



Conservation Horizons

Fall-Winter 2023



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YORK COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Around the District

75th Anniversary

The culmination of 75 years in the making occurred in September as the Conservation District celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with a dinner and program at York's Ag & Industrial Museum. This was a trip down memory lane for a few, and a history lesson for many more.

Through the planning process, and the event itself, many of the questions as to why districts do things in a particular way were answered. It also became clear that we are currently at a time when, in the not too distant future, our actions and work will be looked over with the same questionable gaze that we currently have of the work completed in years past... "Can you

Above: Scene from 75th Anniversary Celebration of the York County Conservation District

believe they did that?!" What is certain when looking back is that every generation put the best available conservation practices on the ground given the information and technology they had available at that time.

We all hope and believe there will be improvements in the future across all sectors of our lives, but we often wonder, will those improvements really be *that* great?

— Continued pg. 2—

Around the District (continued)

It's hard to tell the significance and the impacts you're having while you're living in a given timeframe. I can guarantee though, in another 50 or 75 years from now, conservation will be as, if not more, important than it is today.

Jeff Hill

Conservation District Manager



Above: 75th Anniversary Celebration pamphlet, commemorative "challenge coin," and floral centerpiece

Left: 75th Anniversary podium signage

Below: Group photo of event attendees



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Sporting Clays Fundraiser

Starting off the 2024 Envirothon Fundraising Drive

On September 22 we kicked off the 2024 Envirothon Fundraising Drive with the 16th Annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser for the York County Envirothon.

Over 115 participants from across York County and beyond showed up to enjoy a pleasant day afield for a good cause.

Special guests included President Commissioner Julie Wheeler, Commissioner Doug Hoke, and Congressman Lloyd Smucker.

Our attendees enjoyed a delicious catered lunch from Big Bob's BBQ and a few lucky winners went home with some great raffle prizes.



Above: YCCD team participating in the Sporting Clays Fundraiser

Left: Special guests President Commissioner Julie Wheeler, Commissioner Doug Hoke, and Congressman Lloyd Smucker attending the Sporting Clays Fundraiser

Community Support

Over 20 local businesses and organizations stepped up to sponsor the Sporting Clays Fundraiser and support the Envirothon.

16th Annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser Sponsors:



Team York Ag took home the coveted "Highest Scoring Team" Trophy with a score of 218/250.

Below: Team York Ag, winners of the "Highest Scoring Team" Trophy and one of our Event Sponsors



Missed the Sporting Clays Fundraiser but still want to support the Envirothon?

Scan the code to donate:
(or learn more on page 9)



After 34 years, Rob Fetter hangs up his hard hat.

Reflecting on over 3 decades of service at YCCD.

Earlier this year Rob Fetter, a long time Erosion and Sediment Control Team Member, announced he will be retiring in mid-November. As the District prepares to say goodbye to Rob, I had an opportunity to ask him some questions about his career.

Where it all began

Rob grew up on a small farm in Clearfield County. In 1986, he graduated from Penn State with a degree in Agronomy with an emphasis in soil science. After graduation, Rob briefly worked for Fulton County Conservation District, where he said he spent a lot of time investigating timber harvest projects.

Rob began his career at the York County Conservation District as an Erosion and Sediment Control Technician on February 11, 1989. Rob said he still remembers the call he received from former District manager Mark Kimmel offering him the job. Rob said the call came in over the

holidays while he was home visiting family. He went on to say his predecessor only lasted two weeks in the position, which is quite the contrast to Rob's long lasting career.

Over the years

Rob has taken on many roles at the District throughout his career. While he spent most of his time working in the Erosion and Sediment Control Department, the other significant role he has played at the District was being our in-house computer guru & network administrator. In addition to those roles, Rob has worked in the Dirt and Gravel Road Program, he helped compile and publish the earliest additions of the *Conservation Horizons* newsletter, and he was in charge of organizing a poster contest for school age children through the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

“What made you want to stick around YCCD for 34 years?”

RF: “The number #1 reason is my coworkers.”

“What do you like most about working for YCCD?”

RF: “People, the variety of work, and good management.” Rob went on further to say he “always enjoyed work-



ing with kids and helping with the educational programs at the District.”

“What do you like least about working at YCCD?”

RF: “Bureaucracy at higher levels.”

“What is one of your best or funniest memories from working at YCCD?”

RF: “I have a lot of good memories, joking around & dressing up with coworkers.” Rob said these fun & silly moments with co-workers are what made YCCD a nice place to work.

“What plans do you have for re- tirement?”

RF: “After the 1st of the year, I might get a part time job for something to do. I want to spend some time taking care of things on my (to-do) list at home, and maybe get to spend some more time with my grandson.”



Above: Rob conducting an inspection at a site in E. Manchester Township

Left: Rob (far left) and former board member Pat Sueck (far right) pictured with District's poster contest winners.

Rob said his daughter is encouraging him to plan a cruise in the coming months and the foreign exchange student that Rob's family hosted last year (who he refers to as his "Italian daughter") wants Rob and his wife, Jill, to come for a visit.

Congratulations Rob!

"Rob is, without a doubt, one of the kindest, most genuine, and generous humans I know. While the institutional knowledge Rob takes with him will be a loss for the District, what we will miss most is Rob's big heart, and his friendly demeanor around the office. Congratulations Rob on your well deserved retirement!"
– Tiffany Crum

"Rob has always been my constant go-to person whenever I needed help with anything, whether it was computer-related issues or just everyday work when I needed an answer, Rob was always ready and willing to help. His easy-going, pleasant personality made him easy to talk to and work with. Rob is truly one of a kind and I will miss him, his stories, and pictures that he loved to share."
– Robin Sharp

"Rob is one of the nicest people I ever worked with. Anytime I had a question he always had time for me. I will miss him."
– MJ Serrano



Above: 2012 Silly E&S Team photo

"I have known Rob for almost 30 years. In the first 27 plus years, I knew Rob from my work in the private sector coordinating E&S plan and NPDES permit approvals from the YCCD. The last 2 plus years I have been a coworker of Rob's at the Conservation District. Rob is one of the easiest people to work with I have ever known. He is always willing to help with whatever needs done and will be missed in his retirement. Good luck and congratulations Rob!"
– Jeff Spangler, PE

"It is hard to imagine the York County Conservation District without Rob. For 34 years, Rob has worked with hundreds of builders,

developers, engineers, municipal officials, farmers, and landowners throughout the county. There is hardly a day that goes by that I don't bump into someone in my travels across the county that asks "Is Rob still there?" Rob is a District celebrity!

I first met Rob back in my high school days while I was a member of the Red Lion Roadkill Envirothon team and then began working with him in the District's Erosion and Sediment Control program back in March 1999 (24+ years ago). How time flies... Rob is a genuinely good guy and many folks would say that he is the kind of guy that would give the shirt off of his back to help you. For me, he literally did as I recall large bags of his kids' good, hand-me-down clothes that he would leave on my desk in the morning for my 3 kids as they were growing up. Thank you, Rob! The District will not be the same without you!"
– Eric Jordan

Tiffany Crum

Resource Conservationist



Role of Riparian Buffers in PA Streams

What crucial role do riparian buffers play?

Since the last ice age, the landscape of Pennsylvania mainly consisted of eastern temperate forest land. The uplands mainly consisted of white pine, oak, maple, ash, and beech trees. The **riparian** areas, or areas within the floodplain that surround a stream, were comprised entirely of vegetation with dark hemlock gullies, red osier dogwood thickets, and large stands of sycamore trees.

The foliage of these riparian buffer areas protected the stream from direct sun light in the hot summer months. As a result of this shade cover, streams' temperatures rarely exceeded 70°F. These cold-water streams created oxygen rich environments which allowed several species (like the Eastern Brook Trout and the Eastern Hellbender) to adapt and evolve to live in these shaded, cool, oxygen rich environments.

These vegetated buffers also provided shelter and hunting habitat for multiple species of land animals that have adapted to thrive in these riparian areas. Raccoons, mink, egrets, and herons all use creek bottoms and floodplains as travel paths and hunting grounds. Each of these species has specific adaptations for



hunting for prey within these conditions.

These riparian areas play an even bigger role in the morphology of Pennsylvania's streams. Pennsylvania's native riparian plant and tree species have deep-seated, robust root structures. These root structures are laced throughout the riparian soils, and act as a foundation system for the banks of the stream.

What Happens When Riparian Buffers are Removed?

Once riparian plants are removed from the landscape, a key component of the stream system is erased, and the natural balance of the stream will be disrupted. The stream, no longer shaded by the foliage of the plants during the summer months, will warm up. Because of increased temperature, the water's dissolved oxygen will rapidly deplete and suffocate the more sensitive cold-water species. Land mammals that are

adapted to the riparian area will lose the thick cover habitat needed to safely travel the stream banks. This can cut off crucial travel routes and segment these species' populations.

During periods of high flow, without roots these inherently unstable and silty soils become easily eroded by the stream. This erosion creates large cut banks and degrades the surrounding land around the creek. The displaced sediment from these cut banks enters into the stream bed, which gums up the rocky substrate within the stream. This will eventually kill the macroinvertebrates in the stream system. Macroinvertebrates are the main food source for fish and birds in the creek. Sediment in the water also absorbs heat and makes the stream even hotter and less hospitable to cold water species.



Above: temperate forest land

Left: mink with fish

Right: stream erosion



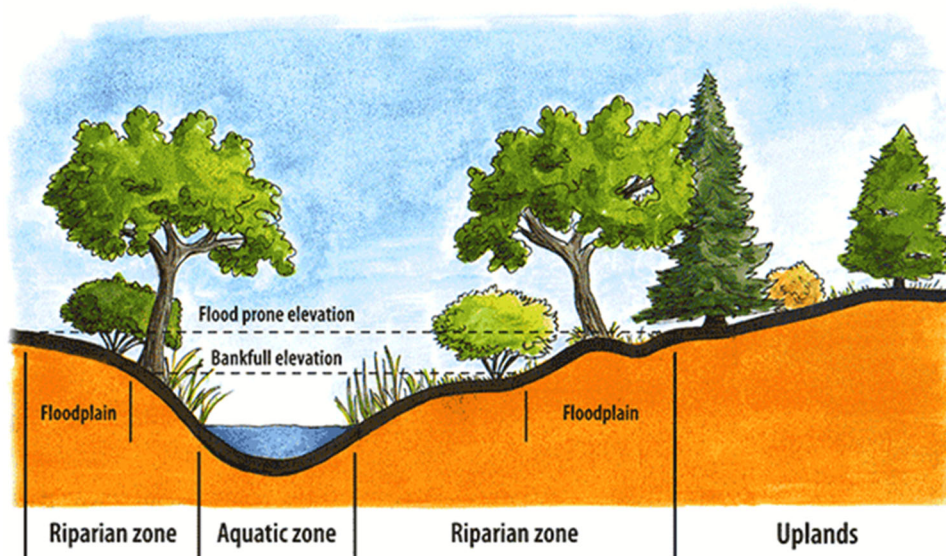
What can you do to help?

The majority of riparian degradation in York County has taken place in the last 300 years as the necessity for large scale agriculture, industrialization, and mills grew in the area. Small changes in land management can go a long way to improving riparian areas! The easiest management strategy is to keep the buffer zone of the creek natural and undisturbed to allow native species to thrive.

Keeping this buffer zone natural is a slight change in philosophy for many landowners. Understandably, landowners want to get the most out of their land. Often, landowners want to extend their lawn, pasture, and crops right up against the creek.

Mowing up to the creek stops riparian species from reaching maturity and only allows shallow rooted grass and herbaceous species to establish. By not mowing right up to the creek you can allow mature riparian species to establish. Fencing off creeks within pasture to limit the area where livestock have access for drinking is another way to preserve riparian areas. When livestock have large areas of access to a riparian area, grass and herbaceous species become trampled and depleted. Large woody species are damaged, chewed, and knocked over while thick underbrush is stomped and eaten.

Planting native species is another way you can reestablish riparian areas. Several species, such as dogwoods

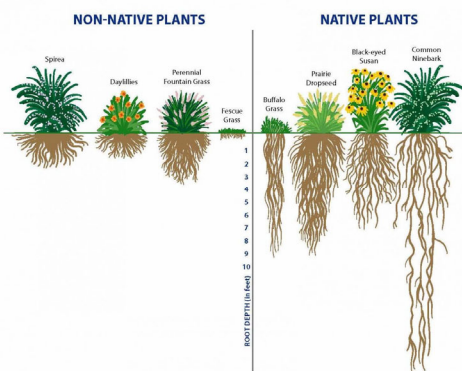


Above: diagram of riparian and woodland zones

Below Left: native vs. non-native plant root systems

Bottom Left: cows in stream

and willows, can be planted simply by pinning a live cut branch in the ground. Potted shrubs and saplings can be planted in large quantities to reestablish an area as well. Invasive



The Conservation District administers several grants that can fund:

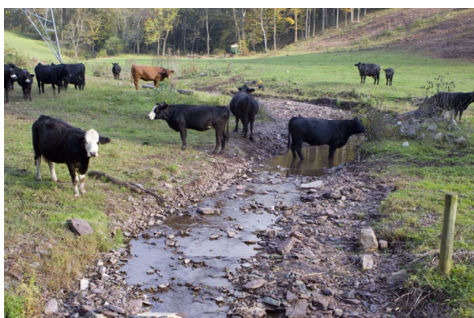
- planting stock and supplies
- tree installation
- pasture fencing along streams
- full-depth reclamation
- streambank restoration projects

Volunteer groups, like the Riparian Rangers, organize invasive species removal to maintain stream buffer plantings.

If you have questions or concerns about the stream that runs through your property or community, want to know if your land qualifies for these grants, or are interested in volunteering to maintain stream projects, please contact the York County Conservation District at (717) 840-7430.

Chris Tanczos

Watershed Technician



species control and removal is vital to the replanting process. Species like Japanese knotweed, Japanese stilt grass, hogweed, ragweed, and others have very poor stabilization quality and will easily outcompete planted native species easily if not properly maintained.

How can YCCD help?

The York County Conservation District's Watershed and Agriculture departments work with landowners to promote and help fund good riparian area management practices.

Recordkeeping

Record requirements for livestock

If you have livestock (whether 1 or 1,000) you have to have a plan for the manure (depending on animal density— a Manure Management Plan or a Nutrient Management Plan) and you must keep records.

This article focuses on the record-keeping necessary for:

- NMP operations
- Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs)
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

Records are essential to properly managing manure application decisions and meeting state law requirements.

As a **CAO**, here are the records you are required to keep:

- Crop yields
- Land application of nutrients (manure, biosolids, fertilizer, etc.)
- Annual manure production per manure group
- Soil testing (every three years)
- Manure sampling per manure group

- Uncollected manure (pasture)
 - Manure export sheets
 - BMP designs and certifications for liquid and semi-solid manure storage facilities
- CAFOs** are required to keep all of these same records, but additionally are also required to keep:

- Permittee/general information
- Animal information
- Production area discharges
- Liquid and semi-solid manure storage facility inspections
- Cover crops planted
- Operation changes

- Manure generation and use
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Winter manure management
- Existing earthen manure storage facility inspection report

CAFOs are also required to submit their CAFO Annual Report to DEP every year.

As with medical bills and taxes, recordkeeping is something we just don't like to do. However, when it comes to CAOs and CAFOs, good records serve as a management tool as well as help the annual status review and plan review and approval to go smoothly. Keep those records! For more information on recordkeeping and for recordkeeping forms please visit the PA Nutrient Management Program website.

Melodie Tuckey

Resource Conservation Specialist

Manure Export Sheet	
Section 1	
Name of Operation Exporting Manure	_____
Name of Manure Importer/Broker	_____
Address of Importer/Broker	_____

County	Township
Importer/Broker Certification #	_____
Type of Manure Transferred	_____ (animal type)
Check here if manure will not be land applied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Analysis of Manure	N: _____ P ₂ O ₅ : _____ K ₂ O: _____
(Units: lbs./ton <input type="checkbox"/> lbs./100 gal <input type="checkbox"/> lbs./1,000 gal <input type="checkbox"/> other _____)	
Total Amount of Manure Transferred	Planned _____ Actual _____ (tons or gal)
Date(s) Manure was Transferred	_____
Check here if Importer has received manure informational packet	<input type="checkbox"/>

8800-PM-BCW0032f Rev. 10/2020 CAFO Annual Report		COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU OF CLEAN WATER	
<p>NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>FOR THE PERIOD _____ TO _____</p>			
GENERAL INFORMATION			
Permittee Name:	_____	Permit No.:	_____
Permittee Address:	_____	Permit Approval Date:	_____
Permittee City, State, Zip:	_____	Expiration Date:	_____
Site (CAFO) Name:	_____	Permittee Phone:	_____
Municipality:	_____	County:	_____

York County ENVIROTHON



Support the 2024 Envirothon Season

Consider making a financial contribution to the York County Envirothon.

Our sponsors value the positive impact that the Envirothon has on the future of conservation. The Envirothon is offered at **no cost to schools or students** thanks to our generous sponsors.

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.

Donating to the York County Envirothon has never been easier! Follow these 3 easy steps to donate in less than 60 seconds.

3 Easy Steps to DONATE:

1. **Open Phone Camera**
2. **Scan Code**
3. **Give Now**



-OR- cut out the adjacent form and mail with a check



DONATE ONLINE at yorkccd.org/education/envirothon/donate

-or- MAIL THIS FORM

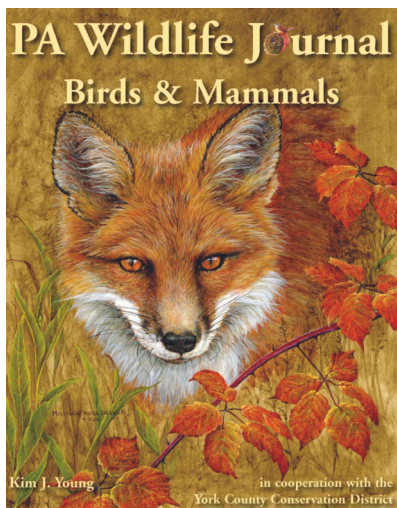
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5000

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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



Wildlife Facts

Black bear

- "Curiosity, not aggression, makes a bear stand up."
- "Black bears are not always black. They may be cinnamon-colored or even blond."
- "Most cubs stay with the sow for a little more than a year."



- "Bears do not fully hibernate like a groundhog, but they are usually dormant throughout the winter."
- "Amazingly, bear sows usually give birth during this dormancy. Her body is still able to provide milk for her nursing cubs while she sleeps."



Conservation Quiz Corner



Are you smarter than an Envirothon 5th Grader?

Answer the following to find out!

1. What bird puts on a wonderful aerial show during courtship called winnowing?
2. What are the four stages of complete metamorphosis?
3. What Pennsylvania watershed contains headwaters that start in PA with water that flows north to Lake Ontario?
4. What do you call the variety of life on earth or in a particular ecosystem?
5. What is PA's most common falcon?

Check your answers on page 12



YORK COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conserving Natural Resources for our Future

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Doug Hoke, Vice President, Ron Smith

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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

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



2024 Application Deadline—2/15/2024

The 2024 deadline to apply for farmland preservation is February 15th, 2024. If you are thinking about preservation, call us to learn more or to set up an appointment. Staff will review your farm and application, as well as the program with you. We only accept applications once every two years, so don't miss out!

55 Farms applied in 2022 and 29 were selected for Preservation! Apply today!

The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved 330 farms on over 47,466 acres in York County dating back to 1990!

See where your municipality stacks up (right).

YCALPB welcomes 2 new board members in 2023

- John “JP” Hausner
- Jason “Jake” Weaver

JP Hausner—Thomasville, PA—filled the vacant “citizen-at-large” position, a 3 year term. JP is owner/operator of a beef and crop operation in western York County.

Jake Weaver—Dillsburg, PA—filled the vacant “Elected Official” position, a 3 year term. Jake is a Warrington Twp. Supervisor and a member of the State Agricultural Review Board.

Preserved Acreage by Township	
Township	Preserved Acreage
Chanceford Twp	7099.98
Lower Chanceford Twp	5974.81
Hopewell Twp	4709.07
East Hopewell Twp	4319.74
Peach Bottom Twp	3112.22
Shrewsbury Twp	3101.73
Dover Twp	2368.30
Fawn Twp	2354.46
North Codorus Twp	2143.59
Codorus Twp	2098.80
Washington Twp	1949.47
Springfield Twp	1868.20
Lower Windsor Twp	1236.19
North Hopewell Twp	935.06
Warrington Twp	894.52
Windsor Twp	664.21
Paradise Twp	505.29
Hellam Twp	502.79
Manheim Twp	373.94
Cross Roads Boro	320.97
East Manchester Twp	264.41
Heidelberg Twp	237.58
Jackson Twp	132.53
York Twp	124.79
Seven Valleys Boro	45.61
Carroll Twp	7.77
West Manchester Twp	7.24
Franklin Twp	5.21
Jefferson Boro	3.26
Hamilton Twp (Adams)	105.14
Total Acreage:	47466.87

Watershed Week

Non-stop watershed action

From September 16-22 the Conservation District recognized the 21st Annual Watershed Week.

Watershed Week increases public awareness of the importance of local watersheds to community health, sustainable economies, and environmental quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

YCCD staff attended a dozen events during Watershed Week including

- Dam Bridge Challenge
- Rambo Run Stream Study
- Fly Fishing Essentials
- DIY Lawn to Meadow Workshop
- Water Quality Monitoring Field Day with USGS
- Watershed Discovery and Keystone Kidspace
- Greener Codorus Initiative



Above: Conservation District employees attending Watershed Week events



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

"If we are bold in our thinking, courageous in accepting new ideas, and willing to work with instead of against our land, we shall find in conservation farming an avenue to the greatest food production the world has ever known."

-Hugh Hammond Bennett

Stay Connected.

Support Conservation.



(717) 840-7430

yorkccd.org

Hours: 8:30AM-4:30PM

Monday-Friday

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Email yorkccd@yorkccd.org or call (717) 840-7430.

Sponsor info & advertisement of services in this newsletter provided without any implied endorsement from YCCD.

YCCD Calendar

November 2023

Nov. 7..... Office Closed

Nov. 9..... YCCD Board Meeting

Nov. 10 Office Closed

Nov. 23 Office Closed

Nov. 24 Office Closed

December 2023

Dec. 14..... YCCD Board Meeting

Dec. 24..... Office Closed

January 2024

Jan. 1 Office Closed

Jan. 12 YCCD Board Meeting

Jan. 15 Office Closed

February 2024

Feb. 8..... YCCD Board Meeting



*Conservation Quiz Corner Answers: (1) common snipe (2) egg, larva, pupa, adult
(3) Genesee River Basin (4) biodiversity (5) American kestrel*