

# Conservation Horizons



*Since 1948 \* 70 Years of Conservation, Education & Stewardship \**

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## Farmers

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Environmental Protection?  
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## Our Annual Conservation Awards



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All the News from our  
10th Annual  
Envirothon  
Clay Shoot  
Fundraiser

Please see page 10

## 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	Office Manager
Robin Sharp	Administrative Assistant
Alexia Woodard	Program Assistant/Receptionist
Robert Fetter	E&S Resource Conservationist/ Network Administrator
Eric Jordan	E&S Resource Conservationist/ Program Manager
Tiffany Crum	Engineering Technician II
Emily Neideigh	Engineering Technician I
Meghan Anderson	Engineering Technician I
Mark Flaharty	Sr. Ag Resource Conservationist
Joe Rebert	Ag Resource Cons. Specialist I
Brita Runkle	Ag Resource Cons. Specialist I
Michele Grove	Ag Resource Cons. Specialist I
Gary R Peacock	Watershed Specialist
Kim J Young	Education-Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Risser	Assistant Manager
Mark Kimmel	District Manager

### **Board of County Commissioners**

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Rolla Lehman, Ellis Crowl, Keith Eisenhart

*Sponsor contact information and the advertisement of services in this newsletter is provided without any implied endorsement from the Conservation District staff or management*

**Conservation Horizons** is published 3 times each year & mailed to nearly 8,000 York County homes & businesses at no charge.

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Phone: 717-840-7430 / Fax: 717-755-0301 / Email: yorkccd@yorkccd.org / Website: www.yorkccd.org





## Around the District

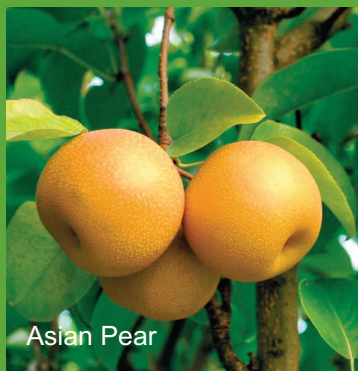
Gary Peacock - our Watershed Specialist - was recently acknowledged by the York County Commissioners during a ceremony to honor a "Team Player of the Year" for his outstanding work and contributions to York County and beyond. Here are just a few of the reasons Gary was nominated and why he is so appreciated:

- \* Created the Watershed Association of York (WAY) and has been its primary support staff since its inception nearly two decades ago.
- \* Developed the conservation district's Large Woody Debris grant program, HELPStreams Program and the lead staff member for the District's Dirt Gravel & Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) program for over a decade.
- \* Works jointly with our Ag Team Leader Mark Flaharty and the District's joint Ag & Watershed Committees to develop the Exelon Habitat Improvement Grant Program, overseeing the administration of \$225,000 annual grant awards for watershed restoration and habitat improvement projects throughout York County.
- \* Coordinates the DGLVR grants program in York County annually recommending the awarding over \$600,000 in project funding to municipalities to implement environmentally sensitive maintenance projects on Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume roads.
- \* Involved with York County Coalition for Clean Water Program since its inception and works closely with the York County Planning Commission on many other watershed related initiatives.
- \* Coordinated a recently completed Growing Greener Grant in cooperation with DCNR staff at Gifford Pinchot State Park to install Floating Island Best Management Practices to improve Lake Water Quality.
- \* Spearheads our York County Watershed Weekend for 15 years, in an effort to educate the public through hands-on and self-guided tours & projects at various venues around the County, aimed at improving & protecting water quality.



### Our 2018 Annual Seedling Sale is coming soon!

Sponsored by the York County Conservation District & hosted by the York County Parks  
***Newsletter subscribers will receive their order form in the mail.***



Asian Pear

We offer a nice variety of two & three-year-old bare root evergreens and deciduous seedlings, 8" - 24" tall.

This year we hope to offer Asian pear trees & apple trees 4' - 5' tall, blueberry & raspberry bushes, deciduous seedlings including sugar maple, redbud, dogwood, white ash, pachysandra ground cover, and much more.

**Please note we do not offer mature trees as sometimes pictured**



**Order Deadline: March 22, 2018**  
**Pick up Date: Thursday, April 12, 2018**  
**10:00 am - 6:00 pm**  
**@ Rocky Ridge Park (off Mt. Zion Road)**



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**Save the  
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August 6 & 13: Peach Fest with Pick Your Own (PYO)  
August 1: Corn Maze Opens  
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**TRUMBULL**

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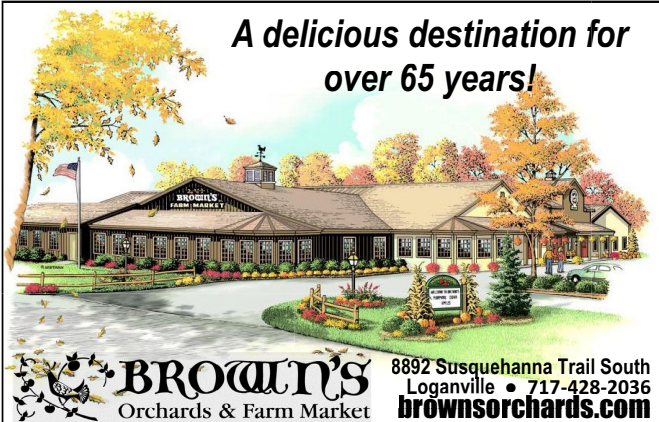
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# Ag Resources

A Focus on Soil Health, Part 3, by Brita Runkle  
Ag Resource Conservation Specialist

Just when you thought you have heard everything you need know about soil health, there is more! This article concludes our series on the importance of soil health. In the last article we discussed diversifying crop rotations and cover crops, planting cover crops, using interseeding, and avoiding compaction. In this article we will look at managing nutrients, manure, and pests, and integrating livestock with crops.

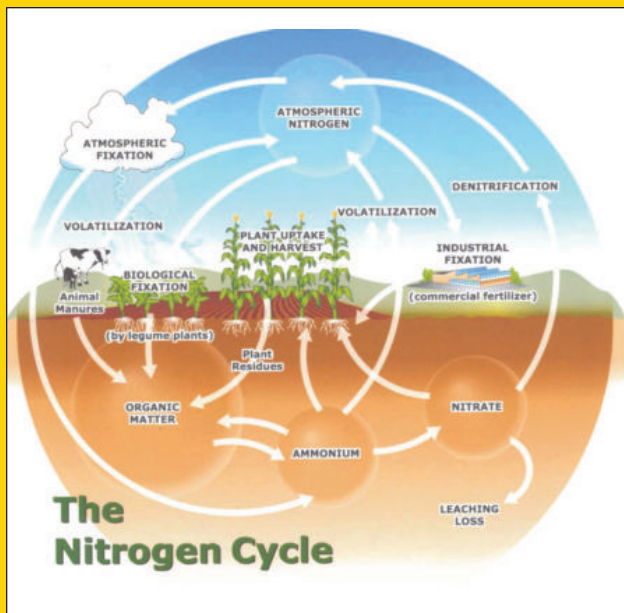
• **Managing Nutrients** – Having adequate soil fertility is important when managing soil health to increase crop production and provide environmental protection. Excess nutrient excess or nutrient deficiencies can have negative impacts on soil, effecting plant health and crop yield. By incorporating a more diverse cropping system with cover crops, nutrient availability in soils will increase requiring fewer expenses for nutrient supplements.



Organic matter and soil biology are also an integral source of nitrogen for agricultural crops. Tests are being evaluated that not only measure inorganic forms of nitrogen, but also look at soil biological activity to predict the available nitrogen from organic matter. These tests would allow farmers to better measure their progress as they implement management practices for improving soil health.

• **Managing Manure** – Manure is a great source of nutrients and organic matter to help feed soil microbes and increase soil organic matter content. When comparing types of manure, solid manure has the greatest amounts of organic matter and is most beneficial to the soil.

To maximize the benefits of manure application, apply when there are low temperatures to reduce volatilization of ammonia (loss of nitrogen) and apply when moderate precipitation is anticipated for better incorporation. Use injection equipment that reduces loss of nitrogen and always apply manure on a growing crop to absorb nutrients by the plants. In addition, soil testing, manure analyses, and other information relevant to producing crops with manure is important for using manure most efficiently. Always remember, when spreading manure, avoid saturated soils to reduce compaction.



• **Managing Pests** – Incorporating a diverse cropping system into your field management will increase the number of beneficial organisms - thus decreasing the production of unwanted pests.

Spraying insecticides could be a solution for pest control; however, sometimes there can be consequences with killing one predator that controls populations of other pests/insects. Spraying insecticides should be a last resort in order to build populations of beneficial insects such as pollinators.

• **Integrating Livestock with Crops** – Farmers who manage crops and livestock are more likely to grow a diversity of crops to meet nutritional needs of the animals; however, having both can also provide benefits back to the farmer. Some of those benefits include: increased profits by allowing animals to graze crop residues or cover crops, reduced risk of losing a significant amount of income with planting multiple crops (i.e. not putting all your eggs in one basket), decreased fertilizer needs, decreased crop disease, less weeds, and pest pressure, and improved soil health with a combination of diversified crops, livestock grazing within cover crops/ crop residue, and manure application.

In conclusion with this article, it is important to keep up with soil health to stay abreast with new research.

I encourage you to take advantage of local meetings, conferences, field days, and farmer groups to learn about new technologies and ideas for your operation. Hope you enjoy building your healthy soils!



### **York County Farmers - Do you Have Your Plans Ready?**

#### **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to Inspect Farms in York County**

**Time is running out!** Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) employees will begin inspecting farms in York County to determine compliance with State regulations for erosion & sedimentation control and manure & nutrient management planning. The DEP has committed to inspecting 10% of farms across Pennsylvania each year, to meet commitments made to U.S. EPA, in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan for improving water quality.

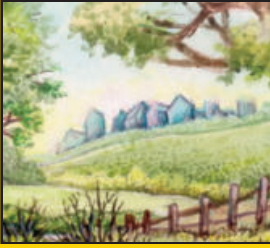
The plan is to begin inspecting York County farms this fall, in municipalities where stream segments are impaired, meaning they do not meet water quality standards for nutrient and or sediment contamination. This will be the initial inspection process conducted in York since the Bay Reboot Strategy was announced in 2015. Up to this point, only farms meeting animal density limits or where complaints had been received and were found to be in violation, were required to submit plans for review and approval and/or be inspected.

DEP inspectors will be visiting farms requesting to see Ag Erosion & Sediment Control Plans and where required, Manure Management and/or Nutrient Management Plans. They will also be collecting information related to the level of plan & Best Management Practice implementation on the farm.

For those that have the required plans, the process should be a minor inconvenience. However, for landowners and operators who do not have the plans, they will be given a deadline to obtain them or risk receiving fines or penalties.

Questions on the inspection process should be directed to PA DEP Community Relations Coordinator John Repetz at 717.705.4704.





# Erosion & Sediment Control

## E&S Program Accomplishments for June - September 2017

<b>Preconstruction meetings</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>General NPDES Issued</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>New Plan Reviews</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>Total site inspections</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Revised Plan Reviews</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Sites in compliance</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Total Project Acres</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Total Disturbed Acres</b>	<b>339</b>		

On Wednesday, September 27th, the York County Conservation District's E&S team hosted a Chapter 102 BMP Workshop at Wyndridge Farms for 119 professional plan preparers, contractors, developers, municipal staff, BMP product vendors, and DEP and District staff attended the day-long workshop. Topics ranged from Chapter 102 program updates by DEP staff to alternative approved Best Management Practices such as Big Switch Bio-based Erosion Control Socks, FocalPoint Vegetated Biological Treatment Systems, and Blackhawk Inlet Filter Mats presented by representatives of BEG Group, LLC, ACF Environmental, and Stormwater Solution Source, respectively.

Karl Kerchner (below left) of the Lebanon County Conservation District presented on Rip-rap, Coarse Aggregates and Amended Soils while Mark Fiely – Horticulturist with Ernst Conservation Seeds presented on the Selection, Establishment, and Maintenance of Ernst Native and Non-Native Seed Mixes for Stormwater BMPs, Steep Slopes, and Open Spaces. District staff presented on the "10 Things You Can Do to Get Your NPDES Permit Faster" and presented numerous BMP photos from the field demonstrating what works well and what doesn't. The workshop was well-received with lots of valuable information presented, good food and professional interaction.

The District E&S staff would like to thank Dean Auchenbach – DEP, Scott Williamson – DEP, Patricia Attardo – DEP, William Himes, P.E. – DEP, Justin Nace – EIT with Stormwater Solution Source, Warren Cohn – CPESC, CPSWQ with ACF Environmental, Jay Elkin of BEG Group, LLC, Karl Kerchner – Assistant Manager of the Lebanon County Conservation District, and Mark Fiely – Horticulturist with Ernst Conservation Seeds for taking time out of their very busy schedules to present at our workshop.





## Education & Communication



**Our 2018 Envirothon Season is upon us.** As we begin our 33rd year of environmental education competitions, it is worth noting that right now over half a million high school students across North America and China are getting ready to form school teams, receive their new study resources and prepare to represent their schools in our end-of-the-year contests. And yes, you read that right! The Envirothon is now international at the senior high level.

But here in York County, in addition to our Senior High Envirothon, we offer competitions for Middle School, 5th & 6th Grades and 3rd & 4th Grades. We don't want to make those students already committed to natural history & conservation wait until they are in high school to participate in this very successful program. Each year we begin with our annual Coaches Meetings - a requirement for all participating school coaches. All coaches will soon be receiving their registration packet by mail and email.

The **Annual Coaches Meetings** are scheduled for the following dates:

Wednesday, November 15, 2017- Senior High Round Table

Thursday, November 30, 2017 - Open House for 3rd - 8th Grades

Friday, December 1, 2017 - Open House for 3rd - 8th Grades

Our **2018 Envirothon Competitions** at John Rudy County Park are scheduled for the following dates:

Senior High - Tuesday, April 24

Middle School - Tuesday, May 1

5th & 6th Grades - Wednesday, May 2

3rd & 4th Grades - Tuesday, May 8

The **Annual Envirothon Sponsorship Drive** officially began with our September 22nd Clay Shoot at Central Penn Sporting Clays. See *details on page 11*. It was a great start to our funding, but we need more in order to provide this program to over 1,000 York County students and nearly 120 coaches for free. Please consider a donation as you look over the **2018 Sponsor Form on the next page**. We would love to welcome you to the Envirothon!

### Art Contest Announcement

We are looking for artwork to put on our 2018 Envirothon Certificates of Participation. Each year over 1,000 students receive these frangible certificates during our awards ceremony.

**Any natural history subject** will be considered, but the subject (bird, mammal, insect, fish, reptile, amphibian, tree, shrub or flower, natural scene, etc.) **must be native to York County**. All artwork submitted - digitally or by mail - should be horizontal.

Contest open to adults & children. **Chosen entries receive a 2018 Envirothon T-shirt & Stadium Blanket** in addition to appearing in next year's issues of our newsletters - including possible covers!

No artwork will be returned, and only chosen entries will be contacted. **Deadline February 28, 2018**



Mail or email your entries to Attn: Art Contest, YCCD, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York PA 17402 or [kyoung@yorkccd.org](mailto:kyoung@yorkccd.org) or go to our website at [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org)



# 2018 Envirothon Donation Form



For full descriptions of sponsorship levels, please call  
717-840-7190 or go to  
[www.yorkccd.org/education/envirothon](http://www.yorkccd.org/education/envirothon).

**Donations of \$500.00 & up receive name/logo  
placement on our Envirothon T-Shirts.**  
Deadline for T-shirts - February 28, 2018



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I would like to be an **Elk Silver Level Sponsor** for \$1,000.00 \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be a **Brook Trout Bronze Level Sponsor** for \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be a **Mountain Laurel Patron** for \$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be a **Ruffed Grouse Educational Resource Patron**

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Please make checks payable to the **York County Conservation District** & mail to:  
Attn: Envirothon, YCCD, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402

The District held its **10th Annual Envirothon Clay Shoot fundraiser** on Friday, September 22nd at Central Penn Sporting Clays in Wellsville. The day included a catered barbecue lunch, an afternoon shoot, door prizes, awards, a gun raffle and silent auction. All proceeds will benefit the York County Envirothon.

Trophies were awarded to the three top-scoring individual shooters: Doug Heiges (1st), Scott Wertz (2nd) and Dale (Chip) Wertz (3rd). The North Mountain team - *pictured below center* - (Dale (Chip) Wertz, Andrew Allbeck, Lynn Reese, Scott Wertz, Mark Earnest) took high score and it's Traveling Trophy for the third year in a row. The team in second place was the Kramers/Riedel team (John Riedel, Bill Kramer, Doug Heiges, Rick Myers, Mark Kimmel) and the team placing third was the Bent Barrel Boys (Matthew Holbrook, Scott Wallick, Tom Baithaser, Dave Shiner, Bruce Holbrook).

The top female shooter was Hayley Book (*below left in floral, with Kelsey Frey*) and the top youth shooter was Nathan Thompson (*below right - on far right*). Our gun raffle was won by Darrin Wertz and the Bob Sopchick limited edition elk print silent auction was won by Allen Wagner. Certificates were also awarded to the shooters in 4th – 10th place and a novice trophy was presented.



Our Annual Clay Shoot officially kicks off the fundraising efforts for the upcoming 2018 Envirothon season. This year we raised \$8,900.00 to begin our 33rd season! We wish to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support and hope to see you all again next September.

**Event Sponsors \$2,000.00:** Aquatic Resource Restoration Company & Resource Environmental Solutions

**Event Partners \$1,000.00:** Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. and Mr. & Mrs. Randy Barnes

**Station Sponsor \$500.00:** Exelon-Peach Bottom, Trumbull Corp., DH Funk & Sons LLC.

**Station Partner \$100-\$250.00:** Conewago Enterprises, Inc., ELA Group, Inc., Mark Flaharty, Keystruct Construction, Inc., River's Truck Center, Inc., Representative Kristin Phillips Hill, H. Edward Black and Associates, Ltd., Krall Contracting Inc., JMT and Commissioner Doug Hoke

We also would like to thank Ellis Crowl for his donation

**Thank you to our Gun Raffle Sponsors:** Senator Mike Regan, Senator Scott Wagner, Representative Keith Gillespie, Representative Seth Grove, Representative Kristin Phillips-Hill, Representative Dawn Keefer, Representative Kate Klunk, Representative Stan Saylor



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.



# The YCCD Annual Conservation Awards

The District held its **Annual Conservation Awards Picnic** on Tuesday, August 1st at Rocky Ridge Park to present their 2017 Conservation Awards. Each year a committee selects individuals and businesses in York County for recognition of their stewardship and commitment to local conservation efforts. Award recipients were presented with a signed, limited edition framed print by Millicent Neill Decker, while guests enjoyed a catered picnic dinner. This year's recipients were:

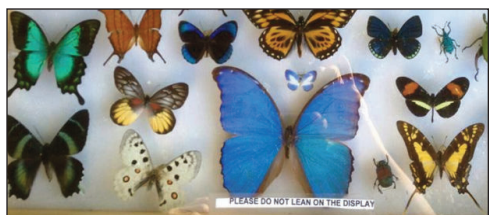


**Lower Windsor Township – Outstanding Municipal Conservation Partner.** Lower Windsor Township is an excellent example of what the District refers to as a good conservation partner. The township regularly gives the District's Small Projects Guide to residents applying for a building permit and works in coordination with Hellam Township and Wrightsville Borough to conduct their annual Storm Water Fair to educate residents on addressing storm water issues and conservation in their own backyards. The Township also regularly seeks District assistance whenever they have an Erosion & Sediment issue. *Pictured at left, Sande Cunningham, Representative Stan Saylor, Associate Director, John Riedel.*

**Ellen O'Connor - 2017 Outstanding Watershed Steward.** Ellen, who works for the York County Solid Waste Authority, has been instrumental in partnering with 16 York County police departments to host medication take-back boxes in their police department lobbies. In 2016 the program safely collected and disposed of a total of 4.2 tons of unused and expired medications. The program enhances ongoing efforts to eliminate drug abuse and educate the public about the potential for abuse of medications, and how their unsafe disposal affects the health of our local streams by destroying beneficial bacteria – a crucial part of the aquatic food chain. *Pictured at right, Ellen O'Connor, Representative Kristin Phillips Hill.*



**Ryan Bridge - Outstanding Environmental Educator for 2017.** Ryan Bridge – known as “The Bug Man” - has spent decades teaching people of all ages about the need to protect the world's biodiversity through his outstanding entomology programs & museum-quality, world-class exhibits of insects and their allies. His entertaining, high-energy programs, which include some live creatures too, reinforce the need to conserve every ecosystem on earth. Each of those ecosystems are home to our most numerous and beneficial species – the insects. Ryan, of Mount Wolf, has also been a long-time supporter of the York County Conservation District, the York County Envirothon, the York County Parks, and Penn State's Ag Extension - where he has been a 4-H leader for over 25 years. His greatest skill? Making scientific study entertaining for all ages groups. *Pictured at left, Representative Keith Gillespie, Ryan Bridge, Commissioner Susan Byrnes - along with a small sample of Ryan's collections.*



**Kent Heffner, Chanceford Township – Award for Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance.** Kent has been operating closely with the Conservation District on the Dirt & Gravel Low Volume Road (DGLVR) program, especially in Chanceford Township, where they have been working hard to improve their roads in a continuous effort to minimize the effects of road runoff, or flooding, into local streams.

*Pictured at right is Director Gordon (Bud) Brown and Kent Heffner.*



**Eddie Johnson of Hickorymea Farm - 2017 Outstanding Conservation Farmer.** Hickorymea Farm in Airville has 127 acres of cropland and three acres in pasture with a dairy operation of 250 head of cattle maintained with conservation of the land and water in mind. The cows are housed under roofed buildings equipped with rain gutters and spouting to separate clean water directed to a storm water basins on site. Swales installed behind barns are used to direct storm water runoff into the wooded area on the property. Cover crops are used and the grassed waterways are kept in good condition. Eddie continues to work with the District Ag staff to update his conservation plans and nutrient management plan. *Pictured at left with Associate Director Kenyon Miller, Kay & Eddie Johnson, Commissioner Susan Byrnes.*

**York Excavating Company LLC – 2017 Outstanding Excavation Contractor.** The York Excavating Company LLC was recognized for their cooperation with the District to follow Chapter 102 regulations and NPDES permit conditions on the sites where they work. They are proactive in their commitment to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on challenging construction sites – going so far as to complete daily self-inspection reports and routinely contact District staff with questions and voluntarily keep an open line of communication between their contractors and our District staff. All in an effort to keep our local streams and waterways clean and healthy. *Pictured at right, Glenn Smith, E&S Resource Conservationist Eric Jordan, Jeff Walker.*



**The Sam Taylor Farm - 2017 Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award.** The Sam Taylor Family Farm of Brogue, PA, has 600 acres in cropland and 30 acres in pasture with 110 dairy cows. They are now the 4th & 5th generation of family living there dedicated to improving best management practices on their farm to improve soil and maintain water quality. They practice 80% no-till, perform soil tests, have Manure Management plans, practice Nutrient Management Techniques, have a Farm Conservation Plan, a Pesticide Management Plan, practice Crop Rotation, and belong to Crop Management Association. *Their entire Taylor farm is pictured on our cover page holding their award.*





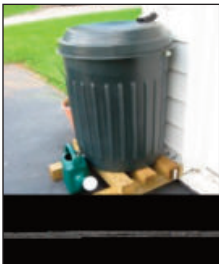
# Watershed Specialist

Gary Peacock

**Stormwater runoff is one of the greatest sources of water pollution today.** As stormwater “runs off” it picks up biological, nutrient, sediment, and toxic contaminants which foul surface water quality and our drinking water sources. So what can you do? Every residential homeowner/renter impacts water quality. You can decrease your impact by reducing the amount and types of contaminants and stormwater leaving your home property. Below are several simple ways to reduce your impacts on water quality and stormwater runoff at home:



**Rain Gardens** – The garden has a shallow depression that allows stormwater to collect and pool. Natural soils allow the water to soak into the ground instead of running “off” into the storm sewer system or stream. The garden is planted with a mix of native plants that filter out pollutants and attract wildlife. *Pictured at left*



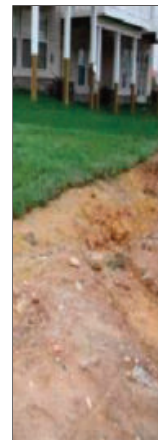
**Rain Barrels & Cisterns** – Cisterns and rain barrels are used to capture roof runoff in a barrel or tank which can then slowly empty into the lawn or landscape or be reused for outdoor irrigation/watering and/or for selected indoor uses. While rain barrels can be installed by a homeowner, larger tanks (cisterns) have special design and construction specifications. Rain water in rain barrels and cisterns should never be used for drinking water unless properly treated. *Pictured at left*

**Permeable Hardscapes** - Permeable hard-scapes refers to the installation of pavers on driveways and sidewalks that allow rainfall to rapidly pass through the paver and into a shallow stone reservoir that allows the water to soak into the ground. The practice applies to both residential and non-residential paved areas, and may be a great option to replace deteriorating pavement. Most permeable pavers require the assistance of an experienced designer and pavement installation contractor. *At right.*



**Reducing Impermeable Surfaces** – Impervious cover removal consists of the breaking up of existing hard surfaces and proper disposal or recycling of the asphalt or concrete, followed by roto-tilling of the underlying soils to relieve compaction, and planting them with grass or other vegetation. *Near right.*

**Green Roof** – Green roofs are systems that store and filter rainfall that lands on the roof through a thin layer of soil media and specialized vegetation. These practices can sometimes be applied on residential rooftops, but must be designed and installed by a qualified designer/contractor. *Far right.*

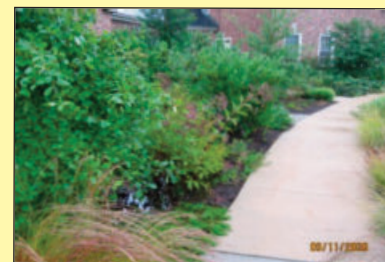


**Tree Planting** – Tree planting is the practice of planting native, deciduous or evergreen trees in grassy areas that will grow and create a leafy canopy that intercepts rainfall and reduces runoff. Species should be selected that will grow best given a variety of conditions, including soil type, full sun verses shade, and soil moisture at your planting site.

**Conservation Landscaping** – Conservation landscaping is the reduction of turfgrass lawn with the creation of mulched beds that are planted with native, perennial plants, shrubs and/or small trees that retain rainfall and absorb runoff from adjacent turf or paved surfaces.

**Dry Wells** – Dry wells are created by excavating a shallow trench that is filled with stone and used to temporarily store runoff so it can soak into the ground. Dry wells can be designed and installed by the owner, but must be located at least 10 feet away from basement walls. *Bottom photo at right.*

For more information about Best Management Practices for stormwater, go to Pennsylvania's Stormwater BMP Manual at [http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-48472/00\\_Cover\\_TOC.pdf](http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-48472/00_Cover_TOC.pdf)



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## 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



The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board is pleased to announce the totals of their ag land preservation efforts since 1990. Program totals as of August 10, 2017, including farms preserved through easement purchase or easement donation, total 281 farms covering 41,851 acres! These farms represent working lands across the county which produce field crops, milk, fruits, berries, vegetables, Christmas trees, nursery stock, timber, and a variety of livestock. On behalf of the County of York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, thank you to the families who have made this commitment to preserve their family farm, "Forever and a day".

So far in 2017, The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board received 44 applications totaling 4,493 acres. Complete and qualifying applications are considered on a year-round basis. So far this year, the YCALPB has selected 4 farms on 748 acres for easement purchase. Of the 44 total applications, 32 applications, on 3,310 acres, were found to be complete and qualified for our program. In order to qualify for land preservation, a farm must be enrolled in an Agricultural Security Area, it must be comprised of 50% lands in Soil Classes I – IV which are used for commercial agricultural production. A farm must also generate on average \$10,000 of gross farm income for three years, and finally have a current conservation plan that is at least 50% implemented. The easement purchase program also has a 50 acre minimum, or, 10 acre minimum if the applying property lies adjacent to a previously preserved farm.

Funding for land preservation efforts comes from sources such as; Clean & Green penalties, York General Fund, Marcellus Shale funds, Growing Greener fund and state and federal sources. Preservation through easement purchase may only occur when easement funds have been allocated and certified by a County to the State. In December, York County Commissioner's approved \$293,271 for the YCALPB preservation use. In February, The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Farmland Preservation allotted \$1,431,775, bringing our total to \$1,725,046, for the county, available for Agricultural Land Preservation.



The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board welcomes new Board Member James "Gus" Parlett of Airville, PA. Gus is a Supervisor for Lower Chanceford Township and also a full time farmer. We look forward to working with Gus and our County's Ag Land Preservation efforts. A sincere thank you goes out to Alan Taylor who served for three years on the County Ag Land Preserve Board. Alan owns and operates a dairy farm in Lower Chanceford Township and serves Lower Chanceford Township also as Supervisor.

Landowners interested in preserving their farmland may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or find our information at [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. The York County Ag Land Preservation Program continues to rank third in the state and ninth in the Nation for acres of farmland preserved. YCALPB 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.

**Save the date - Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Public Farmland Preservation Meeting

Understand the Eligibility Requirements and Apply to Preserve Your Family Farm

COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING

118 Pleasant Acres Road Suite F

York PA 17402



**Conservation Horizons**  
**York County**  
**Conservation District**  
**118 Pleasant Acres Road**  
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“The land belongs to the future; that’s the way it seems to me. I might as well try to will the sunset over there to my brother’s children. We come and go, but the land is always here. And the people who love it and understand it are the people who own it--for a little while.”

— Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*

**Would you like to be on our mailing list?**

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

If you would rather **“Go Green”** and save paper, send us an email request and put “electronic newsletter” in the subject line.

Need to change your address or your status on our mailing list? Just let us know. **And by the way - we never share our mailing list with anyone!**

**YCCD District Calendar**

**November 2017**

Nov 7	Office Closed - Independence Day
Nov 9	YCCD Board Mtg – 7:00 pm Annex
Nov 10	Veterans Day - Office Closed
Nov 15	Sr High Envirothon Coaches Meeting
Nov 23, 24	Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed
Nov 30	3rd - 8th Grades Envirothon Coaches Open House

**December 2017**

Dec 1	3rd - 8th Grades Envirothon Coaches Open House
Dec 8	YCCD Board Mtg - 11:00 am Annex
Dec 25	Christmas Holiday - Office Closed

**January 2018**

Jan 1	New Year’s Day - Office Closed
Jan 12	YCCD Board Mtg. 11:00 am Annex
Jan 15	Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed
Jan 17, 18	PACD Winter Mtg. State College
Jan 27 - 31	NACD 2018 Annual Mtg. Nashville, TN

**February 2018**

Feb 9	YCCD Board Mtg, 11:00 am Annex
Feb 19	President’s Day - Office Closed