

# Conservation Horizons



*Since 1948 \* 71 Years of Conservation, Education & Stewardship \**

## In This Issue

### **Around the District - 6**

York Co. Land Protection Survey - 7,8

**Ag Resources - 9, 10**

Erosion & Sediment Control - 11

**Education - 12**

Scholarships - 12

**Envirothon Season Wrap-up - 13 - 20**

Clay Shoot News - 21

**Native Plant Rescue/Yard Sale - 21**

Watersheds - 22

**Ag Land Preservation - 23**

District Calendar - 24



The York County Land Protection Committee is creating an important survey to gauge public interest for countywide land protection efforts. Let Your Voice Be Heard. Pgs. 7&8



12th Annual Envirothon  
Clay Shoot Fundraiser  
Friday, September 20  
Barbecue lunch/afternoon shoot - Pg. 21



Envirothon Results - pages 13 - 20



## 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.

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Mark Kimmel	District Manager

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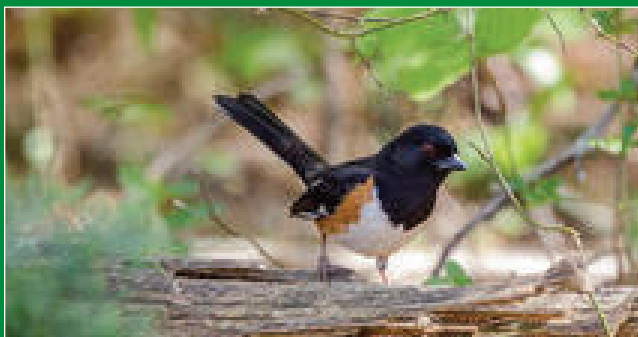
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# Around the District

The District staff continues to grow with the addition of **Engineering Technician I, Nicholas Hoffman** (at right) and **Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I, Stephen Miller**, below.

**Nicholas Hoffman** grew up in Dallastown, and as a child went hunting and fishing throughout York County with his dad. Growing up in the streams, fields and forests that he loved led him to Mansfield University where he earned his degree in watershed management. Soon after he realized he wanted to move back home to protect and improve the resources he so enjoyed when he was younger.

Before joining our Erosion & Sediment Control Staff (E&S), Nick worked at land studies in Lititz, PA, installing rain gardens and building stream restoration projects. His background also includes working for ECS (Engineering Consulting Services) in their Geotech Department doing infiltration testing, geologic testing, and compiling data into geotechnical reports.

In addition to hunting and fishing, he plays church softball in the summer and is planning his upcoming wedding with fiancé Somer.



In contrast, **Stephen Miller** comes to us from the midwest. Growing up on a farm in a central Illinois town called Arthur - about halfway between Chicago and St. Louis, he went to school at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where he graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in environmental studies. Recently married, Stephen & wife Lindsay moved to Lititz in Lancaster County earlier this year.

Stephen has worked in the ag conservation field for several years prior to coming to work for our Conservation District. He has worked for two different Conservation Districts in two Illinois counties and most recently been a Soil Conservation Technician with the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Stephen was motivated to move east when he heard about the good work being done by Conservation Districts in Pennsylvania and nearby states within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. He says that's why he is excited to be working here at the York County Conservation District.

His hobbies include travelling, hiking, kayaking, skiing, and volunteering with wildlife habitat organizations. He has especially enjoyed planting and managing acres of native prairie habitat.

Both Stephen and Nick agree that the important work of conservation ensures that our natural resources be preserved and kept available for use by future generations.



At a recent Board meeting Commissioner/Director Susan Byrnes helped us recognize both Eric Jordan, Assistant Manager for Programs (at left) and Gary Peacock, Watershed Specialist (at right) for their 20 years of service.





# Land Protection in York County - Let Your Voice Be Heard!

## We Value Your Input

The York County Land Protection Committee is developing a survey to gauge the public's level of interest regarding countywide land protection efforts. Partners from the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, York County Conservation District, York County Parks, Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County, York County Planning Commission and the York County Administrator have been working together over the past several years to take a more coordinated approach to land protection through a dedicated, predictable funding stream.

Questions currently in the forefront relate to public opinion on open space protection. Is open space important to the community? Are local agencies doing enough to protect open space? Should more be done to protect open space? To answer these questions, a public survey will be conducted this summer to obtain feedback from residents and business owners throughout York County.

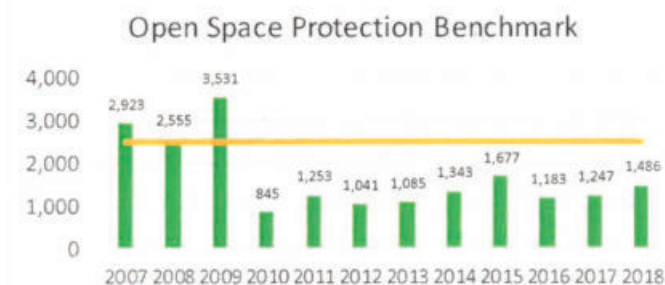
## What is Open Space?

The Land Protection Committee defines open space as publicly or privately owned land and water that is:

- Predominately in a natural state
- Dedicated to providing areas for passive or active public recreation
- Lands privately owned and managed for agricultural food & fiber production
- Lands protecting natural (water, air, soil, minerals, forests, wildlife) or historic resources
- Land preserving scenic quality and maintaining community character

## Protection Benchmark

The York County Comprehensive Plan set a benchmark to protect at least 2,500 acres of open space annually. Following the economic downturn, land protection lost momentum due to funding availability.



Based on current priorities, there are approximately 85,000 acres of open space worthy of protection in York County. Some parcels are located in priority preservation areas that remain unprotected. Additionally, there are open space protection opportunities that would provide connectivity and create larger masses of open space when protected.

## Location, Location, Location

York County's location and proximity to major highways and interstates make it a great place to work and live, but it also creates great challenges when it comes to protecting our open space. According to the York County Economic Alliance's website, York County is located within a day's drive of 40% of the US population and 60% of Canada's population. This, along with easy access to major highways, makes York County a strategic location for many businesses. It is noticeable with the construction of massive



warehouses popping up north of York City along Interstate 83. York County is an ideal place for commuters to live, putting development pressure on open space in many areas throughout the County. Another contributing factor is that Maryland is dedicated to preserving and protecting its rural character by limiting development in the northern portion of the state, adjacent to York County. This adds additional development pressure in municipalities located just north of the Mason Dixon line.

## Benefits of Open Space

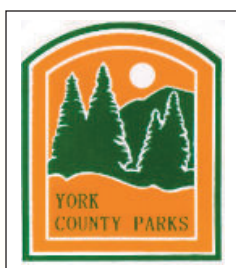
There are approximately 583,040 acres that comprise York County. Currently, about 12% of the County, or 71,555 acres of open space is protected or permanently preserved.

Open space provides many benefits and plays a big role in a good quality of life. Environmental benefits include clean water and air, reduced soil erosion, and habitat for plants and animals. Health benefits include providing places for active and passive recreation. Protection of open space also helps to create and preserve blocks of prime agricultural land, scenic vistas, and sensitive natural areas. An economic benefit of open space is increased property values. Open space versus developed land helps to maintain lower taxes. It is less expensive for local government to provide services to open space as compared to land that is developed.

Only 12% of the County's total land area is protected or permanently preserved. That is about equal to the total land area of Chanceford, Lower Chanceford, and Peach Bottom Townships.

## Balance is the Key

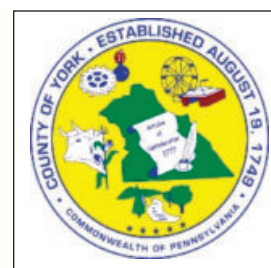
According to the Comprehensive Plan, it is necessary to designate areas suited for growth and development. It is also necessary to protect natural resources and features. This is important not just for the present generation, but for future generations to enjoy the good quality of life that makes York County a desirable place to live, work, and play. **Let Your Voice Be Heard!** Please visit any of the Land Protection Committee partner's websites below to participate in the survey **this July & August**.



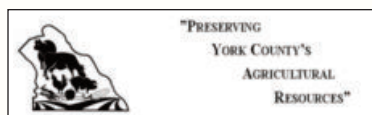
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# Ag Resources

To Plant Cover Crops or Not Plant Cover Crops. This is the Question.

Heavy rain is in the forecast and you still have not had the opportunity to repair field damage from the last large rainstorm. You should be planting crops instead of repairing fields and are concerned about what others think of your fields as they pass by. Does this all sound familiar to you? Have you ever thought about planting a cover crop to help prevent erosion, but don't know much about cover crops? In this issue, Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I, **Brita Runkle**, explains the benefits of cover crops, selecting the best cover crop for your operation, management, and funding sources available for cover crops and cover crop equipment.

Cover crops have many benefits, some of which you may already know. When determining the benefits of any crop, it is good to compare costs with returns in all forms. According to Bob Burchett of Maple Spring Farms, who experimented this year with broadcasting a wheat cover crop, "You will spend money for cover crops, but not having nutrients lost from soil erosion, that's where you make out".

Cover crops can improve yields by enhancing soil health. Cover crops can break up soil to improve soil structure which speeds infiltration of surface water and reduces compaction. Cover crops can also add organic matter to soil and enhance the nutrient cycle.

Other benefits may include cutting fertilizer costs by contributing nitrogen (N) to cash crops, suppressing weeds to minimize herbicide use, preventing soil erosion, and conserving soil moisture when terminated in the field by helping to reduce evaporation.

According to Kenyon Miller of Risser Grain, "Farmers are seeing a yield bump due to moisture holding from the heavy mat of cover crops when burned down".

Other positive effects are creating organic matter for long term storage of important nutrients such as nitrogen, and managing pests by hosting beneficial microbial life. Cover crops create an inhospitable soil environment for many soil borne diseases, and encourage beneficial insect predators that can reduce insect damage.

Popular Cover Crop Options

	Type	Roles
Winter Wheat	Winter annual cereal grain; can be spring planted	Prevent erosion, suppress weeds, scavenge excess nutrients, add organic matter
Rye (cereal rye, winter rye, grain rye)	Cool season annual cereal grain	Scavenge excess N, prevent erosion, add organic matter, suppress weeds
Oats (or Spring Oats)	Cool season annual cereal	Suppress weeds, prevent erosion, scavenge excess nutrients, add biomass, nurse crop
Brassicas	Annual (usually winter or spring; summer use possible)	Prevent erosion, suppress weeds and soilborne pests, alleviate soil compaction and scavenge nutrients

Selecting a cover crop that is a right fit for your operation can be difficult because there is not one cover crop that does it all. To determine what works best for you, decide what your primary needs are, when and where you would plant a cover crop in your rotation, and lastly testing cover crop options to see what works best. Identifying the best place and time goes hand in hand with what you want to accomplish. If you are trying to reduce soil erosion, cover crops are good to plant after cash crops that have little residue such as soybeans. If it is nitrogen you want, planting before a corn crop would be ideal to minimize the need to add nitrogen for crop uptake. According to Andy Flinchbaugh of Flinchbaugh's Orchard and Farm Market who has been planting cover crops for 12 years, "Using cover crops allowed our operation to eliminate strip cropping to use bigger equipment, which in turn made the operation more time efficient".

*Continued from page nine.*

Common cover crops in York County are winter wheat and rye, which require herbicides for termination. There are also oats and brassica such as tillage radish that will winter kill. Some farmers in the county even prefer to plant a mix of cover crops to maximize the benefits that you would not get from just one plant species. Andy Flinchbaugh stated that he likes wheat as a cover crop because you get a large amount of biomass and said his operation will store cash crop wheat as “bin run wheat” (not cleaned or treated) and uses it back on the farm as cover crop seed.



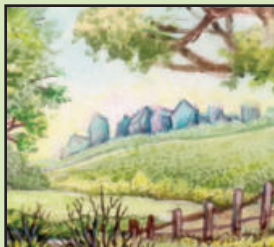
How labor-intensive is having a cover crop? This depends on several factors, such as how you intend to plant the cover crop – drill or broadcast, weather conditions at the time of planting and during the growing season, competing crops or pests, the type of cover crop and the termination methods. The most popular method of termination of cover crops, if not a winter kill crop, is using herbicides because a farmer can cover a large area at one time, terminate the cover crop at any time, and do this all relatively inexpensive. Other termination methods are killing with a roller-crimper by crimping (breaking) the stems of the cover or mowing/chopping cover crop into smaller pieces. Mowing/chopping could be more energy intensive and could also push small pieces into the soil affecting seed regrowth if some type of row cleaner is not used.

So, if you are not sold on cover crops yet, maybe funding options will help. There are both federal and state programs available. There are two types of federal funding programs available through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The first federal program is called the Environmental Quality Incentive Program otherwise known as EQIP which can have a term of 1-3 years. This program is a good option for the operator new to cover crops because it allows less commitment. The other federal program is called the Conservation Stewardship Program also known as CSP, and is a 5 year commitment for cover crops. This is for anyone, but can benefit an operator who has experience with cover crops already or is willing to commit for a longer time frame to try something new.

Another program offered by the state is through tax credits, called the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program or REAP. The REAP program is nice for operators not interested in a federal program who want some type of financial assistance. The REAP program provides Pennsylvania tax credits at 50% for cover crops and cover crop rollers and roller attachments. Some restrictions may apply for these funding sources. To find out more information on any of these programs, contact NRCS at (717) 755-2966 (EQIP/CSP) or the York County Conservation District at (717) 840-7430 (REAP).

In conclusion, cover crops are very beneficial in many ways; you just need to decide and experiment to find what works best for you and your operation needs. When asked the question: Why did you start using cover crops? The answer from both Bob Burchett and Andy Flinchbaugh was “to prevent field erosion”. When asked if they would plant cover crops again, the answer was “YES”!





# Erosion & Sediment Control

## E&S Program Accomplishments for February - May 2019

Preconstruction meetings	19	General NPDES Issued	41	Total Disturbed Acres	972
New Plan Reviews	99	Total site inspections	144		
Revised Plan Reviews	62	Sites in compliance	18		
Total Project Acres	2,408	Complaints Investigated	73		

### Our Workload Expands as Construction Increases

If you live, work or travel around York County you have probably noticed the increase in construction activity. It seems like earth-moving and new construction are everywhere. Our permit & plan review shelves haven't been this full since the mid-2000s.

The scale of projects, with the increase in huge warehouses, bring added challenges as we work to limit impacts of increased roofs and parking lots that shed rain water and create more stormwater runoff.

During the surge in construction we've also been busy training technical staff with three new hires in the past year. Nearly constant rain and a booming economy have created a perfect storm for our team as they struggle to keep up with the workload. It's no small task to cover over 900 square miles and the development occurring within it. Time-consuming plan review & permit processing are just one portion of the job. The backlog of work is making it difficult for the staff to get out in the field - another important facet of their jobs.

While our goals have not changed, our timelines have been challenged. We've recently added a plan review listing to our website. This is updated weekly to show plan status and at any given time there are up to fifty projects on the list.

Despite these challenges the quality of our reviews has not suffered and our staff are committed to doing their work properly, knowing that each site is unique and requires careful review so when implemented fewer surprises are encountered.



In addition to our recent hires in the E&S Department, **we have plans to add a Professional Engineer to our staff** later this year to help expedite stormwater plan reviews locally, and avoid almost certain delay when sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Regional Office, which is responsible for 15 counties. Check our website for job announcements. We thank the County Commissioners for supporting these additions to improve timeliness and protect natural resources for generations to follow.



## Education & Communication

Kim J Young

**Nathan Metzger** (at right) received one of our YCCD College Scholarships earlier this year. Nathan grew up in Craley and graduated from Eastern York High School. He is currently enrolled at Mansfield University studying Fisheries Biology, and hopes to make a career out of field research on fish interactions and methods to improve waterways, after also earning his masters degree.

Nathan has been passionate about water conservation and aquatic preservation since he was a child. That love of the outdoors constantly inspired him to surround himself with opportunities to expand his knowledge. He counts among his favorite experiences the opportunities to do stream evaluations, electrofishing and attending outdoor camps.

Not surprising, Nathan's hobbies include fishing, as well as trap-shooting and playing the trumpet. He gives credit to his family for supporting his interests and allowing outdoor activities and opportunities that he feels have helped shape him into the person he is today. Those opportunities include attending Eco Camp, and the Brookies and Bass Camp run by the Wildlife Leadership Academy.

Active with his local chapter of the Izaak Walton League, Nathan has volunteered with the junior members on projects like making blue-bird boxes and making improvements to the junior clubhouse. He is also a member of Craley-Fish & Game, Trout Unlimited, and the Glen Rock Shooting Club.

Nathan believes conservation means more than just preserving our natural resources for future generations. He emphasizes the need to get others involved and educate them about the steps that are necessary to maintain our resources. We congratulate him and wish him well.



### **The 2019-2020 York County Conservation District \$1,000.00 College Scholarships will be posted on our website in July.**

Once again we will offer two \$1,000.00 scholarships to York County residents currently attending an accredited college or university majoring in agriculture, conservation, environmental studies, natural resource management or a related science field.

*Senior high school students may apply if they have been accepted to college or university at the time of their application submission.*

For more information please go to to:

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

**click on education in the drop-down menu**

**click on scholarships**

*Application Deadline - October 31, 2019*



# York County ENVIROTHON



## THE 2019 ETHON-NEWS - Our 34th Season in Review

For once, all four of our Envirothon competitions had good weather. What a treat that was for a perennially outdoor event. Good weather, nature-loving-enthusiastic students, learning how technology is shaping our farming future, and a visiting black bear pretty much sums up our year of York County Envirothons. Science, surprises & fun!

If you don't know, the Envirothon - which is now international - is the largest and longest-running environmental high school competition in North America. But here in York County we begin in the 3rd grade. Once again, over 1,000 York County students participated on 186 teams through their District school buildings. Beginning each fall, they spend the better part of their school year studying & competing extra-curricularly in Aquatics, Environmental Current Issues, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, and Wildlife. Today, more than ever, appreciating and understanding science is a necessary and crucial life skill. With a huge nod to our sponsors, we wish to thank you and assure you that the Envirothon will continue to provide students with the critical thinking skills necessary to make informed conservation decisions in school, at home and - most important - as they become adults.

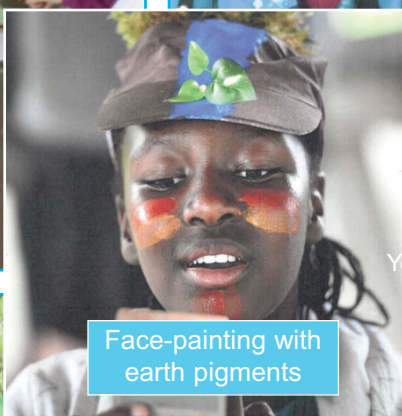


The Forestry Test



Kirk Dreier - Primitive Tools

York Daily Record photos (2)



Face-painting with earth pigments



Dallastown High School



Best Teamwork:  
Red Lion's Macaluso Elementary

## Thank You to our Sponsors!

**The Envirothon is a success because of our sponsors - it would not happen without them.** Our fundraising starts in September with our **Annual Clay Shoot** and continues through April. Thank you to the many individuals, companies, cooperating agencies, and schools, who continue to support us. We raised \$28,000.00 this year, including \$7,224.00 during our Clay Shoot!!! We also thank John Rudy County Park - "The Official Home of the Envirothons."



Hunter Jordan,  
High Score Youth



High Score Team Trophy  
North Mountain team



PULL!

**Thank you to our 2019 Clay Shoot Sponsors:** Aquatic Resource Restoration Company (ARRC), Resource Environmental Solutions (RES), Mr. and Mrs. Randy Byrnes, HRG, Inc., Keystruct Construction Inc., Mark Flaharty, Commissioner Doug Hoke, Irvin W. Allot, Izaak Walton League #67, Warehouse, JMT, ELA Group, Inc., Wolf Farms, Ellis Crowl, East Prospect Fish & Game, Brown's Orchards, Walmart

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

**Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 20th for our 12th Annual Clay Shoot @ Central Penn Sporting Clays to kick off our 2020 Envirothon Season Sponsorship Drive.**

A special thank you to Lee Irwin and  
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for generously contributing at our  
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Conewago Enterprises, Inc., Southern Elem. PTO., Liberty  
Excavators, Inc., Northeastern School District,  
Flying Ecatvating, Inc., W. Craig Adams, Inc.,  
Warehaus, Shrewsbury PTO, York Township,  
Commissioner Doug Hoke, Glatfelter Insurance Group



We wish to thank the following  
RUFFED GROUSE PATRONS

Dehoff Farms LLC,  
Gordon L Brown & Associates, Inc.,  
Bottom Line Contracting, Inc.,  
Delta Peach Bottom Fish & Game Association



Windsor Township, Grimm Trophy, Central York School District - North Hills PTO,  
Stewartstown Elementary PTA, Friends of Chris Reilly, Christine & Travis Sherman,  
Roundtown PTO, David Leese, Environmental Concepts Landscaping, Spring Grove Elem PTO,  
Keller-Brown, Shiloh Garden Club, Ken Sheffer, Stoney Brook Elem PTO, Walmart,  
M. Jo Bowman-Ruth, Waterbody Builders

#### **Thank you to our Cooperating Agencies & Volunteers**

York County Parks & Recreation Dept., York County Planning Commission,  
Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission,  
Penn State Cooperative Extension, U.S.D.A., Natural Resource Conservation Service,  
PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection,  
York Rotary PPE Committee, York County Conservation District, Farm Service Agency,  
York County Solid Waste & Refuse Authority, The Pennsylvania Envirothon

#### **Thank you to our Envirothon Committee and the many additional volunteers**

who help make our competitions such a success.

Thank you to Flinchbaugh's Orchard & Farm Market, Stauffer's, and Grimm's Trophy & Gifts for their  
In-Kind Donations.

A special thank you to the **Kirk Dreier - Baltimore County Parks, Michael Buleza - Critter  
Connections, and the Penn State Master Watershed Stewards** for their entertaining and educational  
programs presented during our lower grade competitions.

**Senior High Envirothon ( 22 teams):** The York Homeschool team placed first overall after a challenging run by Central York and Dallastown. Representing York County, the Homeschoolers placed 5th overall out of 65 teams at the Pennsylvania Envirothon in late May. **Emma Pond Olney from Central York** was awarded our \$500 **Paul Wilson Conservation Award**. And a trapped black bear provided a surprise visit and immediate processing work for our PA Game Wardens during the competition.



Taking the Test



York Homeschool at PA Envirothon

### Senior High top-ten overall placing (total score 500)

- 10th – Red Lion Roadkill - 271
- 9th – Northern Nictitating Membranes - 283
- 8th – York Suburban Bespectacled Specimens – 286
- 7th – Northeastern Tree Huggers – 291
- 6th – Susquehannock Puddle Ducks - 295
- 5th – West York Wildfire - 304
- 4th – YHSA CVCM – 318
- 3rd – Dallastown Hellbenders – 338
- 2nd – Central York Bodacious Bees - 390
- 1st – YHSA Unfaltering Five - 413

### Testing Station Results - out of 100 points

#### Aquatics -

- 3rd Place – YHSA CVCM - 64
- 2nd Place – Central York Bodacious Bees - 65
- 1st Place – YHSA Unfaltering Five - 77

#### Current Issues - " *Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World.*"

- 3rd Place – Central York Bodacious Bees - 75
- 2nd Place – York Suburban Bespectacled Specimens - 78
- 1st Place – YHSA Unfaltering Five – 79

#### Forestry -

- 3rd Place – Dallastown Hellbenders - 75
- 2nd Place – YHSA Unfaltering Five - 78
- 1st Place – Central York Bodacious Bees - 82

#### Soils -

- 3rd Place – Central York Bodacious Bees - 90
- 2nd Place – Northeastern Nictitating Membranes - 91
- 1st Place - YHSA Unfaltering Five - 97

#### Wildlife -

- 3rd Place – Dallastown Hellbenders - 76
- 2nd Place – Central York Bodacious Bees - 78
- 1st Place – YHSA Unfaltering Five – 82



Rep. Keith Gillespie, Emma Pond Olney, Leisa Miller for Rep. Kristin Phillips Hill



Tranquilized black bear



Wildlife ID



## Middle School Envirothon - 33 teams



Shrewsbury Christian



Primitive Tools

### Top-ten overall placing (out of 400)

- 10th Place – Southern Sea Lions - 325
- 9th Place – Central York Narwhals – 331
- 8th Place – Hanover Hemlock Hotties – 342
- 7th Place – Southern Radical Raven Claws - 342
- 6th Place – Dover Int. Crippled Cacti - 347
- 5th Place – Shrewsbury Christian Frosted Falcons - 351
- 4th Place – York Suburban Magic Mice - 354
- 3rd Place – YHSA Elliptical Illusion - 372
- 2nd Place – York Suburban Aging Owls - 379
- 1st Place – YHSA Carrion Carryout - 377



The Ageing Owls Team

### Testing Station Results (100 pts. each category)

- Aquatics:
- 3rd – YHSA Elliptical Illusion – 88
  - 2nd – YHSA Eagles - 90
  - 1st – York Suburban Aging Owls - 92



It's work, but it's fun too!

### Current Issues – “Invasive Species & Biodiversity”

- 3rd – Red Lion Sesquipedalian Salamanders - 96
- 2nd – YHSA Eagles - 98
- 1st - York Suburban Ageing Owls - 100

### Forestry:

- 3rd – Shrewsbury Christian Frosted Falcons - 97
- 2nd – YHSA Eagles - 99
- 1st – YHSA Elliptical Illusion - 100

### Wildlife:

- 3rd – York Suburban Elliptical Illusion - 90
- 2nd – York Suburban Ageing Owls - 94
- 1st – YHSA Eagles - 98



## 5th & 6th Grades Envirothon - 55 Teams



Dallastown Great Garters



Indian Rock Sunbathing Salamanders

### 5th & 6th Grades top-ten overall Placing (out of 400): (TB- tiebreaker)

- 10th Place – South Eastern Battle Biotoxins - 358
- 9th Place – Sinking Springs Metamorphic Salamanders – 359 (tiebreaker)
- 8th Place – St. John's Bodacious Buteos – 359 – (tiebreaker)
- 7th Place – Spring Forge Harry Otters - 360
- 6th Place – Friendship Fearless Flying Falcons - 361
- 5th Place – Southeastern Witty Woodchucks - 365
- 4th Place – YHSA Twenty-One Pigeons - 371
- 3rd Place – Sinking Springs Shrewd Shrews - 373
- 2nd Place – Indian Rock Sunbathing Salamanders - 375
- 1st Place – Dallastown Great Garters - 382



YDR photo

A school of fish studying some fish

### Testing Station Results - 100 pts each category

#### Aquatics:

- 3rd – South Eastern Battle Biotoxins – 96 (tb)
- 2nd – Indian Rock Sunbathing Salamanders - 96 (tb)
- 1st – St. John's Bodacious Buteos - 97

#### Current Issues: "Invasive Species & Biodiversity"

- 3rd – North Hills Fantabulous Falcons – 98
- 2nd – Friendship Fearless Flying Falcons – 100 (tb)
- 1st - Dallastown Great Garters – 100 (tb)

#### Forestry:

- 3rd – YHSA Twenty-One Pigeons – 96 (tb)
- 2nd – St. John's Bodacious Buteos – 96 (tb)
- 1st – Dallastown Great Garters – 96 (tb)

#### Wildlife:

- 3rd – Dallastown Great Garters – 92 (tb)
- 2nd – YHSA Twenty-One Pigeons - 92 (tb)
- 1st – Dallastown Hair-raising Hawks – 92 (tb)



PA Game Wardens, Watways CO & Park Rangers



Aquatics



Teamwork!



**3rd & 4th Grades Envirothon - receive proficiency level ribbons and fun prizes - 77 Teams**



**High Score at Each Testing Station:**

**Top-scoring Aquatics:** YHSA Rowdy Raccoons - 100 out of 100 pts

**Top-scoring Forestry:** Dallastown Intermediate Bold Bobcats - 100 out of 100 pts

**Top-scoring Wildlife:** Dallastown Intermediate Fearless Foxes - 96 out of 100 pts

**Best Teamwork Champions (chosen during Scavenger Hunt):**

Red Lion's Macaluso Living Jumping Minnows

**Gold Level - Blue Ribbon category** - scoring between 278 & 307 out of total of 320 pts:

Dallastown Int. Fearless Foxes, Spring Grove Outstanding Oaks, Dallastown Int. Magnificent Minks, Dallastown Int. Bold Bobcats, YHSA Raiders of the Outdoors, Macaluso Living Jumping Minnows, East York Bunny Bandits, Spring Grove Fantastic Foxes, Indian Rock Mighty Muskrats, YHSA Rowdy Raccoons, Paradise Perfect Periwinkle Plants, York Township Bass Brothers, Paradise Powerful Pink Predators, Park Hills Power Houses, Shallow Brook Crazy Cobras, Stewartstown Fantastic Flying Squirrels, North Hills Playful Poison, Loganville Springfield Clever Coyotes, East York Rad Raccoons, North Hills Chilly Chestnuts



**Your 2020 Envirothon Event Dates**

**Senior High - Tuesday, April 28**

**Middle School - Tuesday, May 5**

**5th & 6th Grades - Wednesday, May 6**

**3rd & 4th Grades - Tuesday, 12**





Silver Level – Red Ribbon category - scoring between 237 & 277 out of total score of 320:

Indian Rock Rabid Raccoons, Stewartstown Fierce Fast Foxes, Roundtown Wilderness Warriors, Fawn Fantastic Fearless Foxes, Mazie Gable Raging Bobcats, Shrewsbury Dynamite Destructive Deer, Stony Brook Rockin Raccoons, Southern Elem Wild Foxes, Ore Valley Dominating Daces, South Mountain Partying Pandas, Delta Marvelous Majestic Minks, Dillsbury Crazy Cosmic Eagles, Locust Grove Victorious Voles, Dallastown Elem Wise Woodchucks, Shrewsbury Terrifying Tornado Trout, New Salem Woolly Mammoths, York Academy Courageous Coyotes, Hanover Street Super Skunks, Macaluso Living Jazzy Mealworms, York Academy Rowdy Raccoons, South Mountain Battling Blue Jays, Clearview Stinky Sneaky Skunks, Clearview Crazy Creative Coyotes, Northern Elem Smart Snakes

Bronze Level - White Ribbon category – scoring between 128 & 236 pts. out of total of 320:

Dillsburg Here Kitty Kitty, Spring Forge Milkweed & Cookies, Lincolnway Courageously Clever Coyotes, Leib Elem Terrifying Tigers, Ore Valley's Courageous Coyotes, St. Joe's Dallastown Daring Deer, Sinking Springs Snapping Turtles, Locust Grove Super Squirrels, Southern Elem Excellent Eels, Sinking Springs Dangerous Ducks, Leaders Heights Cool Coyotes, Park Hills Playful Pickerels, Shallow Brook Clawing Kittens, St. Patrick Hungry Beavers, New Salem Angry Birds, North Hopewell Winterstown Dreadful Dobsonflies, Wellsville Hopping Mad Hatters, Spring Forge Hoppers, Fawn Flying Brown Bats, North Hopewell Township Winterstown Beaming Brook Trout, Wellsville Impossible Possible Opossums, Christian School York Crusading Chickadees, St. Rose Fantastic Foxes, Hayshire's Nature Chasers, St. Rose Silly Skulls, Washington Elem Night Deers, Hanover Street Electrifying Eels, St. Joe's Dallastown Mink Masters, Washington Elem Night Wolves, Leib Elem Aquatic Koalas, Lincolnway Dashing Daredevil Deer, Delta's Fangtastic Fearless Bats, Mazie Gable Howling Coyotes



*At the Senior High level, over 10 million people have participated in the Envirothon nationally since 1979. More than one million dollars in scholarships have been presented and 55% of Envirothon students go on to careers in natural resource & conservation.*

*Traditionally a Senior High program, here in York County our Envirothons begin in 3rd grade.*

*Is your child & school involved?  
Contact The York County  
Conservation District for more  
information 717-840-7190*



Our 2019 Envirothon has come to a close but we are already planning for **Envirothon 2020 - Our 35th Season!** It will all begin with our **12th Annual Clay Shoot** at Central Penn Sporting Clays in Wellsville on Friday, September 20th. Bring a team of family, friends, co-workers, or join one of our teams for a day of catered BBQ, comraderie, sportsmanship and competition spent afield for a great cause. Register details will be posted this summer on our website: [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org) and on our Facebook page. Or call our office at 717-840-7430.



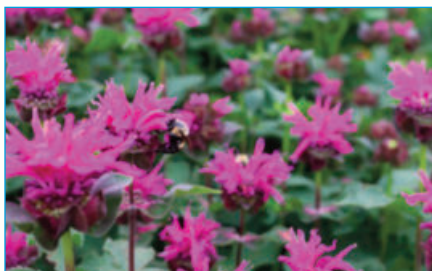
The York County Annex has been sold and the offices within the Annex are moving later this year. For decades the **Penn State Master Gardeners and Maescapes** have established a native plant garden surrounding the Annex. These beautiful and significant landscapes can not be reestablished at our new site anytime in the near future so the Master Gardeners have scheduled a **PLANT RESCUE** to preserve as many of the plants as possible. The public will be invited to join us as our Master Gardeners dig plants from the gardens at a cost of \$5.00 per plastic grocery bag. This is a great way to preserve these plants and continue the important work of establishing native landscaping throughout York County, starting with your own property.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Saturday, September 7th  
**NATIVE PLANT RESCUE  
 &  
 YARD SALE**  
*Times to be announced*



We anticipate that **many of the offices within the annex will participate in a Yard Sale on this same date**, offering visitors a chance to “rescue” or purchase many office supplies and educational resources that we cannot take with us to our new location on Pleasant Valley Road (the former Graham building).



Please check our websites and Facebook pages as details develop later this summer:  
 York County Conservation District @ [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org)  
 Penn State Ag Extension Master Gardeners  
 @ <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/york>



## Watershed Specialist - Gary Peacock

### Large Woody Debris Program

Large Woody Debris (LWD) is a general term referring to all wood naturally occurring or artificially placed in streams, including, branches, stumps, logs and logjams. LWD is usually defined by biologists as logs with a minimum diameter of 4 inches and a minimum length of 6 feet that protrude or lay within a stream channel. Trees that grow along a streamside can often fall into a watercourse as a result of flooding, erosion, windthrow, disease, beaver activity, or natural mortality. These materials can include whole trees with or without the root wads attached or just portions of the trees and limbs.



Many riparian owners and land managers traditionally treat woody material in streams as a nuisance and remove the LWD in the streams and along the banks with uncertain consequences. Logjams are obstructions occurring in streams from the accumulation of woody vegetation, with or without debris. They obstruct a stream channel, and create a backwater condition. Logjams may be positive or negative depending on the perspective and the specific site characteristics. Determining a logjam's value requires an understanding of watershed dynamics as well as the social and biological impacts in the watershed. Not all logjams need to be removed. Leaving in LWD should be considered in high quality streams as long as water is not impounded behind the logjam.

LWD has many ecological benefits including providing fish habitat, stream channel and streambank stability, and biological diversity by providing a food source for aquatic organisms. Streams affected by urbanization, agriculture, development, or clear cuts often lack a sufficient quantity of the LWD necessary to maintain an ecologically healthy and stable ecosystem. Streams with adequate LWD tend to have greater habitat diversity, a natural meandering shape and greater resistance against high water events.

As such, removal of LWD should only occur in instances where it is causing flooding of private/public infrastructure, significant streambank erosion, or threatens public health and safety. Depending on the extent of the removal, a permit from DEP may be required. In cases where LWD has to be cut, the trees can be floated, repositioned, and anchored to the shoreline so the ecological benefits are not lost.

The Conservation District receives funding annually to remove LWD obstructions posing imminent threats to public health and safety and property loss. Riparian landowners and local municipal governments are eligible for cost share. The landowner/manager must complete and submit a one page LWD Removal Cost Share application form, with 1-3 cost estimates, to the Conservation District. The Conservation District Board will review the application, decide whether the project is eligible and recommended, and then notify the applicant in writing. Once approved, the applicant must sign a cost share agreement with the District prior to doing the work. If streambank stabilization is needed, then a permit will be required from PADEP and the cost may also be included in the cost share above.



## 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



In March 2019, The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and staff welcomed Claire O'Brien as the newest employee to the agency. As Farmland Preservation Technician, Claire assists the agency qualifying and ranking agricultural conservation easement applications for farmland preservation. Claire's duties also include assisting with the GIS data management of lands identified as permanently preserved as well as lands enrolled in York County's Agricultural Security Areas. Eventually, Claire will assist with on-farm inspection visits to ensure the objectives of the agricultural conservation easement are being observed. Many of you will recall Eric Naylor, who served our clients so well from November 2013 through November 2018. Eric transferred in 2018 to the York Tax Map Office as the County GIS Tax Map Administrator but we continue to call upon Eric for his mapping brilliance in assisting with the GIS mapping information critical to our easement application evaluation.

Claire received her degree in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from the University of Maryland, College Park. She has worked for University of Maryland Facilities Management, standardizing and updating the computer based mapping data for the university. She has also consulted for small business owners helping them with their technology needs. When not at work, she is helping on her family's farm in Northern York Co – raising laying hens and cut flowers. She also serves as Webmaster and Membership Chair for York County Buy Fresh Buy Local. Joining the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board allows her to blend her knowledge of GIS and farming to serve York County. She is currently busy running qualification and ranking on the 2019 applications, using the statistical and measurement geoprocessing tools of ArcMap.



As of May 2019, the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board permanently protected 287 farms, covering 42,846 acres. A preserved farm is "perpetually protected", or, forevermore committed to the permanent use of the land for agricultural production. Minor rural enterprises may also take place but must remain secondary to the primary use of the land for agricultural purposes. Preserved farms accomplish other vital public goals beyond reducing farmland loss. Preserved lands also serve to ensure groundwater recharge occurs, as the lands remain open and available for rainfall infiltration serving to recharge our wells and reservoirs. Preserved farms typically include other lands such as woodlands, stream corridors, and other sensitive lands, that provide wildlife habitat. Preserved farms in York County are privately owned. Farm owners pay real estate taxes as every other property owner. Tax revenue paid to a municipality from farmland is significant and often helps balance a community's fiscal budget. Farmers can ensure fresh and affordable foods and fiber are available within our local communities.

York County farm owners have submitted 45 applications covering nearly 3,000 acres for farmland preservation in 2019. Funding for the 2019 Farmland Preservation Program was kicked off with the York County Board of Commissioners January 16, 2019 approval of \$ 277,320 for the 2019 Farmland Preservation Allocation. The PDA-Bureau of Farmland Preservation responded with a \$ 1.4 Million match to York's County allocation. The Board hopes to select another 600 to 650 acres of farmland for preservation in 2019.

Farmland Preservation in York County today can be accomplished through the sale of an agricultural conservation easement through the County Ag Land Preservation Board, or, through a conservation easement donation to the Farm and Natural Lands Trust. The County Ag Land Preservation Board selected 618 acres for preservation in 2018. York County's Ag Conservation Easement Purchase Program continues to rank third in the state for acres of farmland preserved. Landowners interested in preserving their farmland may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or visit [www.YorkCountyPA.gov](http://www.YorkCountyPA.gov). Useful Links and a Preservation Map now show all preserved farms within the county. 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 **BUT STAY TUNED for our move later this year to Pleasant Valley Road, the former Graham Building.**



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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit #476  
York, PA

"No philosophers so thoroughly  
comprehend us as dogs and  
horses."

~ Herman Melville

**Would you like to be on our mailing list?**  
Our newsletter *Conservation Horizons* is **pub-  
lished 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 [yorkccd@yorkccd.org](mailto:yorkccd@yorkccd.org).

**If you would rather "Go Green"** and save  
paper, send us an email request and put "Elec-  
tronic Newsletter" in subject line to receive  
your newsletter electronically.

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

### **YCCD District Calendar**

#### **July 2019**

July 4 Office Closed - Independence Day  
July 11 YCCD Board Mtg – 7:00 pm Annex  
July 17-18 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference @  
Williamsport  
July 25 Dirt Gravel Low Volume Road  
Application Deadline

#### **August 2019**

Aug 8 Annual Conservation Awards Picnic  
Aug 13-15 Ag Progress Days, Rock Springs  
Aug 22 DGLVR QAB Mtg.

#### **September 2019**

Sept 2 Office Closed - Labor Day  
Sept 12 YCCD Board Mtg. 7:00 pm Annex  
Sept 20 12th Annual Clay Shoot Fundraiser @  
Central Penn Sporting Clays - Noon  
Sept 28-29 Watershed Weekend

#### **October 2019**

Oct 10 YCCD Board Mtg, 7:00 pm Annex  
Oct 14 Office Closed - Columbus Day Holiday