



# Conservation Horizons

Spring 2023



Trash Challenge 4

## Soil Experts Use Dynamite

(Photos by



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YORK COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Above: Mr. Frank Dummer, director and chairman of the group formed in 1938 that would become the York County Conservation District

## Around the District Approaching 75 Years



This newsletter may look different than most Spring newsletters. Significant changes occurred to our Seedling Sale this year. As many readers may already know, YCCD is not offering bare root hardwood seedlings for purchase as in years past. The Keystone 10-Million Trees Program, sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, is offering many hardwood seedling species for free.

Instead of being a competing interest, YCCD decided to temporarily discontinue the sale of bare root hardwoods.

We still offer a wide variety of conifers, fruit trees, and berries. Have no fear for the future, as YCCD is working to develop the next generation of Seedling Sales that consider technological advancements, local partnerships, and the specific needs for York County residents. One advancement already being utilized is the online ordering system. 2022 was the pilot year for utilizing this new system, which was so successful that we have expanded its capabilities for 2023.

— Continued pg. 2—

## Around the District (continued)

Our seedling pickup date will still be held at Rocky Ridge County Park, and even if you won't be placing an order, we hope that you come out and visit with us as we will be starting to celebrate YCCD's 75th Anniversary.

I'm an avid skier, so I'm not going to lie, that I want a bit of winter here for a few months, but Spring and the planting season will be here before you know it! So, please take a look through the newsletter and get your trees picked out before its too late!

**Jeff Hill**

*Conservation District Manager*



## Celebrating 75

### *Marking a milestone for York County conservation.*

Please observe the emblem above which notes the Conservation District's 75 Years of Conservation in York County.

Be on the lookout for this emblem in our upcoming publications as we showcase articles of historic significance in celebration of this milestone.

Throughout 2023, *Conservation Horizons* articles, social media posts, and other outreach efforts will recap

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our history and look forward to the future.

Now that we have reached 3/4 of a century, we hope to look back at accomplishments, lessons learned, and obstacles overcome.

We are proud of the Conservation District's rich history, and we are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate York County's conservation history with our readers.

**Michael McKelvey**

*Education & Communications*

*Coordinator*

# Seedling Sale

## DEADLINE TO ORDER:

**MARCH 13**

**IMPROVE HABITAT.**

**SUPPORT CONSERVATION.**

**PURCHASE SEEDLINGS**  
from our 2023 Seedling Sale

**Pick up Date: April 13**

**10:00AM-6:00PM**

**Pick up Location:**

**Rocky Ridge Park**

Select from the following:

**Pear**

**Apple**

**Peach**

**Blueberry**

**Blackberry**

**Black Raspberry**

**Colorado Blue Spruce**

**Eastern White Pine**

**Norway Spruce**

**Concolor Fir**

**Douglas Fir**


**Sedum**

Visit [yorkccd.org/shop](https://www.yorkccd.org/shop)

to order.



# How to Order

1. Visit [yorkccd.org/shop](http://yorkccd.org/shop) or use cellphone camera to scan code here: 
2. Choose your seedlings and click "Add to Cart"
3. Place your order safely and securely with a credit card
4. Pick up seedlings at Rocky Ridge Park on 4/13/23



YORK COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Need help?  
Give us a call!

**717-840-7430**

*Below: 2023 Seedling Sale varieties and prices*



Apple Tree (1 Pack)  
\$25.00



Peach Tree (1 Pack)  
\$25.00



Pear Tree (1 Pack)  
\$25.00



Blackberry (2 Pack)  
\$17.00



Black Raspberry (2 Pack)  
\$17.00



Blueberry (2 Pack)  
\$17.00



Colorado Blue Spruce (10 Pack)  
\$12.00



Concolor Fir (10 Pack)  
\$12.00



Douglas Fir (10 Pack)  
\$12.00



Eastern White Pine (10 Pack)  
\$12.00



Norway Spruce (10 Pack)  
\$12.00



Sedum, Dragon's Blood (50 Pack)  
\$27.00





# Trash Challenge

## *What is CWA50k and how did it clean up our streams?*

2022 marked the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Clean Water Act. To celebrate this anniversary, York County partners such as the Master Watershed Stewards, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association, the Watershed Alliance of York, and the Conservation District set a goal to collect 50,000 lbs. of trash from our waterways. Clean ups were planned monthly throughout the year, and with the help of community volunteers, trash was collected by the tons from Muddy Creek, to Willis Run, to the Susquehanna River, and everywhere in between. When the scales were weighed at the end of the year, we are proud to say that we met and exceeded our goal by removing 56,840 pounds of trash from our waterways this year!

**Emily Neideigh**

*Watershed Specialist*



*Below: CWA50k partners at a trash pick up event in York County*



## **Volunteer for your Watershed**

*Do you want to have a positive impact on local waters?*

*Are you looking for volunteer opportunities?*

*Look no further!*

Check the Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) website and social media pages soon for information on exciting upcoming volunteer opportunities.

### **Volunteer opportunities include:**

- Tree Plantings
- Trash Clean Ups
- Earth Day Celebration
- And much more!

**[watershedallianceofyork.org](http://watershedallianceofyork.org)**



# Water Quality Monitoring

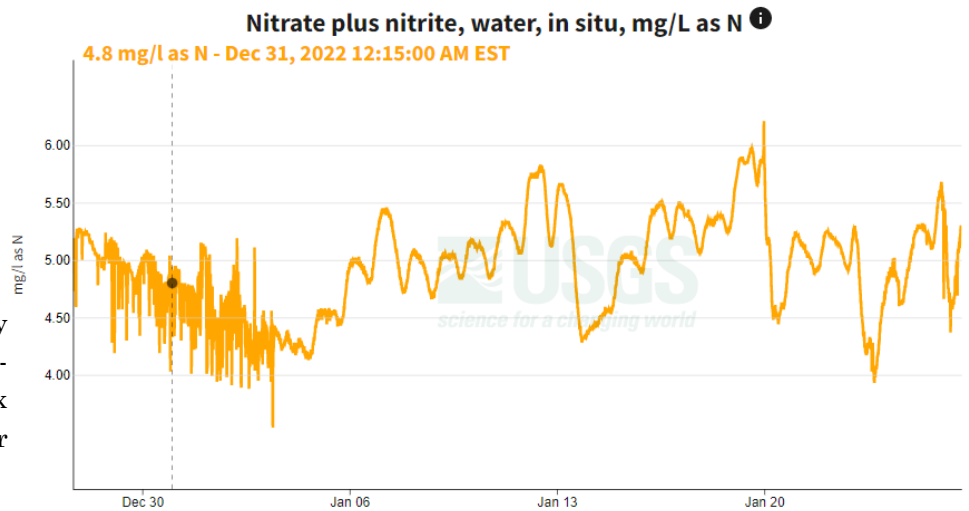
*How York County is at the forefront of this cutting-edge technology.*

In partnership with the York County Commissioners, United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates six state-of-the-art, real time, water quality monitors.

The monitors capture readings from 80-90% of the water outflow from the County. York County's Water Quality Monitoring Program will allow USGS to determine pollution base loads (what's in the water now) and trends. They are monitoring mostly for sediment and nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen).

Through continuous monitoring and scientific analysis, we will know within a few years, the quality of our stream AND whether sediment and nutrient levels are getting better or worse.

To access the data, visit the Conservation District's website.



In September 2022, USGS presented a Water Quality Monitoring Field Day at the Fishing Creek at Goldsboro monitoring site as part of the 20th Annual Watershed Week. Attendees included Planning Commission and Conservation District Staff, Commissioner Wheeler, EPA, DEP, Choose Clean Water Coalition, ALLARM, Master Watershed Stewards, and other agencies.

**Emily Neideigh**

*Watershed Specialist*



*Above Chart: Data collected from water quality monitoring station in York County*

*Above Photo: USGS staff showcase equipment and technology used to monitor stream health*

*Below Right: York County Conservation District staff pose in front of Fishing Creek water quality monitoring station.*



*Left: President Commissioner Julie Wheeler discussing York County's commitment to clean water at the September 2022 USGS Water Quality Monitoring Field Day*

# Pennsylvania's New Draft PCSM Manual

## *Now accepting comments.*

On January 28, 2023 DEP published notice in the PA Bulletin that the draft Pennsylvania Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Manual is available online.

## **What has changed?**

Some proposed revisions include:

- New interpretive guidance on the PCSM regulations.
- A proposed hierarchy of stormwater objectives.
- Additional detailed information on the performance of the stormwater analysis that is required including the addition of new methodologies for the analysis of volume, water quality and rate management.
- Proposed criteria for the protection of wetlands.
- New best management practices which are referred to in the draft Pennsylvania PCSM Manual as stormwater control measures (SCM)-including, but not limited to, management release concept SCMs.
- New incentives for the protection of natural open spaces and natural stormwater features.

• New methods for the completion of the pre-development site characterization required by the regulations, including infiltration testing.

• Introduction of methods for adjusting precipitation depths for stormwater analysis based on the known effects of climate change.

• New guidance regarding: antidegradation requirements; the determination of discharge points and points of analysis; analyses of stream stability and erosion potential; off-site stormwater management; the evaluation of thermal impacts; and the assessment of projects located in the area of karst geology.

## **Have comments?**

Written comments on the draft manual can be submitted to DEP through April 28, 2023. Commentors are encouraged to submit comments using DEP's online eComment tool at [www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment](http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment) but comments can also be submitted by email to [ecomment@pa.gov](mailto:ecomment@pa.gov) or mailed to the Technical Guidance Coordinator, Department of Environmental Protection, Policy Office, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063.

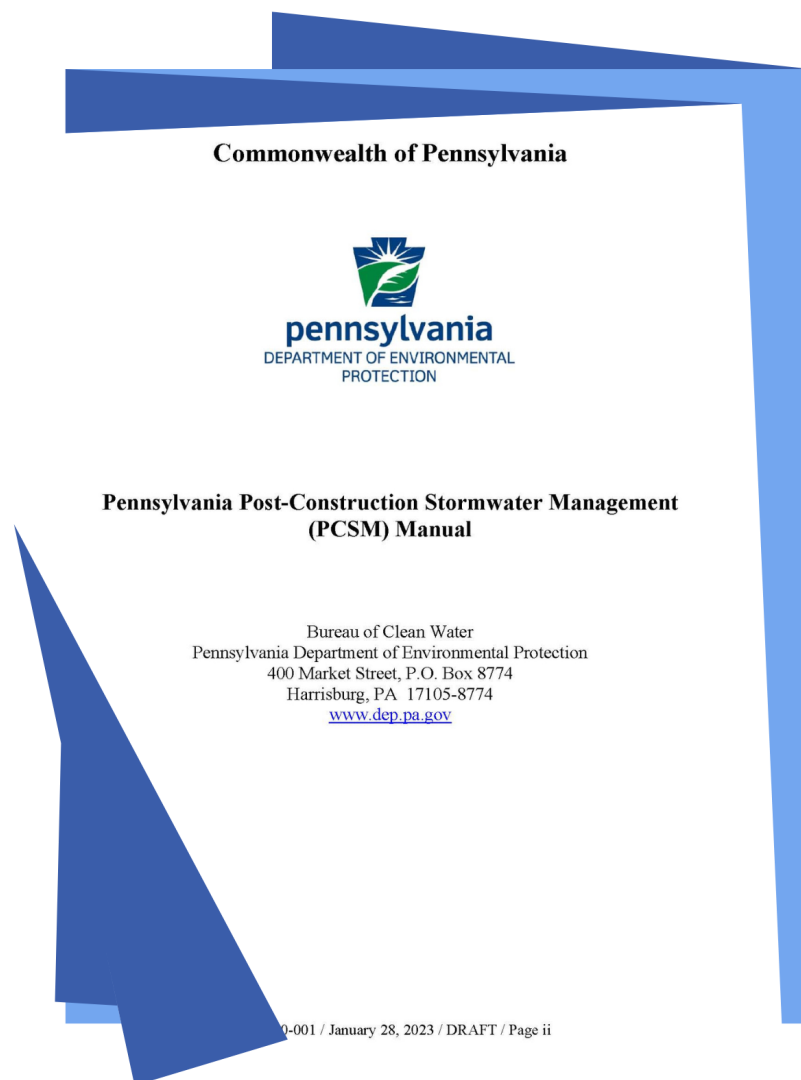
The draft manual is available at [www.dep.greenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/](http://www.dep.greenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/). Additionally, a link to the draft manual is available on the YCCD's website at [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org).

## **Questions?**

Questions relating to the draft manual can be directed to Sean Furjanic, PE at [sefurjanic@pa.gov](mailto:sefurjanic@pa.gov).

**Tiffany Crum**

*Resource Conservationist*





# Archives Revisited

March 4, 1952

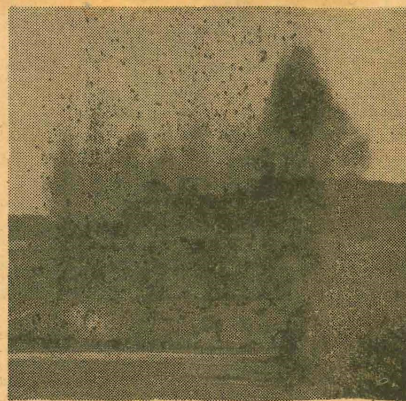
*How times have changed...*

Name of paper Gazette & Daily  
Where published York, Pa.  
Date of issue March 4, 1952  
Sent by \_\_\_\_\_



## Soil Experts Use Dynamite To Turn Swamp Into Pastureland

(Photos by The Gazette and Daily)



Three York county fields, water-soaked and useless for many years because of drainage from surrounding hills, may be restored to use by 5,650 feet of draining ditches blasted from the earth by dynamite Wednesday. Blasting on the Shrewsbury township farm of T. C. Coleman, Glen Rock furniture manufacturer, was directed by the county office of the U. S. Soil Conservation service. In photo at left, half-pound sticks of dynamite are placed every 18 inches across the 20 acres of land in the Fissel church area. Watching, from left, are Coleman, V. Kyle Trout, veterans instructor in agriculture and dynamite expert,

who supervised the blasting; and Al Young, county soil conservation technician. Center photo shows a portion of the blast.

At right, Trout and Coleman inspect the ditch, four feet deep and six feet wide, blasted by the 1,850 pounds of dynamite. Young, who suggested the dynamite method of ditch-digging because the ground was too soft for heavy equipment, estimates the fields will be ready for seeding by August and in shape for pasture next spring, if there is a dry summer. Coleman said he would put beef cattle on the fields. Cost of the blasting will be about \$650.

*"Three York county fields, water-soaked and useless for many years because of drainage from surrounding hills, may be restored to use by 5,650 feet of draining ditches blasted from the earth by dynamite."*

Shown above is an excerpt from a 1952 York County newspaper that shows conservation workers utilizing an unconventional practice to expand pasture land. As you can imagine, using dynamite to drain wetlands is no longer an acceptable conservation practice in York County. However, in 1952 it was considered a cost-effective means of expanding agricultural production.

While this article does not directly involve Conservation District staff, it does feature early employees of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. In its early years, the origins of the York

County Conservation District aligned closely with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service at a time when the bulk of funding and organization for conservation efforts in York County came from federal sources.

In the 1940's and 1950's, conservation efforts were often motivated primarily by increasing output. Farmers saw that conservation could mean a healthier bottom line. An unfortunate casualty of this thought process was a tendency to drain wetlands to increase farmable land.

Advances in knowledge and technology in the Conservation District's 75 year history have dramatically shaped our farming and conservation techniques. Since 1952, we have learned the importance of wetlands and the role they play in keeping our water clean. Today, we have adopted

an approach to conservation that more heavily considers the ecological impact of farming activities.

We share this article to show how conservation in York County has evolved over the years, and to acknowledge the humbling reality that future developments in science and technology may one day render today's conservation practices antiquated. Despite this, we persist. We continue along the best possible path given the knowledge available to us in our mission to conserve York County's natural resources.

**Michael McKelvey**

*Education & Communications*

*Coordinator*





*Left: This ACA, where animals feed, does not meet requirements due to endangering water quality.*

So, if you combine the two considerations above, we understand that the basic premise of an ACA is: **a place where animals congregate**, and deposit manure and urine that lacks enough growing (and regrowing) vegetation to utilize the nutrients in the deposited animal waste.

## The ABCs of ACAs

### *Managing Animal Concentration Areas*

Invariably, when we write a Manure Management Plan or an Ag Erosion and Sediment Plan for individuals who have more than one animal, there is discussion about Animal Concentrated Areas (ACAs). Animals are generally social creatures that naturally gravitate to a 'herding' instinct (for anyone who has needed to sort one animal out of a group, you know this all too well!). In the animal's day-to-day activity, their congregating at water troughs, hay rings, and shade trees will ultimately create ACAs.

To properly identify an ACA, we need to understand the definition of an ACA. The DEP Manure Management Manual (MMM) defines an ACA as: "...animal confinement areas that will not maintain the dense vegetation of a pasture (pg. 22)." Within this definition, we must clarify the term "pasture." To truly be considered a pasture, the field must "...maintain an average vegetation height across the pasture during the growing season at least 3 inches high" (MMM pg. 21). (The reason that a pasture must maintain a minimum vegetative height of 3" is that short grass will not re-grow as rapidly, limiting the nutrients needed for that regrowth.)

One goal of developing a manure management plan or a nutrient management plan is to provide an intentional strategy to address ACA management. If nutrients from manure and urine are deposited at an ACA and are not being utilized by a growing crop, then what happens to the nutrients? Where do they go? Some of the unused nutrients will attach to the soil particles, and if there are more nutrients than available soil particles, the nutrients will attach to the water in the soil. (Did you know that a healthy soil will contain 25% water? That's a lot of opportunity to attach unused nutrients.) Once the nutrients attach to the water in the soil, when the soil is saturated (heavy rains, snow melt) the water moves through the soil profile and recharges the ground water which then replenishes the water table and eventually will be deposited in the water aquifer. The time it takes for nutrient-laden soil water to reach the aquifer varies, but ultimately it will impact the quality of the drinking



*Above: A round bale feeder is often an ACA. This ACA does not meet requirements*



*Above: This ACA is stabilized by fine stone and meets requirements.*

water drawn from the aquifer.

This is why ACAs must be addressed. Even if an ACA is on top of a hill (like a hay ring on the hill in a pasture), hundreds of feet away from the nearest pond or stream. Because of the potential pollution of the aquifer, the ACA must be managed according to the PA State Technical Guide Standards. Late winter or early spring is good time to evaluate the management of an ACA. Are there good management practices (BMPs) in place to protect water quality, or is there a lot of manure, mud, feed waste, and slop piled up?

Understanding and managing ACAs can be complicated. Our Ag staff team can help evaluate your ACA and recommend BMPs to bring the ACA into compliance. The District also has potential funding options through the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) and Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) that could be used to cost share the installation of any necessary BMPs. Call us at 717.840.7430 or email Troy Zirkle ([tzirkle@yorkccd.org](mailto:tzirkle@yorkccd.org)) or Mark Flaharty ([mflaharty@yorkccd.org](mailto:mflaharty@yorkccd.org)) to 'get the ball rolling.'

**Troy Zirkle**

*Resource Conservation Specialist*





# York County ENVIROTHON



## Donate to the York County Envirothon

*Support the next generation of conservation leaders.*

Each year nearly 1,000 students participate in the York County Envirothon at no cost thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.

Our sponsors value the positive impact that the Envirothon has on the future of conservation in York County. We hope you will consider supporting the York County Envirothon this season!

**Call 717-840-7430** to speak with the Envirothon Coordinator about sponsor opportunities.

**Michael McKelvey**

*York County Envirothon Coordinator*

*Right: \$250+ Sponsor signs at the Envirothon*

*Below: \$500+ Sponsors get their logo on the Envirothon T-shirts. \*Deadline to feature logo on T-Shirt: March 1, 2023 \**

DONATE ONLINE at [yorkccd.org/education/envirothon/donate](http://yorkccd.org/education/envirothon/donate)

-or- MAIL THIS FORM



☐ \$25      ☐ \$50      ☐ \$100      ☐ \$250  
☐ \$500      ☐ \$1000      ☐ \$2500      ☐ \$5000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

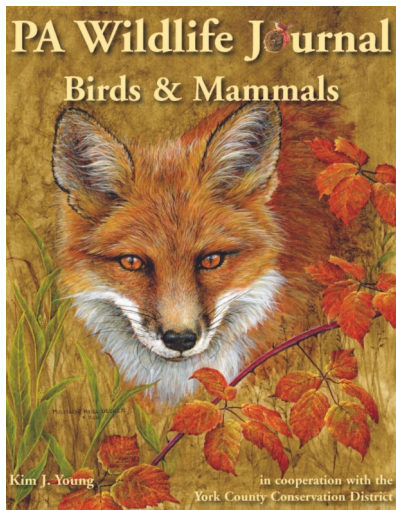
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
York County Conservation District  
2401 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
York, PA 17402







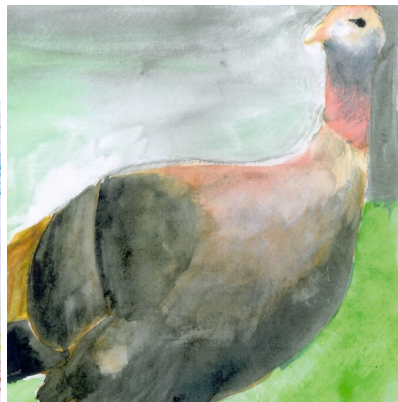
## Wildlife Facts

### Wild Turkey

- “The smooth bumps on a turkey’s featherless head and neck are called **caruncles**.”
- “Toms sport rough, black ‘beards,’ growing from their upper breast. These hair-like feathers are called **mesofiloplumes**.”



- “The young **precocial** birds are called **poults**. Until their wings are fully developed and they can **roost in trees**, the hen will **brood the poults under her wings overnight**.”
- “**Gallinaceous birds (like turkeys) pick up and swallow small stones** called grit that make their way into the gizzard and act like teeth to further digest hard seeds”



## Conservation Quiz Corner



Are you smarter than an Envirothon 5<sup>th</sup> Grader?

Answer the following to find out!

1. Which was the first turtle to be placed on the Pennsylvania List of Endangered Species?
2. Major league baseball bats are made from what type of lumber?
3. What is North America’s largest rodent?
4. What do you call the naturally occurring “glue” that binds wood fibers together?
5. What type of feeding behavior is practiced by sandpipers and allows them to live and feed together without much competition?

Check your answers on page 12



YORK COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Conserving Natural Resources for our Future*

### Board of County Commissioners

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Doug Hoke, Vice President, Ron Smith

### Board of Directors

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Keith Eisenhart

**Wildlife Facts** includes excerpts & illustrations from the

### ***PA Wildlife Journal: Birds & Mammals***

*written by Kim Young & York County Conservation District*

**PA Wildlife Journal** focuses on Pennsylvania’s birds & mammals. It’s highlighted with professional artwork, photographs, and illustrations from hundreds of students across Pennsylvania and the United States. This unique book can be enjoyed by students of wildlife and casual readers.

The text includes the historical and current biology of the many species found in Pennsylvania.

Available for purchase on: **amazon**



## York County Ag Land Preservation Program

Eric Naylor, Director—(717)840-7400—[yorkcountypa.gov](http://yorkcountypa.gov)

2401 Pleasant Valley Road, Suite 101, Room 145, York, PA 8AM-4:30PM



The end of 2022 and beginning of 2023 has been both a busy and rewarding time for the YCALPB. We hosted our first public meeting in three years, hosted soil health luncheons, experienced retirement, and transition of leadership, and continued to preserve the beautiful and productive farmlands in York County.

Preservation is not just about preserving land from development, but also preserving land for continued, perpetual, agricultural use. A huge part in keeping farmland productive is the health of the soil that crops, and livestock need to grow, survive, and thrive. In 2021, our office was awarded a \$10,000 grant from American Farmland Trust (AFT) to spread the word of the importance of Soil Health. We hosted two soil health luncheons in 2022: one in Airville and one in Stoverstown. We plan to host another Soil Health Luncheon in northern York County in the late winter, to continue to educate York County farmers on the importance of soil health.

For the first time since 2019, prior to COVID, we held a public meeting for landowners interested in preservation. Postcards were sent to over 2,200 property owners with more than 50 acres, or more than 10 acres if they touch a preserved farm. Our December 8th, 2022, public meeting had 40 attendees, with presentations from USDA-NRCS, YCCD, and YCALPB staff. Attendees were educated on Conservation Planning, Conservation Requirements, Soil Health, and Agricultural Land Preservation. Great discussion and questions were brought up during the meeting, which was attended by preserved farm owners, current applicants, and interested landowners. We plan to continue hosting these meetings each year.

The YCALPB now uses a 24-month application cycle. Farms that were qualified and ranked in 2022, but were not selected, remain eligible for selection in 2023. The board will make selections for 2023 once final funding is allocated from the

Board of Commissioners and the Department of Agriculture. Our next application round (2024 & 2025) has a February 15th, 2024, application deadline. Please contact our office ahead of time to ensure your application meets program requirements. Staff is available to meet with you and to assist you with your application.

November 2022 also brought change and transition in our office. Patty McCandless, director for over 32 years, retired on November 15th. Undoubtedly, the success of our program was largely influenced by Patty over the years. It is with a great deal of respect that we wish her a happy retirement, full of horseback riding and travel. As the next Director, I certainly know that there are huge shoes to fill, but I look forward to the challenge and hope to continue the great work that the YCALPB and Patty have accomplished since the program began in 1990. I'm honored to be doing something so important and close to my heart; preserving farmland in York County where I was born and raised and where I continue to raise my family as well. 🐾

## In Memory

### *Recognizing the tragic loss of Mike Smith*

It is with great sadness that we recognize the tragic loss of Mike Smith.

Mike served as Director on our Board until his passing on December 18, 2022 at York Hospital. He was the husband of Susan E. (Kline) Smith with whom he celebrated 33 years of marriage.

Born November 22, 1955 in York, a son of Gary and wife Nancy Smith of Red Lion and the late Lucille (Laucks) Smith; he was a 1974 graduate of Dallastown Area High School. Mike was Vice President of Fitz & Smith, Inc. where he had worked all of his life.

In addition to serving on YCCD's Board of Directors, he was also member of Red Lion BPO Elks. Mike enjoyed working around his farm and loved spending time with his grandson.

Mike had deep roots in York County in both the excavation and farming sectors. His addition to the Board brought a balanced voice that could engage in dialogue from both sides of the table.

Mike will be missed by all those who knew him.

*Right: Mike Smith at a York County Conservation District Board Meeting in 2021*





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

“How silent are the footsteps of Spring!”  
-Henry David Thoreau, *The Journal*, 1837-1861

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**Support Conservation.**



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Monday-Friday

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#### YCCD Calendar

##### March 2023

March 9 ..... YCCD Board Meeting

##### April 2023

April 6..... YCCD Board Meeting

April 7..... Office Closed

April 13..... Seedling Sale Pick Up

##### May 2023

May 11..... YCCD Board Meeting

May 18..... DGLVR QAB Meeting

May 29..... Office Closed

##### June 2023

June 8..... YCCD Board Meeting



*Conservation Quiz Corner Answers: (1) bog turtle (2) white ash (3) beaver  
(4) lignin (5) resource partitioning*