

God's Country Chronicle

Newsletter of the POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Watershed Work

Willow Stakings

Although a handful of riparian plantings and trash pickups with local youth groups were cancelled, The District staff organized one willow staking this past spring, at the property of Harry Deutschlander, on Big Moores Run. Willow staking involves cutting pointed stakes of willows (in our case, Black Willow), and planting them near water while in their dormant or semi-dormant state. The stick-like planting will then easily grow roots to seek water, and later sprout leaves. In time, these plantings are a cheap, effective way to stabilize smaller erosion sites on streams. On April 30th, Emily, Jared, and Andy met with Harry and his two sons Otto and Owen, to plant about 300 feet of stream bank with nearly 200 willow stakes. With the use of rebar, rubber mallets, and digging bars, the team made holes perfectly suited to insert the willows into the bank. Moving forward, the site will be monitored, and additional replanting may be issued if necessary. A handful of riparian plantings are slated for this Fall, when we will be able to organize a project through our partnership with Keystone 10 million Trees. The ideal time to plant seedlings is Spring or Fall. Staff time and some grant funding is still available for these projects, so please contact us if you're interested!



Here, the eroded left side of the stream bank is prominent. The new willows' roots will hopefully prevent further damage through the summer and fall. Replanting in the Spring might also be planned to help mitigate this erosion.

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Upcoming Education Content: Advanced Macro ID Series

Recently, Emily, new intern Morgan, and Jared have been working diligently to collect benthic macroinvertebrates and create videos according to insect order. We hope these videos will benefit fisherman and water quality monitors alike! For example, a video is in the works that will cover Dragonflies and Damselflies (Order Odonata) - more specifically, a handful of Family categories within the Odonata Order (Skimmers, Clubtails, Darners, etc.) We hope this will help watershed organizations or other monitoring volunteers in their efforts to collect and identify Macroinvertebrates, as well as inform the public on the vast amount of life our streams hold!



Above, a Roach-like Stonefly. The Stonefly Order, Plecoptera, contains many varying families of stoneflies, including this guy!



Dirt and Gravel / Low Volume Roads Program

Road Rankings and Program Funding Updates

PCCD received 28 DGR applications in the 2020 grant round. 17 out of 30 municipalities applied for grant funding. LVR applications were not accepted this year due to funding limitations. Work plans and cost estimates were completed for each proposed project following a pre-application meeting on site. Projects have been ranked and will be awarded during the June QAB meeting. One LVR project and 13 DGR projects are scheduled to be constructed and completed this construction season. There is no shortage of work to be completed in Potter County as municipalities requested over \$3.2 million dollars in funding this year!

DGR Education Event Scheduling

DGLVR Municipality Breakfast Meeting was unfortunately cancelled on March 27th due to COVID-19. The District is planning on rescheduling the event to the fall, with exact date still to be determined.

Also moving forward, Trout Unlimited and the Potter County Conservation District will be holding two training events related to stream crossing replacements on July 15th and September 2nd, 2020—more information to come.

Municipalities Meeting Breakfast

CANCELLED

AGENDA INCLUDES:

- 7:30-8:30am Check-in, free breakfast served
- 7:45-8:15am Andrew Mickey, PCCD - Program/Project Updates, Resources/Requirements
- 8:15-8:45am Quality Assurance Board/District Staff - Q&A, Discussion
- 8:45-9:15am Eric Nevel, CDGRS - Base Build & Fill
- 9:15-9:45am David Morrison, CDGRS - Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA)
- 9:45-10:30am Jacob Tomlinson, Trout Unlimited - Stream Crossings/Culvert Replacements

Current Work Underway on Southwoods Road



Left: Backfilling shallow cross pipe installation on Southwoods Road project. Completed 30 cross pipe installations on project

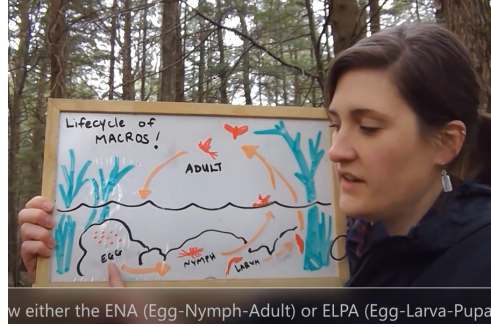


Right: French drain installation on S. Dry Run road project to prevent water in saturated ditch from leaching into road base

Education and Outreach

Providing Environmental Education from afar

With all of our Spring Education events cancelled, the challenge to move quickly and provide a very different means of environmental education led us to create new online competitions, social media outreach pieces, and an official District YouTube channel. Through our Spring “Virtual” Scavenger Hunt Competition, and Online Earth Day Challenge, our presence online exploded and a few local competitors were awarded with PCCD outreach items and local, homemade goods as prizes. So far, the YouTube channel has covered ephemeral plants, water quality, Beavers, Trout Stocking, and DGR Projects, and more. This endeavor is an especially welcome challenge, as these videos will prove useful down the line even after COVID-19 precautions cease. Currently, we’re planning for all staff members will have their time to represent the District’s works and goals, as well as creating outdoor interpretation and backyard conservation themed pieces.



Above pictured L to R, snapshots from our videos covering Trout Habitat and Parts of a stream (Jared), Intro to Benthic Macroinvertebrates (Emily), and Intro to the Dirt and Gravel Road Program (Andy)

Congrats to our Online Scavenger Hunt and Earth Day Challenge Winners!



L to R: Bonnie Wright, 1st Place Scavenger Hunt, Long Family (Betsy and Carl), 2nd place Scavenger Hunt, Charlie Tuttle, 3rd place Scavenger Hunt, Will Hunt, Earth Day Challenge Winner.

Earth Day Trash Pick Up

In celebration of the 50th Earth Day, Glenn, Andy, Jason, and Emily (pictured L-R) picked up a full truckload of litter on a mere three miles of Dingman Run Road and West Branch Dingman Run Road, in Eulalia Township. Social Distancing was practiced during this get together, which took place during the District’s work from home order. Although two youth pick ups were originally planned around this time and could not take place, they will hopefully be re-scheduled for the Fall or next Spring. We hope that if you know someone who has a bad habit of littering, please say something. Many of these items were not biodegradable, and thrown or carried by nearby water sources to beautiful, wild places that shouldn’t be treated as a dumpster. Please also consider pick ups near your home! To quote the Keep PA Beautiful team’s guidance, “Let everyone sweep in front of his own door, and the whole world will be clean.” - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Agriculture

Annual High School FFA Awards

Each year, the Conservation District awards a certificate and scholarship funds to two Potter County students who have excelled in their FFA classes and projects over their time in high school. This year’s recipients are as followed:

Henry Staiger Award—Intended for a senior graduating from Coudersport High School—**Danielle Sloan** is the daughter of Derek and Tina Cottrell, of Coudersport, Daniel and Zina Sloan, of Newberry Springs, California. She has been an active member of the Spud Growers FFA Chapter for two years, and has earned her Greenhand and Chapter Degrees. Her FFA activities have included: Pennsylvania Farm Show, PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Dairy and Livestock Judging, Hoffman Farms and Oswayo Fish Hatchery Field Trip, and various chapter fundraisers. Her future plants are to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford to major in early childhood education.

Robert Barnett Award— This award it intended for graduating senior of Norther Potter High School— **Alyssa Burchell**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Burchell. Alyssa’s interest in Agriculture and the FFA has grown in the last 2 years and she has become a big part of the Headwaters FFA Chapter and very involved in Ag classes. She even stepped into an officer Position during her senior year. She served as the Headwaters FFA Chapter Sentinel and participated in Local and State Career Development Events. She also took part in the Newly Created Area FFA and worked with members from Potter and Tioga Counties. Her improvement and involvement have not gone unnoticed and she is very deserving of the Robert Barnett Most Improved Ag Student Award.

Congratulations!

No-Till Equipment now Available!

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

Land Development

The District is back in full swing as construction has reopened. Numerous projects have resumed work and permit reviews have been ongoing. Many utility projects are either in construction or under review including: Wind, Solar, Telecommunication Tower Sites, Electric Power Transmission and Pipeline Projects. General earthmoving from DOT/ Municipal Road Projects to Commercial Land development .



2020 Tree Seedling Sale Wrap up

The District's second annual tree sale wrapped up just as COVID-19 restrictions took effect. While in transit with the seedlings, these restrictions tightened down even further. We of course heeded these precautions, but still chose to disperse the orders as scheduled. Upon pick up, customers did not exit their vehicles, and all orders were loaded by Emily only, ensuring exposure to the public was minimized. Our total number of orders was essentially doubled from last year, and profits nearly matched at just over \$600. We are grateful to our customers and nurseries, who all patiently and happily followed the most up to date guidelines and precautions through this sale! Please feel free to contact us with questions on tree plantings and maintenance, as well as next year's sale! Final stats from our 2020 sale are listed below:

Norway Spruce:	75	Red Oak:	49
White Pine:	26	Chinkapin Oak:	127
Canadian Hemlock:	21	Bartlett Pear:	26
Eastern Larch:	50	Blueberries:	60
Elderberry:	67	Red Fuji Apple:	25
Buttonbush:	45	Granny Smith:	24
Hazelnut:	143	Serviceberry:	47

Total Trees Sold: 785 = \$608 in profits

All Seedlings were sourced from Musser Forests, Hilltop Hollow Farms, and Pikes Peak Nursery. Proceeds will benefit future education events and programs!

Introducing: Morgan Jones, PCCD Summer Conservation Intern!

My name is Morgan Jones and I am currently a student at California University of Pennsylvania studying geology. At school we spend a lot of time outdoors hiking, camping, and volunteering. In 2017 I graduated from Coudersport High. While in high school I was an active member of the Spud Growers FFA Chapter. During my time in FFA I competed in local judging and public speaking competitions and I was awarded a Keystone Degree my senior year.

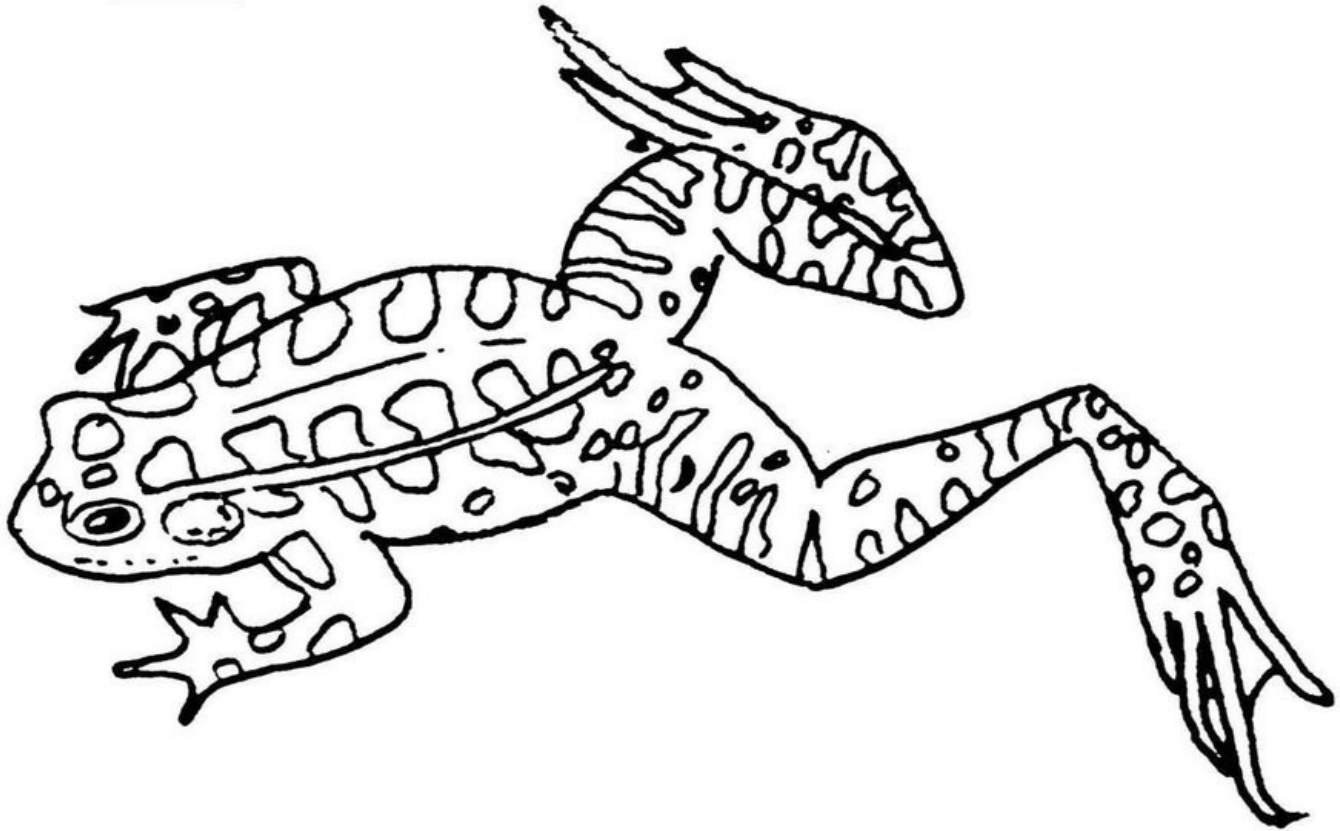
In my free time I enjoy hiking, kayaking, camping, and fishing. Prior to working at the Potter County Conservation District I worked with DCNR at Lyman Run and Cherry Springs State Parks. While employed there I spent most of my time at Cherry Springs presenting astronomy programs. These programs included informing the public about the night sky and giving them the opportunity to view objects, such as planets and stars, through telescopes. My favorite part about this job was hearing people's reactions to seeing a clear night sky for the first time in their life. Potter County is full of natural beauty, and sometimes I take that for granted. Hearing other people's reactions to this beauty really made me realize and appreciate how lucky I am to live here.





PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

Pickerel Frog



All About Me: Howdy! I'm a Pickerel Frog. We average from one and a half to three inches long. Our skin is smooth with a metallic look. We are spotted frogs, like leopard frogs, but with different markings. Our base color is tan, light gray to light brown. We have two rows of square spots down our backs, but leopard frogs have round spots that are not in rows. The rows of spots are black, dark brown, or red brown in color. Small, square spots also appear on our sides. Our belly is white up front and yellow toward the rear. Dark bars mark our back legs and help us to look different from leopard frogs. We spend more of our time out of the water than in it. We are at home in marshes, along streams, and around cool springs. In summer, we move into grassy fields or meadows, seeking out damp areas with low plants. We also live in grassy areas along streams and woodland ponds. We hibernate from October until March. Only male pickerel frogs call. Sometimes, we call underwater and it sounds like a snore. At other times, the calling is done at egg-laying sites with a full chorus of other pickerel frogs emitting a slow, low, steady croak of one to two seconds duration out of our two vocal sacs. We eat caterpillars, insects, crayfish and spiders. We are found in all of Pennsylvania's counties.

www.fishandboat.com

This spring, watch out for the egg masses and young of many species of frogs, toads, and salamanders! They will be located in various areas of standing water and vernal pools. These areas are necessary for these amphibians to survive.

POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Charlie Tuttle
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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.

