

SPRING 2024

Beaver Tales



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MISSION STATEMENT: THE BEAVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROVIDES LEADERSHIP IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT THROUGH OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.



Caption Above: Students from Beaver County Christian School in Raccoon Creek during a field trip to District grounds





CREP: BCCD Annual Agricultural Gathering

BY: RICHARD VOYTKO

At the Conservation District Annual Agricultural Gathering, Amanda Rankin, the Farm Service Agency Executive Director provided a keynote address on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is a voluntary program to improve the quality of surface and ground water and improve wildlife habitat. This program is available to farmers in Beaver County. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have partnered to implement CREP. The goals of this program are to:

- Restore and protect wetlands
- Reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants entering the Ohio River and other water bodies
- Establish riparian habitat corridors next to streams and wetlands
- Establish permanent cover on highly erodible land to reduce erosion, enhance water quality, and create wildlife habitat
- Improve water quality to facilitate the health of fish and wildlife population

A variety of conservation practices can be implemented through CREP. Introduced and native grasses and legumes can be planted on highly erodible cropland. Riparian forest buffers can be established along waterways and wetlands can be restored. Associated best management practices including stream crossings, water facilities, and fencing may be implemented.

Enrollment in the CREP program is on a continuous basis. Land must meet certain eligibility requirements. Cropland must meet cropping history criteria. Certain marginal pastureland is also eligible for enrollment. There are significant financial incentives to place marginal cropland and pastureland into CREP. The Farm Service Agency office in Butler can provide detailed information and take applications. The office can be contacted at 724-482-4800 ext. 2.

CAPTION RIGHT: AT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AG GATHERING A VARIETY OF CURRENT TOPICS IMPORTANT TO FARMERS WERE DISCUSSED. TOPICS INCLUDED CREP, NUTRIENT AND MANURE MANAGEMENT, AND AG EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION PLANNING. PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION CREDITS WERE PROVIDED AS WELL.

CREP is a voluntary program to improve the quality of surface and groundwater and improve wildlife habitat.





AG CORNER



GREAT PLAINS 706NT NO-TILL DRILL

7FT PLANTING WIDTH, 10 FT OVERALL. TWO SEED BOXES, LARGE CAPACITY, 4-SPEED GEAR BOX. ADJUSTABLE DEPTH CONTROL. 1-10 ACRES: \$12.00/ACRE. 10+ ACRES: \$10.00/ACRE. MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$50.00. NO-TILL DRILL IS RENTED IN 3 DAY BLOCKS

STOLTZFUS REDHAWK 40 SPREADER

THIS IS 4 TON SPREADER (5 TON WITH INSTALLED EXTENSIONS). \$75.00 FOR FIRST 100 TONS AND \$50.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL 100 TONS. THE SPREADER IS RENTED IN 3-DAY BLOCKS.



TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE RENTAL OF EITHER PIECE OF EQUIPMENT CONTACT RICHARD VOYTKO; AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATIONIST AT 724-378-1701 EXT. 220



The mission of the Beaver County Conservation District is to provide leadership in natural resource management through outreach, education, and technical assistance. As part of the district, beaver county vector-borne disease control program focuses on mosquito and tick surveillance, vector management, and public outreach/education. while insects have benefits, such as being part of the food web and acting as pollinators for plants; ticks and mosquitoes can be a biting nuisance and more importantly transmit diseases that can make you sick. the beaver county vector-borne disease control program collects samples of tick and mosquito population from beaver county communities to assess disease transmission potential. funding for the collection, testing, and control of mosquito population is supported through a grant provided by the Pennsylvania department of environmental protection.

If you see Beaver county Conservation District Biologists this season dragging a white cloth at local parks or setting mosquito traps, we are collecting tick and mosquito specimens. while our organization actively monitors tick and mosquito populations, we strongly encourage all residents to reduce habitat areas on their properties. Mosquitos lay eggs in water, even containers as small as a bottle cap! It is important to drain unused containers like buckets, uncovered trash cans, and litter and debris that can hold stagnant water for longer periods of time. Specific areas around homes that can hold water are unused tires, flowerpots, birdbaths, pet bowls, outdoor children's toys, as well as gutters that may be clogged with organic debris and holding water.



Mosquitoes lay eggs in water, even containers as small as a bottle cap!





Another way to reduce habitat is creating a tick safe zone around your home. For example; remove leaf litter and clear grasses and brush from around your home and the edge of the lawn, and place mulch between lawns and wooded areas to keep ticks off the places you work and play the most.

As you enjoy the outdoors this summer, the center for disease control (CDC) and the beaver county vector-borne disease control program recommends the following steps to prevent bites from mosquitos and ticks:

- Insect repellent, when used properly, can keep mosquitos and ticks off your skin. we recommend using repellents that are approved by the environmental protection agency (EPA). Adults should help apply repellents to children under 12. some great resources for repellent information; www.epa.gov/insect-repellents
- www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/mosquito-bites/prevent-mosquito-bites.html
- wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks to keep bugs off your skin
- perform daily tick checks after being outdoors (even your own yard). Inspect all areas of your body carefully, including armpits, scalp, and behind the knees. Remove ticks immediately using fine-tipped tweezers.
- early morning, late afternoon, and early evening are peak times for mosquitos that spread West Nile Virus. it's especially important to use insect repellent if you're outdoors at these times.
- check for and repair holes in window and door screen on homes.

Avoiding ticks and mosquitos doesn't mean you must stay inside. Enjoy the outdoors, just remember to protect yourself (and your pets).

for more information about ticks, mosquitos, and West Nile Virus, visit our website

www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org or give us a call 724-378-1701 ext. 222.

Perform daily tick checks after being outdoors (even in your own yard). Inspect all areas of your body including armpits, scalp, and behind the knees.



How to remove a tick

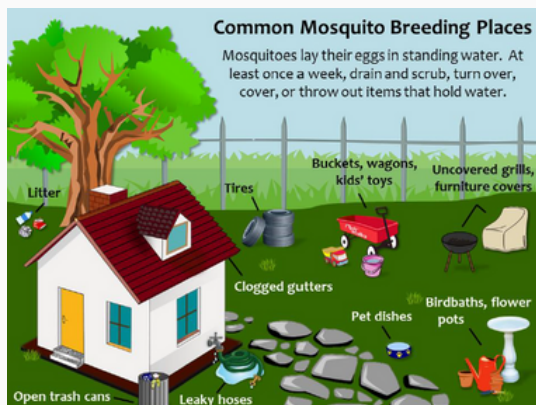
1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure to remove the tick. Avoid twisting or jerking.
3. Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, iodine scrub, or soap and water.

Notes:

Remove the tick as soon as possible. If tick mouthparts remain in the skin, leave them alone. In most cases, they will fall out in a few days.

Don't use nail polish, petroleum jelly, or a hot match to make the tick detach.

If you develop a fever or rash within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor. Be sure to tell the doctor about your recent bite, when the bite occurred, and where you most likely acquired the tick.





DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROAD PROGRAM

Spring is around the corner and the Beaver County Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program would like to remind municipalities that road maintenance is an important part of properly functioning catch basins and drainage. Leaves and debris can collect in drainage areas over the winter months. So, checking catch basins and drains on municipality roads and keeping them free of leaf litter and other debris helps the flow of water and the longevity of road surfaces. If you have completed a DGLVR project with us in the past, make sure that you are keeping up with maintenance on the road.

We would also like to let everyone know that an ESM training through Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies is scheduled in Beaver County on July 31st and August 1st, 2024, at the Beaver Station Cultural and Event Center in Beaver, PA 250 East End Ave, Beaver, PA 15009. To register please visit <https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/esm-course/in-person-esm-trainings/> ESM Certifications expire every 5 years. If you do not know when you need to update your certification please visit <https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/course-attendance-tracker/> to look it up or contact the district.

Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies states:

“ESM trainings are an intense two-day classroom session focused on providing the knowledge and tools necessary for road owners to maintain roads in a more cost-efficient and environmentally sensitive manner. ESM trainings are open to both new certifications and those seeking a recertification. They are available at no cost to representatives of any public agency involved in the Pennsylvania’s Dirt Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program. All other interested parties are invited to attend for a fee. Cutoff date for registration will be the Friday before the week of the training.”

For more information about the Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Program in Beaver County, give us a call 724-378-1701 or visit our website www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org

If you have completed at DGLVR project with us in the past, make sure that you are keeping up with maintenance on the road.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Education at the conservation district is in full swing for the year. We have attended several public events, and hosted multiple field trips to our wetlands already this spring. In March district staff attended the career fair at New Brighton high school where they had the opportunity to share with high school students what exactly a conservation district is, and what the Beaver County Conservation District does here in Beaver County. The following day the environmental educator took the Mobile Education Center (MEC) to New Brighton Elementary School for their annual STEAM Day event. At this event approximately 100 elementary students and 25 adults visited the MEC and learned about wetlands and the wildlife that lives in them. The MEC was set up with educational information about wetlands and what they are and displayed images of plants that are unique to wetlands.

The wildlife kit provided by the Pennsylvania Game Commission was also on display in MEC and the contents were used to teach children about the wildlife commonly found in Pennsylvania and in Beaver County. Students got the opportunity to interact with the environmental educator and pass around the wildlife pelts, silicone footprint replicas, animal skulls, and silicone animal poop. With each of these items students and their teachers got to learn about each individual animal and what makes them unique, where they live, what signs they leave behind, their importance to the ecosystem, and the importance of proper management of populations of each animal. The students and teachers all seemed to have a great time despite the cold, wind, and rain, and everyone left knowing a little bit more than when they came.



The MEC went to New Brighton Elementary School for their annual STEAM Day event. Approximately 100 students and 25 adults visited the MEC and learned about wetlands and the wildlife that lives in them.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONT.

On April 8th students from Geneva College came to the wetland for a field trip. They requested a lesson on wetlands in general as well as learning specifically about the wetlands on the Beaver County Conservation District grounds. The class was presented with a history of the wetlands and how they came to be. It was explained the history of why this location was chosen to be the location of the replaced wetlands from the airport project in the early 90s, who designed the wetlands, who constructed them, and what the purpose was. The class then took a guided hike of the grounds and got to see the parts of the wetland. We also taught them about the stream bank stabilization projects along Raccoon Creek on the grounds. The class was able to see examples of different kinds of stream bank stabilization structures and learn about how each one differs from the other. In addition to regular district programming the college students were in the wetland at the perfect time to view the solar eclipse. Students shared eclipse glasses as they took their guided hike around the wetlands and they stopped periodically to view the progress of the eclipse. It was a cool experience to be out hiking while the eclipse was going on. After all the rain and flooding the previous week, it was exciting to be able to view the entirety of the eclipse.

There are several field trips yet to come this spring and the conservation district will have the MEC at several community events through the summer. 2024 is gearing up to be an exciting year in education!



**IF YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION
WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A FIELD
TRIP OR GUIDED HIKE WITH US,
CONTACT BEAVER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT AT
724-378-1701 EXT 212.**





FOREST MANAGEMENT BENEFITS FARMERS/FOREST LANDOWNERS

Most farmers and many other landowners in Beaver County own forest land. This forest may be a half acre beyond the edge of the yard or 100 acres in the hollow below the corn field. These acres are important aesthetic, recreational, ecological and financial resources for landowners. Well managed, these acres can improve water quality, reduce soil erosion and provide habitat for a plethora of wildlife. These forest acres can also provide significant financial benefits to landowners.

A forest is an ecosystem with many parts. This ecosystem can be managed to provide benefits and meet the goals of the landowner. A forest management plan outlines how a forest will be managed to meet landowner goals. Goals may include improving recreation and hunting opportunities, providing financial benefits through timber harvest or improving forest health.

Many landowners want to harvest timber for financial benefit. Well planned timber harvests provide income today and enable the forest to grow valuable timber for the future. Do not conduct a diameter limit harvest also known as a select cut. This harvest technique does not incorporate sound forest management principles. It is harmful to forest health and long term economic sustainability. Do make sure you obtain bids and have a binding contract. Make sure your logger follows all erosion and sedimentation plan requirements. Timber harvests are required to have and follow a timber harvest erosion and sedimentation control plan. Permits may be required for stream crossings and wetland soil disturbance.

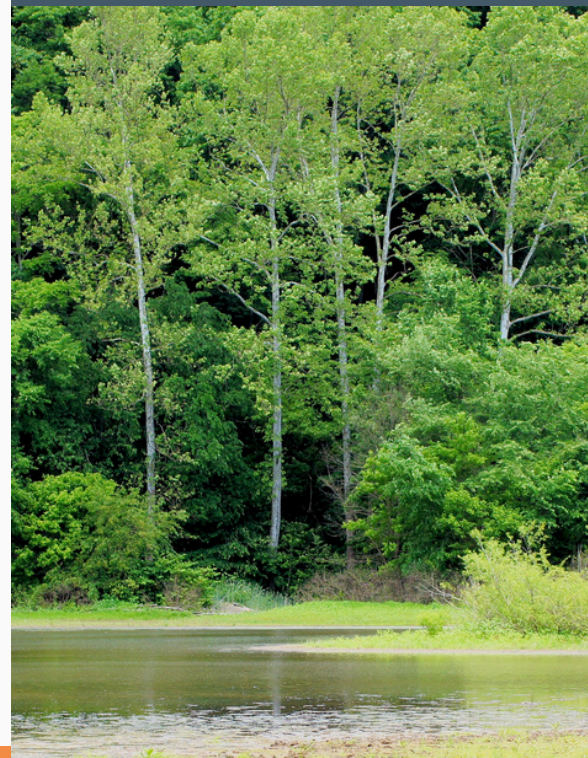
To improve forest health landowners can take action. Remove non-native invasive plants from your forest through an integrated pest management approach. In spring, non-native shrubs green up first and are easily visible in April. Removing non-native plants opens growing space for native plants and improves forest health. Plant native trees and shrubs along waterways to improve water quality.

An informed landowner is the forest's best protection. The district can help forest landowners develop plans and meet their forest management goals. Contact the district to get started on a healthier more productive forest!

CAPTION RIGHT: THE SYCAMORES ADJACENT TO THIS WETLAND PROVIDE AESTHETIC BEAUTY AND HELP PROTECT WATER QUALITY.



CAPTION ABOVE: THE RED OAK WHICH GREW HERE PROVIDED WILDLIFE HABITAT AND FOOD FOR MANY YEARS AND NOW PROVIDES INCOME TO THE LANDOWNER. NEW GROWTH OF NATIVE TREES CAN REPLACE THIS TREE IN A PROPERLY MANAGED FOREST.





WATERSHED AT BCCD

Spring is a busy time for the watershed program at Beaver County Conservation District. The onslaught of rain that spring brings usually draws people’s attention to problem areas on their properties. This spring has been no different, if nothing else, it has been even worse with massive amounts of rain and flooding hitting the county. The watershed specialist at the District has been providing technical assistance to many landowners around the county this spring, offering input on streambank stabilization, native vegetation planting, and general education on what can and cannot be done by landowners without a permit to stabilize their problem areas and improve their property. General education is a large part of what the watershed program does at the District. We strive to help landowners find a way to mitigate problem areas while staying legal.

In addition to providing do it yourself information to landowners, the watershed program also educates the public on opportunities to apply for Growing Greener Grants through the state. Growing Greener is the largest single investment of state funds in Pennsylvania’s history to address Pennsylvania’s critical environmental concerns of the 21st century. The funds in growing greener go towards projects that restore and protect watersheds, help with abandoned mine reclamation, and abandoned gas and oil well plugging projects. All with the bigger picture of improving Pennsylvania’s waterways big and small. As with every grant opportunity, there are things that make certain projects more favorable than others to the grants center that allocates the funds, and it is the job of the District watershed specialist to analyze the opportunities in the county and pick the ones that seem most suited to receive funding. They then must go through the rigorous grant writing and application process which is far more detailed than most people realize. It takes hours of research and writing to put together a solid Growing Greener Grant application for a project of choice. The watershed specialist must visit the site(s) and analyze the need for restoration work, take pictures and document the area for the application, research the watershed and what streams are directly and indirectly affected, then put all of that information together in a report to submit to the State. The application usually ends up being a multi-paged report that is similar to a book report. Even with all this work and effort put in, there is no guarantee that funding will be awarded to every project. Often times the District applies for multiple Growing Greener projects in hopes that at least one will be chose for funding.



WE STRIVE TO HELP LANDOWNERS FIND A WAY TO MITIGATE PROBLEM AREAS WHILE STAYING LEGAL.





WATERSHED AT BCCD CONT.

Once funding is announced and the District finds out which grants they received (a process that takes 6 months or more) it is time to start putting the projects into reality. This process involves working with the landowner (or agency, municipality, borough, etc) that owns the property the project is taking place on, a consultant, and a contractor. Permits must be applied for, bid packages sent out to contractors in the area, and site showings must happen before work can begin. Once those many steps are finished then the project can actually be started. The complexity of the project determines how much time each takes, some may go relatively quickly while others can be a very extensive process. At the end of it all, the goal is the same for everyone involved; to have better more natural waterways in our county that allow people to enjoy nature to its fullest.



AT THE END OF IT ALL,
THE GOAL IS THE SAME
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FULLEST





CHAPTER 102 PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETINGS

With the start of spring and construction season, it is important to review the permit conditions before starting construction. For all types of Chapter 102 permits (PAG-01, PAG-02, Individual) issued by the District, a pre-construction meeting is required (as stated in the permit conditions) before construction can commence on site.

As stated in the PAG-02 permit conditions: “For earth disturbance activities authorized by this General Permit, a pre-construction meeting is required, unless the permittee has been notified otherwise in writing by DEP or CCD.

The permittee shall invite DEP and CCD to attend the pre-construction meeting and provide at least seven (7) days’ notice of the pre-construction meeting to all invited attendees. Permittees, co-permittees, operators, and licensed professionals or designees responsible for earth disturbance activity, including implementation of E&S, PCSM, and PPC Plans and critical stages of implementation of the approved PCSM Plan, shall attend the pre-construction meeting.”

A pre-construction meeting provides an opportunity for all involved parties to discuss the project, the permit conditions, and if there are any necessary changes to be made to the approved plans. At the end of the day, it is the responsibility of the permittee and co-permittees to ensure that the approved plans and permit conditions are being met on site. Pre-construction meeting requests can be made via email. It may be deemed a violation if a pre-construction meeting is not requested or held.



A PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL INVOLVED PARTIES TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT, THE PERMIT CONDITIONS, AND IF THERE ARE ANY NECESSARY CHANGES TO BE MADE TO THE APPROVED PLANS.





Beaver County Ag-Land Preservation

WE ARE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING FARMERS, OFFERING GUIDANCE ON OUR PROGRAM, CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH RESOURCES, AND EMPOWERING THE SUCCESS OF LOCAL OPERATIONS.

2024 PROGRAM UPDATE

Our team is fully immersed in preparations for our program recertification this upcoming fall. As we dive into this process, we're excited to announce some enhancements to our format, aimed at making it even more user friendly. Our goal with these updates is to offer greater clarity on various aspects of our program. In the coming months, we will be presenting proposed changes to the State Preservation office, which will then undergo review by the State Board for final approval. Should these adjustments be accepted, we anticipate a significant boost in the efficiency of our program.

EASED FARM INSPECTION UPDATES

In the fall of 2023, our team inspected twenty-one eased farms. Program Staff and Board Members dedicated a week to engaging with our farmers, ensuring compliance with the program, and enhancing insights on programs tailored to benefit their operations. We're happy to announce that no violations were discovered during our inspections.



SHARED GOALS

We are dedicated to supporting farmers, offering guidance on our program, connecting our community with resources, and empowering the success of local operations. Together, we can cultivate a brighter future for agriculture.





2024 BEAVER COUNTY ENVIROTHON

On April 10, 2024 the Beaver County Conservation District hosted their annual Beaver County Envirothon at Brady's Run Lodge. There were 15 High school teams and 12 Jr High Teams that participated in this year's event. Total there was 155 participants. The Beaver County Conservation District would like to congratulate all the students who participated. Preparing for the Envirothon competition is no small feat and requires time and dedication. The District would also like to Thank all of the volunteers, team advisors, and participating agencies for their involvement in making the event a success! Lastly, the District would like to thank this year's education sponsors (Homer Nine & Sons, Stefanik's Next Generation Contracting, Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering INC, The EADS Group INC, Widmer Engineering INC, IBEW Local Union 712, J.P. Austin Associates INC, Range Resources, and Beaver County Radio) for their generous donations that allowed the event to be possible.

THE WINNERS OF THE 2024 JR. ENVIROTHON WERE:

- 1ST PLACE: RMS2 - RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2ND PLACE: HIMMELSTOSS HATERS - SOUTHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 3RD PLACE: THE POLLINATORS - SOUTHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 4TH PLACE: ENVIRO-GEEKS - AMBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 5TH PLACE: HELICOPTER TWENTY-TWO - SOUTHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE WINNERS OF THE 2024 SR. ENVIROTHON WERE:

- 1ST PLACE: GANG GREEN - RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2ND PLACE: KING CRABS - CENTRAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 3RD PLACE: GREEN BEANS - AMBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 4TH PLACE: TEAM CHEM G - CENTRAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 5TH PLACE: THE WILD KRATTS - CENTRAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Winners of the Sr. Envirothon (Team Gang Green from Riverside School District) will be going on to participate in the state competition on May 22, 2024. Again, congratulations to all the participants in this year's event, we hope to see many of you back again next year! Special congratulations to this year's winners, your hard work paid off. For more information about how your school team can participate in future Envirothon competitions contact the Beaver County Conservation District Environmental Educator at lindsey.shepler@bccdpa.us or by phone 724-378-1701 ext 212.



ABOVE: SR. ENVIROTHON 1ST PLACE TEAM; GANG GREEN



ABOVE: JR. ENVIROTHON 1ST PLACE TEAM; RMS2





2024 BCCD TIRE COLLECTION

The 2024 Beaver County Vector-Borne Management Program tire collection was held on Saturday April 13, 2024, at the Beaver County Conservation District. We would like to sincerely thank the citizens who participated in reducing mosquito habitat in Beaver County and making this year's event such a great success! We collected over 1,000 tires and eliminated prime breeding sites for mosquitoes within the county.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped sling tires this year. Without the help of volunteers, the tire collection would not be possible! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.



This year, we collaborated again with tire recycler Liberty Tire and filled a 53' semi-trailer with tires. Liberty Tire recycles the tires collected to become products such as athletic surfaces, equine infill and pavers, garden mulch, and construction materials.

BCCD's tire collection is partially funded through a grant with the PA DEP Vector-Borne Management Program which enables us to offer a discount to the citizens of Beaver County. Participants are able to remove unwanted tires from their properties and remove tires from the environment that are a breeding habitat for mosquitoes in our neighborhoods.

The event also offers education and public outreach on mosquitoes and ticks and the diseases they can carry. We distribute educational information regarding mosquitoes, West Nile Virus, and the benefits of personal protection during outdoor activities. We offer activity books for the kids, mosquito dunks to reduce mosquitoes in areas of standing water that cannot be removed, tick kits to carry while enjoying outdoor activities, and other information and helpful hints.

Thank you again to all who participated in this year's event! For more information on mosquitoes or West Nile Virus, please contact us at Beaver County Conservation District





2024 BCCD TREE SALE

THE BEAVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE SUCCESS OF ITS 2024 TREE SALE. THE SALE WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH AT THE BEAVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT PURCHASED TREES AND HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

WE SOLD 955 NATIVE TREES, 80 FRUIT TREES, 57 BAGS OF WILDFLOWER SEED MIX, 41 BAGS OF COMPOST AND 113 AZALEAS AND RHODODENDRONS. THE COMPOST IS PRODUCED AND PROVIDED BY THE BEAVER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT.

WE HOPE TO INCREASE OUR SALES NEXT YEAR TO PROMOTE AND FOSTER NATIVE TREE PLANTINGS THROUGHOUT BEAVER COUNTY!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR TREE SALE MAILING EMAIL LIST TO RECEIVE A TREE SALE ORDER FORM PLEASE EMAIL HANNAH.WARD@BCCDPA.US OR CALL 724-378-1701 EXT. 211



WE SOLD 955 NATIVE TREES, 80 FRUIT TREES, 57 BAGS OF WILDFLOWER SEED MIX, 41 BAGS OF COMPOST AND 113 AZALEAS AND RHODODENDRONS.





BCCD NEW STAFF

HI, MY NAME IS MORGAN LEE! I AM EAGER TO BEGIN MY CAREER AS THE NEW RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST AT BEAVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT. IN THIS ROLE, I WILL BE WORKING TO PROTECT WATER AND SOIL QUALITY WITHIN THE DISTRICT. I WANT TO HELP IMPROVE AND PRESERVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE COUNTY.

I WAS RAISED IN NORTH CAROLINA AND MOVED TO PENNSYLVANIA FOUR YEARS AGO WHERE I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SCENERY. I GRADUATED FROM PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT. SINCE GRADUATING, I HAVE HELPED REMOVE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES FROM THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS. MY LIFETIME GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO CONNECT BOTH PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ACHIEVING THAT GOAL WITH THIS NEW POSITION. MY HOBBIES INCLUDE HIKING, FISHING, READING, AND BEING CRAFTY. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY NEW TEAM AT THE BEAVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND HELPING BETTER THE COMMUNITY.



WELCOME
TO THE
TEAM,
MORGAN!!





BCCD NEW STAFF

MY NAME IS SHANNON PREININGER RITMILLER. I HAVE BEEN WALKING THE BCCD GROUNDS DAILY SINCE 2020 WITH MY BEST FURRY FRIENDS, MAX & JOSIE. A SIMPLE FACEBOOK POST THANKING WHOEVER CUT THE GRASS ON THE TRAILS INTRODUCED ME TO DISTRICT MANAGER JEFF PFLUG. I STARTED ATTENDING SOME OF THE BOARD MEETINGS AND BECAME VERY INTERESTED IN WHAT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT DOES. LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT 4 YEARS LATER I WOULD BECOME AN EMPLOYEE. AFTER 23 YEARS WORKING CRIMINAL COURT IN BEAVER, THE OPPORTUNITY CAME MY WAY TO CHANGE CAREERS.

I HAVE LIVED MOST OF MY LIFE IN INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP AND RAISED MY DAUGHTER HERE. I AM NOW A GRANDMOTHER TO MY 6 YEAR OLD GRANDDAUGHTER, ALLISON, WHO IS THE SUNSHINE OF MY LIFE.

IN MY FREE TIME I ENJOY HIKING, KAYAKING, RUNNING 5KS WITH SOME GIRLFRIENDS AND GOING TO THE GYM; BASICALLY DOING ANYTHING BUT SITTING STILL! I ALSO ENJOY WATCHING THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS & PENGUINS.

I AM EXCITED TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL TEAM!

WELCOME
TO THE
TEAM,
SHANNON!!





REMEMBERING WINTER

As spring seems to be in full swing now, we look forward to warm days and sunshine that summer will soon bring. While those days are welcome and anticipated, let's not forget the brief winter days that graced us over the past months. While many dread the dark, cold, dreary days of winter, there are some who enjoy those cold snaps and make the absolute most of what few we get in Beaver County anymore. During the one very cold streak we had in January one family came to the District grounds and enjoyed ice skating on the wetland. We at the District love seeing all the ways people use the wetlands and grounds to enjoy nature and all it provides! Enjoy these pictures of Logan, Elisabeth, Clay, Garret, and Court Fisher enjoying the winter wonderland.



Guidelines for Maintaining Streams in Your Community

DEP wants to help Pennsylvania communities complete all necessary stream work in a way that is environmentally-responsible, reduces the likelihood of future flooding problems, and complies with regulations. When in doubt, contact PA DEP for assistance before you start stream work projects.



Green Light—Go!

Proceed—These actions do not require DEP notification, pre-approval, or additional permits:

- Removing woody debris and manmade debris materials from the stream, banks, and riparian areas by hand or using handheld equipment
- Removing above items using heavy equipment from the bank; equipment should not enter the stream or dig into the streambed
- Removing gravel and debris in and close to bridges and culverts (Note: review permit conditions first)
- Crossing a flooded stream for emergency access to your property, if conditions are safe



Yellow Light—Slow Down!

Call DEP first—Notification, pre-approval, or emergency permits may be required:

- Rebuilding roads and bridges across streams
- Streambank stabilization projects, including riprap
- Removing gravel bars from the stream channel using heavy equipment
- Repairing a bridge or culvert, or removing one in danger of failure

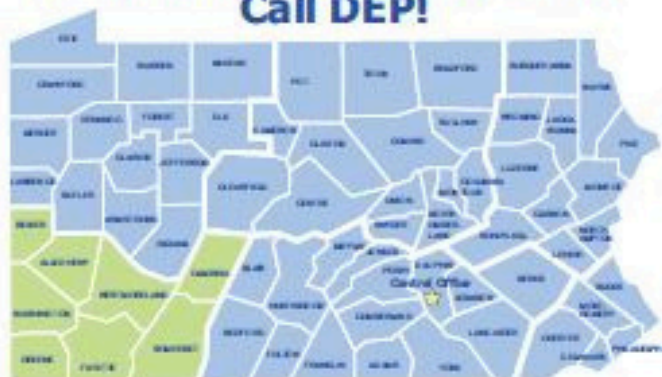


Red Light—Stop!

These actions require permits from DEP, and possibly from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or other agencies:

- Redirecting the flow of a stream by reshaping gravel bars, or moving gravel to the streambank
- Moving/relocating a stream
- Dredging or damming streams, or creating dikes
- Building a new bridge or culvert

**Remember: When in Doubt,
Call DEP!**



- Southwest (Pittsburgh) Regional Office
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Phone: (412) 442-4000



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Visit the DEP website at <http://www.dep.pa.gov> for more information about relevant permits and programs.



VOLUNTEER SPECIAL THANKS

THE BEAVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE HELPED ALL OUR EVENTS GO OFF SMOOTHLY THIS SPRING. IT COULD NOT BE DONE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP!

2024 ENVIROTHON VOLUNTEERS: SUSIE MOFFETT, SARAHL KRAMER, CHERYL SPEIR, LAURA BLOOD, DOMINIC D'EGIDIO, MIKE PRICE, COMMISSIONER MANNING
2024 TIRE COLLECTION DAY VOLUNTEERS: JESSE SHEPLER, IAN PFLUG, WAYNE (CHIP) MCCOY, DOMINIC D'EGIDIO, BRAD LEWIS, JACQUELYN KAGLE
2024 TREE SALE VOLUNTEERS: DOMINIC D'EGIDIO ANDL WAYNE (CHIP) MCCOY

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN FOR YOU HARD WORK AND DEDICATION!

THANK YOU
TO OUR
MANY
WONDERFUL
VOLUNTEERS!

