

Conservation Horizons

Summer 2021



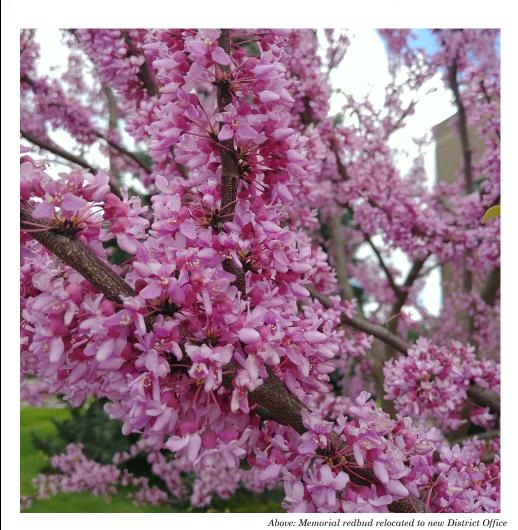








YORK COUNTY **CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



Around the District

Changing of the Guard

Manager, Jeff Hill.

Mark Kimmel began his career with the District in 1985 as a no-till special-

ist, which quickly evolved into a nutrient management specialist position. From there, he was promoted to District Manager in 1987. Under his guidance, the District staff grew from 4 to over 20 employees, and the District This March we said farewell to our Board grew from 7 to 9 members and longtime District Manager, Mark Kim- 12 associates. During Mr. Kimmel's mel. After 36 years of excellence in tenure, District programming grew conservation leadership, Mr. Kimmel exponentially from a few Ag-related is moving on from the District and programs to dozens of complex propassing the keys to our new District grams interwoven between Ag, Erosion & Sediment Control, Watersheds, and Education with a \$1.6 million budget. (continued pg. 2)

Around the District (continued)

In addition to expanding the District's staff and programming, Mr. Kimmel tirelessly supported the York County ag community and solidified the District as an ally to farmers in resource conservation and land preservation efforts. This alliance allowed the District to assist farmers while reducing pollution from erosion and sedimentation.

Mr. Kimmel also championed environmental education in York County through unfaltering support for the Envirothon. Under his guidance, the York County Envirothon has educated thousands of students and become nationally-renowned. Having himself been inspired to pursue a career in conservation by environmental education and outreach, Mr. Kimmel understood that investment in educating young people on environmental issues pays dividends down the road and leads to the future of conservation leadership.

By adhering to the highest level of integrity and by cultivating a healthy work environment for Dis-



trict employees, Mr. Kimmel guided the District towards sustainable growth and successful conservation. York County and its natural resources are much better off because of Mr. Kimmel's steady service.

Conservation District Staff

Above: Mr. Kimmel (circa 1990) Below: Mr. Kimmel receiving proclamation from County Commissioners (March 2021) York County Envirothon 14th Annual

Sporting Clays

Fundraiser Friday, Sept. 17

Central Penn Sporting Clays 75 Quarry Rd. Wellsville, PA

Sponsored by:

York County Conservation District

Please join our current sponsors & help SUPPORT the Envirothon.

Visit yorkccd.org/sporting-clays

Call (717) 840-7430 for details





Cover Crops

Funding available through Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG)

With spring planting underway in York County, it's time for farmers to think ahead to summer and fall. Now is a great time to plan your cover crop seedings for later in the year. The York County Conservation District has funding available to assist with implementation of cover crops. The Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) Program is a state-funded program providing financial and technical assistance for implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations. CEG offers financial incentives for use of cover crops by farmers who are new to the practice, or for the use of cover crops on fields where they have not been planted in the past.



es. Cover crops must be planted by seedings must be submitted to the Nov. 1 and not terminated before Conservation District no later than March 15 (except for species that Sept. 30. Other program guidelines winter-kill in freezing temperatures). Cover crops funded through CEG cannot be harvested for forage or grain. Seed tags or germination and purity tests are required. A current Ag Erosion & Sediment Control Plan or a Conservation Plan is re-CEG Program flat-payment rates for quired for participating farms. The cover crops are \$30 per acre for sin- CEG Program applications must be gle species and \$40 per acre for mul- approved at a Conservation District ti-species mixes with a 200 acre per board meeting before cover crops are year cap per participant. Only fields planted, so please contact us in adwith no past history of cover crops vance if you are considering planting are eligible for single species pay- cover crops later this year. To ensure ments. Fields with a history of single applications have time to be apspecies cover crop use are still eligi- proved before the planting deadline, ble for funding for multi-species mix- CEG applications for 2021 cover crop

and specifications apply.

CEG Program applications are available from the District. Applicants can find more details on eligibility, other cost-shareable projects, and program guidelines and requirements at vorkccd.org. For more info or for help completing an application, please contact Stephen Miller (smiller@yorkccd.org) or Mark Flaharty (mflaharty@yorkccd.org) via email or call (717) 840-7430.

Stephen Miller

Ag Resource Conservationist

FREE Manure Management Workshop August 19, 2021—8:30AM-3:30PM

All farms generating or applying manure MUST have a Manure Management Plan. We can help!

Attend this workshop to receive guided assistance in writing your manure management plan.

Registration is FREE but required by Aug. 11, 2021.

Register online at yorkccd.org/manure-management-workshop or call Brita Runkle at (717) 840-7430

Location: 2401 Pleasant Valley Road, York PA 17402





Making it Green!

Tips for Establishing Vegetation on Disturbed Soils

One of the easiest & most effective ways to prevent soil erosion & sedimentation is to keep soils covered. How do you cover soil? By making it green! Establishing lawn or other perennial vegetation on disturbed Turf grass is a great way to stabisoils is probably the best tool you lize soil, but a monoculture of grass have in your toolbox to minimize may not provide adequate habitat soil erosion and sedimentation. or a beneficial food source for wild-With warmer weather here to stay, here are some points to consider if you are planning on "making lawn" during the spring or fall growing seasons:

1.) Plan before you shop.

The seed aisle at your local seed or home improvement store can be overwhelming. Doing a little research before you shop can help you choose the right seed mix for your site and the appropriate amount to buy. Do not hesitate to research products in advance, read seed tags, choice.

2.) Use native plants or seed

and ask questions about the prod- life. Native plants can add aesthetucts offered. If you don't know ics and biodiversity to your property where to begin, resources like Penn and provide a low maintenance al-State Cooperative Extension, or ternative to turf grass. If you do not other professionals like landscapers want to routinely mow large exor seed supply companies may be panses of lawn, you may want to able to help you make an informed consider establishing a combination of lawn and a native meadow or a wildlife food plot on your property instead of only planting traditional turf grass.

Above & Below: Lawn and native plants in landscaping



3.) Use new seed.

As seed ages, its germination rate decreases. To get the most germination out of your seed mixes, it is best to buy new seed and use it within a year of purchase.

4.) Protect your investment.

Applying straw to newly seeded areas can help protect valuable topsoil & seed from washing away during rain events. Additionally, straw mulch helps insulate the seed from extreme temperature changes and can help retain moisture in the soil. Worried about straw blowing away? Simply spraying down strawed areas with water can help keep straw in place. For larger areas, applying a tackifier or crimping the straw may be more appropriate.

5.) Don't forget to water!

Until plant root structures are established, seeded areas will need regular watering.

6.) Test your soil.

A soils test can tell you if your soil lacks any key nutrients necessary for plant growth. It can help you narrow down what soil supplements your soil may need (i.e. fertilizer & lime) and prevent over fertilization and buying unnecessary soil additives. A soils test kit can be purchased through Penn State Extension for a nominal fee.

7.) Become familiar with your soils test report.

After your soils test has been processed through the laboratory, you will receive a soils report recommending what supplements and nutrients your soil may need for ideal plant growth and at what rate (usually in pounds per acre) they should be applied. For information on interpreting your soils test report, check out Penn State Extension's website.

8.) Understand fertilizer la-

bels. Fertilizer types will usually be referenced by 3 numbers like 10-10-10. Those numbers represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus, & potassium or potash provided in the fertilizer blend. A 40pound bag of 10-10-10 fertilizer will have 10% (4 pounds) of nitrogen, 10% (4 pounds) of phosphorus, & 10% (4 pounds) of potassium. Understanding fertilizer labels can help you select the appropriate fertilizer for your soil and the number of bags you will need to purchase to meet your soil's needs.

Tiffany Crum

Resource Conservationist



Above: Straw applied to newly seeded area

How do I test my soils?

- Soils test kits can be purchased at your local Penn State Extension office for \$9.
- The kits are easy to use and include a sample submission form, instructions on taking a soil sample, a sample bag and return envelope for mailing your sample back to the lab.
- You can also download Soil Submission Forms Fertility and instructions from the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences website. Completed form and your sample (placed in a zip top bag) can be mailed to the laboratory with a \$9 check.





Green Alleys

WHAT IT IS: A roadway made entirely of pervious pavement. Pictured is Limekiln Alley in Wrightsville PA.

HOW IT HELPS: This green alley way was completed in 2019 and allows storm water to infiltrate into the subsurface and become groundwater. This project reduces local surface runoff and decreases municipal infrastructure maintenance costs.

Non-Point Source

Many dispersed sources

Pollution

Contaminates water sources

Degrades aquatic ecosystems

Endangers public health

Point Source

Single source

Water Quality **Best Management** Practices (BMPs)

Understanding Urban **Stormwater Practices**

In 2021 and 2022, the Watershed Department will showcase Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality in the Conservation Horizons newsletter. BMPs are activities, maintenance procedures, and other management practices designed to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution of York County waters. Non-point source pollution results from many dispersed sources. Point source pollution results from a single source. Non-point source pollution generally results from land runoff, precipitation, drainage, or seepage.

This edition will focus on Urban Stormwater *Practices* that are implemented primarily by municipalities, developers, and contractors in more developed areas. Future editions will illustrate BMPs On the Farm, In the Stream, and In My Backyard.



Bioswales

WHAT IT IS: Channels designed as a conveyance system for stormwater runoff. They concentrate water, absorb low flows, and carry runoff from heavy rains to storm sewer inlets or directly to surface waters.

HOW IT HELPS: Bioswales are a useful Low-Impact Development system to decrease the velocity of stormwater runoff while removing pollutants from the discharge through filtration. The socks/baffles pictured create added filtration, reduce channel velocity, and remove debris. Pictured is a newly-installed Filtrexx Bioswale in York County.

Pervious Pavement

WHAT IT IS: A specific type of pavement with a high porosity that allows rainwater to pass through it into the ground below. Pervious pavement can be used in sidewalks, roadways, or parking lots.

HOW IT HELPS: Decreases the amount of stormwater runoff while increasing the groundwater recharge.



Alyssa Swartz

Watershed Technician



Participate in the YCCD

Photography Contest

The YCCD Photography Contest seeks to develop an appreciation of York County's natural resources. Image contributions can include wildlife, scenic views, farm fields, BMPs, and any other topics pertaining to conservation. Winning entries will appear in a future Conservation Horizons article and on YCCD's social media. All entries may be used elsewhere in the YCCD newsletter, website, and social media.

Prizes

1st: 2 Sporting Clay Shoot Tickets 2nd: Millicent Neil Decker Print 3rd: \$25 Seedling Sale Gift Card

Contest Rules

YCCD employees, volunteers, their immediate families, and contractors . partnered with YCCD and their immediate families are not eligible. No purchase necessary. All federal, state, local, and municipal laws and regulations apply.

- Entries must be original works taken in York County.
- Photos must be taken by person entering the contest.

- Entrants are responsible for securing photo releases from identifiable subjects.
- Entrants must submit highresolution digital photos (300 dpi or higher resolution).
- Entries that are retouched or electronically manipulated are not permitted.

YCCD will have the right to use all submissions for any purpose in the future without compensation. All contest submissions become property of YCCD.

Deadline for Entries:

December 31, 2021

Entries must be emailed to:

mmckelvey@yorkccd.org

Please include the following info in the entry email:

- Entrant's Name
- Entrant's Address
- Entrant's Phone Number
- Entrant's Email
- Photo Description
- Photo Date

Winning entries determined following review by YCCD staff.







Conservation

Quiz Corner



Are you smarter than an Envirothon 5th Grader?

Answer the following to find out!

- 1. Crayfish have how many pairs of jointed legs?
- 2. What are the 3 most important things you can do for a newly planted tree?
- 3. What federal law provides a program for conservation of threatened & endangered plants and animals?
- 4. How many municipalities are in York County?
- 5. From what school do PA Game Commission officers graduate?
- 6. In hot weather, chipmunks go underground to cool off. What is this mid-summer rest called?
- 7. Who is the author of *A Sand* County Almanac?
- 8. What fish is Pennsylvania's biggest minnow?
- 9. What is the Pennsylvania state mammal?
- 10. "Caruncles" and "snood" are body parts of what animal?

Check your answers on page 12



ENVIROTES.









2021 E-THON News

Our 36th Season in Review

The York County Envirothon went virtual this year. 76 teams competed across 4 grade levels. The challenge was accepted, and obstacles were overcome.

The Envirothon is the largest and longest-running environmental education high school competition in North America. Here in York County, we begin in 3rd Grade, a feat which has garnered York County national renown. As an extracurricular activity, the Envirothon challenges students to study and compete outside their normal school responsibilities. Envirothon participation frequently results in pursuit of careers pertaining to environmental protection and resource conservation.

Due to ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the Envirothon occurred virtually this year. Students and coaches stepped up to the plate and adapted to the changing circumstances.





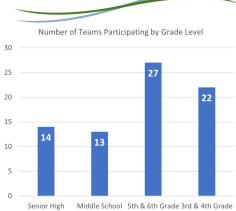
Above: Students complete virtual station tests

Despite going virtual this year, coaches found creative solutions to engage students such as socially-distanced nature walks, virtual scavenger hunts, interactive educational games, and more.

Thank you coaches, students, station leaders, and sponsors for making 2021 an unforgettable Envirothon season!

Michael McKelvey

Education & Communications
Coordinator



Left: Student catches bluegill after completing virtual station tests. Teams found creative ways to safely experience the outdoors, such as this team that visited a nature trail & went fishing at the school pond.

2021 Results

Senior High

10th—Susquehannock Crafty Caracals

9th—Dallastown High School Hellbenders

8th—York Suburban Voracious Vixens

7th—Central York Blazing Bluegills

6th—Central York Scintillating Sculpins

5th—York Suburban Watershed Warriors

4th—Dangerous Dover Dragons

3rd—YHSA Frappugeniuses

2nd—Northern Nighthawks

1st—YHSA Seriously Swanky Shrews

Middle School:

10th—Emory Markle Mighty Mustangs

9th—Southern Saint Bernards

8th—Dover Middle School Tanukis

7th—Northern Gnarly Narwhals

6th—York Suburban Hellacious Hellbenders

5th—Central York Girly Ginkgos

4th—York Suburban Wild Water Snakes

3rd—Central York Sweetgum Girls

2nd—South Eastern Rainbow Trouts

1st—York Suburban Awesome Oaks

5th & 6th Grade:

10th—Indian Rock Elite Elks

9th—Leib Elementary Quaking Aspens

8th—Sinking Springs Squeaky Squirrels

7th—East York Powerful Porcupines

6th—Leib Elem. Uncommon Hackberries

5th—Sinking Springs Prickly Porcupines

4th—YHSA Foxfern Dase

3rd—North Hills Environators

2nd—Sinking Springs Wicked Weasels

1st—Friendship Scavenger Trash Raccoons



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2021 Results 3rd & 4th Grade:

Bronze Level:

Dillsburg Polarbear Eating Lizards Dillsburg Snot Rock Monsters North Hills Hellbender Boys Shallow Brook Mighty Monarchs Shallow Brook Munching Mosquitoes Shallow Brook Terrific Trout South Mountain Jumping Jellyfish Spring Forge Happy Hellbenders York Academy Freaky Frankenfish York Academy Sassy Sassafras

Silver Level

East York Mighty Dragons Indian Rock Overpowering Owls Indian Rock Wonderful Warblers Indian Rock Woodsy Woodpeckers Leib Elementary Bald Eagles Wellsville Black Phantom Raptors YHSA Elemental Parakeets

Gold Level:

Indian Rock Roaring Raptors Leib Elementary Land Fish North Hills Tree Huggers South Mountain Awesome Amphibians South Mountain Red Pandas

Honorable Mentions:

We commend all teams, including those not ranked in these results. Every team worked together, adapted to change, and successfully completed the challenge.

Keep up the good work!

Thank You to Our Sponsors:











Byrnes Family

Izaak Walton League York Chapter #67











Jefferson Sportsmen's Association





Central Penn Sporting Clays Central York Middle School PTO

Bruce Holbrook

North Hills Elem. PTO Conewago Enterprise Inc.

Critter Connections

David Leese

Dehoff Farms LLC

Deller Excavating LLC

Environmental Concepts Landscaping

First Capital Engineering, Inc.

Flyway Excavating Inc Friendship Elementary PTO Glatfelter Insurance Group Grimm Trophy and Gifts

Keith Eisenhart

Keller-Brown Insurance Services

Ken Sheffer

Miller Plant Farm

Northeastern York School District

Shank's Mare

Sinking Springs Elem School PTO

Spoutwood Farm Center

Tammy Grove

Travis & Christine Sherman

W. Craig Adams Inc.

Windsor Township

Wolf Farms Inc.

York Township

Congratulations 2021 Scholarship Award Winners

Grace Wills

YCCD Scholarship

Future Environmental Resource Management major at Penn State with goals to solve environmental issues and guarantee ecosystem service security.

Peter Junkin

YCCD Scholarship

Future Environmental Science major at Washington College with goals to conduct environmental research in remote regions around the world.

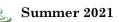
Catie Koch

Paul Wilson Conservation Award

Future Biology major with goals to protect endangered species and mitigate global warming.

*For scholarship info please visit: yorkccd.org/education/collegescholarships

Conservation Horizons





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.

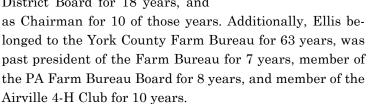
We have served York County since 1938, when a group of 554 farmers from 18 townships signed a petition to form the York County Conservation District. This petition was approved by the state Soil Conservation Commission in 1948. Like all Conservation Districts, we are a legal subdivision of state government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



In Memory: Ellis Crowl

It is with saddened hearts that we report our long time former Board member and Chairman, Ellis Crowl, passed away on April 22, 2021.

Ellis was renowned in the York County agricultural community. He served as a member of the District Board for 18 years, and



We appreciate and honor Ellis Crowl for his commitment to conservation in York County. He will be sincerely missed, but his positive impact on the County's natural resources will live on for generations to come.



We have traditionally assisted agricultural producers and other landowners in protecting soils & reducing erosion in our waterways. Today, the District also works with nonagricultural 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 proactively providing conservation education, technical services and financial assistance to enable the citizens of York County to 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 Rochelle Black - Asst. Treasurer Jack Dehoff, Kenyon Miller, Dan Innerst, Jackie Kramer Associate Directors:

Leroy R Bupp, Randy R Craley, Beth Lucabaugh, Bruce Holbrook, Harry Bickel, James Elliott,

> Doug Goodlander, Mike Smith, Directors Emeritus: Keith Eisenhart



York County Ag Land Preservation Program

Patty McCandless, Program Director 717-840-7400 2401 Pleasant Valley Road, Suite 101, Room 145, York PA 17402



The York County Agricultural Land ruary 15, 2020, of which 50 qualified ed funds reserved for agricultural Preservation Board is resuming in- for ranking. The County Board se- and open space land preservation person monthly Board Meetings. We lected 30 of these farms for preserva- each year by the York County Board visiting new farms seeking preserva- qualify. ASA enrollment and lack of landowners (1,502 acres). Those 16 reasons for non-qualification. We refarms are now fully state or county mind landowners of our \$3000 per approved and preserved or awaiting acre cap put into place in 2019, and County Board selected 14 farms the past 17 months. As we no longer Reminders: (1) We have a \$3000 per (1,142 acres) for appraisal and pro- have an annual application cycle, you acre cap; (2) Now accepting and recessing in 2021.

We are taking new applications for the February 15, 2022 application round. We ask 2020 applicants to review and update applications for the 2022 Application Round. For new applicants, the County Board recommends early application. Mapping of your application is limited to two revisions to determine qualification only.

We received 64 applications by Feb-

welcome clients into the agency tion throughout 2020 and 2021. We of Commissioners. No taxes were inthrough scheduled appointments. We hope to see the return of the 14 appli- creased for this dedicated funding. are conducting farm inspections and cations ranked in 2020 that did not tion. In 2020, we worked with 16 conservation plans are the two main settlement checks. In 2021, the we have hit that cap many times in are reminded to prepare for the Febnext group of farms in 2022 once (717) possible due to the annually dedicat- forts to protect our working lands.

Thank You County Commissioners!

Please contact our agency inspection monitors with any property changes. We visit preserved federal easements every year, and state or county easements every other year.

viewing easement applications reruary 2022 Application Round. From ceived by February 15, 2022; Landthe list of applications that we rank owners may begin updating or subin 2022, we will begin to appraise the mitting new applications now. Call 840-7400 funds are approved. Funding is key www.yorkcountypa.gov for assistance to the amount of acreage we may pre- or program information. Go to Propserve each year. In 2019, we funded 2 erty & Taxes, then Ag Land Dept. to farms with 499 acres preserved. In follow our Farmland Preservation 2020, we funded 16 farms with 1.502 Information. Thank you York County acres. In 2021 the Board selected 14 for your ongoing support of York more farms on 1,142 acres. This is County's farmland preservation ef-

HEARTWOOD NURSERY



8957 Hickory Road, Felton, PA 17322 (near Stewartstown) OPEN Mondays through Saturdays 9:00 - 4:00 (717) 993-5230 www.heartwoodnurseryinc.com

www.yorkccd.org



We want to hear from you!

Please take 60 seconds to improve your experience. www.vorkccd.org/survev



11

Conservation Horizons Summer 2021



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

"The Nation that destroys its soil destroys itself."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt Letter to all State Governors on a Uniform Soil Conservation Law (1937)

Stay Connected. Support Conservation.



(717) 840-7430 yorkccd.org

Hours: 8:30AM-4:30PM Monday-Friday

YCCD Calendar

July 2021

July 5Office Closed

July 8YCCD Board Meeting

August 2021

Aug. 12.....YCCD Board Meeting

Aug. 19.....DGLVR QAB Meeting

September 2021

Sept. 6.....Office Closed

Sept. 9.....YCCD Board Meeting

Sept. 17.....Clay Shoot

October 2021

Oct. 11.....Office Closed

Oct. 14.....YCCD Board Meeting

(5) Ross Leffler School of Conservation (6) estivation (7) Aldo Leopold (8) common carp (9) white-tailed deer (10) wild turkey

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