



Dirt On the District

Lawrence County Fair Week



The Conservation District Staff and Board Members have been extremely busy all year. This edition of our newsletter will scratch the surface with highlights of grant work, trainings, projects and events across Lawrence County. We encourage you to stop by our table, located in Exhibit Building #1, during the Lawrence County Fair to gain more insight about upcoming programming and ask questions about each of our roles.

Annual Nature Photo Contest

We are accepting entries for the **2024 Photo Contest**.
Entries will be accepted until **January 10th, 2025**.

In an effort to support the conservation of our natural resources, we believe it is important to allow the public an opportunity to showcase what they feel are Lawrence County's finest natural resources.

To participate in the Annual Nature Photo Contest you can find an entry form and contest rules on our website www.lawrenceccd.org. All entries can be mailed or personally delivered to the Lawrence County Conservation District Office.

If you intend to deliver the photos in person, please call ahead to Jeannie Shay at 724-714-3101.



Grace Chapman
"Did you get my Good Side?"
2023 Honorable Mention

Frank Pisano
"White-tailed Deer"
2024 Staff Pick



Lawrence County Conservation District

430 Court Street
New Castle, PA 16101

Phone: 724-652-4512

Fax: 724-657-2008

E-mail: lcd@lawrenceccd.org

Website: www.lawrenceccd.org



@Lawrence County
Conservation District



Instagram
LCCD_DOD



LAWRENCE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Cover Crop Field Day

- Kings Agri Seed Cover Crop Specialist
- Discuss And Presentation Of 6 Different Cover Crop mixes
 - Successes and challenges of cover crop Implementation
- Learn About Cover Crop Management
 - Strategies to reducing nutrient loss
 - Cover Crop and Soil Health
- Natura Resources Conservation Service Rain Fall Simulator
 - Presentation on Programs Available to Assist Farmers
- Programs and Events Within Lawrence County Conservation District

September 21, 2024

10 Am-1Pm Lunch Provided

Free Event

Deadline To RSVP 9/14/2024

Seed Donated By
Kings Agri-Seeds INC.

Field day Location;

**Mitchell & Cassidy
Whiting's Farm**

1587 High Hill Rd

Pulaski Pa, 16143

RSVP to Mitchell Whiting

(724) 761-3094 Or

mwhiting@lawrenceccd.org



Coming Spring 2025

Lawrence County Conservation District

No-Till Drill Rental Program



- Fifty Dollar Deposit and No-Till Drill Equipment Rental Agreement Form Must be Submitted Before Reservation
- Rental Rate \$25 A Day Plus \$12/Acre

Contact Agricultural Conservationist

Mitchell Whiting

(724) 761-3094

Register Today!

**Space is
Limited**

1st Annual Lawrence County Conservation District

Grown-up Nature Camp

September 5th, 6th, and/or 7th, 2024

Registration Tiers:

***Attend One Day - \$20.00**

***Attend Two Days - \$35.00**

***Attend Three Days - \$50.00**

Fee covers Educational Materials, Activities and Bottled Water

9am-2pm

Open to ages 18+

Options to attend one, two or all three days!!

Experience Nature through hands-on lessons across Lawrence County during these three education packed days.

- ♦ **September 5th: McConnell's Mill State Park**
- ♦ **September 6th: "The Lodge at Water's Edge"**
- ♦ **September 7th: Marti Park, New Wilmington**



Register by emailing Jeannie Shay, Watershed Specialist/Educator at

jshay@lawrencecd.org

Official registration form and additional details will be provided upon receiving your emailed request.

Space will be limited to 20 campers each day. **Deadline to Register is August 28th, 2024.**

If you have questions, call Jeannie Shay at 724-714-3101

Environmental Education Topics to include:

**Lessons Subject to Change*

- ♦ **Geology/Mill History - McConnell's Mill Tour**
- ♦ **Waterfall Hike**
- ♦ **Geodes Activity**
- ♦ **Tamarack Wildlife Center - Live animal presentation**
- ♦ **Forestry with DCNR Forester**
- ♦ **Watersheds, Water Quality Testing, Point and Non-Point Source Pollution**
- ♦ **Dirt vs Soil**
- ♦ **Macroinvertebrates within the Slippery Rock Creek**
- ♦ **Lodge at Water's Edge Tour**
- ♦ **American Indian History & Artifacts**
- ♦ **Cicada Painting and Lesson**
- ♦ **Wildlife Furs, Skulls, Tracks & Scat**
- ♦ **Honeybee Observation Hive and Lesson**
- ♦ **"Wish Upon a Butterfly" - Live butterfly feeding and release**



Chapter 102 PAG-02 NPDES General Permit Renewals

Attention all permittees who currently have a development/earth disturbance project covered under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The PAG-02 General Permit will expire on December 7, 2024. DEP will be publishing a form for permittees to complete in order to help streamline the renewal process. This form will need to be submitted to DEP or the county conservation district office that approved original coverage by December 7, 2024.

This form will not be available until PAG-02 is reissued (the current estimate is Fall 2024).

If a permittee's project site is stabilized and complete, please submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) form to the Lawrence County Conservation District.

Permittees that do not have Notice of Termination (NOT) approval by December 7, 2024 will need to submit a renewal NOI. However, DEP and county conservation districts cannot accept renewal NOIs for PAG-02 until DEP publishes the final reissued PAG-02 General Permit.

The Lawrence County Conservation District will notify all permittees when the renewal NOI is available.

You may contact Erosion & Sedimentation Technician, Jillian Court at jcourt@lawrenceccd.org or 724-656-2474 with any questions.



Public Events - Spring of 2024

Each season the Conservation District participates in various local events with the goal of bringing awareness to the community about district programs, projects and opportunities. During the Spring of 2024, the District attended the Laurel Sportsmen's Night Out and Lawrence County Earth Day Celebration sparking great conversations with local residents.



2024 Envirothon County Competition

On April 30th, the District hosted the 2024 Lawrence County Envirothon. It was a close scoring competition. All teams did an amazing job.

Congratulations to **Laurel Team - "Cold Fish"** on winning First Place for the second year in a row!! They represented Lawrence County at the PA State Envirothon that took place in May.

Second Place was **Wilmington - "Wild Gentlemen"**. Third Place was **Laurel - "Jackson's Angels"**.

We are so thankful to Shenango Township Public Works for providing us the Park to host our event.

Pizza Joe's- Shenango always provides a terrific lunch and a great way to end the competition.



Trophy Case LLC. did an amazing job with the Eagle Trophies and individual medals. This year we welcomed Commissioners Dan Vogler and Chris Sainato to help present the awards.

Volunteers helping with test stations included: PA Game Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Lawrence/Mercer Recycling & Solid Waste Dept, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Behind the scenes of these awesome students are the Envirothon Advisors. They spend countless hours helping teams study and prepare for this competition. Thank you for your commitment: Laura Palmer-Laurel, Joanna McKelvey - Wilmington, and Ryan Miles-Union.

Sponsors

Michael Joseph State Farm Agency
Central Heating & Plumbing
S & S Processing Inc.
Living Treasures Animal Park
Tervo Masonry LLC.
North Memorial Animal Hospital
Riardo's Bar & Grill
Whiting Family Foods LLC.
Ben Franklin's Taproom & Grille
Preston Auto Group

Special thank you to our 2024 Sponsors that help make our Envirothon possible!



Wetland Identification Training at Bald Eagle State

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted a four-day **Basic Wetland Identification Workshop**. The workshop was held at the Bald Eagle State Park, Environmental Learning Center. Both Jillian Court, E&S Technician and Jeannie Shay, Watershed Specialist, attended this intensive training.



Each day was composed of a classroom lesson with the afternoon spent applying and practicing new knowledge in the field. The curriculum was designed to build on itself with each lesson. By the fourth day each team was given a plot of land to determine Wetland Identification utilizing the various skills taught.

The three basic field indicators taught to look for and identify are hydric plants, hydric soils and hydrology.

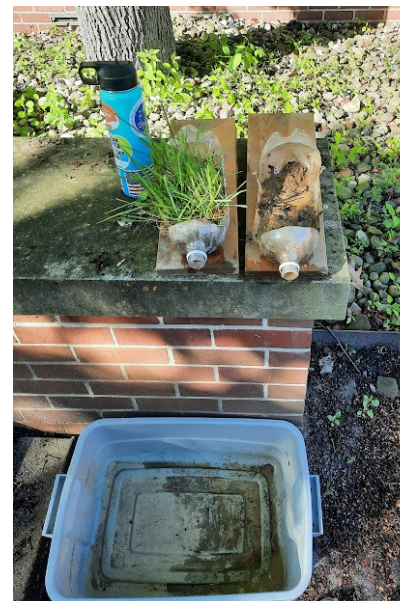
Naturally this training occurred during a significant spring heat wave. By the end of the first day Jillian and Jeannie were investing in camel-back water bags, UV t-shirts and lots of sunscreen!



Watershed and Nonpoint Source Pollution at Shenango High School

On May 10th, Watershed Specialist/Educator, Jeannie Shay, was brought in as a special guest educator to facilitate a Watershed and Nonpoint Source Pollution lesson to the seventh grade classes of Shenango High School. Mr. Flood, the 7th grade science teacher, had provided some preliminary lessons about streams to the students.

The lesson began with the basic definition of a watershed. Next Jeannie used the Dirt vs. Soil lesson to illustrate the importance of healthy streambanks (riparian buffer zones) and soil conservation and how both relate to water quality in a watershed. The final part of the lesson utilized the Enviroscape model. This model demonstrates how point and nonpoint source pollution contaminates our waterways. Students learned about actions they can take to reduce pollution in our watersheds.



2024 Advanced Nature Camp

During the last week of June, the District held its 2nd Annual Advanced Nature Camp. This particular camp was developed for campers aging out of Summer Nature Camp but still interested in learning.

Thirteen students, ages 12– 15, participated in this year's camp which was held over three days at three different locations. Day one was at Ewing Park in Ellwood where campers received a hands-on experience with reptiles.

The Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey provided education about venomous vs non-venomous snakes and gave an opportunity to hold a couple snakes. We met Wesley the ball python, Elsa the snow corn snake and Carbon the copperhead. In the afternoon, the campers learned all about water through the Armstrong Conservation District's "H2O! On the Go!" mobile environmental display. The interactive stations are modeled after the Carnegie Science Center's H2O! Exhibit. We ended the day with a presentation on soil properties and how important it is to care for our soils from Hannah Durkin, Soil Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Day two was held at Marti Park in New Wilmington. The morning began with some in-depth tree identification facilitated by Jessica Pierce, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Forester. She helped the group identify 11 different trees in our short hike. Next campers got a crash course on why Soil Conservation is so important. This tied into the next lesson about

Nonpoint Source Pollution and Stormwater runoff. The Enviroscape model pulled the lessons together as a visual example of how a watershed works. Our final event of the day was Creek Exploration. Campers searched the stream for macroinvertebrates, amphibians and even found a few fish. We talked about how our findings can determine the health of a waterway. It was decided that the amount of salamanders found was an indicator of a very healthy stream.

Day three was held at Shenango Park and it was perfect weather. Cicadas were the inspiration for both our camp shirts and our nature painting. Thank you to Casey K Creations for providing us with the inspiration painting and canvas with sketched templates.

Next Freddy Smith, District Technician, gave a lesson on mosquitos and best ways to manage populations. He showed campers how our Mosquito Technician uses different tools to count and treat mosquito populations. The final presenter of camp was Andrea Hopper, Butterfly Farmer at "Wish Upon a Butterfly".

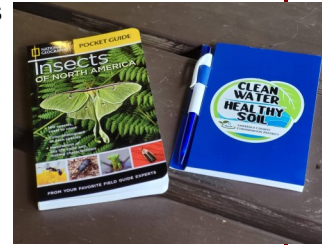
She taught campers about the basic difference between butterflies and moths, their anatomy, and different species. Campers got to feed Painted Ladies and Monarchs. To end the day, we all participated in a release of Painted Lady Butterflies.



DEP Environmental Education Grant Awarded

Winter of 2023, Watershed Specialist/Educator, Jeannie Shay, applied for an Environmental Education mini-grant through DEP to fund our Nature Camp programming. This spring we received notification that we were awarded the grant funding. This mini-grant will help support our 2024 Summer Nature Camp, 2024 Grown-up Nature Camp and the 2025 Advanced Nature Camp. This allows the District to bring in paid presenters and offer educational giveaways such as the “National Geographic Pocket Guide to Insects of North America” that all campers received during our recent Summer Nature Camp.

Curriculum for each nature camp will highlight climate change and the relationship to watershed health. Campers will become familiar with the basics of watersheds and water quality. Other topics will include history, geology, forestry, soil, aquatics, wildlife, energy conservation, and “green practices”. All lessons will be related back to how we all live downstream and how our actions can have both good and bad impacts on pollution and climate change.



2024 Summer Nature Camp

During the last week of July, the District hosted its **10th Annual Summer Nature Camp**. This week long environmental education filled event was one of our best years yet! Eighteen students from around the county participated. We could easily fill multiple pages with details and photos. Instead, we encourage you to check out our Facebook page where details of presenters, activities and participants from each day are highlighted with pictures.

Nature Camp Thank You!

We really appreciate all who have helped and continue to support our nature camp programming.

To the families of the campers: moms & dads, grandparents, neighbors and sitters, your help with transportation, packing lunches and towels is appreciated.

To this year's full-time volunteers - **Julie Telesz and Kelly Ostrowski**. Your support was crucial to the overall success of keeping all campers safe and cared for.



The entire Conservation District staff helps with planning, education, and facilitation.

A special thanks to **Freddy Smith, District Technician** for offering Mosquito and Tick education at both youth camps.

2024 Nature Camp Thank You continued

Thank you to all the supporting and cooperating agencies and business that helped support camp season this year.



Shenango Park and Township Supervisors
Sunny Day Treats LLC. Ice Cream Truck
Casey K. Creations
Shenango Pizza Joe's
R. Nesbit Portable Toilets

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors



**Special Thanks to all of our presenters during
Advanced Nature Camp**

Armstrong Conservation District - "H2O on the Go"
Mobile Education Van

Terra Haines & Phil Hong-Barco - Pennsylvania Amphibian
and Reptile Survey (PARS)

Hannah Durkin - NRCS, Soil Conservationist

Jessica Pierce - DCNR Forester

Jeannie Shay - Watershed Specialist/Educator

Freddy Smith - District Technician

Andrea Hopper - Wish Upon a Butterfly



**Special Thanks to all of our presenters during
Summer Nature Camp**

Melissa Goodwill - Tamarack Wildlife Center

Officer Gibbs - PA Game Commission

April Claus - Herpetology Naturalist

Armstrong Conservation District - "H2O on the Go"
Mobile Education Van

Jessica Pierce - DCNR Forester

Hannah Durkin - NRCS, Soil Conservationist

Bryan Crable - Professor of Microbiology

Freddy Smith - District Technician

Andrea Hooper - Wish Upon A Butterfly

Jeannie Shay - Watershed Specialist/Educator

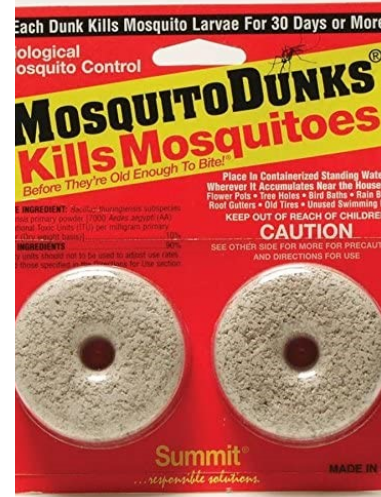
Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus in Lawrence County

Back in early July, the District was notified about the first mosquito samples that tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). We offered community outreach and reminded the local residents of the ways in which you can protect yourself from WNV exposure. Since then, the WNV Field Technician has been monitoring and reducing mosquito populations across Lawrence County. Typically, WNV positive samples ramp up in the months of August and September, before mosquito populations ramp down in the cooler fall weather. This year, across the country, WNV positive mosquito populations began to appear earlier in the year than usual. The CDC indicates the country has 103 cases of WNV in humans, 3 of which are in Pennsylvania. To date, since we began our monitoring season, we have detected 10 positive mosquito samples, which may indicate a surge of positives in August and September.

For comparison, we had a total of 16 positive pools for the entirety of 2023 season.

As a precaution, our WNV Field Technician has been aggressively identifying new mosquito habitats across the county and pre-treating potential breeding grounds as well as regions with high mosquito counts in an effort to keep populations minimized. We are also coordinating with our municipalities and with the Department of Environmental Protection to share information on where positive samples are being detected.

As a reminder, there is no vaccination for WNV, so the best way to prevent exposure is to prevent mosquito bites! Use bug sprays containing DEET, Picaridin (known as KBR and icaridin outside the US), IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), Para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. Be sure to also drain sources of standing water at home, where mosquitos may breed, and wear protective clothing that covers your skin in wet or mosquito heavy areas. We will continue to monitor and provide updates on mosquito and West Nile Virus activity.



Tick Talk

Ticks are abundant this year. They cannot jump nor fly, but rather climb to the very edge of grasses and weeds then grab onto animals and humans as they pass by.

Black-legged ticks, the primary carrier for Lyme Disease, lay their eggs in spring and then transition into a nymph stage the following spring. Nymphs can be as small as a poppy seed and sit dormant in leaf litter until the weather warms. They will crawl up tall grasses and quest, or hold out their front legs, to find their next host.



Nymphs are difficult to spot on animals and humans due to their size.

What you can do:

Wear long-sleeved shirts, closed-toe shoes, and long pants as much as possible when outdoors to help prevent exposure to ticks. It is also recommended you wear light colored clothing to make ticks easier to identify. If you are walking in wooded areas, try to stick to the middle of the trail, and avoid heavy vegetation where ticks may be present. Always check your hair, clothes and legs after brushing against vegetation.



After spending time outdoors, inspect yourself carefully for ticks. A lint roller can be useful in removal of unseen ticks from clothing.

Use insect repellent that has at least 20% DEET. Permethrin is a good choice as it is applied to clothing ahead of time and is good for up to six washes.





It's why I'm here.

Michael G. Joseph, Agent
1614 Highland Avenue
New Castle, PA, 16105
Bus: 724-652-9806
www.agentmichaeljoseph.com

Your home and car are more than just things. They're where you make your memories – and they deserve the right protection. I get it. It's why I'm here. **LET'S TALK TODAY.**



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
Bloomington, IL

1706811



Pizza Joe's
EST. 1990
2650 Ellwood Rd., New Castle, PA 16101
724-658-9090



BEN FRANKLIN'S
TAPROOM & GRILLE



Riardo's
BAR & GRILL



Whiting Family Foods



NORTH MEMORIAL
Animal Hospital



S&S
PROCESSING



Preston Auto Group



LAWRENCE COUNTY
SPORTSMEN'S ASS'N
1917 - 2017
100 YEARS
PENNA.

2024- Board of Directors

- Blane Sturgeon - Chairman
- Dan Vogler - Vice Chairman
- Phil Dean - Secretary
- Gary McConnell - Treasurer
- Don Hoye - Public Member
- Bruce Badger - Public Member
- Cliff Wallace - Ag Member
- Amanda McDowell - Associate Director

Conservation District Staff

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Mary Burris | District Manager |
| Jillian Court | E & S Technician |
| Mitchell Whiting | Agriculture Technician |
| Freddy Smith | DGLVR Technician |
| Jeannie Shay | Watershed Specialist/
Environmental Educator |



CENTRAL
Heating AND Plumbing



LIVING TREASURES
WILD ANIMAL PARK



TERVO MASONRY



kc
Casey K. Creations
CERAMICS AND PAINTING



LAWRENCE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT