



Potter County Conservation District



Annual Report 2016

Table of Contents

2016 Annual Report

Directors and Staff	3
New Faces 2016	4
No-till Program	4-5
Nutrient Management & ACT	6-7
Chesapeake Bay Program	8
Farmland Preservation	9
DGR/LVR	10-11
Education	14
Stream Projects	15-16
Envirothon	17
PEC Cleanups	19
102 & 105 Activities	19-21
2016 Funding Breakdown	22-23

Our History

The **Potter County Conservation District** was organized on November 28, 1945 as the state's first such entity. Much of the effectiveness of conservation districts is due to their ability to successfully work with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. Conservation Districts are equally comfortable being environmental mediators and peacemakers as they are environmental planners and program originators.

Our Vision

The Potter County Conservation District is dedicated to establishing innovative conservation practices with leadership and education through partnership with the community we serve. It is our goal to foster stewardship of our natural resources by inspiring current and future generations to preserve the legacy of conservation.

Our Mission

The Potter County Conservation District will provide leadership to ensure the protection of the natural resources of Potter County through project implementation, educational programs, technical assistance, and by fostering public and private partnerships.

New Faces 2016

Jared Dickerson was hired as the new Watershed/Nutrient Management Technician in March 2016. Also joining the Potter County Conservation District in July of this year was Berty Kurtz. Berty will be working with the Farmland Preservation Program and assisting with the administration of internal district functions. In addition, Bob Volkmar, Chris Robbins, and Matt Zehr all joined the district as Associate Directors this year.

WHO WE ARE.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Earl Brown —Chairman
Phil Lehman —Vice Chairman
Leroy White —Treasurer
Doug Morley —Commissioner
Stan Hess
Kevin Smoker
Jon Blass

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Dr. Pete Ryan
Bob Volkmar
Dave Saulter
Dr. Sarah Johnson
Chris Robbins
Matt Zehr

STAFF

Jason Childs—DISTRICT MANAGER

j.childs@pottercd.com

Glenn Dunn II—RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST

g.dunnii@pottercd.com

Alexander Veto—DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD / LOW VOLUMBE ROAD PROJECT SPECIALIST

a.veto@pottercd.com

Rob Thompson—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

r.thompson@pottercd.com

Jared Dickerson—WATERSHED / NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN

j.dickerson@pottercd.com

Berty Kurtz—ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

b.kurtz@pottercd.com

**107 Market Street
Coudersport, PA 16915
(814) 274-8411 ext. 4
pccd@zitomedia.net**

New Faces 2016



Jared Dickerson, a native of Eldred, PA joined the Potter County Conservation District in March of 2016. Jared is a graduate of Lycoming College where he majored in Biology. He will be involved with watershed and nutrient management related activities throughout the county.



Berty Kurtz, from Potter Brook, PA joined the District in July of 2016. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Administrative and Financial side of the district operations. Berty will also be involved with the Farmland Preservation Program.

No-Till Program Update

Potter County Conservation District No-Till Program

The No-Till Program continues to grow. In 2016, 35 producers in Cameron, McKean, Potter, and Tioga counties planted 1,031.3 acres of crops utilizing the District's no-till equipment. This is an increase from the 919 acres planted in 2015. Even more acres were planted using no-till management, as more farmers are purchasing their own equipment. Some are also providing custom planting services.

Nicole Carutis, PSU Extension Field & Forage Crops Educator and Rob Thompson, PCCD Ag Conservation Technician have been obtaining funding through mini grants and sponsorships. These funds allow educational events and field days to be held that keep producers up to date on no-till management and technology.

Five Potter County farmers participated with PSU Extension and PCCD to educate other farmers about no-till principles at two educational events. They include: Longview Family Farm, Cady Farms, Lehman's Dairy, Lane Farms, and Melclif Dairy. The results of their participation assisted other producers with the implementation of this management practice including the no-till planting of an additional 83 acres of cover crops in the North Fork River Watershed a tributary to the Cowanesque River. A \$2,000.00 Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Non-point Source Mini grant funded the use of the Penn State Interseeder. The Interseeder was used to plant cover crops in to standing corn for these events using no-till management.

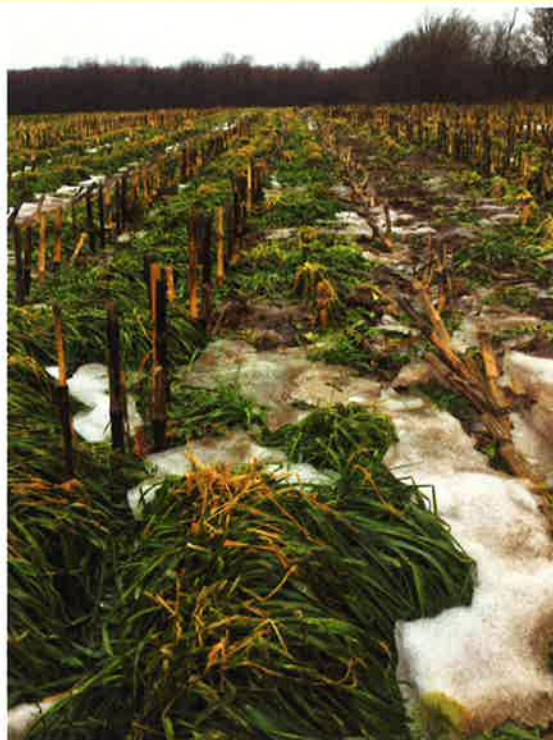
Future education will include the basic principles of no-till farming with an emphasis on soil pH, crop rotation, pesticide management, soil health, and nutrient availability/management.



No-Till Corn Planter & Drill Usage

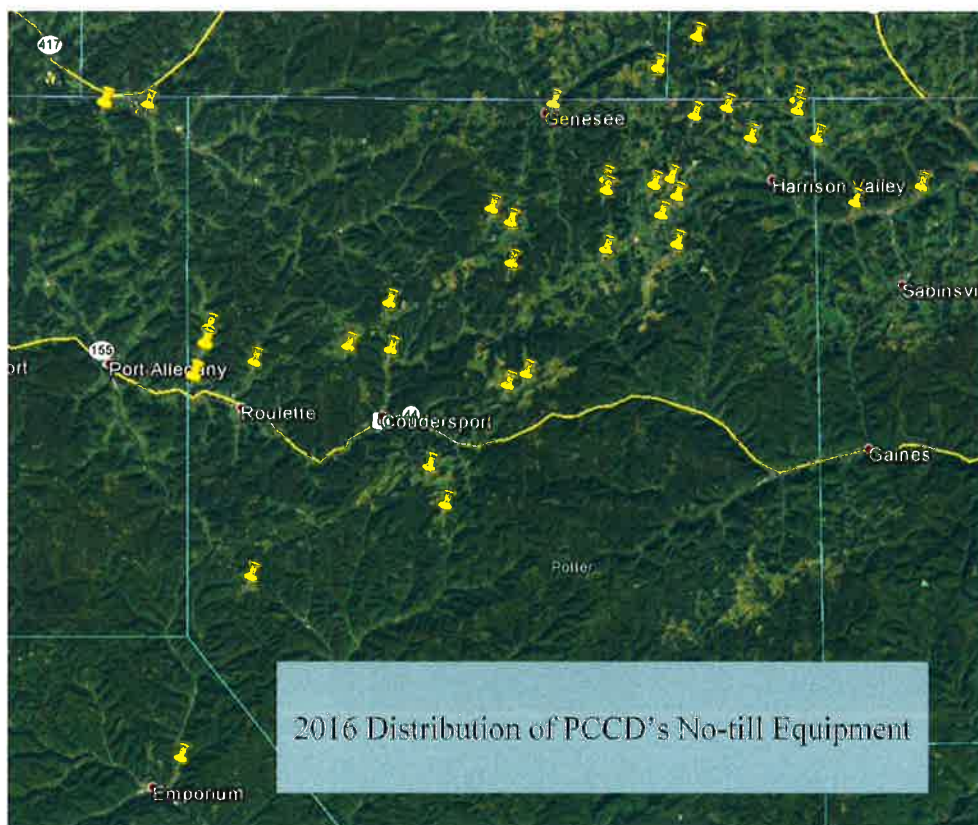
Watershed	2016
Chesapeake Bay Acres	334.7
Genesee Acres	565.3
Allegheny Acres	131.3

Total Usage	1,031.3 Acres
--------------------	----------------------



	Great Plains 1006 No-Till Drill	John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill	John Deere 7000 No-Till Corn Planter
Rental Rate	\$12 acre	\$12 acre	\$15 acre

\$25 Delivery Fee within Potter County, \$1 per mile delivered outside of Potter County



Nutrient Management

Program Highlights

Nutrient Management

- ◆ **> 150** One-on-One Technical Assistance Provided
- ◆ **2** Act 38 Plans Written
- ◆ **2** Act 38 Plan Updates
- ◆ **2** Act 38 Plan Reviewed
- ◆ **13** Chapter 91 Plans Developed/Assistance
- ◆ **16** Ag E&S Plans Developed/Assistance

Potter County Conservation District Nutrient Management Program

PCCD continues to assist Potter County farmers with nutrient management. The District now has two State Certified Nutrient Management Planners, Jason Childs and Rob Thompson. Jared Dickerson is Provisionally Certified.

In 2016 the staff at PCCD reviewed two and wrote two Act 38 Nutrient Management plans for county farmers. We anticipate reviewing two more Act 38 Nutrient Management plans before September 30, 2017.

PCCD's involvement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection Chesapeake Bay Re-boot Strategy has seen a marked increase in the number of Chapter 91 Manure Management and Chapter 102 Ag Erosion and Sedimentation plans being written by District staff and farmers. These plans cover all three of the major watersheds located in our county, the Allegheny, Genesee, and Susquehanna rivers.

Nicole Carutis, PSU Extension Field & Forage Crops Educator and Rob Thompson, PCCD Ag Conservation Technician applied for a \$3,000.00 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Mini Grant. These funds will allow us to obtain the "AdaptN" computer program and up to date soil analysis to efficiently manage nitrogen. The program uses current soil analysis, soil type, and up to the minute weather to assist with planting decisions. Responsible management of nitrogen application will improve farm profitability and reduce environmental impact from runoff and leaching.

2016 Crops and Planting Clinic



Pictured above Jim Clark, PSU Extension Water Resources Educator, prepares to talk about Pesticides and Groundwater.

On yet another snowy day in Potter County, the 2016 Potter County Crops and Planting Clinic was held. The event was held on Friday, January 29, 2016 at the Tri-Town Fire Hall in Ulysses, PA. There were approximately 85 attendees and agency people present. Nicole Carutis, PSU Extension Field & Forage Crops Educator, helped to coordinate the meeting by assisting with speakers and current topics. Attendees were able to gain knowledge about pesticides and their potential impact on groundwater, forage maturity and cover crops, weed control issues, and High Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Two CORE and 2 Category pesticide credits were offered as well.

This meeting is always very well attended. The meeting brings in folks from throughout the county and surrounding counties in both Pennsylvania and New York.

Agricultural Conservation

Potter County Conservation District Ag Conservation Program

Inline with the District's mission statement, this program is focused on assisting county producers by partnering with PSU Extension, other PA Conservation Districts, and local ag industry leaders to offer educational programs and implement projects to improve profitability and conserve our natural resources.

In mid-February, the First Annual Penn/York Agstravaganza was held at the Genesee Environmental Center. Partners included Cornell Cooperative Extension, PSU Extension, Tioga CD, McKean CD, USDA-NRCS, and PCCD. Forty-two producers from PA and NY attended to learn about ag management practices that can improve profitability while reducing pollution from non-point sources. Funding was provided by a Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Non-point Source Pollution mini grant.



PSU Extension and PCCD hosted two meetings in 2016 focused on providing information to equine producers. In April, we met at the Gunzburger Building in Coudersport to listen to a presentation on best management practices in regards to nutrient management. In December a small group of producers met to learn the basics of using the PAOnestop website to write their own Chapter 91 Manure Management and Chapter 102 Ag Erosion & Sedimentation plans at the PSU Extension Office computer lab.

In August of 2016, Potter County Dairy Farmer, Mark Bachman, was awarded an \$185,000.00 grant from PENNVEST to build a manure storage structure and install other best management practices to further protect the natural resources neighboring his creamery. Mark and his family produce cheese from the milk of their 30 dairy cows and have developed local and regional markets. Mark was introduced to PENNVEST Representative, Dave Henning, by Rob Thompson, PCCD Ag Conservation Technician.

PSU Extension, PCCD, and McKean County Conservation District pooled resources to establish five cover crop demonstration plots across two counties. The Penn State Interseeder was utilized to plant no-till cover crops, on June 27, 2016 in corn of varying heights. Two field days were then held in October to view the plots.



Penn/York Ag-stravaganza pictured above. Left 2016 at the Genesee Environmental Center. Right 2017 at the Town of Willing Hall, NY.

Chesapeake Bay Program

Chesapeake Bay Activities

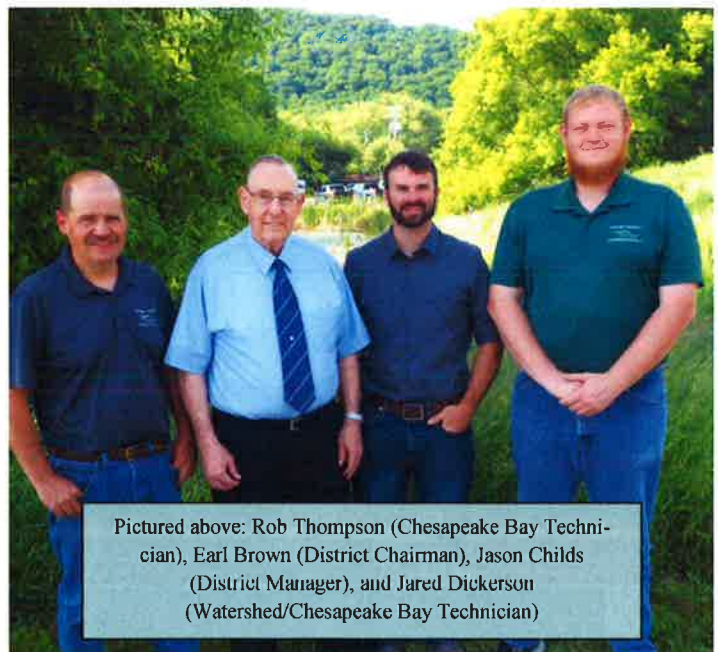
- ◆ Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans
- ◆ Manure Management Plans
- ◆ Ag E&S Plans
- ◆ Heavy Use Areas
- ◆ Special Project Funding Grants
- ◆ Crops and Planting Clinic
- ◆ Penn / York Ag-stravaganza 2016
- ◆ GIS Mapping
- ◆ Cooperating Partners

Potter County is unique and fortunate to be home to the headwaters of three major river systems, the Susquehanna, the Allegheny, and the Genesee. The Susquehanna which encompasses approximately 1/3 of the entire county (approximately 694 square miles) is part of the larger Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Over the past several years, there has been much focus and effort from federal, state, and local agencies to help reduce the amounts of nutrients, particularly nitrogen and sediment, from entering the Chesapeake Bay.

Since 1972, the **Clean Streams Law** in PA has required all farms that produce or use manure, or produce crops to have a Manure Management Plan based on the DEP Manure Management Manual as well as an Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Plan. In the past, this requirement has mainly been enforced based on complaints or actual pollution incidents. Currently, EPA and DEP are taking a more active part in verifying the existence of these plans through what is being called the Chesapeake Bay Reboot Strategy. This is due to Pennsylvania not meeting the benchmarks set in the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Model.

As part of this effort, the Potter County Conservation District has been asked and has agreed to participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program by visiting farms to verify that the two required plans have been developed. The District sees this as an opportunity to work with local farmers, giving them the credit they deserve, and also to help those producers that may not have the required plans get the plans that they need in order to remain in compliance with the state regulations. Farmers have been making huge strides in recent years by developing and implementing methods that are friendlier to our environment. The District sees this as an opportunity to continue to assist producers in making their operations more profitable by sharing current innovative management tools and techniques.

The District began visiting farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed in November of 2016. A total of 10 farms were visited during this time. District staff members Rob Thompson, Jared Dickerson, and Jason Childs helped farmers to develop plans if needed. An additional 40 farms will be visited over the next five to six months. Several other projects have been completed within the Bay Watershed as well. They include several Dirt and Gravel Roads projects, stream restoration work, as well as public education. The District is also avidly seeking projects on farms and properties within the Chesapeake Bay that will help to improve local water quality.



Pictured above: Rob Thompson (Chesapeake Bay Technician), Earl Brown (District Chairman), Jason Childs (District Manager), and Jared Dickerson (Watershed/Chesapeake Bay Technician)

Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Grant



Rob Thompson, Agricultural Conservation Technician, was awarded a Chesapeake Bay Special Projects grant in late 2015 in the amount of \$58,838.00. The purpose of the project has been to encourage farmers to utilize cover crops following annual row crops as a means to control agricultural Non-Point source pollution in our waterways. The project has also been

successful in illustrating the economic value of retaining nutrients and soils on the farm. As a result, approximately 540 acres of cover crops have been established and incorporated into the farming systems at five different farms within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Farmers who participate in the program receive an incentive payment for planting cover crops that meet specific guidelines set forth by the Conservation District.

Farmland Preservation



In August of 2016, the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Program reached a new milestone, surpassing the 5,000-farm mark. Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and the number of acres that have been preserved in perpetuity for agricultural production. Twenty-six new farms were preserved in the state of Pennsylvania in 2016. These 26 farms included a total of 2,475 additional acres of farmland and were located in 16 different counties within the state.

In July of 2016, the Commonwealth appropriated another \$5 million for farmland preservation from cigarette tax revenues. This additional funding makes it possible for the state to increase the amount of funding available from \$31 million up to \$36 million.

Since the state's farmland preservation program began in 1988, federal, state, county, and local governments have invested more than \$1.3 billion to preserve 531,025 acres on 5,071 farms in 58 counties for future agricultural production. Of these, seven farms are located here in Potter County.

Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2017 for Potter County farm owners that might be interested in the program. The 2018 application period will be open from October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Currently, Potter County has an excess of \$175,000.00 in funds available through 2017 to purchase easements. The Potter County Conservation District will be working hard towards the easement of the eighth farm within the county.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production. The program guarantees a future food supply and contributes to a healthier economy. It also assures a way of life Pennsylvanian's cherish will continue for generations to come.

Dirt & Gravel/ Low Volume Road Program

Potter County Conservation District in conjunction with participating governing bodies and the Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies successfully completed 11 environmentally sensitive road projects in 2016. Intent for each project was the reduction of sedimentation in waterways to curtail adverse stream impacts related to erosion using tactics that enhance road conditions. Careful planning and consideration went into each individual project months before construction, to ensure that corrections made would benefit the applicant and the environment. Eligible applicants who were awarded Conservation District grant funding benefited from improvement to road infrastructure, less frequent maintenance, and consultation from the Road Project Specialist to address complex sections.



A cumulative 9.39 miles of Potter County roads underwent drainage and surface enhancement in 2016, with the end result being stabilized and environmentally conscientious sections of paved and unpaved routes. Project totals for the construction season were as follows: aggregate placed exceeded 20,000 tons, 77 new cross pipes were installed, and over 1.17 miles of underdrain was created. Additional features such as grade breaks, french mattresses, and geosynthetics were incorporated in the holistic road and water quality enhancement activities.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Road Name</i>
Abbott	Ives Hollow Road	PennDOT	Pushersiding Road- SR1009
Bingham	Pushersiding Road	Routlette	Trout Brook Road
Coudersport	Reese Hollow Road (Pictured)	Sharon	Wild Cat Road
Eulalia	W. Branch of Dingman Run Road	Sweden	A-Frame Road
Genesee	Dogtown Road	Ulysses	Gazdag Road
Genesee	Kinney Road- Paved LVR	-	-



Pre-Construction



Post-Construction

Environmentally speaking, the lasting results of these projects ultimately improve substrate material for trout and other aquatic organisms to thrive. The Dirt and Gravel Road Program as implemented by the District, advances the legacy of Potter County's exceptional cold water systems for residents and visitors to enjoy in the outdoors.

Upcoming Projects

Contracts generated for 17 more projects set to take place over the next two years employ the use of traditional as well as innovative practices as PCCD strives toward the continuous goal of water quality improvement. This and each subsequent round of grant funding will continue to demonstrate to community leaders the importance of environmental awareness for a sustainable future.

Applications for the 2018-19 construction season are being finalized as Township and Borough Supervisors work with the DGLVR Project Specialist to develop work plans for potentially suitable roads to remediate. The top ranked projects will be chosen for funding, pending approval of the state budget and appropriation of funds to the Conservation District. Special thanks to the SCC, Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads, Potter Conservation District Board, and the Quality Assurance Board for a truly admirable dedication of project funds.

It is understood that not all roads can be funded by this program but as we develop projects with road managers, we promote conscientious practices to be replicated in their spectrum of ongoing maintenance. Anticipate the successful completion of many more projects this construction season while fishermen and fisherwomen take solace in the fact that trout streams are on the rise in Potter County.



Watson Road, Sweden Township, 2017-18 project



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant

A stream crossing on Ludington Run (pictured) adjacent to SR1009 was identified by Conservation District staff member Alex Veto as a barrier to aquatic organism passage in this tributary to the Genesee River. The wretched barrier conditions coupled with the stream's immense potential for wild brook and brown trout propagation spurred the exploration for ancillary funding. A NFWF grant was secured for the \$99,476 required to rectify the barrier, with Dirt and Gravel road stabilization projects on SR1009 comprising the 100% in-kind match. Working with Trout Unlimited and NFWF, the Potter Conservation District will begin construction in the summer of 2017. The structure when finished, will have the capacity to handle storm flow discharge that would otherwise cause flooding. Fish habitat structures will also be constructed to protect the soon to be installed structure, maintain pools important for adult trout habitat, and encourage passage during summertime flows when trout seek thermal refuge. The successful completion of this aquatic connectivity venture spearheaded by the Potter County District will denote a major conservation victory within the Genesee watershed.



The Conservation District will begin construction in the summer of 2017. The structure when finished, will have the capacity to handle storm flow discharge that would otherwise cause flooding. Fish habitat structures will also be constructed to protect the soon to be installed structure, maintain pools important for adult trout habitat, and encourage passage during summertime flows when trout seek thermal refuge. The successful completion of this aquatic connectivity venture spearheaded by the Potter County District will denote a major conservation victory within the Genesee watershed.

The Conservation District can accommodate Dirt and Gravel Road Project site visits upon request. Contact Alex Veto, DGLVR Project Specialist, by phone (814) 320-4011 or by e-mail A.Veto@pottercd.com to schedule a visit or for more information about facets of the Dirt and Gravel/Low Volume Roads Program.

New District DGLVR Equipment

District DGLVR Equipment

The slash tactics of road ditching have been proliferated since the advent of holes in the ground. PCCD set out to modify this type of maintenance with a couple of machines that expedite debris clearing on long sections of road.

Leaves and gunk that accumulate in road drainage systems preventing the transmission of water away from the road profile can now be noninvasively removed with the Buffalo Turbine. This industrial grade leaf blower is loaned free of charge to eligible entities who participate in the practice of environmental road maintenance.

Inherently invasive construction is going to happen. For that reason, the District purchased a Patz Chopper/Mulcher that can stabilize large disturbed areas with a uniform layer of mulching. Eligible participants will utilize this on large scale projects.

The new equipment was ready for use in the late fall of 2016 and several municipalities took advantage. Machines were purchased with training and education money from Potter Conservation District's allocation from the Dirt and Gravel Road Center.



Pictured above: Buffalo Turbine



Pictured above: Alex Veto, DGR/LVR Project Specialist at the District, demonstrates the functionality and in the field application of both the Buffalo Turbine and Patz Chopper to local township supervisors.



Pictured above: Patz Chopper/Mulcher

Just For Kids!

Pollinator Match

Match the pollinator to its preferred flower.



Hummingbird



Bee



Beetle



Moth



Fly

1

2

3

4

5

A



B



C



D



E



Pollination

Pollination occurs when birds, bees, bats, butterflies, moths, beetles, other animals, water or the wind carries pollen from flower to flower or it moves within flowers.

Pollinators are insects or animals that transfer pollen from one plant to another.

Approximately 80% of all flowering plants and over three-quarters of the staple crop plants that feed humankind rely on animal pollinators

Plant Strategies for Pollination

Wind

Plants that use wind for pollination have early spring flowers. This keeps their pollen from being stopped by the leaves on the trees.

Water

This category is reserved for aquatic plants, which release their pollen into the water for dispersal.

Animals

Plants develop attractants including visual cues, scent, food, mimicry, and entrapment to have insects or animals visit their flowers.

Help pollinators by planting native plant species in your yard. Also provide a shallow water source for the pollinators and limit your use of pesticides

Flower Clues

All flowers that need pollinators have characteristics that attract specific insects or animals as pollinators.

Bees—Do not see red, but can see yellow, blue and ultraviolet. They prefer flowers with a sweet scent that are sturdy and irregular in shape.

Butterflies—Prefer brightly colored flowers that are odorless. They like their flowers clustered with a large enough area to land on while feeding.

Moths—are nocturnal and prefer flowers that are white or light colored, which are easier to see in the moonlight. They also prefer flowers with a strong smell and they hover-feed, so they do not need to land on the flower.

Birds—especially hummingbirds, have good eyesight, but poor sense of smell. They prefer brightly colored flower, especially red. Hummingbirds are also hover-feeders and do not need to land on the flowers.

Flies—are attracted to the smell of rotting meat. So flowers with a strong smell of decay attract flies.

Beetles—prefer a large cluster of flowers, strong enough to support their weight.

Pollinator Match: 1-D, 2-E, 3-C, 4-A, 5-B

My Growing Tree



As a means to celebrate the history and importance of Arbor Day, the Potter County Conservation District partners with DCNR Bureau of Forestry each year to give a presentation to each of the 1st Grade classes in the county schools. On occasion Smokey the bear even tags along. The importance of trees as a natural, renewable resource is discussed as well as the importance of clean drinking water. The relationships of trees and water within the environment is also described.

Each student receives a hemlock tree, the state tree of Pennsylvania, to plant in their backyard, state park, state forest, or other location of choice.

Conservation Field Days



PCCD Resource Conservationist Glenn Dunn II teaching kids about an important local forest product: Maple Syrup

Another event hosted by the Potter County Conservation District each year is the 5th Grade Conservation Field Days event. This event is typically held at the Potter County Fairgrounds in Millport during the month of May. The event is held over two consecutive days and brings in over 200 hundred students from each of the five public schools within the county.

During the program this year students participated in a black bear lesson by the PA Game Commission. Other events included an animal fur and trapping presentation, a forestry activity, a maple syrup production seminar, a Penn State Extension activity, as well as a stream biology/water quality activity. Pizza was served for lunch.

Potter County Junior Conservation School

Environmentally minded students from across Pennsylvania attended the Potter County Junior Conservation School during the first week of August 2016. Participants had a full agenda which included field trips to fish hatcheries, sewage treatment facilities, a dairy farm, and state parks. Some of the topics included wetland and stream ecology, electroshocking to conduct fish surveys, invasive species, songbirds, macroinvertebrate identification, soils, trap/skeet shooting, black powder shooting, archery, trapping, fly-fishing, kayaking, and much more.

Students were able to enjoy and learn about the importance of utilizing our natural resources properly. They were also able to enjoy the many recreational opportunities the great outdoors has to offer. These students were housed at the Black Forest Conservation Camp on Back Road, south of Coudersport, PA. Each year one camper is selected as the "Outstanding Camper of the Week". This year's recipient was Adam Horner. Other campers received awards for Camp Spirit. The Potter County Conservation District participated this year by assisting with the Wetland/Stream Ecology, Soils, Black Powder, and Archery sections of the week long camp. The district provides sponsorship and financial support to the camp on an annual basis.



Watershed Specialists Heather McKean (McKean County) and Jared Dickerson (Potter) instruct students on assessing stream quality with electroshocking equipment.

Stream Rehabilitation Projects

In 2016, five stream rehabilitation projects were completed by the District covering a wide portion of the county. Each of the major watersheds in the county received some form of project. In addition to projects planned and completed by the District, district staff assisted Trout Unlimited with one stream habitat project on Little Lyman Run.



The Jones Project was constructed the week of July 11, 2016. This stretch of the Cowanesque originally had 6-10 foot tall banks that were eroding away. The district attempted to fix the problem by installing seven Multi-log Vane Deflectors and 100 foot of Modified Mudsill Cribbing that will stabilize the banks and prevent future erosion.

The Stoltzfus project was constructed the week of September 5, 2016. This side channel of the Oswayo was undercutting trees and threatening a seasonal camp. The district installed two Single-Log Vane Deflectors, two Multi-log Vane Deflectors, 100 foot of Modified Mudsill Cribbing, and two Root Wads Deflectors. The Mudsill and Root Wads will provide fish habitat in this trout stocked water while the Single and Multi Log Deflector, will steer water away from the camp.



The Genesee Town Park Project was installed the week of July 18, 2016. The goal of this project was to stabilize banks of the Genesee River downstream of where the dike ends in the town park. Four Multi-Log Vane Deflectors will stop further erosion and provide protection for a stabilized canoe/kayak access that will be installed during the summer of 2017.

The Bundy project was implemented the week of September 12, 2016. The stretch of Nelson Run where the project was installed had high bank erosion and was threatening multiple trees as well as an overhead electrical line. Ten Multi-Log Vane Deflectors were installed on the upstream portion and 75 foot of Modified Mudsill Cribbing was installed on the downstream section. The Mudsill was installed over an area of deep water, so it will not only stabilize the bank but will also provide excellent overhead cover for trout in this naturally reproducing stream.



The Halfhill Project was implemented the week of July 4, 2016. This site was threatening a garage and had 6 foot tall eroding banks. The East Fork of the Sinnemahoning is a trout stocked stream, so the 100 Foot of Modified Mudsill that was installed should provide great trout cover. One Multi-Log Vane Deflector was also installed to help divert water away from the beginning of the project.

2nd Canoe/Kayak Access Constructed on the Allegheny River

Paddlers of the Upper Allegheny will find access a bit easier this year with the addition of another stabilized access. The new access located next to the Kim Hill Road Bridge can be used either as a take out point for paddlers starting at the existing access or as a put in point for paddlers going downstream into Port Allegany. The new canoe/kayak launch was completed by DM Gibble Excavating, Shinglehouse, PA. Funding from a Western Pennsylvania Canoe Access Grant and the Port Allegany Area Economic Development Corporation were utilized to construct the project. Paddlers of all



sorts are encouraged to utilize the launch and enjoy our great local water resources.

Plans are already in place to construct another public launch site at the Genesee Town Park on the Genesee River sometime in the very near future. Funding has been received through another Western PA Conservancy Canoe Access grant in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Coudersport 6th Grade Trout in the Classroom Release Day



In mid May, with the help of multiple local watershed groups and assorted state organizations, approximately 100 juvenile brook trout were released into the First Fork by students in Nicole Frame's 6th grade class at Coudersport elementary School. Students began the project in mid-November of 2015 with brook trout eggs from the Pa Fish and Boat Commission's Benner Springs Hatchery. Once the eggs hatched, students fed the fish, maintained the water quality in the rearing aquarium, and learned about the natural history of brook trout, the state fish of Pennsylvania. Survival of these trout should be bolstered by the existing habitat structures put in place by the district.

In addition to the fish release, students participated in a variety of other environmental activities during the day-long event. Watershed Specialist Jared Dickerson and Associate Director Bob Volkmar helped students identify stream bugs and streamside invasive plants. The Pennsylvania Game Commission presented a program on bluebirds and provided students with bluebird houses, while the Audubon Society conducted a bird banding demonstration. Students also helped the DCNR and Western

Pennsylvania Conservancy plant trees along the First Fork on the club property. God's Country TU members provided fly casting instruction to students. Lunch was provided by the First Fork Watershed Association and prepared by the ladies of the Sportsmen's Club.

2016 God's Country Envirothon

Under cloudy skies rather than the normal classroom ceiling, 15 teams comprised of five students each from Austin, Coudersport, Galeton, Northern Potter and Oswayo Valley schools traveled to the PA Lumber Museum on May 5th, 2016. Students armed themselves with pencils, ready to compete in the Potter County Envirothon Competition. The winner, gained the opportunity to represent Potter County at the State Competition, which was held at Susquehanna University/Camp Mt. Luther.



Potter County Commissioner/PCCD Director, Doug Morley, presents the "Ecologizers" from Coudersport with this year's trophy.

This year, the Ecologizers, a team from Coudersport Area High School won the Potter County Envirothon Competition. The shorthanded four man team consisted of Ben Cochran, Darren Keglovits, Logan Labar, and Brandon Ehrensberger. The Spiny Water Fleas, a team from Coudersport, placed second overall. Third prize went to The Screamin' Nuts from Northern Potter. The Ecologizers then went on to place 10th at the state competition, one of the best finishes ever by a Potter County team.



A special thanks goes out to this year's volunteers and agency personnel who helped make the event a success. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, DCNR, Conservation District Staff, and Lumber Museum Staff all played a major role.

This year's sponsors included: The Upper Allegheny Watershed Association, The Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association, God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Gas Field Specialists, Inc., and the Pennsylvania Envirothon Association.

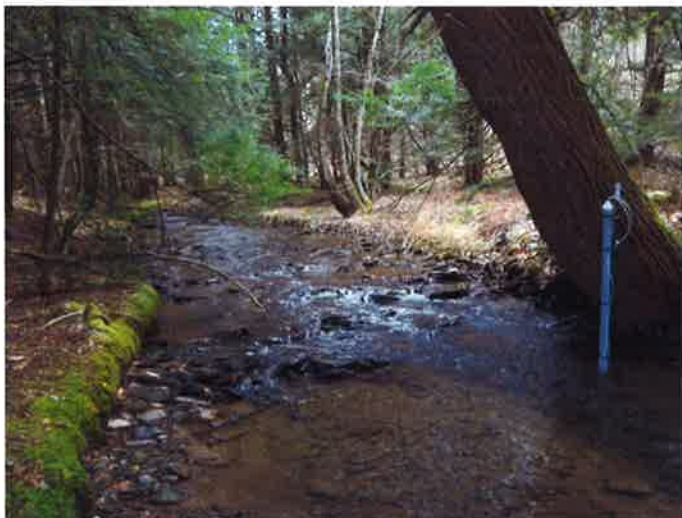
Students enjoyed the outdoor setting and newly renovated facilities. Food was catered by Mrs. Pam Sprouse. It was a fun and educational day for everyone who participated.



Above: PCCD Manager Jason Childs stayed busy proctoring the Aquatics portion of the test.

Left: Students measure trees during the forestry portion of the test.

Continuous Water Monitoring Efforts



Pictured above is the very first data logger deployed. It was placed on the West Branch of Dingman Run (tributary to the Allegheny River) in 2011.

Over the past five years, the Potter County Conservation District has partnered with local watershed associations and volunteers to establish a surface water monitoring program. Continuous water monitoring devices called data loggers have been installed on over two dozen Potter County streams and rivers as part of this effort. These data loggers collect temperature, flow level, and conductivity levels at 15 minute intervals around the clock. Most data loggers are placed in a particular stream location for approximately 3 years before being relocated. This allows for a good snapshot of the overall water quality for that particular stream. One hundred and five thousand, one hundred and twenty (105,120) data points are collected over just a three year period. This data is very useful in establishing a baseline to compare to, if or when, a future pollution event were to occur. Jared Dickerson, Watershed Specialist, will continue to work with local volunteers and environmental groups to help monitor the many high quality and exceptional value streams found here in the county.

New Strategic Plan Developed



For the first time in almost a decade the Potter County Conservation District completed a strategic planning session. With the numerous changes in the realm of conservation districts since their inception, it is important to make sure that the services provided by the district are current. The strategic planning effort took place over a six week period. District staff, directors, associate directors, and partnering agencies all participated in the planning effort. Several goals and objectives were identified and specific action plans were developed with timelines to help guide the District towards those goals and objectives. The resulting document will be a valuable tool for the District Staff and Directors moving forward in their efforts to serve the citizens of Potter County.

A \$1,000.00 Strategic Planning Grant was received from the "Building For Tomorrow" Leadership Development Program to help cover the development of the plan. Penn State Extension's Don Tanner and Neal Fogle helped facilitate the planning process. The Potter County Conservation District would like to thank everyone involved.

Illegal Dumpsite Cleanups

Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) is now in the second year of a four year Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program. In 2015 nineteen illegal dumpsites were cleaned up in Potter County, five in Pike County, fifteen in Susquehanna County and two in Wayne County.

Over the course of the 2016 spring season in Potter County, PEC in partnership with the Potter County Conservation District conducted eleven additional illegal dumpsite cleanups, and recruited 43 volunteers who logged 147 hours cleaning up the illegal dumpsites. As a result, 2.8 tons of trash, 60 pounds of scrap metal, and 147 tires were removed. All associated costs for these cleanups were covered with the grant funding from PEC and there were **no costs to the municipalities**.

Participating organizations and volunteers came from the Potter County Conservation District, LEEK Hunting and Mountain Preserve, Upper Allegheny Watershed Association, VFW Post 6611, the Potter County Probation Office and Work Release Program.

Additionally, participating municipalities, Coudersport and the Oswayo Borough, provided various types of support, equipment and/or services. A special thanks goes out to Dave Gibble, of DM Gibble Excavating, for donating the use of his skid-steer and providing lunch.

Glenn Dunn II is coordinating the project with the help of the Potter County Solid Waste Authority and a program coordinator from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC). The most suitable time to cleanup the sites is in the spring and fall with the least amount of vegetation present.



Pictured above left to right: Frank Weeks (UAWA), Rob Thompson, Glenn Dunn II, and Jason Childs.

Earth Disturbance Requirements

Disturbed Area	Written E&S Plan On-Site	E&S Plan Approval	NPDES Storm Water Construction Permit	PCSM Plan	PCSM Plan Approval	Riparian Buffer Requirement
0 to 5,000 Sq. Ft.	No	No May be required upon complaint referral to Conservation District/ DEP	No	No	No	No
5,000 Sq. Ft. to less than 1 acre	Yes	No May be required upon complaint referral to Conservation District/ DEP	No	No ACT 167 applicable through Municipality	No ACT 167 applicable through Municipality	No
1 or more acres	Yes	Required Conservation District/ DEP	Yes	Yes Conservation District/ DEP	Yes Conservation District/ DEP	Yes