



Beaver Tales

Winter 2022

Beaver County Conservation District

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Mission Statement

The Beaver County Conservation District provides leadership in natural resource management through outreach, education, and technical assistance.

Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Planted at Zelenople Airport



In a cooperative effort the Beaver County Conservation District and the Zelenople Airport Authority combined forces to improve streams affected by the airport runway project. Although streams were rerouted for the runway project, the future is bright for these streams!

Hundreds of native trees and shrubs were planted along streams affected by the runway project in the fall of 2021. This was made possible by a \$26,000 grant received by the Conservation District! If you pass by the airport project you will see hundreds of tubes protecting newly planted trees. In just a few years the trees will grow out of their protective tubes and reach for the sun. Their roots will grow and hold the soil. The growing trees will provide habitat for pollinators, birds, and all matter of living creatures.

Streams function better ecologically when forests grow adjacent to them. Trees provide erosion control, improved water quality, and wildlife habitat to name just a few of the many ecological benefits.

Not only will the ecology of the streams benefit, but since these are multifunctional riparian forest buffers, there will be additional benefits. As the trees and shrubs mature, they will provide food and fiber for people. Produce such as persimmons and elderberries can be harvested. Willow may be harvested for floral arrangements or other uses. Environmental education will be a focus of these new multifunctional riparian forest buffers.

These multi-functional riparian forest buffers are one example of the Beaver County Conservation District working with a wide variety of partners to improve the natural resources of the county!

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

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Improving Forage Management on Beaver County Farms

Check out our latest YouTube video. It teaches about improving forage management and the factors such as soil fertility and weed management that might cause issues.

It can be found on the Beaver County Conservation District YouTube channel, along with other great educational videos.



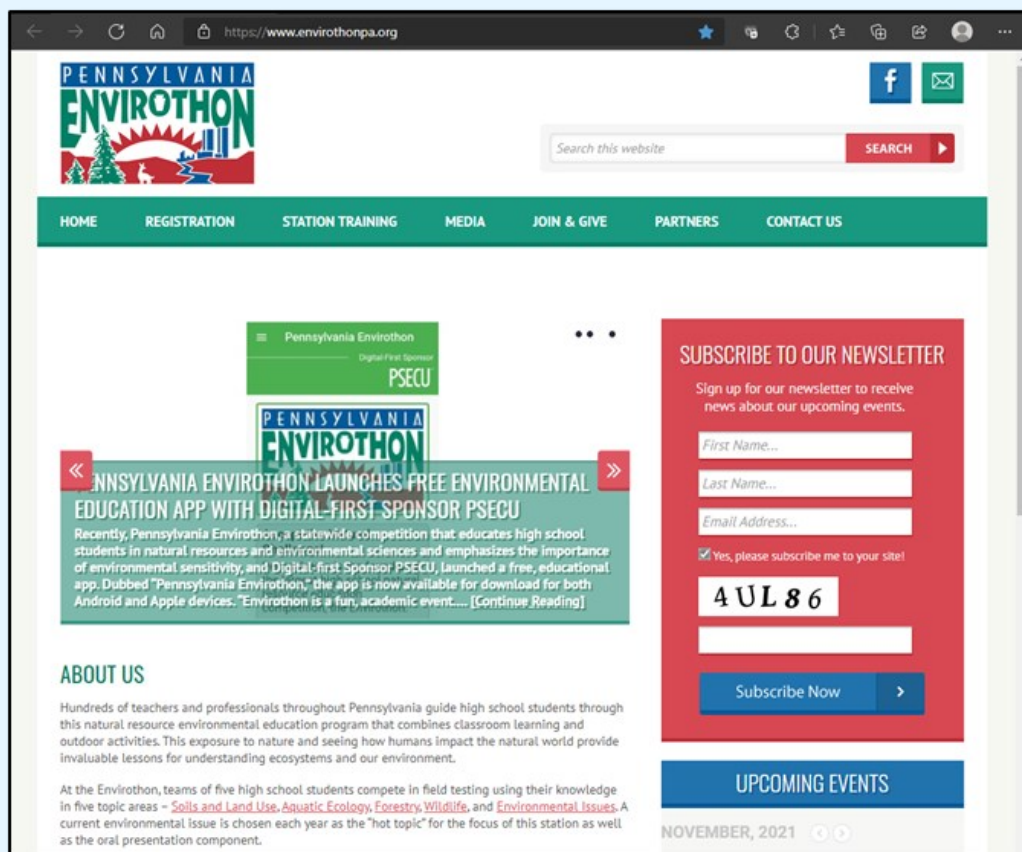
All farms tilling greater than 5,000 sq. ft. must have an erosion and sedimentation plan (Conservation Plan). All farming operations that land apply manure need to develop and implement a manure management plan. Call the Conservation District to get detailed information and support developing your plans.

Envirothon 2022: Back to In-Person Competition

Envirothon is an annual competition which tests the knowledge of high school students on various environmental topics. Counties in Pennsylvania hold local competitions in early-to-mid spring and then send their winning teams to the state level competition in May. The winners of the state competition then move on to the international Envirothon! Topics of the competition include aquatics, wildlife, soils, forestry, and a current issue. Current issues are chosen each year by the state or province which is hosting the international competition. (Ohio is hosting in 2022, and New Brunswick is hosting in 2023!) Due to Covid, the 2020 Envirothon was cancelled, and the 2021 Envirothon was held virtually. But the 2022 Envirothon will return to in-person, hands-on competition between teams!

County Conservation Districts host their local Envirothon, but hosting goes beyond holding the competition itself. We also provide supplemental study resources which teachers/Envirothon coaches can borrow, and we will hold review sessions of materials if there is interest from the participating schools. Downloadable study materials can be found on the PA Envirothon website under the station training header: <https://www.envirothonpa.org/> The 2022 current issue will be "Waste to Resources."

Announcement of the 2022 Beaver County Envirothon and team registration forms will be sent to local schools and/or Envirothon coaches. Anyone with questions about the competition or available study materials can contact Heather Humbert, Environmental Educator, at heather.humbert@bccdpa.us.





Winter: The time for freezing temperatures, snow, and mosquitos???

Winter is a great time of year to assess your property for potential mosquito breeding sites. The absence of high grass and vegetation makes it easier to see debris, artificial containers, and other items that may hold stagnant water. And with the vegetation at a minimum, it is easier to access these areas to remove any “skeeter breeders” before next spring and summer.

Some examples of potential mosquito breeding sites are...



Tarps



Tires



Buckets

It is a good time to winterize and store items such as boats, birdbaths, flowerpots, and other items that can hold water.

Also, in the winter months it is easier to observe any low spots or areas where water may pond and lay for extended periods of time and could become a mosquito breeding site next spring. These areas can be graded or drained to remove the problem area.

A little prevention in the winter months can help reduce those pesky mosquitoes from becoming a problem next spring, have a safe and happy winter!



Welcome Rachel Galloway!

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My name is Rachel Galloway. I am very excited to be joining the Beaver County Conservation District as Resource Conservationist. In this role I will be reviewing construction plans, permit applications, and conducting site inspections of earthmoving activities to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. I am a current Beaver County resident and grew up in the area. In 2018, I graduated from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelors of Science degree in Geography with a focus in Environmental Studies and Sustainability. In addition, I earned a certification in Geographic Information Science. Growing up in the area, I have fond memories of attending field trips at the Beaver County Conservation District and in 2018 I had the opportunity to attend a Wetland Delineation certification course held at the property. When not at work, I enjoy hiking, reading, and spending time with my dogs and husband.

In my previous positions I have had the opportunity to gain experience on a variety of topics such as environmental permitting, wetland delineations, stream evaluations, macroinvertebrate collection, and water sampling. I am looking forward to utilizing my knowledge and experience to protect the natural resources in my community.



Ag Corner

Farm Equipment for Rent

8' Truax FLEXII 812RD No-Till Drill

The purpose of the drill rental program is to encourage and assist farmers in implementing no-till crop production systems, including cover crops, as well as promote good pasture/forage management. Reducing tillage can improve soil health and farm economics. Renting this drill provides farmers with a low-cost opportunity to try no-till planting and determine if it can be an asset to their farm management.



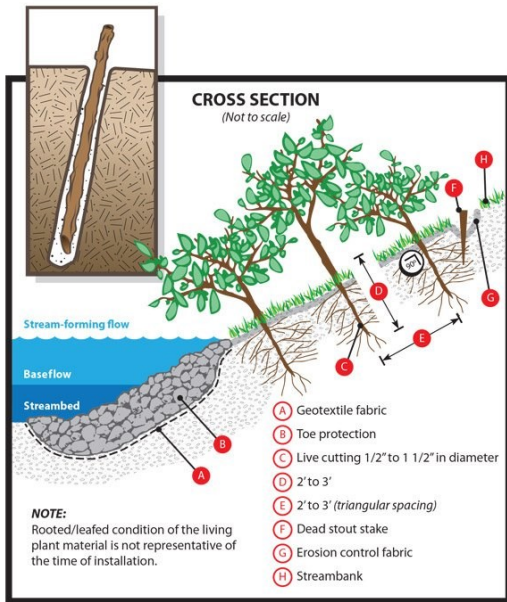
Stoltzfus Redhawk 40 Spreader

This is a 4 ton spreader (5 ton with installed extensions). It can be rented for \$6.00 per ton to spread your ag lime. Lime is used to adjust the pH. of your soil. Proper pH. can improve soil fertility and provide optimum yields. If you conduct soil testing and apply lime to soil test recommendations the cost can be reduced to \$5.00 per ton.



Growing Greener Grant

Live Stake Planting



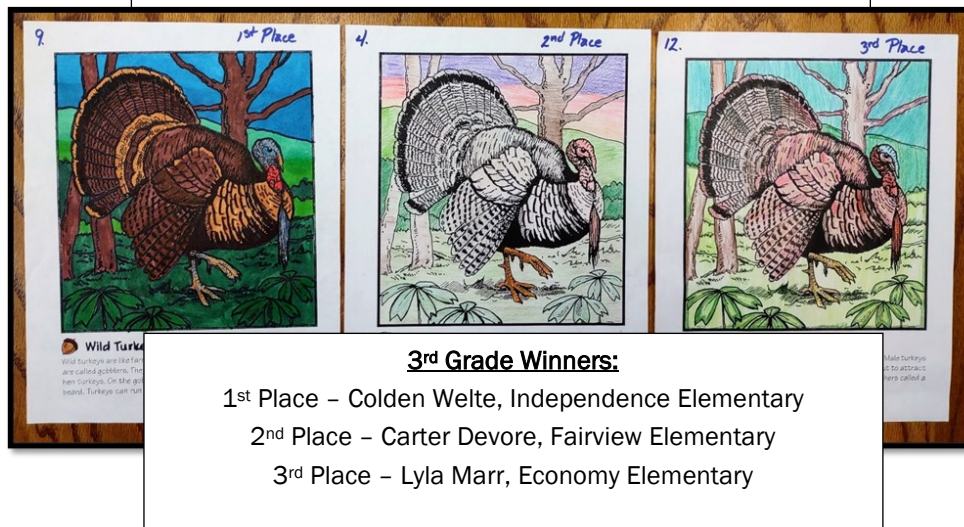
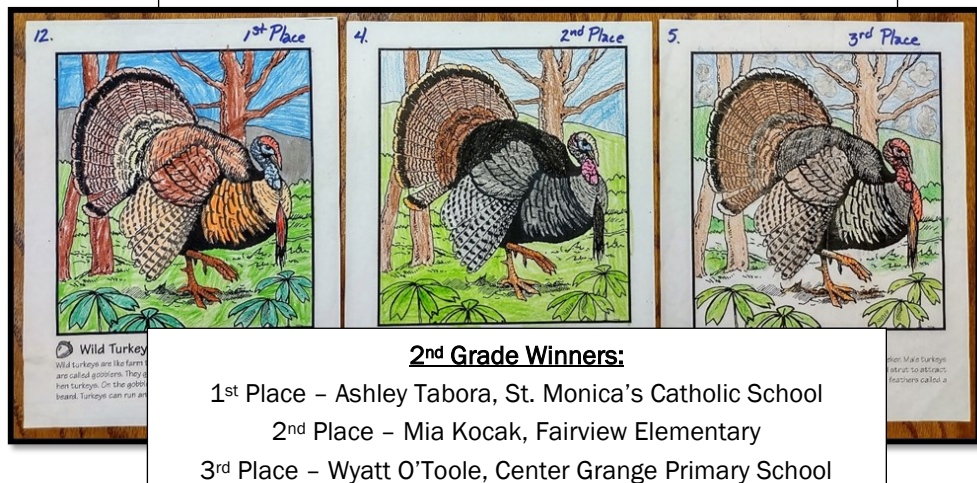
BCCD staff planted 400 live stakes along Raccoon Creek! This planting was part of the Raccoon Creek Streambank Growing Greener Grant project. This grant was awarded to the district in 2019 for \$26,695. The purpose of this project was to reduce erosion, reduce sedimentation, provide aquatic habitat, and improve water quality by restoring bank stability. Along with the live stake planting, the project installed natural stream channel design structures and habitat friendly in-stream structures.

The live stakes that were planted consisted of black willow (*Salix nigra*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*). These species are native to the area which is extremely beneficial for preserving Pennsylvania's biodiversity. We hope to see the live stakes growing in the spring!



2021 Coloring Contest Winners!

Every fall the Conservation District hosts a wildlife-themed coloring contest for elementary students in grades 1 – 3. This year's animal was the wild turkey, and we received over 1,000 entries from 17 different elementary schools. Once all the entries were received, District staff picked the top 12 finalists for each grade. Then both staff and our Board of Directors voted on the winners by ballot on the day of the Conservation District's November board meeting. Prizes were mailed to the schools to be distributed to the winners by their teachers.



GP-7: Minor Road Crossings

Many people have a stream or a wetland on their property that, at one point or another, they may need to cross. To do so, a person may need to install a culvert or bridge to form a permanent crossing; this is where a permit will likely come into play. In a lot of cases, the correct permit will be what is called a GP-7: Minor Road Crossings Chapter 105 permit, which can be issued by the Beaver County Conservation District; however, not every situation is one size fits all. Below are some of the most common areas and activities where this General Permit would not apply, and a different permit may be needed.

1. Is the drainage area at the crossing location greater than 1.0 square mile? If this is the case, then the GP-7 would not apply, and a permit would need to be obtained through PA DEP.
2. If crossing a wetland, the length of the crossing must be less than 100 feet and the total wetland area disturbed less than 0.1 acre. If the length or disturbance are larger than these measurements, then a different permit would be needed through PA DEP.
3. The stream or waterbody's Chapter 93 designation is EV, or Exceptional Value.
4. Stocked trout streams from March 1 through June 15, and wild trout streams from October 1 through December 31.

There are additional areas and activities where this GP-7 would not apply, which can be viewed at <http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/GetFolder?FolderID=4074> under the "Minor Road Crossings Instructions" section. If, after reviewing these restricted areas and activities, you find that your project qualifies for a GP-7, there are still some conditions which must be met in the design and installation of the crossing. Provided below are just a few examples of the Conditions which must be met under this permit.

1. Any culvert installed in a stream should be aligned with the stream flow. This means that a stream should not be straightened to install a culvert, but rather, the location of the culvert should be an area of the stream where it can be placed without making changes to the bank shape.
2. Culverts shall be installed with the invert 6 inches below the natural stream bed. A problem that I often see in the field is that the culvert is installed without considering the 6 inches below streambed Condition. This causes the culvert to sit too high, obstructing the passage of aquatic life, especially during times of low flow. This can have a major impact on a stream's ecosystem.
3. A culvert should only be long enough to provide sufficient road width with stable side slopes. This reduces the risk of unnecessary impacts to the stream.

For more Conditions, please refer to the link above. As always, please feel free to contact the District with any questions.



EROSION CONTROL WORKSHOP 2022

Presented by the Conservation Districts of:
ALLEGHENY, BUTLER, BEAVER, and WASHINGTON Counties



Six Webinar Series

**When: Tuesdays & Thursdays
February 1st—17th
Starting at 1:00PM**

To Register, visit:

<https://www.conservationcenter.org/events/erosion-control-workshop-2022>

**COMMON BMP
ISSUES AND HOW
TO FIX THEM**

Tues, Feb. 1st

**NPDES CONSTRUCTION
STORMWATER:
PLANNING TO
COMPLETION**

Thurs, Feb. 3rd

**CITY OF PITTSBURGH:
STORMWATER CODE
UPDATE**

Tues, Feb. 8th

**CHAPTER 105
AND
PASPGP-6**

Thurs, Feb. 10th

**MAJOR PROJECT
OVERVIEW:
MON FAYETTE
EXPRESSWAY**

Tues, Feb. 15th

**PADEP
REGULATORY
UPDATES**

Thurs, Feb 17th