

God's Country Chronicle

Newsletter of the POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

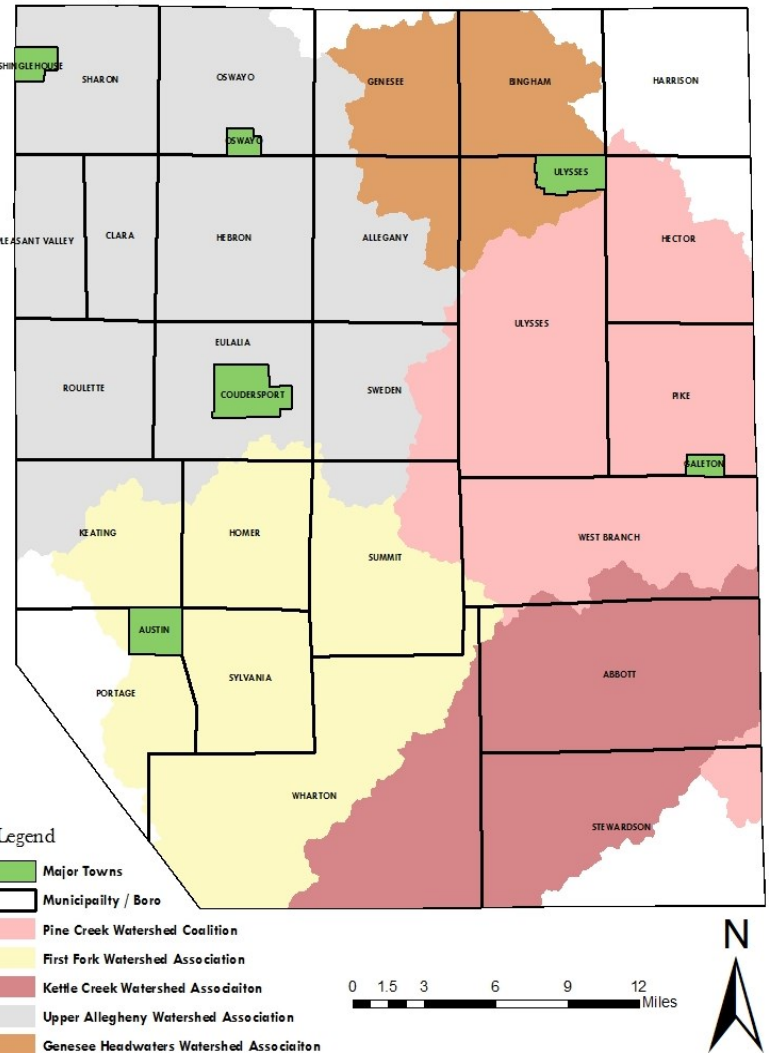
Watershed Work

Joining your Local Watershed Group

Watershed Associations and Trout Unlimited Chapters serve our county as some of the most active boots-on-the-ground advocates for our watersheds and overall health of the environment. Throughout the year, the Conservation District regularly stays in contact with members of these organizations to best monitor and protect our water resources. Working in tandem with these groups, the District educates the public and completes an array of stream restoration projects. By joining an Association, you'll be given opportunities to better your community and learn new things through hands-on experiences in the field. If you'd like to get involved, refer to the map on this page to determine which watershed you live in, and take a look at our contact list to get more information on how to join the association that works to support your immediate area!

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Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association - Stephen Richard 585-610-0166

Upper Allegheny Watershed Association - Heather McKean 814-598-3652

First Fork Watershed Association - Kathy Mitchell 570-274-3333

Pine Creek Watershed Coalition - Jim Weaver 570-724-7788

Kettle Creek Watershed Association - Dick Sodergren 814-355-9798

God's Country Chapter Trout Unlimited - C.C. Felker 814-554-5063

Seneca Chapter Trout Unlimited - Chase Howard 814-598-3449

Upper Genesee Chapter Trout Unlimited - Brent Kelly 607-587-3116



Dirt and Gravel / Low Volume Roads Program

New DG /LVR Specialist

**Andrew Mickey is from
Schuylkill County, PA**



New PCCD Staff Member:

Andrew Mickey, DG/LVR Program Specialist

Introducing our new Dirt and Gravel / Low Volume Road Specialist, Andrew Mickey! Andrew is from Minersville, PA in Schuylkill County. He graduated from Lycoming College in 2016 with a BS in Ecology and a minor in Environmental Science. Andrew's past work experience includes interning with DEP in Williamsport and performing and studying macroinvertebrate samples from streams. He has also worked as a dairy lab technician, testing the quality and safety of milk. Andrew is an active member of Trout Unlimited and enjoys fishing and hunting. He is excited to enjoy all the fishing opportunities in Potter County, as well as its scenery. As the DGLVR Specialist, he is excited to take action on reducing sediment pollution, which benefits anglers and our fish populations alike, especially native trout.

Upcoming DG/LVR Event:

Municipalities Meeting Breakfast

Friday, April 5th, 2019 - 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM

PA Lumber Museum 5660 US-6, Galeton, PA 16922

Sponsored by the



**POTTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

AGENDA INCLUDES:

- 7:30 - 8:30 Check in, FREE Breakfast, New District Staff Introduction
- 8:30 - 9:00 Justin Challenger, CDGRS - *Prevailing Wage*
- 9:00 - 9:30 Wade Brown, CDGRS - *Pipe Installation*
- 9:30 - 10:00 Kirk Kirkpatrick, PA One Call System - *811 Updates*
- 10:00 - 10:30 Q&A, QAB Board Updates and Discussion

Stop in to schedule site visits, organize work plan assistance, and pick up your 2019 application package. Staff from the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies will also be present to answer any additional questions.

**Upon checking in,
enter to win a
\$100 Cabela's
gift card!**

DG/LVR STAFF:

**Andrew Mickey, DGLVR
Specialist**

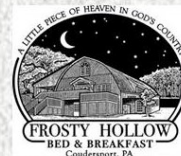
a.mickey@pottercd.com

814-320-4011

Jason Childs, District Manager

j.childs@pottercd.com

814-320-4012



Please call or email Emily Shosh, e.shosh@pottercd.com / 814-320-4017 by Friday March 29th, 2019 to reserve your spot!

Education and Outreach

Through the winter, planning for new educational programs and partnerships were underway. Some upcoming events include:

- Streamside Stewardship Workshop
- Pollinator Education Programming
- Summer Reading Programs
- Potter County Envirothon Competition

- Annual Legislative Luncheon
- Coudersport Elementary Trout in the Classroom Release Day
- Conservation Field Days
- DGR Program Breakfast (see preceding page)
- Backyard Conservation Workshops

We hope to see you at one of our events! Follow our website or Facebook for updates!



This year's Potter County Envirothon will be held on Thursday, May 2. This year, "Junior" teams of 7-8th grade students are invited to compete!

4 H Water Quality Lessons

In September, 2018 Jared and Emily met with members of Beyond the Horizon 4H club to sample for benthic macroinvertebrates in the stream Dingman Run. Each student preserved a "macro" for later investigation, a session which took place in early January, 2019.

Emily shared some adaptations and other identifying features of common species, and led students through a close examination of each of their

critters. Using a digital microscope, Emily was able to magnify the bugs for the entire class in order to search for previously mentioned identifying features. With this information, the students explored an important piece of stream monitoring and water quality investigation.

In March, the club will meet with us again to discuss chemical parameters in water quality testing, and in May will meet to discuss physical

parameters. With an experiential, in-depth look at each piece of the stream monitoring puzzle, the club will make a focused, well-educated decision about the health of the stream. These meetings are all part of the club's on-going 4H water quality unit. A special thanks to the club's leader Bonnie Wright for her interest and enthusiasm. Stay tuned for more great work from Beyond the Horizon 4H!



RIGHT: 4H club member Jethro successfully identified his large collection of macroinvertebrates!

LEFT: Emily guides club member Anna Fair in identifying her stoneflies! By observing adaptations, students can most accurately identify macroinvertebrates.



Interested in engaging your group in a meaningful environmental education experience? Wondering which State Standards we can cover during your lesson? Please contact Emily Shosh, Communications and Outreach Advisor at 814-320-4017, or e.shosh@pottercd.com!



POTTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Now accepting applicants for ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Do you love to share your knowledge, and help to better your community?

Our organization couldn't operate without our Board of Directors. We maintain an informed, objective outlook thanks to our Directors and partnerships.

As Conservation District Associate Director, you will:

- Develop relationships with a variety of officials and cooperating agencies
- Help identify local natural resource needs and issues
- Develop management strategies and local policies
- Communicate with and educate your community
- Help us engage landowners

*All board members are
compensated for
mileage and other
appropriate expenses!*

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."

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming involved as an Associate Director for the Potter County Conservation District, please contact us at **814-274-8411 x4, or**

pccd@zitomedia.net

Thank you for your support!

2018/2019 Tree Sale

After a long hiatus, the Conservation District reinstated a Tree Seedling sale to supplement Environmental Education funding, and to serve as an educational opportunity to the general public. Here are our final results from the 2018/2019 Sale:

Black Spruce:	20	Red Oak:	68
Concolor Fir:	30	Chinkapin Oak:	74
Norway Spruce:	12	Bartlett Pear:	18
Lilac:	10	Sekel Pear:	13
Elderberry:	50	Red Fuji Apple:	27
Red Maple:	6	Granny Smith:	30
Sycamore:	30	Sargeant Crabapple:	25

Total Trees Sold: 406 = \$571.23 raised

All Seedlings were sourced from Musser Forests and Pikes Peak Nursery. A special thanks goes to Service Forester Eric Monger and Retired Foresters Stan Hess and Paul Lilja for their guidance. Their help made this sale possible!

2018/2019 Birdseed Sales

Homeowners and birds alike benefit from bird feeders, especially during the harsh winter months. Each year the District offers Black Oil Sunflower seed, Mix Birdseed, and Cob Corn for sale. These funds supplement our educational programming throughout the year.

Here are our results from the 2018/2019 sale, with sales dating from September 2018 through February 15th, 2019:

Black Oil = 3,800 lbs sold

Mix Bird Seed = 2,000 lbs sold

Corn = 2,520 lbs sold

Total seed sold: 8,320 lbs = \$558 raised

All birdseed and Tree Sale total numbers are current as of February 15, 2019. These numbers ARE NOT final - the District still has birdseed available through early Spring and tree seedling stock available through March 1, 2019. [Please call us for more information on seedling availability!](#)

New Associate Director Board Member: C.C. Felker



Craig ("C.C.") Felker graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1981. Designated as an "unrestricted naval aviator" in 1982 he flew the SH-2F Seasprite and SH-60B Seahawk. During his operational career he served in a variety of flying and non-flying assignments, the most notable of which was as officer in charge of a SH-60B detachment onboard USS Samuel B. Roberts during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and as the Director of the President's Emergency Operations Center in the White House from 1995 to 1997. In 1999, while serving as an instructor in the Naval Academy History Department, Captain Felker was selected for the Permanent Military Professor Program.

He received his Ph.D. from Duke in May 2004, and returned to the Academy the following June as a faculty member in the History Department. Captain Felker's publications include Testing American Sea Power: U.S. Navy Strategic Exercises, 1923-1940. In December, 2011 he returned from a one-year deployment to Afghanistan, where he served as the command historian and commanding officer, U.S. Navy detachment for NATO Training Mission Afghanistan. In 2014 he was selected to chair the Naval Academy History Department, and retired from the Navy in September 2016. He is currently the Executive Director of The Society for Military History. In 2017, he and his wife Mary relocated to Roulette, and in August of 2018 he was elected President of the God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Agriculture

Annual Penn York Ag-stravaganza

On Saturday, December 1st, the Penn York Ag-stravaganza was held at the Brookside Wesleyan Church in Wellsville, NY. The event is served 26 individuals within our local farming community by offering information, services, networking opportunities, and constructive discussion. Topics included Storm Water, Land Leasing, Pond Site Development, Soil Health, Managing woodlots and Invasive Plants, and a farmer panel discussion. An excellent hot lunch from Friendship Barbeque was also provided.

Partners and presenters included the Great Lakes Conservation Connect, Cornell University, Allegany Extension, Penn State Extension, American Farmland Trust, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Thanks to our sponsors and presenters, and be sure to stay tuned for the next Ag-stravaganza in January, 2020!



During the farmer panel discussion, three volunteers shared their stories, struggles, and triumphs through the years. The panel consisted of John Francisco, Jeff Cady, and Joan Petzen (L to R)

PCCD Outreach Advisor Emily and Watershed / NM Specialist Jared share safety information with attendees Kurt and Laura Kosa, using Penn State-provided models and demonstrations.



*Interested in no-till? The District owns three machines that could fit your needs. The drills are listed below with their corresponding rental rates. If you are interested for Spring, call the District to reserve your spot! **814-274-8411 x4***

No-Till Equipment Rental Rates

	Great Plains 1006 No-Till Drill	John Deere 1590 No -Till Drill	John Deere 7000 No -Till Corn Planter
Rental Rate			
(add a \$25 delivery fee , \$1 per mile charged outside of Potter County)	\$12 per Acre	\$12 per Acre	\$15 per Acre

2019 Crops and Planting Clinic

On January 25th, 2019 the Annual Crops and Planting Clinic was held at the Tri-Town Fire Hall. The event drew nearly 80 attendees and was hosted in tandem with Penn State Extension. Presenters and their respective topics included: **Spill Re-**

sponse/Transporting Pesticides and Herbicides, Glenn Dunn—Potter County DES, Emergency Management Coordinator, **Worker Protections Standard. What is it? And who must comply?**, Jay Bagley - Bureau of Plant Industry, PA Dept. of Ag.,

Industrial Hemp, Sydney Fink - Region 2 Plant Inspector, PA Dept. of Ag., **Soil Health Basics. How to avoid compaction and gullies**, Wendy Coons - District Conservationist, NRCS, and **Review of Pests in 2018**, Nicole Santangelo and Jack Thomas- PSU Extension Educator, Agronomy. Lunch was provided by the Tri-Town Fire Company, and credits offered to attendees included 2 Core, 2 Pesticide, and 0.5 Nutrient Management. Many thanks to all who made this event possible!



Above, District Manager Jason Childs introduces speakers and served as moderator. **Right**, Glenn Dunn (Sr) discusses transporting pesticides and safety protocols



Farmland Preservation Program Updates

On December 19th, 2018, farmland of Wayne Baumann was inducted into the Farmland Preservation Program. Officially, his 169.06 acres located on Sweden Hill is the 8th preserved farm in Potter County, and brings the county's total preserved acreage to 1,305. On February 1st, 2019 the Farmland Preservation Board met to discuss various updates, appoint new officers, and approve pursuing a new farm in the preservation easement process. Approximately 105 acres in Genesee Township, owned by Robert "Bobby" Hallock, ranked highest among 2018 applications received. The Board unanimously approved moving forward with this easement.

Currently, the District is seeking new Farmland Preservation Program Board members. Becoming a board member can help the District best serve Potter County and its Farmers, and preserve vital farmland for generations to come. If you are interested in contributing to this program, please contact Emily Shosh, Preservation Board Secretary/Treasurer at e.shosh@pottercd.com or 814-320-4017!



Pennsylvania leads the nation in
total acreage of preserved
Farmland

POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

107 Market Street
Coudersport, PA 16915
814-274-8411 ext. 4



District Directors

Earl Brown, *Chairman*
Phil Lehman, *Vice-Chairman*
Jon Blass, *Treasurer*
Stan Hess, *Alternate Treasurer*
Doug Morley, *Commissioner Director*
Kevin Smoker, *Farmer Director*
Chris Robbins, *Farmer Director*

District Staff

Jason Childs

District Manager
814-320-4012

Emily Shosh

Communications and Outreach Advisor
814-320-4107

Glenn Dunn II

Resource Conservation Technician
814-320-4013

Jared Dickerson

Watershed Specialist / NM Technician
814-320-4015

Andrew Mickey

LV / DGR Project Specialist
814-320-4011

Associate Directors

Dr. Peter Ryan
Jeff Cady
C.C. Felker

Bart Ianson
Charlie Tuttle



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.

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.

