

# Conservation Horizons



Since 1948 \* 68 Years of Conservation, Education & Stewardship \*

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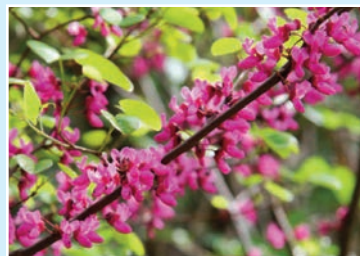
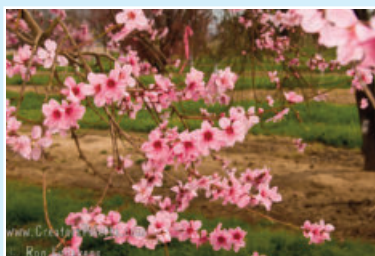


< NACD's  
 Annual  
 Steward-  
 ship  
 Materials  
 now free  
 online  
 See page 8

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tree & Seedling Sale

please see pages 16 & 17 for details

*And get your One-Free bare-root seedling coupon*



## < Action Alert

Farmers & Landowners  
 Time is running out to get  
 credit for the BMPs you  
 have already implemented.  
 Complete your voluntary  
 survey. See page 6 *now!*

## York County Conservation District

**Our purpose is to promote wise use and management of soil, water, air, plants, wildlife** and other natural resources through four program areas: Agricultural Resources, Education, Erosion & Sediment Control and Watersheds

We have served York County since 1938, when a group of 554 farmers from 18 townships signed a petition to form the York County Conservation District. This petition was approved by the state Soil Conservation Commission in 1948. Like all Conservation Districts, we are a legal subdivision of state government like townships or school districts. Our budget is supplied by county, state and federal programs, as well as foundation grants & fees for services. And we are managed by a board of environmentally aware York County citizen volunteers.

**We have traditionally assisted agricultural producers and other landowners** in protecting soils & reducing erosion in our waterways. Today, the District also works with non-agricultural landowners, developers and local government officials to protect our natural resources.

We do this by coupling technical & financial assistance with conservation planning and permitting requirements.

Education is a cornerstone of the District and we target a wide audience about effective pollution-prevention techniques to farmers, landowners, local officials, watershed associations, conservation organizations, civic groups, churches, schools, teachers and youth.

**Our Vision** - We are committed to the improvement & protection of our environment and the wise use of our County's diverse natural resources.

**Our Mission** - To achieve that vision we will be proactive providing conservation education, technical services and financial assistance, to enable the citizens of York County be good stewards of our natural resources.



### **Conservation District Staff**

Christina Dehoff	Administrative Assistant
Whitney Leland	Office Manager
Robin Sharp	Secretary/Receptionist
Robert Fetter	E&S Resource Conservationist/ Network Administrator
Eric Jordan	E&S Resource Conservationist/ Program Manager
Tiffany Crum	Engineer Technician II
Karen Ward	Engineer Technician II
Garrett Miller	Engineer Technician I
Mark Flaharty	Sr. Ag Resource Conservationist
Joe Rebert	Ag Resource Conservation Spec I
Grant Deller	Ag Resource Conservation Spec II
Wendy Kindig	Ag Resource Conservationist
Sally Barnes	Ag Resource Conservation Spec II
Gary R Peacock	Watershed Specialist
Kim J Young	Ed-Commun. Coordinator
Jennifer Risser	Assistant Manager
Mark Kimmel	District Manager

### **Board of County Commissioners**

Susan Byrnes, President,  
Doug Hoke, Vice President, Christopher Reilly

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Harry Bickel - Vice Chair  
Michael Flinchbaugh - Treasurer  
Gordon L Brown - Asst. Treasurer

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Jackie Kramer, John Riedel, Beth Lucabaugh,  
Bruce Holbrook, Kenyon Miller, Rochelle Black,  
Dan Innerst, Dan Paulus

#### *Directors Emeritus:*

Rolla Lehman, Ellis Crowl, Keith Eisenhart

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# Around the District

## Profile: Bruce Holbrook, Associate Director

Serving our District board as associate director since 2004, Bruce Holbrook grew up outside of Easton in Northhampton county and is a graduate of Penn State with a B.S. in forest management. He currently lives in Carroll Township near Dillsburg where he is active in the Cavalry United Methodist church, a member of the VFW Post 6771 and enjoys hunting and gardening.

Retired after 30 years with the PA Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP), Bruce spent most of his career providing support to Conservation Districts through the Department of Agriculture, the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the former Department of Environmental Resources (DER).

He has also served as the Secretary's designee to the Ag-Land Preservation Board and the Ag-Land Condemnation Board. In addition, he worked as chief of the division of Conservation Districts and was involved in the landowner reclamation program for abandoned mine lands. His commitment to conservation runs deep.



Mark Kimmel, our District Manager, adds, "Bruce worked with Districts across the state when they served as little more than advisors to the USDA and SCS (now NRCS). At the time most were lucky to have a secretary or part-time manager. Bruce was witness to a period of incredible growth as these Districts became the modern, well-staffed, multi-faceted programs that are managed today all over the state."

Bruce has served on many of our District committees and chaired both our personnel and watershed committees. He rarely misses a district event and has served on our clay shoot fund-raising committee and attended, and participated in, each of its eight events.

As Mark relays, "The decades of Bruce's work with Districts across the Commonwealth give him a historical knowledge that very few people have. He has represented the far northern portion of York County well as associate director, and is an incredible asset to the York County Conservation District."



**Joe Rebert** is our new Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I (pictured at left). His desire to work for the District comes from his belief in conservation as a means to help farmers keep their farms in good working order for themselves, for future generations, and as a way to help protect our wildlife. Joe believes this quote by Aldo Leopold best describes his stand on conservation, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community."

Joe grew up on his family's farm outside of Jefferson and still lives on the same farm in his grandfather's old house. He graduated from Spring Grove Area High School in 2009 and earned his bachelor's degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Science from Penn State.

A fan of both the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Pittsburgh Penguins, Joe loves hunting and just spending time outdoors. He has a yellow lab named Tucker and is the current vice president of the Codorus social club. Welcome Joe!

## Around the District, cont.

**Susan Byrnes**, newly elected president of the York County Commissioners, was recently sworn in as the commissioner director for the York County Conservation District board. She is *pictured at right* with vice-chair, **Harry Bickel**. In January, **Jeff Gossert**, former vice-chair, was elected Chair.

We also welcomed three new associate directors. **Rochelle Black** is the operations manager for the Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County. Rochelle is a former recipient of our Outstanding Conservationist Award, a business school graduate and trained in conservation easement and GIS training. **Dan Innerst** is a crop and livestock farmer from Dallastown, a member of the York County Ag Preserve Board, and a past recipient of our Outstanding Conservation farmer.



**Dan Paulus** is the owner of Paulus Orchards in Dillsburg. His bachelor's degree from Delaware Valley College is in Agribusiness. He is a member of the Farm Bureau, State Horticultural Assoc. of PA, the Midwest Apple Improvement Association and an associate member of Knouse Foods Cooperative. Welcome to all and we look forward to their service.

The York County Government is an Equal Opportunity Employer and shall in no way discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on account of age, religion, color, national origin, sex, ancestry, disability, and/or any political or union affiliation.

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## Penn State Extension

### MAEscapes Native Plant Sale Saturday, May 14, 8:30 - 2:00 20th Anniversary



Huge selection of native plants, trees, shrubs all direct from growers.  
Free talks/Educational programs at the York County Annex  
Call 717-840-7408

[extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu)

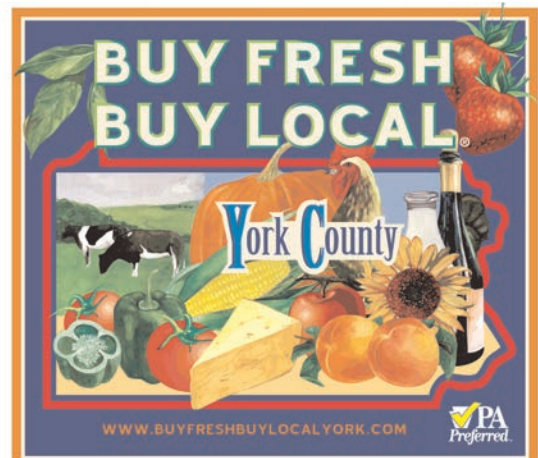
## The 30th Annual York County Agricultural Recognition Banquet Thursday, March 31st



The York Expo Center Old Main Hall at 5:30 pm.  
Reservations required. Contact Gabrielle Wentworth at [ycagbizc](mailto:ycagbizc) or 717-887-6465

The **York County Buy Fresh Buy Local® Chapter** is a volunteer organization to connect the people of York County to locally produced food and farm products through education on where to find locally grown food and why it's a great idea to do so. They also promote our Partners who have made a commitment to support farms in York County. **Buy Fresh Buy Local®** is the premier trademark of the local foods movement in the United States, administered by our National Partner, FoodRoutes Network and coordinated in the state of Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture.

For updated listings of local events, fresh, local foods & farms, and farm products: [www.buyfreshbuylocalyork.com](http://www.buyfreshbuylocalyork.com)





## The Clock has Struck Midnight on PA Efforts to Achieve Bay Cleanup Goals

### **Farmers Can Help Turn Back the Clock by completing the Voluntary Survey!**

Farmers, it is time to stand up and be counted in your efforts to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff on your farm. Pennsylvania has been involved in the Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Program (CBP) for more than three decades. In that time, great strides have been made. However, the measuring stick currently being used is a computer model that records accomplishments enabling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish goals to achieve mandated pollution reductions. **Unfortunately, many of the improvements made by farmers without government involvement have not been counted or credited to our efforts.**

The result of these uncredited efforts is that the EPA has determined that Pennsylvania has *not* met its milestones, and had been withholding several million dollars in funds targeted to help get BMPs on the ground.

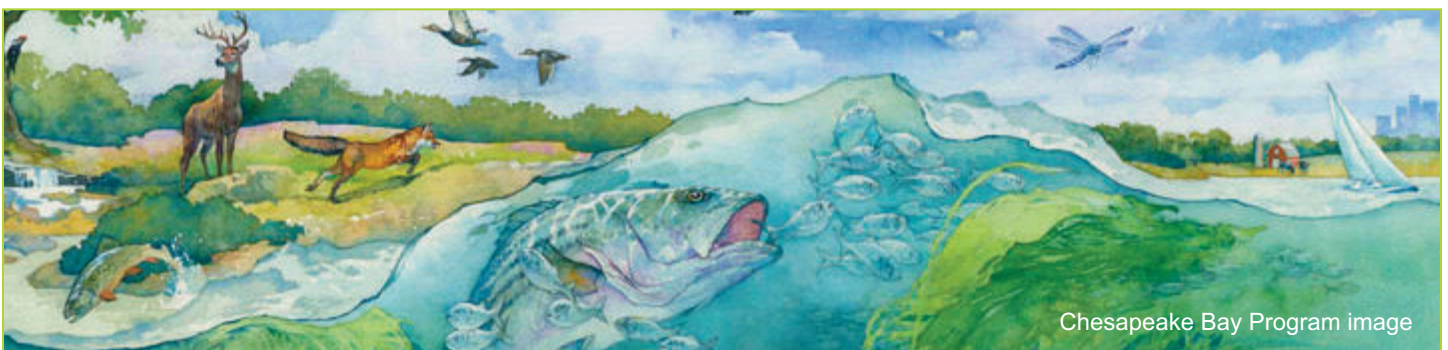
On January 21, 2016 Pennsylvania Secretaries for the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources held a news conference to announce a new statewide Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy in order to get the state back on target for improving local water quality, which will also satisfy Bay Cleanup milestones.

### ***Pennsylvania needs your participation!***

**Farmers & landowners - let's get credit for the BMPs you have *already* implemented.**

**Please make time this winter to complete a voluntary survey to record your practices.** Among other initiatives to get BMPs counted, Penn State is now coordinating this effort with many partners. The information is gathered in such a way that confidentiality is maintained for the individual. We need your participation to prevent further "backstops" or consequences being handed down to Pennsylvania by EPA. **The survey announcement has been mailed out to thousands of landowners and farmers via the US Mail.**

**Please be aware that each survey will have a unique code number for verification purposes**, so it is important to complete the survey using the unique number provided. If you rent your ground to a farmer, it would be beneficial to coordinate your survey responses. Surveys must be completed by April 30, 2016, so please do not delay! **You may also go to the YCCD webpage [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org) to find a link to the survey**, remembering that you must use your unique identification number/code, which was provided via the U.S. Mail flyer.



Chesapeake Bay Program image



## Bay Clean up Goals, *cont.*

The initial focus of the PA CBP was to reduce agricultural contributions of nutrients & sediments called **non-point pollution** (widespread pollution that can't be traced to a specific source or pipe) from reaching our local water sources. Conservation Districts throughout Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed were tasked by Pennsylvania to work with the agricultural community to develop comprehensive nutrient management & conservation plans that address sediment & nutrient management, as well as provide technical and financial assistance to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms.

**Point sources (point-pollution can be traced to a specific site) have also joined in the efforts as waste-water treatment plants across the state have also spent millions of dollars in upgrades to further reduce nutrients in their effluent.** And for the past 15 years, through conservation districts and the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR), the Commonwealth has been focusing on reducing sediment and dust pollution from Dirt & Gravel Roads.

Millions of dollars have been spent and much has been accomplished, as every water quality sampling point on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania has shown improvements in both sediment & nutrient reductions. You've done the work to contribute to the health of our waters. Let's prove it. **PLEASE FILL OUT THE SURVEY!**

For more information, contact Matthew Royer, Director of Penn State's Agriculture and Environment Center, by sending email to: [mroyer@psu.edu](mailto:mroyer@psu.edu) or call 814-863-8756.

Please note this correction to a column in the Fall 2015-Winter 2016 issue of our newsletter. Some words were edited out of the sentence - "Only a consulting forester works for you, with no conflict of interest." The mistake was not caught during proofreading. The error was brought to our attention by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). They note: "Under *Forestry Notes - One consultant's Views* on page 4, there is an indication that landowners pay for the services of the PA government-employed Service Foresters. This is not the case. PA does not charge landowners fees for services (and under our current gift ban, we are not allowed to accept anything from landowners - not even a cup of coffee). This should virtually eliminate the possibility of conflicts of interest." We apologize for the error and appreciate the DCNR for their input.



**"OUT OF THE WOODS" ...By Jeff Gossert, ACF, CE, RPF**

### **HIGH GRADING TIMBER HARVESTS – IT DOESN'T PAY!**

I was recently retained to prepare a timber sale to meet the landowner's management objectives on a large tract in southeastern York County. Before viewing the property, I had high expectations for timber quality potential, since I knew the soil types in the area were excellent for timber growth. To my disappointment, my first visit to the site revealed an existing timber structure composed of trees of lower quality, poor form or with multiple defects.

This was a result of an earlier High Grade/Diameter Limit harvest where all desirable trees being 16 inches in diameter or larger were cut! Unfortunately, there was no opportunity for a commercial sale and harvest. *continued on next page*

## HIGH GRADING TIMBER HARVESTS – IT DOESN'T PAY! continued

High Grading, also known as Diameter Limit Cutting or Selective Cutting, is done typically to give the landowner the highest immediate economic return. Too often, even that is not achieved. Diameter Limit Cutting removes all trees above a certain diameter. Selective Cutting, not to be confused with "Selection", usually removes the largest, most valuable trees of preferred species and often leaves the large and small trees of poorer quality and lower value. Some timber buyers tend to "select the best and leave the rest." In each case, most of the trees that remain after the harvest are genetically inferior or physically defective. Neither method gives any thought to the future productivity and other multiple use benefits, perhaps desired by the landowner, of the future forest.

High grading type harvests, in my opinion, are the #1 negative impact on private woodland acreages. And, in most cases, the landowner receives a mere fraction of the true value of timber sold and harvested. Usually the result is short and long term negative impacts to the resources of your property, in addition to significant economic losses.

Landowners need to consider the future consequences of High Grading when deciding whether or not to accept the use of this practice on their land. Timber buyers, sawmills, logging companies and professional foresters need to accept an obligation to look beyond the present when suggesting harvest practices to landowners.

If you own woodland and are thinking about selling and harvesting timber, please consider speaking with a professional consulting forester. There are several options, but only a consulting forester is employed by and works for YOU. The fees of a consulting forester are but a fraction of the income, future values and benefits that a well planned and professionally prepared timber sale and harvest can provide. Any practice should clearly meet your ownership and management objectives. If not, hire a forester who will assist you in reaching those objectives. Also, be sure the professional forester has the credentials, ability and desire to help you achieve your goals.

Yours for better forestry.....

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has sponsored their annual Stewardship Week since 1955. Celebrated between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May, the NACD has once again put together a variety of activity booklets for pre-K through Middle School. The booklets, CDs, posters & Educator Guides are designed to help any educator bring the importance of Trees to their students - in any setting.

*New this year - All materials are now available to anyone for free download!*

Check out their website at:

<https://nacdnet.z2systems.com/np/clients/nacdnet/giftstore.jsp>



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## Ag Resources

### **Pasture Management and ACAs (part 3 of Manure Management Plans) by Grant Deller**

In our two previous articles we answered questions about Manure Management Plans (MMPs) and manure applications in different seasons. In part 3, we'll discuss pastures and some misconceptions involving them.

**In this article we'll clarify the difference between a Pasture and an Animal Concentration Area (ACA).**

A **Pasture** is defined in the Manure Management Manual (MMM) as "land used for grazing animals that is managed either under a grazing plan meeting the requirements of the NRCS Pennsylvania Technical Guide Practice Standard 528 for prescribed grazing or by assuring that there is dense vegetation in the field during the growing season. Dense vegetation means that the pasture is managed to minimize bare spots and keep average vegetation height across the pasture during the growing season at least three inches high."

An **Animal Concentration Area (ACA)** is defined in the MMM as "barnyards, loafing areas, exercise lots or other similar animal confinement areas that will not maintain a growing crop, or where manure deposited by animals is in excess of crop management needs. The term does not include managed pastures (when the pasture management provisions in Section 6 are followed) and cropland. Animal access ways, feeding areas, watering areas, and shade areas or walkways are not considered ACAs if they do not cause a direct flow of manure contaminated runoff to lakes, streams, ponds, or sinkholes." ACAs can also be referred to as Animal Heavy Use Areas.

**Another good rule of thumb to help distinguish between a pasture and an ACA is,** "A fence does not make a pasture, the grass does!" If you have dead or bare spots within an area where animals have access to, it probably needs to be addressed. Simply reseeding that area and limiting access or implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) can usually remediate the problem.

**You may also hear ACAs referred to as "sacrifice areas."** These are short term ACAs within a pasture where animals are confined to a small space to maintain the health and integrity of the rest of the pasture. Sacrifice areas need to be located out of areas of concentrated water flow and away from wells and other bodies of water. BMPs need to be implemented to ensure direct flows of manure contaminated runoff are eliminated. Manure in this area needs to be removed on a seasonal basis. The remaining pasture area can be grazed during the growing season when weather permits and are used as a light exercise area during the winter. After winter, grass needs to be established in these areas once the growing season has commenced.



Now let's look at **The difference between stacking/stock piling my manure and manure storage.** The two terms: stacking and stockpiling can be used interchangeably and both relate to short-term manure storage in a pasture or crop field (any place other than the farmstead). To be considered stackable, the manure must be able to be piled at least 4 feet high. Anything less than four feet would be considered liquid and not stackable manure.

**In-field stacking requires that stockpiles be placed at least 100 feet from any environmentally sensitive area,** including but not limited to streams, lakes, ponds, sinkholes, and wells used for potable water. Stack locations also need to be out areas of concentrated water flow and the location changed annually.

*Manure Management continued.*

Ideally stockpiles should be at the top of a hill. If they are placed on a hillside, the slope needs to be less than 8% and all upslope water needs to be diverted. The volume of the manure stacked in-field should be limited to the quantity required for adjacent fields. **If the pile will be left for more than 120 days it needs to be covered.** This does NOT mean that on the 121st day the pile needs to be covered. It means the pile needs to be covered from day one. Manure that is stacked in-field on a properly managed improved surface doesn't need to be covered.

Manure storage refers to long term storage at the farmstead. It requires the manure be placed on an improved (impervious) surface or covered area. Runoff controls need to be in place before piling any manure to prevent all potential pollution-laden discharge.

**One point to keep in mind is that stacking or stockpiling manure is NOT the same as composting.** Composting requires naturally occurring microbes, heat, moisture and oxygen. There are many advantages to composting manure, but it takes a little work and knowledge to achieve beneficial results not just time on a pile. And even compost must be spread. It should not simply just be left to accumulate. More information on composting can be found on the Penn State Cooperative Extension website at <http://extension.psu.edu/publications/c-3> or on Cornell University's website.

**Copies of the Manure Management Manual are available at our District office.** Hopefully this article clears up some of the questions and misconceptions about pastures and manure stacking.



**York County Conservation District Manure Management Plan Development Workshop**

Do you own livestock, poultry or horses? Do you import manure to spread on your crop fields? If so, an upcoming workshop sponsored by the York County Conservation District should be on your schedule.

On **Tuesday March 23rd** a **Manure Management Plan Development Workshop** will be offered so participants can develop their own Manure Management Plan with the assistance of the workshop staff. **A Manure Management Plan must be developed by any owner of livestock, poultry or horses or anyone who spreads manure on their crop fields.**

The event will be **held at the York County Annex Building, Room 1** at 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York starting at **7 pm**. The event is **free** of charge but **registration is required**. To register for the workshop, call Penn State Cooperative Extension at 840-7408 or register online at <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/events/manure-management-plan-writing-workshop20160323>.





Did you know you can **rent a 20' x 20' garden plot at the Horn Farm** for \$40.00 for the season? The seasonal gardens are open from mid-April through the end of October. A multitude of **classes are offered year round**, such as foraging classes, soil health, companion planting, insect identification, edible forest gardens and more. Their **Annual Heirloom Plant Sale** is Saturday, May 7th.

For more information on renting a garden plot, taking a class please go to: [www.hornfarmcenter.org](http://www.hornfarmcenter.org)

## Erosion & Sediment Control

### E&S Program Accomplishments for October 2015 - January 2016



Preconstruction meetings	24	General NPDES Issued	22
New Plan Reviews	81	Total site inspections	212
Revised Plan Reviews	32	Sites in compliance	58
Total Project Acres	1,887	Complaints Investigated	55
Total Disturbed Acres	502		

### So, You're Building a House? *by Karen Ward*

Building your own house or other structure such as a garage or large shed is an ambitious undertaking. Besides all the municipal regulations for getting a building permit or other approval, **there are state regulations under the Commonwealth's Title 25 Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S) requiring that all persons conducting earth disturbance activities implement and maintain Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect, maintain, and restore water quality within our state's waterways and wetlands during construction.** Why? Because sediment (eroded or loose soil) is the #1 kind of pollutant in south central Pennsylvania's waterways.

To help property owners follow the E&S regulations, YCCD has developed a "Small Projects Guide" giving step-by-step guidance in developing an Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&S) Plan for the construction of your single family residential lot or other small grading project.

**Conservation District plan approval may be required** by your local municipality to issue a building permit or by the Conservation District upon receipt of a complaint. For earth disturbance of 5,000 square feet (0.115 acres) or more a written E&S plan detailing the BMPs to be used must be developed and made available on site at all times. In High Quality (HQ-CWF) or Exceptional Value (EV) watersheds any disturbance requires a written E&S plan.



The “**Small Projects Guide**” is intended only for small, low hazard projects that:

- Disturb less than 1 acre (43,560 sq. ft.) over the life of the project
- Disturb slopes less than 15%
- Provide at least a 50’ wide undisturbed buffer along all streams or other watercourse (unless other -wise approved)
- Do not disturb hydric soils (indicative of potential wetlands)
- Have an uphill offsite drainage area of less than 1 acre
- Propose permanent grades less than 8 feet in cut/fill depth
- Do not involve industrial or commercial land use

If your project does not conform to the above criteria, please consult with a professional plan preparer for assistance in developing your plan.



**When developing an E&S plan keep in mind the goal is to develop an effective and practical plan that you and/or your contractor can readily implement in the field and easily maintain during construction.** The foremost goal of your E&S plan should be to minimize accelerated erosion and deposition of sediment into waterways, roadways and onto neighboring properties down slope of your earth disturbance activity. Here are several common-sense guidelines to consider in developing and implementing an environment-friendly and contractor-friendly E&S plan:

- Protect streams, drainage ditches, wetlands, and other bodies of water by avoiding grading or other earthmoving within at least 50 feet of a waterway.
- Avoid disturbing steep slopes
- Minimize the extent and time of disturbance
- Keep clean water clean by installing and stabilizing a temporary diversion channel on the uphill side of the project to divert additional offsite stormwater runoff around or away from the areas to be disturbed
- Provide for a clean stabilized access to the site and avoid tracking mud onto roadways
- Locate BMPs along the downslope perimeter of all areas to be disturbed
- Properly install the proposed E&S BMPs shown on your plan prior to disturbing any earth.
- Save existing native trees, shrubs, and other vegetation
- Save the topsoil to redistribute it over all disturbed areas to establish a lawn
- Schedule your earth disturbance activities during the growing season
- Inspect and maintain BMPs during construction
- Permanently stabilize or temporarily stabilize all disturbed areas
- Remove BMPs and properly recycle or dispose of construction waste once all disturbed areas achieve a minimum uniform 70%, well-established, perennial vegetation, or have been stoned or paved

*Next Issue - we continue article to discuss wetlands on your property*





## Education & Communication

**Mercy Harris**, *pictured at right*, is the winner of our \$1,000.00 YCCD Annual College Scholarship. A freshman at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, Mercy is majoring in Environmental Biology with a concentration in wildlife. She plans to remain in school to attain both her masters and doctoral degrees.

Mercy has been a member of the Central York High School Envirothon team for the past four years and had previously participated on various grade-level Envirothon teams since the third grade. Central York High School won our senior high event this year and Mercy, along with her teammates, went on to take third overall at the Pennsylvania Envirothon and won the Aquatics Division.



But Envirothon competitions are not Mercy's only accomplishments. There are many. She has participated in the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education's Wildlife Leadership Academy since 2013 and subsequently served as an Assistant Team Leader and Apprentice. She was accepted to attend the 2-month long Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences for gifted students in 2014 and was also accepted to attend Safari Club International's American Wilderness Leadership School in the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming in 2015.

Mercy was in the top 5% of her class at Central York High School in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, and has been a part of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Academy since 2011 and her other awards and recognitions include receiving the S.T.E.M. Academy Service Award in 2013 and 2014. She was awarded the Student Excelling Most in Science, Math and French in 2014 and in 2015 was again awarded the Student Excelling Most in Science recognition.

She was also a National Merit Finalist this year and was presented the Central York Communities that Care Spirit of Youth Award. The District has watched Mercy grow and continue to excel over the years. We congratulate her on her scholarship and expect great things from her in the future.

Please check our website in late May  
for our

**2016 College Scholarship Application**  
packet & support materials.

The scholarship is open to any York County resident pursuing a college degree in an agriculture or environmental field. High school students may apply if they have been accepted, and will attend, college or university in Fall 2016.  
[www.yorkccd.or/education/scholarship](http://www.yorkccd.or/education/scholarship)



### Envirothon 2016 Competition Dates

Senior High - Tuesday, April 26  
Middle School - Tuesday, May 3rd  
5th & 6th Grades - Wednesday, May 4th  
3rd & 4th Grades - Tuesday, May 10th  
Held at John Rudy County Park

## Envirothon Students - Where are They Now?

After 31 years of Envirothon seasons in York County we have seen some exemplary students compete on their school district's Envirothon teams - often beginning in the third grade. A large number of Envirothon team members continue to focus on environmental studies in college and subsequently in their careers. In a new series of articles we hope to profile some of these outstanding York Countians. We will begin with **Julia Zielinsky**.

Julia (*at right at Lugu Lake in the Yunnan/Sichuan provinces of China with Tibetan prayer flags*) is a **graduate of Northeastern High School, currently a student at Franklin & Marshall College**, where she is planning a career in Environmental Foreign Studies.

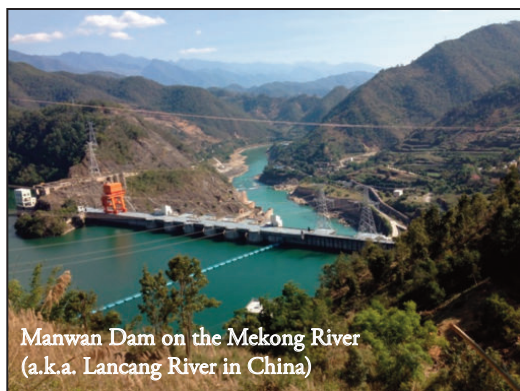
While at Northeastern **she was an Envirothon team member every year from 3rd grade through senior high**, and credits the Envirothon with her interest in working on challenging international environmental issues as a career. Julia also excels in music and track and speaks fluent Chinese. We recently caught up with Julia on a school break and asked her to tell us in her own words what she is up to now.



Julia explains that studying abroad through Franklin & Marshall has been an indispensable experience for her.

“My Chinese language skills have improved and I have had the chance to do real, hands-on research, field work, observation, and analysis on Yunnan province and Southeast Asia's human-environment situation. **Few people realize how significant the current developments in Southeast Asia are to one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world.** The geography of region is also rich ethnically, culturally, topographically, and in terms of the biomes represented there. The political and structural developments being made in pursuit of progress and growth are crippling once robust ecosystems and causing dilemmas for the transboundary nature of these resources and the environment in general.

I have learned through my studies abroad, my many environmental classes and my class on global environmental politics, that many of the issues we are facing cannot be 'siphoned' into separate policy categories if we want successful dialogue and solutions to occur. I have learned about and have seen first-hand the example of these intersections in China's extremely diverse Yunnan province. The world is interconnected more than we ever realized. Matters of the environment, like the wellbeing of the oceans, the strength of biodiversity and the cleanliness of our atmosphere, are influenced by each other and also influence non-environmental issues, such as economic and racial & ethnic inequality, public health issues and state development.”



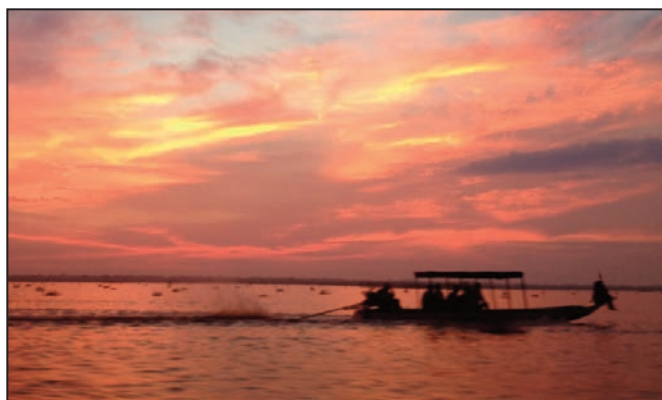
Manwan Dam on the Mekong River  
(a.k.a. Lancang River in China)

“While abroad, I am continuing my studies of Yunnan province with independent research on the energy policies that have been enacted and the environmental impacts they have caused. This has been a huge undertaking because the topic has so many connections to other development issues in China that I find fascinating. I believe it is necessary to understand these progressions in research as a means of measuring the effectiveness of particular policy initiatives. In the current technology-based world, linking energy usage to environmental impacts is as important as the debate over renewable energy sources and fossil fuels. Especially as our agreements to commit to change continues to stall in political and economic hierarchies.”



*Julia Zielinski continued,*

In addition to Julia's international studies - and no doubt because of them - she is also interning as a news digest compiler with the *East by Southeast* executive blog authors Brian Eyler and Will Feinberg, and has been invited to write relevant articles for their academic/news blog. And she is already starting to think about her plans after graduation, which include having applied for a Critical Language Scholarship, an English Teaching Assistantship Fulbright Scholarship in Taiwan, and the Princeton in Asia program. She is also looking into the Environmental Law Institute to work as a research associate in Washington, D. C. Julia is also weighing whether to choose graduate school or law school. She says, "I am torn between large level policy and local community work because of the immediacy or lack of impact that both environments present. My variety of interests (environmental conservation/sustainability, energy conservation/alternative sources, environmental justice, poverty/immigration and refugee issues and policy) all have connections but will enable me to look into a number of possible paths."



**Are you a former Envirothon student working in an environmental field?**

Parents or Envirothon coaches -

Do you know a former Envirothon student working in an environmental field?

**We would love to hear from you** and share your story with our readers.

Your journey through school & work may inspire other students looking for a career.

Contact Kim at [kyoung@yorkccd.org](mailto:kyoung@yorkccd.org)

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Blueberries

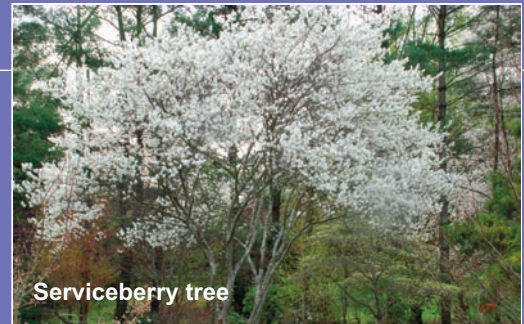
**Our 2016 SEEDLING SALE** - Sponsored by the York County Conservation District & hosted by the York County Parks. **SPRING IS COMING!** And the **DEADLINE** is fast approaching to place your order for bare-root seedlings, 10"-20" evergreens, 12"-30" deciduous hardwoods, fruit trees, blueberries and ground cover plants. The order **deadline is Wednesday, March 24th**. For more information please check out our website at [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org) - if you did not receive your order form in the mail - or use the order form on the next page.

The presence of trees in our lives has been proven to increase the quality of our lives, clean our air and beautify our communities. Trees reduce soil erosion and enhance the water quality of our local waterways. Trees can reduce home heating and cooling costs and improve our health.

For over 40 years, the York County Conservation District has hosted an annual tree seedling sale. **Each year, the Conservation District sells over 20,000 seedlings that are planted in and around York County - continuously improving and stabilizing our natural landscape.** The varieties available at the spring 2016 sale include native tree seedlings as well as numerous fruit-bearing trees and shrubs.

**Pick up date: Thursday, April 14  
Rocky Ridge Park -10:00 - 6:00 pm**

*Please note: seedlings are not mature shrubs & trees*



Serviceberry tree

Anyone is welcome to stop by Rocky Ridge Park during the day on April 14 and use the coupon below to pick up one FREE bare-root white pine or blue spruce seedling (while supplies last). Please bring your coupon with you. You may also purchase leftover plants from the District Sale as long as the supply lasts.

## 2016 York County Conservation District Annual Seedling Sale

YCCD  
118 Pleasant Acres  
York PA 17402  
717.840.7430

**Stop by Rocky Ridge County Park  
10:00 am—6 pm Thursday April 14th 2016  
to receive a free White Pine or Blue  
Spruce bare root seedling  
based on availability.**

Check out our  
website for com-  
plete listing of  
seedlings availa-  
ble

[www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org)

**Coupon redeemable for one FREE bare root seedling  
Limit one per customer while supplies last**



**Send to: York County Conservation District, 118 Pleasant Acres Road York PA 17402**

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
(PICKUP REMINDER WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL)

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit VIN # located on back of card \_\_\_\_\_

Type	Ordered
Colorado Blue Spruce (10)	
Douglas Fir (10)	
Canadian Hemlock (5)	
Fraser Fir (10)	
White Pine (10)	
Chinkapin Oak (5)	
Grey Dogwood (5)	
Persimmon (5)	
Serviceberry (5)	
Redbud (5)	
White Oak (5)	
Winterberry (5)	
Cherry (1)	
Peach (1)	
Blueberry (2)	
Blackberry (2)	
Pachysandra (100 per flat)	
Sedum (50 per flat)	



# Watershed Specialist

Gary Peacock

## York County Watersheds Happenings – Spring and Summer

York County residents and local municipal officials are encouraged to take advantage of the following financial assistance opportunities below.

- **Large Woody Debris in Streams** – Has a large tree fallen into your stream causing bank erosion? Has woody debris become snagged and is growing in size? Is your property threatened and at risk of damage? Private landowners and local municipalities may apply for cost share grants to manage or remove large woody debris in streams. The District will pay private landowners up to 75 percent and local municipalities up to 50 percent of the total cost of removal. To learn more about the Large Woody Debris Program visit the Conservation District's website at: <http://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/large-wood-debris/>.
- **Stream Erosion and Sedimentation** – Do you own/share a small stream? Are the stream banks and channel eroding? Has the stream deepened, widened, or move laterally? You may be eligible for our Exelon Habitat Improvement Program financial assistance to plant riparian buffers, restore the stream, instream fish habitat, or create a wetland.

**Grant applications are due October 1, 2016! To learn more about the Exelon Habitat Improvement Program visit the Conservation District's website at:**

**<http://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/habitat-improvement/>**



Clinton River Watershed Council photo



- **Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads** – Do you live on either dirt and gravel or low volume road (i.e., tar and chipped and <500 cars per day)? Does your road impact a local stream's water quality? Does your road need environmentally sensitive maintenance? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then contact your local municipal officials and tell them to apply for DGLVR Program funding to improve your road. Grant applications are due February 25 and July 28, 2016. To learn more about the DGLVR Program visit the Conservation District's website at: <http://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/dirt-gravel-roads-program/>. If you have questions or would like more information, give me a call at (717) 840-7430 or e-mail [gpeacock@yorkccd.org](mailto:gpeacock@yorkccd.org).



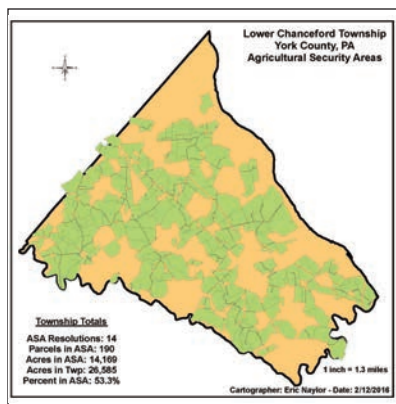
# The York County Ag Preservation Program

Patty McCandless, Program Director  
118 Pleasant Acres Road, Suite F  
York PA 17402

717-840-7400 / Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm



York County landowners continue to amaze York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (YCALPB) and staff with requests to preserve the family farm. The YCALP Office held a public information meeting on November 19, 2015. The meeting was well attended by interested farm owners seeking land preservation information. Eligibility requirements, easement restrictions, and the selection process of lands for preservation were discussed. Conservation agency partners provided current conservation planning rules and regulation information as well as the benefits of implementing a conservation plan on the farm operation. The YCALPB's appraiser, Agrarian Associates, was also on hand to discuss the method used when valuing the conservation easement for purchase by County and State Government. Following the November 2015 public meeting, 33 easement applications on 3,144 acres, were received for the 2016 application round. The YCALPB removed application deadlines so additional applications may be submitted throughout the year. Qualifying applications will be selected and appraised as 2016 funding permits. The York County Board of Commissioners recently approved the allocation of \$ 221,309 for 2016 county funding for easement purchases. The County awaits the State Match to be released following a February 18, 2016 PA Ag Land Preservation Review Board Meeting.



With the passage of Act 149, the Farmland Preservation Act, amending the Ag Security Area Law, County governments are permitted to preserve farmland through the purchase of agricultural conservation easements (ACE). ACE's provide the right to say no to development through a permanent deed restriction on the farm deed. Zoning may not change the use of preserved lands, as ACE is a perpetual deed covenant. Since York County's ACE Purchase Program approval on August 15, 1990, the county has protected 273 farms covering 40,987 acres, placing York 3rd of 57 counties preserving lands in PA. The ACE program has created permanent farming neighborhoods across the County devoted entirely to commercial agricultural production. Farmers in these regions have confidence their farm operations may operate with little to no conflicting uses next door and their farm capital improvements are safe investments.

The YCALP Office additionally conducts annual reviews of lands voluntarily enrolled by landowners into Municipal Ag Security Areas, under the provisions of the Agricultural Area Security Act of 1981 (Act 43). The benefits include; the protection from municipal nuisance ordinance which may unreasonably restrict normal farming practices; protection from eminent domain or condemnation relating to state funded projects; disqualification from siting low level radioactive waste facilities; and finally ASA enrollment is a requirement for easement purchase by the county or state. Since 1990, the YCALP Office has compiled extensive records of municipal Ag Security Area lands. A recent comprehensive review of ASA's, resulted in the compilation of 329 Agricultural Security Area Resolutions. Since Hellam Township's November 1987 ASA Resolution, 40 York County municipalities have created and today maintain lands enrolled in ASA's. YCALP staff and municipal officials have conducted reviews of over 64% of the parcel data to ensure accuracy. Reviews include 2,800 of the total 4,400 parcels currently enrolled in ASA's in the County. The YCALPB and staff would like to extend appreciation to the municipalities who have assisted with this ongoing cooperative effort. How we use our land affects all of us. Land uses influence population distribution, where people live, work, play, shop, and go to school. So naturally real estate taxes, school taxes, and the cost of public services will follow the human footprint across the landscape. Careful and thoughtful land use planning is critical to the best use of our limited lands and is key to communities remaining livable, enjoyable, and affordable for all York residents. As we plan for the places where we live, work and play, we must not overlook planning for the lands which feed us.

Landowners interested in preserving their farmland may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400 or [www.YorkCountyPA.gov](http://www.YorkCountyPA.gov). Useful Links and a Preservation Map now show all preserved farms within the county. See if any preserved farms are near you. Funding for land preservation efforts comes from sources such as; Clean & Green penalties, York General Fund, Marcellus Shale funds, Growing Greener funds, and state and federal sources. York County Ag Land Preservation Office hours are 8 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. We are located in the County Annex Building at 118 Pleasant Acres Road York PA 17402.



**Conservation Horizons**  
**York County**  
**Conservation District**  
**118 Pleasant Acres Road**  
**York PA 17402**

Cover art, "Shelter," an original egg tempera by Millicent Neill Decker

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*"It was one of those March days when  
 the sun shines hot and the wind blows  
 cold: when it is summer in the light,  
 and winter in the shade."*

*~ Charles Dickens,  
 Great Expectations*

**Would you like to be on our mailing list?** Our newsletter *Conservation Horizons* is **published 3 times each year free** to over 8,000 York County homes & businesses. To be put on our mailing list call or email: 717-840-7430 or [yccd@yorkccd.org](mailto:yccd@yorkccd.org).

**If you would rather "Go Green"** and save paper, send us an email request and put "Electronic Newsletter" in subject line and ask to receive your newsletter by email.

Or contact us with address changes or to be dropped from our mailing list. Thank you.

### YCCD District Calendar

#### **March 2016**

March 11	YCCD Board Mtg – 11:00 am Annex
March 15	All Bay Meeting
March 18	Capital RC&D, Dauphin CCD
March 24	Seedling Sale Order DEADLINE
March 24	DGR/LVR QAB Meeting, Annex
March 25	Good Friday - Office Closed
March 31	Ag Recognition Banquet, York Expo

#### **April 2016**

April 7	YCCD Board Mtg. - 7:00 pm Annex
April 14	Seedling Sale Distribution at Rocky Ridge Park 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
April 26	Senior High Envirothon, Rudy Park

#### **May 2016**

May 3	Middle School Ethon, Rudy Park
May 4	5th – 6th grade Ethon, Rudy Park
May 7	Heirloom Plant Sale, Horn Farm
May 10	3rd-4th grade Ethon, Rudy Park
May 12	YCCD Board Mtg. 7:00 pm Annex
May 14	Native Plant Sale, Ag Ext, Annex
May 24-25	PA State Envirothon, Susquehanna U.
May 30	Memorial Day – Office Closed

#### **June 2016**

June 9	YCCD Board Mtg, 7:00 pm Annex
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