



Beaver Tales

Summer 2020

Beaver County Conservation District

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Our Mission

The Beaver County Conservation Districts mission is to preserve natural resources and to protect/promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Beaver County. Also to provide technical services to improve resource management for the benefit of farmers and urban residents.

Welcome our New District Manager

Hi! I am Jeff Pflug the new District Manager. I am honored and excited to have been offered the manager's position and look forward to an exciting time for the district and for my future with the district. I am committed to seeing the district grow in all aspects of its operation, from 102 and 105, to watershed, to agriculture, to education, and to the wonders that surround us at our Educational Center. My main goal is simply to coach our staff through teamwork, respect and the practice of 100 percent ownership in our responsibilities. We have an excellent staff that will assure cost reduction and productivity in our daily operations in order to invest in our future over multiple projects.



Just a bit about me. I grew up on my family's dairy farm in Franklin Township that we have owned since 1865. I graduated from Penn State Beaver with an Associates in Mechanical Engineering Technology. At the age of 25 my father passed away with colon cancer. At that time I took over the reins of the operation by changing it from a dairy operation to raising dairy heifers, and dairy beef. With the support and help of my family and friends, I was able to continue my full-time job at c3controls in Beaver. I worked for c3controls for 26 years, however always continuing to farm. Through the years I have been fortunate enough to experiment and institute various BMPs (best management practices) such as no-till, heavy use areas, spring developments, and stackable manure storage.

Whereas, so far this spring has been damp and cold (on top of having to deal with the pandemic), I wish everyone a productive and safe season. I am looking forward to sunnier skies and greener pastures.

Best regards,
Jeff Pflug

Beaver County Conservation District

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Jeff Pflug, District Manager
Georgia Miller, Finance Administrator
Hannah Schrauder, Watershed Specialist
Jen Linebaugh, Resource Conservationist
Heather Humbert, Environmental Educator
Richard Voytko, Agricultural Conservationist
Phoebe Prince, West Nile Virus Technician

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Monday - Friday

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beavercouty.conservationsdistrict@bccdpa.us



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Annual Tree Sale Success!

The Beaver County Conservation District is pleased to announce the success of its 2020 Tree Seedling and Plant Sale. The sale was held on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at the Beaver County Conservation District in Independence Township. Proceeds from the sale will fund environmental education programs.

This year, due to COVID-19, the tree sale was run as a drive through pick up and there was no extra stock. Even with these unexpected changes there was still a wonderful turn out. We sold approximately 1,240 trees total! We hope next year that number will increase and that more people will buy from our tree sale!

If you would like to be added to our tree sale mailing list to receive a 2021 tree sale order form, please email: hannah.schrauder@bccdpa.us Please include your name and mailing address or call (724) 378-1701.



Cover Crops are a Win Win Win

Cover crops are a win win win for water quality, soil erosion control and soil health! When a farm has healthy soils, the farm can thrive. Cover crops are a tool in a farmer's toolbox to improve the farm operation.

What is a cover crop? A cover crop is a crop planted in a field when no cash crop is growing.

A basic cover crop of rye can be planted in the fall to protect soils over the winter. The rye reduces erosion, increases organic matter and retains nutrients in the field. This in turn protects water quality in nearby streams. Cover crops can include mixes of species providing additional benefits to the farm. Some cover crops can be grazed by livestock before the next cash crop. Even your home vegetable garden can benefit from a cover crop.

Plan now for a cover crop this fall. Try cover crops on a few acres, then expand the acres covered in future years. The district is available to assist you with cover crop planning to provide multiple benefits to your operation.



Cover crops planted in fall reduce erosion, retain nutrients in the soil and improve soil health over the winter.

Ag Corner

What has the district done for farmers lately?

Throughout the year the district supports farmers and other landowners with a wide range of agricultural-related inquiries. Just in the past few months a host of questions were posed to the district. Here are just 10 examples of how the district assisted:

1. Weed identification in pastures
2. Suspected Spotted Lanternfly insect identification
3. Assistance with soil testing
4. Ag Erosion and Sedimentation planning
5. Manure Management Plan Writing guidance
6. Pond design and permitting information
7. Rented our no-till drill to support conservation tillage
8. Land Management Planning for a local nature preserve
9. Timely nutrient management information specific to dairy farms
10. Information regarding tree diseases.

Whatever challenges or questions you have regarding agriculture, the district is here to help. If we do not have the answer, we work with a host of other related organizations which may have the information you need.

No-till Drill For Rent

The Beaver County Conservation District owns an 8' Truax FLEXII 812RD No-Till drill that is available for rent to interested farmers in Beaver County. 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 management. Reducing tillage can improve soil health and improve 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 farm management. More information is available on our website or you can contact the district's agricultural technician.

Welcome our New Resource Conservationist!

Hello! My name is Jen Linebaugh, and I am excited to join the Beaver County Conservation District as its new Resource Conservationist! It is my passion, and job, to preserve the land and water resources which we all rely on in some way, be it recreational use, natural beauty, or life sustaining purposes. As the District's Resource Conservationist, I will be accomplishing this by assessing field conditions and reviewing construction plans and permits.

I graduated from Youngstown State University in 2015, where I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science, with a minor in Biology. Some of the positions I have held prior to working with the district include working as an Aquatic Macroinvertebrate

Monitoring Intern with the NPS, a Park Ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Watershed Restoration Fellow with Allegheny County Conservation District, and a Chemist in an Environmental Laboratory. When not at work, I can likely be found hiking, rock climbing, or playing my violin. I look forward to working with the Beaver County community, and I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions!



Welcome our New West Nile Virus Technician!



Hi! My name is Phoebe Prince and I'm the West Nile Technician here at the Beaver County Conservation District. I am a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania and life long resident of Beaver County. I love the outdoors and all nature has to offer and I'm happy to have the opportunity to work with the Conservation District. I am excited to share my knowledge and skills to help protect the health and welfare of the residents of Beaver County from mosquitoes. Mosquitoes "suck" but if we all work together to reduce the breeding areas by emptying stagnant water from buckets, bird baths, toys, and other outside containers, we can reduce the bite!

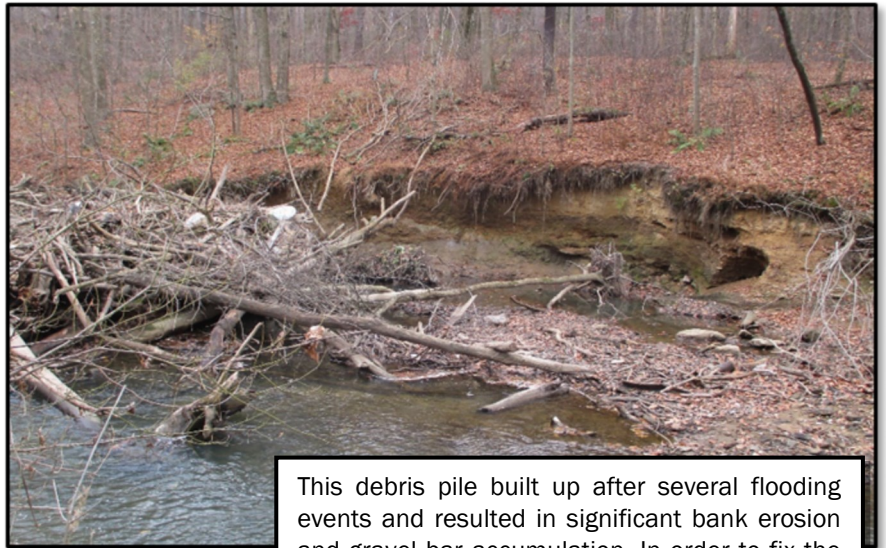
Streams: What Work Needs a Permit and What Work Does Not?

Streams are an important and protected resource within Pennsylvania. We have more miles of streams and rivers in the Commonwealth than any other state in the nation except for Alaska. This means many residents of Beaver County have a stream on or near their property, and if you want to do any work in or around these streams, you may need a General Permit from the Department of Environmental Protection or the County Conservation District.

There are several types of stream-work which do not require permits. The first type of work includes removing litter and manmade materials from a stream, removing woody debris such as branches by hand or with a chainsaw, and winching larger debris such as logs out of the stream from the bank. These activities help to maintain the established flow path of the water through the stream. The second type of work includes maintaining a riparian buffer. These buffers are areas of dense, usually woody vegetation which helps hold the streambank in place. Maintenance can include removal of non-native species (remember to leave the stumps where possible) and planting native species such as black willow, buttonbush, and native dogwoods. Additional work which can be done without a permit includes cleaning out culverts and adopting stormwater management strategies to prevent erosion.

Projects which may require a permit include work on bridges or culverts which involves some sort of construction. Some repairs and maintenance activities are covered under permit conditions which continue after installation of these bridges or culverts, but some work requires new permitting if it involves modifications to the structures. Other projects, such as bank stabilization or road repair after a flood event, may qualify for and receive an emergency permit. Emergency permits are issued by DEP only. If you have questions about whether or not your project requires District approval or a full-scale permit, don't hesitate to ask us. We may even be able to give you tips and ideas to help you achieve greater results!

Projects which will require a permit include redirecting a stream's flow, using construction materials or rock to stop bank erosion, dredging a stream, creating a dam, or building a new bridge or culvert. All of these activities can directly impact the water, whether by removing some of the flow, impeding the flow, or creating a potential chokepoint which can result in flood damage in the future. Water is a public resource which belongs to all peoples of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is important to protect it from contamination and misuse so that everyone can enjoy clean water and healthy streams.




This debris pile built up after several flooding events and resulted in significant bank erosion and gravel bar accumulation. In order to fix the resulting problems, a permit is needed.

Heather Humbert
Resource Conservationist – Interim
Environmental Educator


Fight West Nile Virus

Tips to


DUMP IT



TREAT IT




DRAIN IT




West Nile Virus (WNV) is a disease spread by mosquitoes, which bite birds infected with WNV, then bite people and transmit the disease. One in five people bitten by an infected mosquito will get flu like symptoms. A very small percentage of people will get West Nile Encephalitis, which can cause serious illness and very rarely even death. Reduce the chance of being bitten by a mosquito infected with WNV by eliminating standing water around the home. Here's how to help fight WNV at your house:


DUMP IT—Dump water from buckets, flower pots, kiddie pools, old tires and other containers. Even a cupful of water in one of these containers can breed thousands of mosquitoes.




DRAIN IT—Trash cans and other containers that are left outside may hold water. Drill small holes in the bottom of these containers to let water drain out.



TREAT IT—Birdbaths, ponds, ditches, and low spots where standing water can't be removed can be treated with *Bi* products available at outdoor, lawn and garden, home improvement, and other retail stores. *Bi* is safe for kids, pets, and plants.



West Nile Virus



Summer is almost here, and it is time to get outdoors and enjoy nature. It's also time for mosquitoes! In order to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus, there are some things we can all do to help eliminate breeding areas for mosquitoes and ways to protect ourselves and our loved ones. There are many common areas mosquitoes can breed that we might not realize where water can collect and lay for periods of time. Such things as tarps, uncovered garbage cans, birdbaths, children's toys, buckets, old tires, wheelbarrows and other containers that hold water are possible spots. These containers should be checked and emptied and birdbaths refilled with fresh water. Other actions we can take to protect ourselves include using insect repellent during outside activities and wearing light-colored long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and shoes with socks if outside for extended periods of time. Mosquitoes are most active during dawn and dusk but some species are still active during the day. Window and door screens should be checked to ensure they are secure and without rips or tears where mosquitoes could gain entry. With these tips, we can all have a more enjoyable outdoor experience. Stay safe and have a great summer!

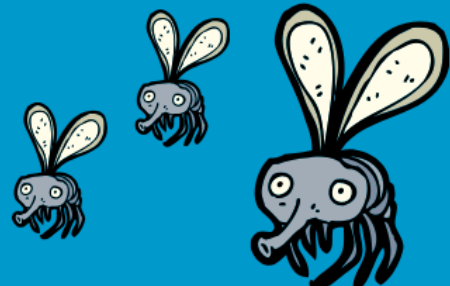
To date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes.


The new coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.

To protect yourself, clean your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Also, avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing and sneezing.

FACT:

The new coronavirus CANNOT be transmitted through mosquito bites





World Health Organization

#Coronavirus **#COVID19**



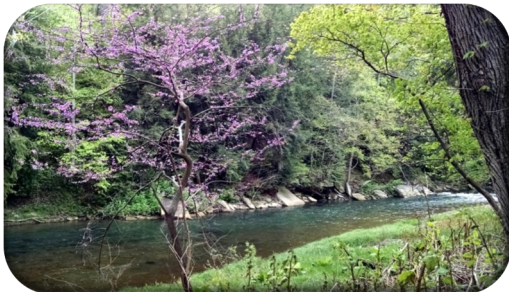
Outdoor Etiquette for the Pandemic and Beyond

As spring turns to summer, we feel the pull of the outdoors, even more than ever, as a release from the stress of lockdown isolation and boredom. Nature is a wonderful antidote for so much that ails us now.

Nature is enduring and resilient. But nature is struggling too. Parks all over the world are taking a literal pounding from the trampling feet of so many visitors. Please keep your personal impact in mind by following these common-sense guidelines for enjoying time outdoors.

Practice “no trace” when you visit any public park, nature preserve or outdoor area. Take only pictures; leave only footprints. Carry out what you carry in. Please do not litter. It is your responsibility to clean up after yourself – always and everywhere. If you want to clean up after others, please do it safely. Wear gloves, be very careful handling trash, and dispose of it properly. Wash or sanitize your hands afterward. Thank you!

Please leave the scenery the way you found it. Do not break tree branches, dig up plants or disturb any plant material, especially mushrooms. Please do not use chain saws, string trimmers or any tools to alter the landscape. Be respectful of wildlife and of other people while you are outdoors, and be kind to the outdoors too. It is there for all to enjoy. Take good care of nature, and nature will take care of you!



Perfect Peace: redbud in bloom along Raccoon Creek at Rocky Bend Nature Preserve



Drama underfoot at Rocky Bend Nature Preserve: a garter snake slowly swallows a toad

Findlay Tire Collection Rescheduled

Need to get rid of worn out tires or wheels from your car or light truck? The Findlay Township Community Tire Collection is rescheduled for Saturday, June 20th from 9 AM to 12 noon at the Public Works Complex, 1058 Clinton Road, Clinton PA 15026. The event is open to anyone. We ask that you observe social distancing. Individuals and small businesses are welcome. There is no limit to the number of tires you may bring. We accept checks with ID. **No credit cards.** Proceeds benefit Independence Conservancy's stewardship of the Raccoon Creek Watershed.

Tire/Wheel Size:

Your cost to dispose:

Up to 18" off rim	\$3 each
Up to 18" on rim	\$5 each
Over 18" off rim (SUV & light truck)	\$5 each
Tractor trailer up to 22.5" (no rims accepted)	\$25 each
Farm tractor rear, up to 75 lbs.	\$25 each
Farm tractor rear, 75 to 150 lbs.	\$40 each
Farm tractor rear, over 150 lbs.	\$75 each