

Conservation Horizons

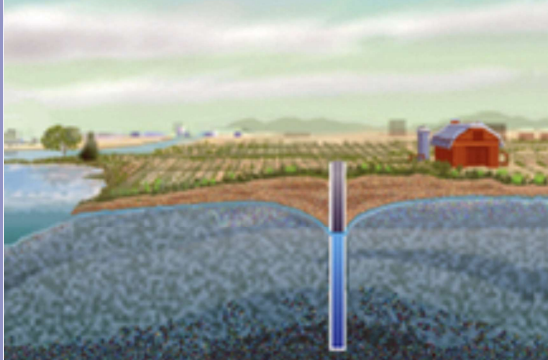
Since 1948
* 72 Years of Conservation, Education & Stewardship *



In This Issue

Around the District - 5, 6
Ag Resources - 7
E&S Control - 8
Education - 9, 10
Envirothon - 9, 10
Watersheds - 11
Groundwater - 11
Water Quality Monitoring - 11, 12
Annual Seedling Sale - 13, 14
Ag Land Preservation - 15
Calendar - 16

The Importance of Groundwater pg. 11



Annual Tree & Seedling Sale

Please see pages 13 & 14 for details.
FREE Coupon for bare-root seedling inside



Pawpaw



Common
Lilac

We have moved! pg. 5



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.

Board of County Commissioners

Julie Wheeler, President
Doug Hoke, Vice President, Ron Smith

Board of Directors

Directors:

Julie Wheeler - Commissioner
Travis Sherman - Chair
James Rexroth - Vice Chair
Michael Flinchbaugh - Treasurer
Gordon L Brown, Asst. Treasurer

Jack Dehoff, Kenyon Miller,
Rochelle Black, Dan Innerst

Associate Directors:

Leroy R Bupp, Randy R Craley,
Jackie Kramer, Beth Lucabaugh,
Bruce Holbrook, Harry Bickel, James Elliott,
Doug Goodlander, Chris Moul, Mike Smith,
Mike Myers, Mark Stambaugh

Directors Emeritus:

Ellis Crowl, Keith Eisenhart

Conservation District Staff

MaryJean Serrano	Administrative Assistant
Christina Dehoff	Administrative Specialist/ Financial Coordinator
Robin Sharp	Administrative Assistant II
Eric Jordan	Assistant Manager for Programs
Robert Fetter	E&S Resource Conservationist/ Network Administrator
Tiffany Crum	Engineering Technician II
Zachary Fry	Engineering Technician I
Tom Smith	Engineering Technician I
Nicholas Hoffman	Engineering Technician I
Mark Flaharty	Sr. Ag Resource Conservationist
James Myers	PRN Ag Resource Conservationist
Joe Rebert	Ag Resource Cons. Specialist II
Brita Runkle	Ag Resource Cons. Specialist II
Stephen Miller	Ag Resource Cons. Specialist I
Gary R Peacock	Watershed Specialist
Emily Neideigh	Watershed Technician
Kim J Young	Education-Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Risser	Assistant Manager
Mark Kimmel	District Manager

Conservation Horizons is published 3 times each year & mailed to nearly 8,500 York County homes & businesses at no charge.

Editor/Publisher: Kim J Young Computer Technology: Robert Fetter Printer: Graphics Universal, Inc.

Please direct all inquiries to: York County Conservation District, 2401 Pleasant Valley Rd, Suite 101, Room 139, York, PA 17402

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



STREAM RESTORATION

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL WETLAND MITIGATION

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION STORM WATER PROJECTS

RIPARIAN BUFFER PLANTING CONSULTING & DESIGN

FORESTATION/RE-FORESTATION & MORE!



15073

BONNAIR ROAD, GLEN ROCK, PA 17327

ARRC MAIN OFFICE | RETAIL LOCATION

12506

**SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL SOUTH
NEW FREEDOM, PA 17349**

the
FARM
at AQUATIC RESOURCE
RESTORATION COMPANY

- featuring -



SHOP ONLINE FOR SEASONAL DISCOUNTS
WWW.PRESALEATTHEFARM.COM

HRG

**Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
Engineering & Related Services**

AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED COMPANY



CLAUER
CONSTRUCTION

KEYSTRUCT.
INC
CONSTRUCTION



YORK AG PRODUCTS INC.

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

**From Our Farm to
Your Family**

**MILLER
PLANT FARM**



ALL NEW!



717-741-2631

430 Indian Rock Dam Road, York, PA 17403

www.MillerPlantFarm.com



110 Ducktown Rd. just outside of Hellam | 717-252-2540

**A Tasty
Destination!**



Upcoming Events

Easter Apple Hunt
April 4 & 11 10am-2pm

Farm Market Spring Hours

Mon-Fri 9am-6pm
Sat 9am-4pm

FlinchbaughsOrchard.com

Follow the farm:



**HEARTWOOD
NURSERY**

***Environmental
Preserve & Gardens***

"Support Your Local Independent Nurseries"

Native Trees & Shrubs

Perennials & Native Wildflowers

Hollies • Berry Shrubs

Garden Accessories • Fruit Trees

Handmade Gifts & Art by Local Artisans



***Check Our
New Website For
Year-Round
Events***

8957 Hickory Rd., Felton, PA 17322

(closer to Stewartstown)

Fri. & Sat. 9-4; Closed Sun.; Other Days by Chance

717-993-5230

www.heartwoodnurseryinc.com

FO04896



Shane Dehoff Construction, LLC

Kitchens • Bath • Flooring

Additions • Remodeling • New

717-244-7534 • Windsor, PA



PPL Electric Utilities

Place Your Ad Here!

Contact us for rates

Our full-color newsletters are mailed to nearly
9,000 homes/businesses

3X each year.

717-840-7190 or

kyoung@yorkccd.org



J.L. GOSSERT & CO FORESTRY

Woodland Resource Management

Timber Marketing Services

Jeffrey L Gossert, ACF, CF, RPF

717-870-0658

www.gossertforestry.com

Working for woodland owners in PA & MD

since 1982

Timber is a crop...Manage & Harvest Wisely!



Follow & Like the York County Conservation District on Facebook

York County Envirothon Coaches -
did you know there is also a Facebook page
just for our coaches? Check it out.

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.



Around the District

We have moved. Our new office is located at:

**York County at Pleasant Valley
York County Conservation District
2401 Pleasant Valley Road,
Suite 101, Room 139, York PA 17402**

We are in the old Graham Packaging building, off Memory Lane. On Rte. 30 E take Memory Lane exit. On Rte. 30 W take the Mt. Zion Rd. exit to Whiteford Rd. & turn left.



When visiting please park in any of the white-lined parking spaces. Upon entering the building, which houses numerous other offices, turn right to enter Suite 101. A security guard will greet you and direct you down the hall to our office in Room 139.

Office Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

(We are closed most holidays)

Phone: 717-840-7430

Fax: 717-755-0301



Around the District

As we begin 2020 our board is undergoing many changes. After 21 years of service, 20 as a director, **Jeffrey Gossert** has decided to step down from the Conservation District board. A consulting forester and principle of J.L. Gossert Forestry, Jeff provided years of experience and knowledge of the forestry consulting and timber harvest industry. He has selflessly invested countless hours enthusiastically supporting District programs and projects and received our Outstanding Forestry Management Award in 2001. As vice-chair for 13 years before chairing the district board for four years, Jeff has served on most of our district committees and chaired our annual seedling sale committee. He was also our Forestry Station Leader at the Senior High level for several decades, sharing his knowledge with students in a hands-on enthusiastic way, preferring the outdoor forest classroom to an indoor setting for team study sessions. With a clever wit and welcoming way, no task was outside his ability and interest to perform. We thank Jeff and offer our best wishes for the next chapters in his life. He will be missed.

Harry Bickel, who has served on the conservation district board for 21 years, first as an associated director and the last 20 as a director, is also stepping down, but has agreed to stay on as an associate director. However, he felt it was time to allow others a chance at leadership. Harry and his wife Beth have owned and operated the Alta-Vista Dairy farm for many years in Lower Chanceford Twp, only recently selling their dairy cows. One of our York County Outstanding Conservation Farmers and recipient of the Clean Water Farm Award, Harry was recognized for his Best Management Practices. Harry too has served on many of the district committees and also served as Chairman of the Board in 2014 and 2015, and as vice-chair in 2016 and 2017. Harry has always opened up his farm for conservation tours and field days and been willing to meet with our elected officials to encourage their support of conservation efforts.

Associate Directors **Dan Innerst** and **Rochelle Black** will both now serve as Directors. Rochelle works for the York County Farm and Natural Lands Trust and Dan and his family operate a beef and crop farm just South of Dallastown and Dan also currently serves on the York County Ag Preserve Board.

And we also welcome the following new Associate Directors: Grass-fed beef farmer and Director of Strategic Development for The Stewart Companies, **Doug Moul**; Attorney **James Elliott**; Kinsley Construction Project Manager, **Mark Stambaugh**; retired Chief of Operations at the Department of Environmental Protection, **Doug Goodlander**; Springfield Township farmer, **Mike Myers**; and Windsor Township farmer, **Mike Smith**.

Commissioner Julie Wheeler will serve as a new Director.





Ag Resources

The Return of Hemp, part 2

According to Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding last fall, “The re-emergence of hemp in Pennsylvania represents a bounty of opportunity; it’s in our buildings and cars, it’s food and fuel, and it’s power to Pennsylvania’s economy. In 2019, Pennsylvania farmers saw great potential in this new cash crop and planted just over 4,000 acres across 55 counties. We’re looking forward to an even more robust program in 2020.” However, the 2019 season can probably be paraphrasing a headline from a state-wide article. **It’s been a learning curve for farmers growing hemp, Pennsylvania’s newest agricultural crop.**

Three of our directors grew hemp last season on their York County farms L-R: Dan Innerst, James Rexroth, and Jack Dehoff. In this article they share their experiences and reflections after introducing this centuries-old crop to their businesses.



Dan Innerst is confident he can grow hemp for fiber successfully on his farm, but admits there was indeed a learning curve to deal with after trying to grow hemp for the first time. The main issue for Dan was proper seed selection. “We had a nice clean crop and harvest went fairly well. But it just didn’t weigh up as we had hoped.” At this point he is not planning on growing any hemp for 2020 since there are still a number of issues that need to be worked especially concerning the processing of the crop. But he feels once changes and improvements are made he is interested in the challenge and would like to try again, perhaps in 2021.

Groff North America purchased an 80,000-square-foot warehouse in Red Lion to process the hemp. Owned and operated by Steve Groff, owner of Wyndrige Farm in Dallastown and a licensed physician, an enormous processing machine named the HempTrain was purchased for the mass processing of hemp. The HempTrain was designed to process up to 5,000 acres of hemp per year, but they too have been going through some growing pains and as of last fall, all contracted growers received a letter and email from Groff North America explaining that they would not be contracting any hemp production for the 2020 season.

Jim Rexroth listed the following realities of growing high fiber hemp for Groff North America: We learned a lot of the principles of growing hemp, such as what crop rotation to follow, how to fertilize, weed management, etc. from our own successes and failures. And we were advised by the Groff NA team on when to harvest the hemp - though this turned out to be a bit later than ideal by a few weeks. So we sacrificed yield by harvesting a bit late. We also learned about the retting process (a biological degrading process that helps separate the fibre of the plant from the stem), and the challenges of handling the material to prevent wrapping when baling. But we had six custom balers, which all broke down at the same time one evening when attempting to bale the hemp.

continues on next page

But Jim says, in the end, his farm delivered the hemp to Red Lion and got paid for every pound delivered a few weeks later and broke even. He believes that harvesting earlier will make a difference in the future. He does feel, based on experiences shared by other growers, that he was lucky to have a contract that guaranteed us a payment. Jim does believe that hemp has future potential, especially on the CBD side, but felt the processing industry was not ready for the volume of hemp that was produced in the U.S. this year.



Jack Dehoff was already looking for a new cash crop to support his farming operation when he heard that there was a meeting last year about growing hemp. He and his sons decided to begin by growing 20 acres since they were guaranteed a dollar amount per acre to cover their costs by Groft NA. He feels the past year had been a good learning opportunity for everyone involved. Mowing and baling turned out to be a problem for them too. Despite their experience with hay production, this hemp grew nearly three feet taller than hay. The machinery regularly used to mow, rake and bale hay struggled with the much taller hemp. There was also a different kind of paperwork involved in hemp production: regulations on background checks, finger-printing, new forms, etc. And there was a curiosity that Jack had to deal with unlike ever before. Neighbors, friends, township residents and officials all stopping by and wanting to know what he was growing since hemp so closely resembles its close “cousin” marijuana - though without the THXC compound that gives people a “high.” Will he plant hemp in 2021? Jack says probably. “With all the indications of the use of hemp there clearly is a need and demand for it. We learned a great deal, and I think hemp will be around for a long time.”



Erosion & Sediment Control

The erosion and sediment control staff completed the following

Accomplishments for September 2019 through January 2020

Preconstruction meetings	28
New Plan Reviews	100
Revised Plan Reviews	43
Total Project Acres	1,934
Total Disturbed Acres	627
General NPDES Issued	42
Complaints Investigated	78
Total site inspections	138
Sites in compliance	55

Education & Communication

Meet our new YCCD College Scholarship Recipients

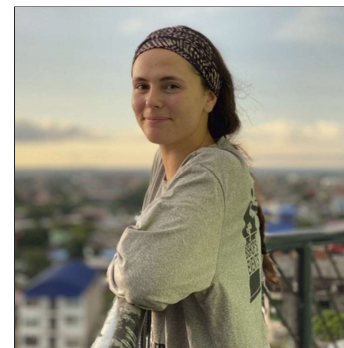
Our first scholarship recipient this year is **Alyssa Swartz** (*at right*) - a graduate of Northern York High School, now a senior at McDaniel College majoring in Environmental Biology and Environmental Policy & Management. Alyssa grew up on "Beaver Creek," her family's property in Dillsburg. As Alyssa puts it, "A small wooden cabin on the back side of Ski Roundtop has been my family home for as long as I remember."

Interested in future field work - perhaps in forestry, she also hopes to work in a position where she can strengthen law & policy for conservation efforts in Pennsylvania. Her compassion for the environment was driven by her outdoor-loving family's life of gardening, beekeeping, raising chickens and more.

Through the Dept of Agriculture, she was an engineering scientific and technical intern at the PA Farm Show in 2019 and an intern at Project Oceanology in Groton, CT as a Marine Science Educator for their summer camps. These opportunities fueled her passion for sharing and teaching about the environment. But her favorite experiences were studies abroad backpacking through Montana, British Columbia and Alberta, Canada while earning college credit in geology, conservation biology, and ecology through the University of Montana. Alyssa also traveled to the Madre de Dios region in Peru in January to study the wildlife, forestry, and culture of the area.

Alyssa's goal - Through local, regional and global efforts, have the compassion to mindfully provide a safe & sustainable future for generations to come and understand that everyone's impacting our environment, so sharing positive change is essential.

In our next issue we profile **Patric Trostle** - our 2nd scholarship recipient.



York County ENVIROTHON



Envirothon 2020 is underway with over 1,000 students expected from over 60 separate York County school buildings registered for our spring competitions. This year marks the 35th Anniversary of the York County Envirothons. That means over three decades of helping to create scientifically-literate students learning to be skilled in accurate research and team cooperation.



This longest-running North American Environmental Educational event is free to all participating students and schools, thanks to our generous community sponsors. If you would like to be a part of this important program please use the **Sponsorship Form** on the following page. Donations of all levels are appreciated!

Envirothon 2020 Competition Dates:

Tuesday, April 28th - Senior High
Tuesday, May 5th - Middle School
Wednesday, May 6th - 5th & 6th Grades
Tuesday, May 12th - 3rd & 4th Grades

2020 Envirothon Sponsor Form



* Name and/or logos are placed on our T-shirts for donations of \$500.00 & up. Deadline for payment is March 6th.



I would like to be a **Bald Eagle Platinum Level Sponsor** for \$5,000.00* _____

I would like to be an **American Chestnut Gold Level Sponsor** for \$2,500.00* _____

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

I would like to be a **Brook Trout 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 Patron**

Please accept my general donation of \$ _____

For a full description of each sponsorship level go to our website at: www.yorkccd.org; click on Education; click on Envirothon and scroll down the page to Envirothon Sponsor Form.

Name: _____

Contact Person (if company): _____

Address: _____

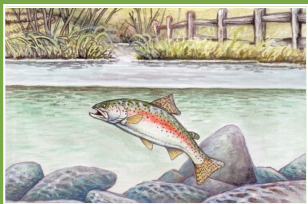
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed (#): _____ Credit Card: _____

Expiration date: ____/____/____ 3-digit V code: _____

*Please make checks payable to YCCD & mail to: York County Conservation District,
Attn: Envirothon, 2401 Pleasant Valley Road, Suite 101, Room 139, York PA 17402*



Watersheds

Gary Peacock & Emily Neideigh

The 2020 Envirothon Senior High Current Environmental Issue is “Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions,” specifically as it relates to groundwater. As the human population increases, the demand for groundwater also increases. It is estimated that the average American uses between 80 and 100 gallons of water a day. In many cases worldwide, the use of groundwater exceeds the rate at which it recharges. Additionally, if the groundwater source becomes contaminated, there can be harmful consequences to human health, the environment, and the economy. Common groundwater pollutants include landfills, failing septic tanks, leaky underground gas tanks, and the overuse of fertilizers and pesticides. Properly managing our groundwater will help ensure this resource is protected for future use.

Understanding groundwater begins with an understanding of the water cycle (below). When rain falls to the ground, some of it flows along the surface to a body of water, some of it is used by plants, some of it evaporates, and some of it seeps into the ground. Groundwater is water that seeps into the ground to fill the cracks and spaces in the soil, sand, and rock (at right).

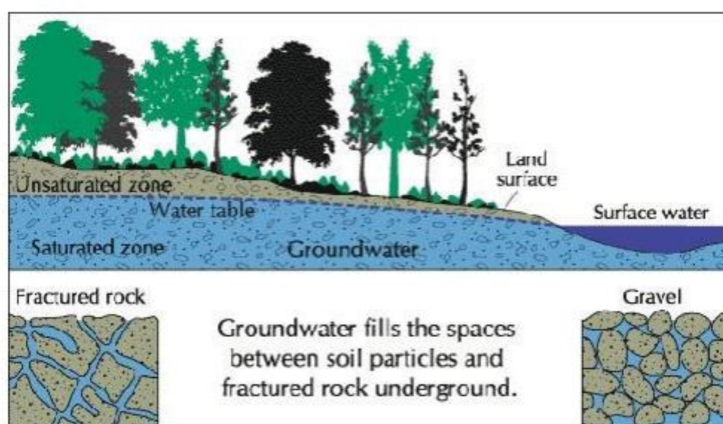
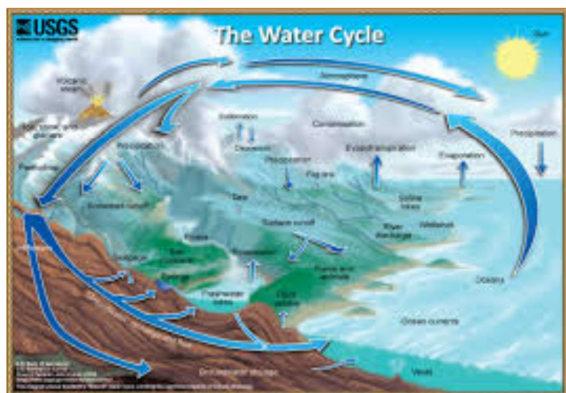


Image compliments of US Geological Survey, adapted by The Groundwater Foundation.

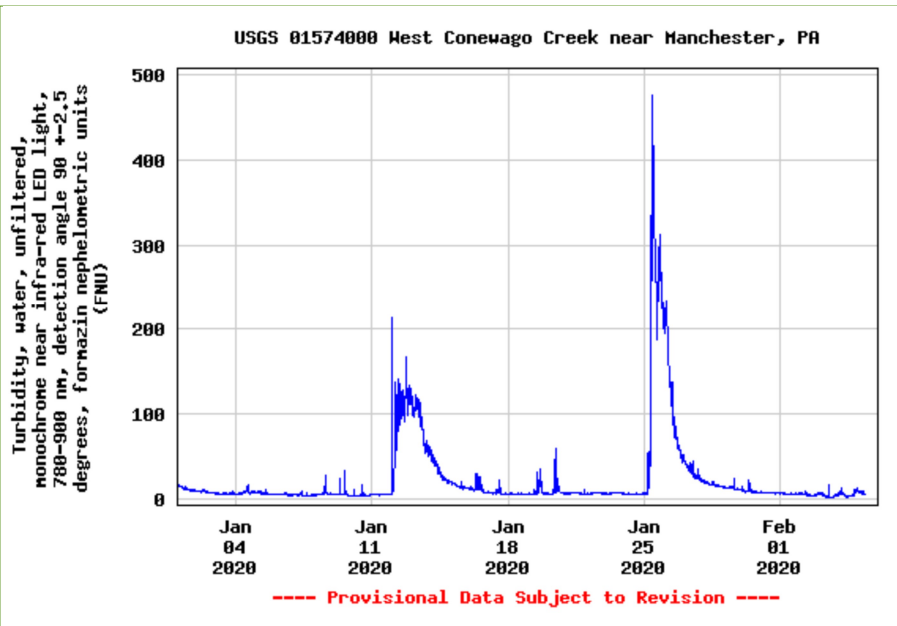


When the water reaches the saturated layers of rock, it enters the aquifer. Aquifers can occur a few feet below the surface to depths greater than 100 feet, which is more common in PA. Water found in aquifers is brought to the surface either through springs or discharge into lakes and streams.

The top of the saturated zone is known as the water table. The water table may be deep or shallow and is impacted by many factors. Heavy rains or snowmelt cause the water table to rise, while pumping of groundwater supplies can result in the lowering of the water table. *In our next newsletter we will look at why groundwater is so important!*

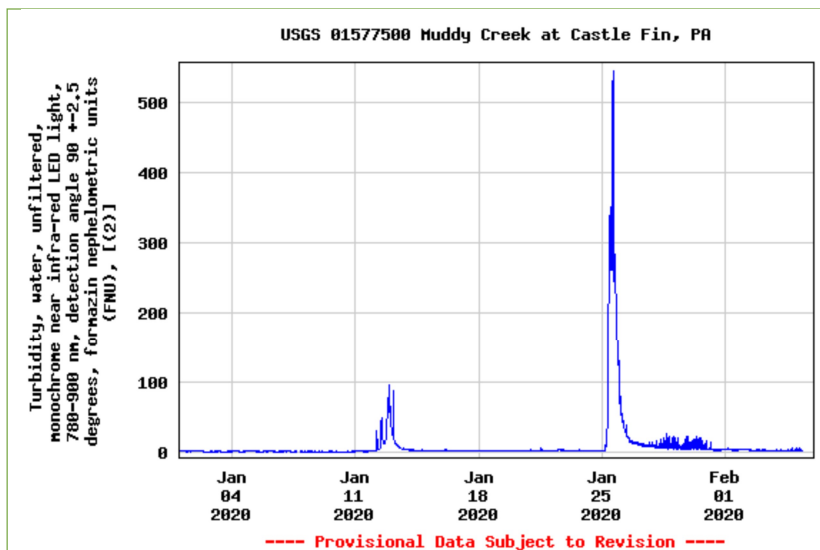
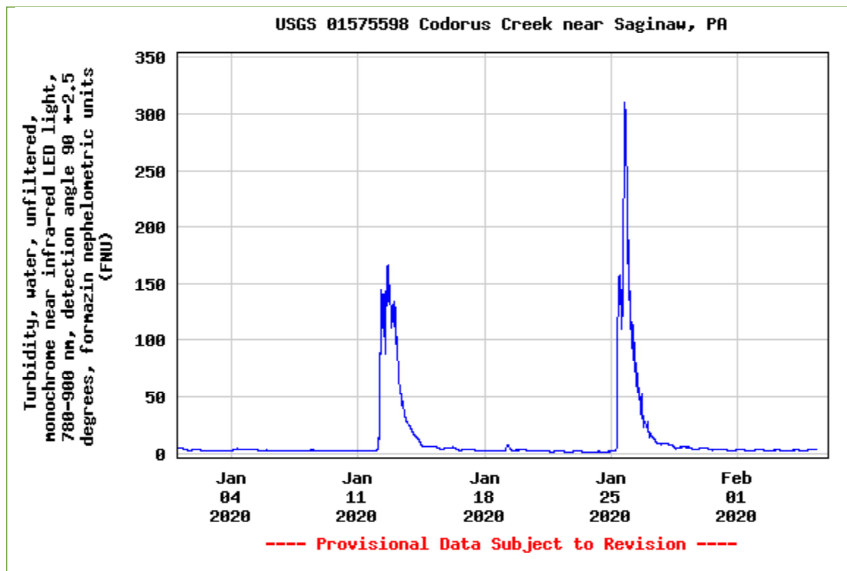
Water Quality Monitoring

The United States Geologic Survey (USGS) owns/operates three existing continuous, real-time water discharge and gauge height stations, one each at the mouths of Conewago Creek, Codorus Creek, and Muddy Creek. Last fall, these three stations were updated to add continuous, real-time water quality monitoring for the indicator parameters of temperature, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity. This spring, three new gauge stations will be installed: one each at Fishing Creek (near Goldsboro), Kreutz Creek (near Wrightsville), and Fishing Creek (near Craley). Additionally, all six stations will have continuous, real-time (CRT) water quality sensors installed to measure nitrogen and phosphorous.



The purpose of this water quality monitoring efforts is twofold: first, to establish baseline water quality, and second, to monitor pollutant loads of nutrients and sediment in our streams. Turbidity is a measurement of suspended sediment typically caused by stream bank erosion and upland soil erosion by stormwater runoff. Excess sedimentation in our streams degrades aquatic habitat, increases water temperature, and carries soluble phosphorous attached to it.

Continuous, real-time turbidity measurements are shown in our three graphs: Conewago (top), Codorus (at right), and Muddy Creeks (bottom). Data shows turbidity spikes occurring on January 12th and 25th, following a 1.0 inch and 1.5 inch rainfall events. Turbidity loading increased at all three locations from a minimum of near 0 FNU (formazin nephelometric units), to highs of approximately 150 FNU, 150 FNU, 100 FNU for Conewago, Codorus and Muddy Creek after January 12th, and 300 FNU at all three locations after the 25th, respectively.



The observed turbidity concentrations above are considered within the expected range of in-stream sediment transport resulting from normal precipitation events, seasonally and spatially.

Knowing our water quality continuously, in real-time, will allow us to respond earlier targeting limited soil and water conservation and stormwater management resources to improve water quality, the environment, and York Countians quality of life.

YCCD Annual Seedling Sale: Trees provide countless benefits to us every day. They purify our air, beautify our communities, reduce soil erosion and improve the water quality of our local streams, and more. Trees planted along urban and suburban roadways have even been shown to slow down drivers. And this year, which marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the advantages provided by trees cannot be overstated considering the seminal role that trees provide to help combat climate change. Through the natural process of photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon from the air, store it and then release slowly back into the atmosphere, all while emitting pure oxygen. Scientists estimate that in just one year, a mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen as ten people inhale.

For the past 45 years, the York County Conservation District has hosted its annual tree seedling sale, with over 20,000 seedlings sold each year. The varieties available at this year's sale include native tree seedlings such as pawpaw and white pine, and fruit-bearing trees including Asian pear trees and gala apple trees.

Complete variety descriptions can be found at District website at www.yorkccd.org along with an order form. Or you can use the order form attached. **Order DEADLINE is March 23rd.** Return the completed order form with check payable to YCCD or credit card information to York County Conservation District 2401 Pleasant Valley Road, Suite 101, Room 139 York, PA 17402. Orders will be available for pickup at Rocky Ridge County Park on Thursday, April 16th between 10AM and 6PM. Proceeds from the sale are used for the Conservation District's education programs including the annual Envirothon county-wide school event.



Pick up date: Thursday, April 16th at Rocky Ridge Park 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Please note: Seedlings are not mature shrubs & trees as sometimes pictured

You may also stop by for a **free blue spruce or white pine seedling** on Thursday, April 16th at Rocky Ridge Park (off Mt. Zion Road). **Bring the coupon below** for one free tree seedling per person. Walk-ins are also welcome as long as supplies last.



2020 York County Conservation District Annual Seedling Sale

YCCD
2401 Pleasant
Valley Rd.
717.840.7430

**Stop by Rocky Ridge County Park
10:00 am-6 pm Thursday April 16th 2020
to receive a free White Pine or Blue Spruce
bare root seedling based on availability.**

Check out our
website for
complete listing of
seedlings available
www.yorkccd.org

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

Send to: York County Conservation District, 2401 Pleasant Valley Rd, Suite 101, Rm 139, York PA 17402

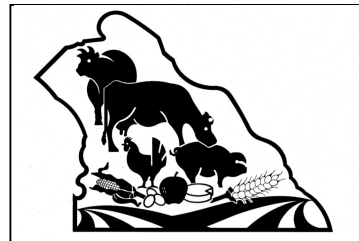
PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____
(PICKUP REMINDER WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL)

Expiration Date / 3 digit CVV # located on back of card

Type	Ordered
Colorado Blue Spruce (10)	
White Pine (10)	
Norway Spruce (10)	
Fraser Fir (10)	
American Hazelnut (5)	
Common Lilac (5)	
Dogwood (5)	
Pawpaw (5)	
Persimmon (5)	
Serviceberry (5)	
White Oak (5)	
Winterberry (5)	
Apple (1)	
Asian Pear (2)	
Blueberry (2)	
Raspberry (2)	
Pachysandra (100 per flat)	
Sedum (50 per flat)	

The York County Ag Preservation Program

Patty McCandless, Program Director
2401 Pleasant Valley Road, Suite 101, Room 145
York PA 17402
717-840-7400 / Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm



As I write this article I find us packing up 30 years of files and memories. Our first Ag Land Preservation Office opened officially spring 1990. We were an office of one in the basement of the County Annex Building, sharing with the Soil Conservation Service, the ASCS Office and FHA as many of the farm families may recall. The first visitor to our office was Mrs. Emory Downs, who slapped her hand down on my desk hard and exclaimed “my family wants to preserve our farm.” She listened patiently as we waded through the program details. Over the course of 24 months we learned together and eventually preserved their 453 acre dairy farm. Since that first summer, we found ourselves with more families wanting to preserve their farm than we had money to preserve. Surprising us all, it never let up since that first appointment with Mrs. Downs. When asked why Wayne Hoffman, farmer of Dover Township, preserved his family farms, he shared, “Well for me when you are proud of what you have done all your life, you just don’t want it undone”.

Each year we continue to receive more acreage needing preservation than funding will permit. We have grown to three full-time employees on computers using the most recent mapping technology in order to qualify and rank applications for preservation. Funding the program has been a challenge. But 2019 will go down as the watershed year as a public opinion survey, regarding open space protection, encouraged County Commissioners Byrnes, Hoke and Reilly to consider a permanent source of funding for open space protection. The public survey, conducted by the York County Land Protection Workgroup with York College and Gavin Marketing, provided very favorable results leading to a decision by the Commissioners to commit to a 1/10th of a mill dedicated for land preservation. The outgoing Commissioners then recommended the millage amount for the ongoing efforts of land preservation agencies, the County Ag Land Preservation Office and the Farm & Natural Lands Trust. Incoming Commissioners Julie Wheeler, Ron Smith and Doug Hoke, each a kindred spirit to the protection of our natural resources and farming community, approved a \$1.388 million county allocation for land preservation. It has been a long and rewarding adventure getting to this place. So it truly is with bittersweet memories we leave the old County Annex Building and say hello to our new home, known as the York County at Pleasant Valley Road, located at 2401 Pleasant Valley Road Suite 101 (Room 145) York PA 17402. Land protection efforts have a bright future in York today and we will work to add to the 288 preserved farms on over 43,500 acres with the newly dedicated source of funds. We thank our County Commissioners for sharing a vision with the majority of York residents to permanently protect our county’s natural resources and agricultural industry.

The York Ag Land Preservation Board reminds landowners that the new 24-Month Application Cycle had a deadline of February 15, 2020. At the time of printing, the office received 29 applications covering 2,303 acres. The ranking list will be released following evaluation of all easement applications in late spring – early summer. Applicants are reminded of the easement purchase cap of \$3,000 per acre. Recent passage of Act 33 amends the easement program statewide to allow the owner of a preserved farm to relinquish the one additional residential right granted by a conservation easement in exchange for the subdivision of an existing farmhouse. The full details of the program changes can be viewed at our website.

For landowners interested in preserving their farmland:
Call (717) 840-7400 or visit www.YorkCountyPA.gov
Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday
2401 Pleasant Valley Road Suite 101 in Room 145





Conservation Horizons
York County
Conservation District
2401 Pleasant Valley Road
Suite 101, Room 139
York PA 17402

egg tempera artwork by Millicent Neill Decker

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 476
 York, PA

Surely as cometh the winter,
 I know there are spring violets
 under the snow.

- Robert Henry Newell

Would you like to be on our mailing list? Our free newsletter *Conservation Horizons* is published three times a year and mailed to nearly 9,000 homes & businesses. To be put on the mailing list email us at yccd@yorkccd.org.

If you would rather "Go Green," send us an email request with "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line and ask to receive your newsletter electronically.

Please contact us with any address changes or to be unsubscribed. Thank you!

YCCD District Calendar

March 2020

Mar 6 Manure Mgmt. Workshop, Pleasant Valley Rd
 Mar 13 YCCD Board Meeting 11:00 am Pleasant Valley Rd
 Mar 19 DGR/LVR QAB Meeting, Pleasant Valley Rd
 Mar 23 Seedling Sale Order Deadline

April 2020

Apr 9 YCCD Board Meeting – 7:00 pm Pleasant Valley Rd
 Apr 10 Good Friday, Easter Holiday – Office Closed
 Apr 16 Seedling Sale Distribution at Rocky Ridge Park
 Apr 28 Sr. high School Envirothon at Rudy Park

May 2020

May 5 Middle School Envirothon, Rudy County Park
 May 6 5th – 6th grade Envirothon, Rudy County Park
 May 12 3rd – 4th grade Envirothon, Rudy County Park
 May 14 YCCD Board Meeting – 7:00 pm Pleasant Valley Rd
 May 19-20 PA Envirothon, Susquehanna University
 May 25 Memorial Day – Office Closed

June 2020

June 2-3 DGLVR ESM Training, York County
 June 11 YCCD Board Meeting – 7 :00 am Pleasant Valley Rd
 June 18 DGR/LVR QAB Meeting, Pleasant Valley Rd