007 Farmer Field Day

Have you ever wondered if No-Till would fit into your operation? Are you already using No-Till and facing unexpected challenges? Come to the Cumberland County Conservation District's 2007 Farmer Field Day –'No-till Can Work for You', to help answer those and other questions.

The Field Day will be held April 4, 2007 on the farm of Amos King, Jr., 48 Mud Level Road, Shippensburg, PA. A variety of topics will be covered including cover crops and soil fertility in a no-till system. Information will be available about no-till planters, vendors will have displays, and there will be a demonstration of a horse-drawn no-till corn planter. A Pesticide Certification Category Credit – 'Controlling Sod, Cover Crops and Weeds for No-till Crops' will also be offered. The Conservation District and Co-operating Agencies will present pertinent information about farming topics and programs available to assist you in your farming operation.

The Field Day Registration will be from 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM. The informational sessions will be held from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, with lunch to follow. Lunch will be provided free of charge to those who pre-register for the Field Day.

Join us April 4th for the Cumberland County Conservation District 2007 Farmer Field Day! If you have any questions, or to register for the Field Day, please call Pam Eyer at 717-240-7812.

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program.

A Practical Approach to Mortality Composting

Today's animal agriculture is faced with discovering innovative ways to dispose of livestock mortality. The rendering industry has seen a decrease in the price received for hides, tallow, and meat/bone meal. This has had a direct affect on the livestock industry by causing increased rendering service fees. Along with the disappearance of rendering plants, concerns over burial and ground water pollution, and the economics cost and other issues related to incineration, how to dispose of mortalities is a concern across the livestock industry. It doesn't matter if you have dairy cattle, poultry, equine, sheep or goats, you will probably be faced with mortality disposal at some point. Composting of dead animals is one option that is now available.

It is important to know what your options are for handling livestock mortalities. In Pennsylvania, the state law says that any animal mortality needs to be properly disposed of within 48 hours. Four options for handling livestock mortalities are render, bury, burn or compost. Rendering is a pick up service performed for a fee. Burying needs to be done in the soil at a certain depth, and away from any ground water sources. Proper burning needs special equipment. Composting is a process of natural heating and microbial action to compost the animal into organic matter.

A Practical Approach to Mortality Composting will cover the keys to on farm mortality composting. Livestock producers will be given key tools regarding the correct way to handle mortalities via composting.

This is a free meeting open to any producer in Cumberland and Franklin Counties and is sponsored by the Cumberland and Franklin County Conservation Districts and the PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14 from 10:00—noon at the Lighthouse Restaurant, 4301 Philadelphia Ave, Chambersburg PA. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by calling the Cumberland County Conservation District at 717-240-7812 or emailing askvarka@ccpa.net.



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Cumberland County Conservation District
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Email—conserve@pa.net

Calendar of Events

March

- 12 Capitol Day—Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrisburg
- 14 Water Testing, District Office
- 14 Mortality Composting Meeting, Chambersburg
- 21 E&S Workshop for Contractors & Engineers, Shippensburg
- 26 PACD Regional Directors Meeting, Adams County
- 27 Board Meeting, District Office @ 6:00pm
- 30 Deadline for Tree Seedling Orders
- 30 Poster Contest Deadline

April

- 4 Cumberland County Farmer Field Day
- 6 Friday before Easter, Office Closed
- 11 Water Testing, District Office
- 19 Tree Seedling Bundling & Distribution, Allen Road
- 20 Tree Seeding Distribution, Allen Road
- 24 Board Meeting, District Office @ 7:30pm

May

- 1 County Envirothon, Pine Grove Furnace State Park
- 9 Water Testing, District Office
- 21 & 22 PA State Envirothon, Penn State
- 22 Board Meeting, District Office @ 7:30pm
- 28 Memorial Day, Office Closed

June

- 13 Water Testing, District Office
- 21 Manned District Display @ Mechanicsburg Jubilee Day
- 26 Board Meeting, District Office @ 7:30pm

July

- 4 Independence Day, Office Closed
- 11 Water Testing, District Office
- 15-18 PACD Conference, Hilton Scranton & Conference Center
- 24 Board Meeting, District Office @ 7:30pm
- 22-28 Manned District Display @ Shippensburg Fair

District Directors

Chairman	Wilbur Wolf
Vice Chairman	Daniel Mains
Commissioner	Richard L. Rovegno
Farmer Director	Dennis Garman
Farmer Director	Donald Deckman
Farmer Director	Todd Chestnut
Public Director	Michael Ward

Associate Directors

John Bixler
Alan Williams
Alvin Myers

County Commissioners

Bruce Barclay
Gary Eichelberger
Richard L. Rovegno

District Staff

District Manager	Carl Goshorn
District Technician	Brian Jaymes
District Technician	Kim Falvey
District Engineer	Mike Lubinsky
Chesapeake Bay Tech.	Pam Eyer
Nutrient Mgt. Spec.	Amy Skvarka
Watershed Spec.	Vince McCollum
District Secretary	Brenda Sheaffer