



Gods Country Chronicle

Newsletter of the POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Watershed Work

The Conservation District works regularly to implement stream projects as a means of stream bank restoration, creation of aquatic / trout habitat, and to improve water quality and overall stream health. Two such projects, completed during the 2018 sea-

son, were the Phoenix Run and the Gehman Property Projects.

Both were undertaken to alter stream velocity in an attempt to stabilize the bank, prevent accelerated erosion and sedimentation to the stream, and create more

viable trout habitat. Log vane deflectors and muddsill cribbing were the primary structures utilized in these stream projects. Other site work included riparian plantings of native trees and shrubs to add additional habitat and stream bank stabilization.

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Phoenix Run Project, State Game Lands #64



Upstream multi-log vanes

The Phoenix Run Project was completed in partnership with the PA Game Commission.



Muddsill cribbing

This project was completed with PA Fish and Boat Sinnemahoning Creek Restoration Grant Funding along with contributions from the land owner. Future planting work will be completed by the Seneca Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Upper Allegheny Watershed Association to establish a healthy riparian buffer.

Gehman Project, Sartwell Creek



Education and Outreach

One of the primary goals of the Conservation District is education and improved environmental literacy in the community. From May through November, the District provided educational programs for county libraries through the summer, Outreach events during the Coudersport Farmer's Market and the Potter County Fair, workshops and trainings, and

assistance in various events of our partners'. The District is currently working to expand our reach to school classrooms, both in an effort to bring the outdoors into the public school system and to support county-wide environmental literacy in schools. Planning is underway for more projects, educational programs, and new annual events for the coming year. Stay tuned for our upcoming offerings!



In June, class members of Leadership Potter County examined benthic macroinvertebrates with District manager Jason and District Outreach Advisor Emily. The Leadership Course is offered by the Education Council, and this class was hosted at Lyman Run State Park

Conservation Field Days

On May 15 and 16, 2018, the Potter County Conservation District held the annual 5th Grade Conservation Field Days event at the Millport Fairgrounds. The event brought over one hundred fifth grade students from four of the five public schools within the county together, and stands as one of the most well attended Conservation District events.

Through seven different stations, students learned valuable environmental lessons and spent a memorable day of experiential learning outside of the classroom setting.

During this year's program, students participated in a Watershed lesson that included macroinvertebrate identification of live specimens with Conservation District Watershed Technician Jared Dickerson, a wildfire-fighting demonstration put on by District Director and volunteer at large Stan Hess, and a maple syrup making demonstration put on by Conservation District staff member Glenn Dunn II.

Other events included a tree identification activity put on by Forester Eric Monger, a lively Wildlife Habitat lesson with Brian Budjanec, Environmental

Interpretive Technician from Sizerville State Park, and a Penn State Extension activity on invasive species executed by Samantha Sessamen and Stephanie Hinz of the McKean County Penn State Extension office.

Despite challenging weather, 72 very enthusiastic students from Coudersport and Austin combined attended day one of the event and 48 attended day two from Galeton and Northern Potter.

A special thanks goes out to all guest speakers, teachers, chaperones, and Fairgrounds volunteer staff for their invaluable help with this event.



A field day student works on identifying trees with instruction led by forester Eric Monger



RIGHT: PCCD Volunteer extraordinaire Stan Hess shares his story as a forester, as well as his old forest fire-fighting equipment with Conservation Field Day students



LEFT: Conservation District Watershed Technician Jared Dickerson demonstrates how Watersheds are formed and some potential challenges they may face.



Potter County
Conservation District

Annual Bird Seed Sale

Support
overwintering bird
populations in your
backyard!

Proceeds benefit our educational programs and equipment.
Thanks for your support!

Our inventory includes:

Corn - 80 lb bags \$10 each

Birdseed Mix - 50 lb bags \$22 each

Black Oil Sunflower Seed - 50 lb bags \$22 each

Stop in and see us for your birdseed!

**107 Market Street, Coudersport PA
or call (814)-274-8411 ext. 4 for more info**

Why feed the birds?

Every year from November through April or May, the Conservation District hosts a birdseed sale. Bird feeding has many benefits for homeowners and birds / wildlife, but some care and attention is required to best manage bird populations of our community.

Some potential benefits to attracting birds to your yard are:

- Education and interaction with Nature
- Insect and weed control
- Flower Pollination
- Support of Overwintering birds

Some things to consider:

- Disease outbreaks, possible need for strategic feeder cleaning
- Unwanted wildlife visitors, need for stronger / reinforced feeders

**Please visit our Facebook page
for more articles and info on
bird feeding!**



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

PA Farmland Preservation Program

This year, the Conservation District will be inducting the farmlands of Mr. Wayne Baumann into the Farmland Preservation Program. The program has preserved seven other farms in Potter County since 2002, equivalent to 1,136 acres. The Baumann easement adds another 169.06 acres to this total. Baumann's farm is located in Sweden Township and is a part of land designated as an Agricultural Security Area

within Potter County, making it a high priority to the Farmland Preservation Program. Soils of the farm also ranked the land with high importance, as well as the farm's adoption of a sound Conservation Plan. Activities in the Conservation Plan include strip cropping, 3-year crop rotations, cover crops, and grassed waterways.

Applications for acceptance into the Farmland Preservation Program are currently being

accepted until December 31st. Please contact our office for more information.



"The District stands by its role as an educator and a technical assistance provider, not as a regulator."

Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Effective July 2018, Potter County's continuation in the Chesapeake Bay Reboot Strategy came to an end. The decision was made unanimously during June's board meeting against implementing "Phase 2" of the program, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. Also during the meeting, a representative from the DEP Bureau of Clean Water presented Phase 2 expectations and outcomes to the board, and ample time for questions and discussion followed.

The Reboot Strategy was originally introduced in 2016 to help meet EPA goals for Pennsylvania's reduction of nutrient and sediment to the Chesapeake Bay. Over the past two years, the District has applied the Strategy by assisting in development of Manure Management and Agricultural Erosion and Sediment (Ag E&S) Plans for 60 operations, and by gathering baseline information through visiting 100 Potter County farms within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

protect the natural resources of Potter County" – not to enforce regulations or be perceived as an enforcement agency. For this reason, the District will not be continuing participation in the Chesapeake Bay Reboot Strategy and stringent farm inspections. From this point on, farmers must be aware that DEP may still conduct inspections, and the District will continue to provide assistance to farmers who request our services.

Phase 2 of the Strategy would include scheduling compliance inspections by the District with farms previously involved in developing Manure Management and/or Ag E&S Plans in order to ensure active farmer application of practices outlined in plans, and overall success in meeting state regulations.

The Conservation District does not aim to be a regulatory entity. The District's mission is to *"provide and administer programs, plans, educational information, and technical assistance for conservation practices that*

The District stands by its role as an educator and technical assistance provider, not as a regulator. Withdrawal from the program was a challenging decision, but one that was seen as most beneficial for local farmers and landowners of Potter County. If you have any questions or need assistance on your farm, please call the Conservation District at 814-274-8411, extension 4, email at pccd@zitomedia.net, or stop into the office at 107 Market Street, Coudersport, PA 16915. We look forward to your continued support in working to make Potter County better as a whole.





Red Fuji Apple

Semi-dwarf, \$20 per 4-6 foot tree

With its sweet/tart flavor, the Fuji Apple is a favorite fresh eating apple that is crisp, firm, and juicy. Excellent taste. Boasts beautiful red-colored skin and is medium in size. Produces large yields that ripen late season. Also great for cider. Reaches about 12-15 feet at full maturity. Not drought tolerant, may require watering. Not self-pollinating, requires complimentary variety to bear fruit.



Granny Smith Apple

Semi-dwarf, \$20 per 4-6 foot tree

Large multipurpose apple good for fresh eating, sauce and juice. Fruit is green, very tart, and crisp. The go-to apple for baking and in pies. Reaches about 12-15 feet at full maturity. Not drought tolerant, may require watering. Not self-pollinating, requires complimentary variety to bear fruit.



Sekel Pear

Semi-dwarf, \$22 per 4-6 foot tree

One of the smallest and sweetest of pear varieties. Great for baking, eating, and canning, keeps very well. Tree reaches 12-15 feet at full maturity. Not self-pollinating, requires complimentary variety to bear fruit.



Bartlett Pear

Semi-dwarf, \$22 per 4-6 foot tree

A prime canning, eating, and baking fruit. Serves as the standard by which all other pears are measured. Pears will keep well. Grows at a faster rate and does best with full sun. Reaches 12-15 feet at full maturity. Especially sensitive to urban conditions and salts. Not drought tolerant and may require watering and extra care in dry conditions.

Tree Catalog Key



FULL SUN



WETTER SOIL



BIRD HABITAT/FOOD



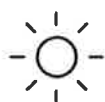
WILDLIFE HABITAT/FOOD



POLLINATOR-PREFERRED

Norway Spruce - *Picea Abies*

Available Size: 12-18 inches



Norways have many uses including lumber, Christmas trees and landscape specimen trees. Its dense branching pattern and tolerance of soil variations has also made it a popular tree for windbreaks. Grows to a height of 40–60' and a spread of 25–30' at maturity. They are important winter cover for deer and small game including grouse, hare, and woodcock. Song birds and fur bearers also frequent these forest types.



Red Maple - *Acer Rubrum*

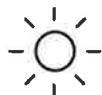
Available Size: 10-18 inches



Red maple is one of the best named of all trees, featuring something red in each of the seasons—buds in winter, flowers in spring, leafstalks in summer, and brilliant foliage in autumn. One of the first trees to flower in Spring, attracting early bees and hummingbirds. The tree's pageant of color, its fast growth, and tolerance to a wide range of soils makes it a widely planted favorite. Grows to a height of 40–60' and a spread of around 40' at maturity.

Sargent Crabapple - *Malus Sargentii*

Available Size: 12-24 inches



This compact landscape tree is a spring star, with abundant clusters of fragrant white flowers making their appearance in May. Great for smaller yards, growing to a maximum height of 10 feet. Yields pea-sized fruit that starts out greenish-yellow which later turns bright red, hanging in clusters and persisting into winter. The fruit is especially favored by cedar waxwings, robins, and grosbeaks. Other wildlife may enjoy the fruit as well. Can be used to help pollinate some apple tree varieties.



Old Fashioned Lilac - *Syringa Vulgaris*

Available Size: 12-24 inches



Dense, vigorous growth to 15 feet. Produces very fragrant flowers light to deep lavender in color which bloom during late spring. Old flowers should be cut (or, "deadheaded") from the plant as soon as the flowers fade, and pruning on alternate years may help overall growth. Loved by butterflies and bees. Grows best in groups with 6 feet between plants and in full sun or partial shade.



American Elder - *Sambucus Canadensis*

Available Size: 18-24 inches



Vigorous fast growing shrub to 10 feet in height. Bluish-black berries excellent for making jams and wine. Berries are also a great food source for birds and other wildlife. Does not prefer a certain soil type or drainage, and is relatively wetland tolerant. Requires partial shade to full sun. At least two shrubs are required for proper pollination and berry production.

ORDERS AND PAYMENTS ARE DUE BY MARCH 1ST, 2019

Please send your order and payment by mail or in person to our office, 107 Market Street Coudersport, PA 16915. We are able to accept cash or checks, which can be made payable to the Potter County Conservation District.

Pick up will be April 5th, 2019 11 AM - 4PM at our office. Bring a copy of your order forms to verify upon pick up. Refunds for unavailable varieties will be issued if necessary.

The District may assist in providing planting guidance, but cannot be responsible for unsuccessful trees or possible discrepancies caused by tree suppliers.

Land Development

E&S Pollution Control and NPDES (Chapter 102) and General Permitting (Chapter 105)

Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans (Chapter 102) are required for all Earth Disturbance activities over 5000 square feet. The goal for this program is to help decrease accelerated erosion by land development / earth disturbance activities. Disturbance of any kind has the potential to discharge into waters of the Commonwealth.

General Permit (105) Regulations are required for construction, operating, modifying, enlarging, or abandoning any dam or water encroachment. An encroachment is defined as any structure that may have an effect on the course of a body of water, including wetlands.

The Conservation District provides technical assistance to these developers and their activities. In our third quarter of 2018 alone (July through September), the District assisted in 16 various projects, ranging from minor stream crossings to the new State Police Barracks site construction.

DEP is currently in the process of phasing out paper permit applications. Permit processing will be completed via the DEP ePermitting Portal. In the coming months, the District will provide additional local assistance in this process. More information and the District's Fee schedule and GP Fees / Registration can be found on our website, pottercd.com



Top Photo - A tree harvester. With the coming of the invasive insect the Emerald Ash Borer, it is advised to harvest stands of Ash in many areas in Pennsylvania.

Bottom Photo - Glenn Dunn, Resource Conservationist, assisting at the DGR Southwoods project site. Erosion from the hillside deposited directly to the stream below.



ePermitting Portal



Effective October 10, 2018, DEP initiated the ePermitting Portal. This is a movement towards electronically-submitted permit applications. Changes and updates may occur as necessary, and the Conservation District is committed to assist applicants through the process. More information direct from the DEP website is provided as follows:

"When it debuts, the e-permit application will be fully functional and available for use to submit permit applications, but it is in a "beta" test phase. We are creating an opportunity for users to provide feedback. Applicants are encouraged to send comments and suggestions on the e-permit to a dedicated email account: ra-epbweweperdwet105@pa.gov. All messages will be reviewed and considered for future improvements. Applicants will also be invited to participate in a web-based conference call to learn more about the functionality of the new tool and provide recommendations for potential enhancements. We intend to use it to perfect a tool that creates transparency, consistency, efficiency and speeds up the process.

Unless one has already been created, a prospective user will need to create a GreenPort account to access e-permitting. Regardless of how many Bureaus a user would like to submit permit applications to, only one Greenport account is necessary. However, a user will need separate permissions for some Department e-permits. The Chapter 105 General Permit e-permit is one such application which requires separate permissions.

Once an account is created, the user will need to fill out and submit an EFA Registration and Security Agreement for e-permitting."

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 Morely, *Commissioner Director*
Kevin Smoker, *Farmer Director*
Chris Robbins, *Farmer Director*

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Associate Directors

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Jeff Cady

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.

