



# CONSERVATION TIMES

Franklin County Conservation District

## SUMMER 2023

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## FCCD Hosts Winter Ag Meeting with EPA

On March 1, 2023, Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) hosted a Winter Ag meeting with guest speakers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Meeting attendees enjoyed an interactive question-and-answer session with EPA reps, led by Adam Ortiz, EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator.

nutrient reduction progress. In addition to the meeting, FCCD facilitated a focus group with EPA and local farmers in the morning, a stream tour in Greencastle to spotlight a recent success story, and an additional focus group with municipal leaders in the afternoon.



Throughout the day, topics ranged from legacy sediment to today's agricultural regulations. Franklin County's water quality trends and successful BMP Verification Program were highlighted during discussions regarding Chesapeake Bay



FCCD hosted EPA officials during an action-packed, day-long meeting that included Q & A from local farmers, a stream tour and a municipality leader focus group.

## 2023 Franklin County Envirothon Held

Earning a whopping 338 points (a 48-point lead), the Waynesboro Area Senior High School's "Terrific Trilobites" team took first place in the Franklin County Conservation District's annual Envirothon competition on April 18 at Cowans Gap State Park.

A total of six teams from Chambersburg, Waynesboro, and James Buchanan High Schools competed in the competition. Led by Mrs. Catherine Myers, the members of the winning team are Rachel Nunemaker, Harmoniee Wong, Aidan Coulter, Emma Coulter, and Joel Moats.

Testing stations were led by representatives from the PA Game Commission, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Bureau of Forestry, and the Franklin and Fulton County Conservation Districts.

Students utilized their skills in wildlife and tree identification, tree measurement, soil map interpretation and aquatics identification as they moved through the testing course.



Pictured above: Winning High School Teams PA Representatives Paul Schemel and Rich Irvin joined FCCD Director Mike Ross for the presentations. Not pictured: Third Place - Chambersburg

### 2023 ENVIROTHON SPONSORS

Adams Electric Cooperative      The Butcher Shoppe  
Herbert, Rowland & Grubic Inc      Donald Spickler Insurance  
Mercersburg Lions Club

## First Grade Field Trip

FCCD held its annual First Grade Field Trip at Caledonia State Park in May for approximately 700 first grade students from the Chambersburg Area School District.



Follow us!

<https://facebook.com/FranklinCCD>

# Ernie Tarner Memorial Golf Tournament & Scholarships

The Franklin County Conservation District hosted its annual benefit golf tournament on Friday, June 2, 2023 at the Whitetail Golf Resort. First held in 2007, a total of 79 Franklin County college students have benefited from environmental scholarships funded by golf tournament proceeds.

Students majoring in fields such as Ag Business, Ag Extension, Animal Science, Dairy Science, Earth Science, Environmental Law, Environmental Science, Forestry, Geo-environmental Studies, Horticulture, Marine Biology, Turf Management and Veterinarian Science have been the recipients of over \$59,000 to-date. **The funds from the 2023 tournament funded \$1,000 scholarships to EIGHT local students!**

Approximately 80 golfers from 20 various businesses came together for this year's fundraiser. The overall winning team, Robert Plish, Sean Swerthelm, Bill Luszik, and Ian Helsel, representing AES Clean Energy, shot a 57 (15 under par). David McHenry was the proud winner of the Yeti cooler, sponsored by Keystone Ford. His "closest to the pin" stroke at Hole #6 earned this year's grand takeaway. Longest drive winners were Ian Helsel and Anne Miller.

Many additional sponsors and donors provided funding for door prizes and a delicious meal, and FCCD wishes to thank each one for their support.



Left: 80 golfers from 20 businesses participated this year. Right: David McHenry accepts his Yeti cooler from FCCD Ch. 102 Program Manager Thomas Swartz. The cooler was sponsored by Keystone Ford.



**2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Top Row: Abigail Bemisderfer, Brayden Boyd, Kenzie Boyd  
 2nd Row: Morgan Nelling, Rachel Nunemaker, Faith Sheldon  
 3rd Row: Grant Bohn, Elizabeth Hoffeditz

**CONGRATULATIONS  
 To ALL Of Our Winners!**

## FCCD in Pictures



**FCCD 2023 Tree Seedling Sale Stats**  
 4725 Hardwoods/Evergreens  
 111 Fruit Trees  
 276 Tubes  
 134 Stakes

Left: Dustin Gingerich picks up his pre-ordered fruit trees from Emily Hartley, FCCD Watershed Specialist.



Wilson College student (left) and Wilson College Professor Chris Mayer (right) scrape SLF egg masses from infested trees during a workshop organized by FCCD Watershed Specialist.



FCCD Board of Directors celebrated Associate Director Sam Worley's 102nd birthday.



FCCD was awarded a \$95,000 IMPACT! Grant from the Franklin County Commissioners.

## FCCD Affiliate Membership Drive - See website for more info!



**Franklin County  
Conservation  
District**

**2023 SUMMER  
CONSERVATION FARM  
TOUR & LUNCHEON**  
Thursday, August 3  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM



Meet at . . .  
**GREENE TOWNSHIP PARK**  
996 Elevator Street  
(Off Main Street, Scotland)  
Chambersburg, PA 17202

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

- Registration: 9:30 - 10:00 AM (Outdoor Pavilion)
- Load bus at the park. Travel to and from Burk-Lea Farm for a tour.
- Return for a **FREE** catered lunch by Fat Russ's BBQ.

**COST: FREE!**  
(But Pre-Registration is Required)

**RSVP DEADLINE**  
July 27, 2023

**TO REGISTER:**  
Call or Email Rhoda Crider  
Phone: 717-264-5499  
Email: [rcrider@franklinccd.org](mailto:rcrider@franklinccd.org)

185 Franklin Farm Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17202  
717-264-5499 [www.franklinccd.org](http://www.franklinccd.org)

*Featuring . . .*  
**Burk-Lea Farms**  
**Clinton & Kara Burkholder**

*Learn about these Best Management Practices (BMPs) and more!*



**Separated Manure Stacking**



**Roofed Heavy Use Area**



**Manure Storages**



**Grassed Waterway**



**Dribble Bar Manure Application**

## IMPLEMENTING AGRICULTURAL BMPs (BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES)

### ACAP / CEG Update

The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) Program have both been very active over the last several months. We had 40 applications submitted between both programs in February, and over the last several months we have been working to contract that funding. Currently, we have about \$1.1 million contracted and close to \$500,000 in contracts that are being processed. This effectively ends the first round of funding for the year.

We expect to begin contracting the second round starting in August 2023, which will include up to \$2 million in funding. New applications will be accepted until the deadline of **August 4, 2023**. If you are interested in applying for funding, call our office to schedule a site visit.

**New Application Deadline:  
August 4, 2023**

**Call our office: 717-264-5499**



*Before and During: Animal Walkway - CEG funding*



*Future site of an agricultural waste circular storage facility funded in the latest round*

### CAP / Engineer Update

A recently-completed project, funded by the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) grant, is pictured below. This project involved the installation of a liquid manure storage tank to collect runoff from the existing barnyard and stack pad, a covered bed pack, and additional barnyard area. Despite the farmer's previous efforts, there was still a large brown lot and runoff from the existing barnyard and stack pad. The FCCD Engineer and Ag Resource Specialist worked with the farmer to design a tank that could collect all of the runoff from the non-roofed areas and design a bed pack to help house all of his livestock when they cannot be on pasture. A considerable amount of concrete flat work was installed to connect the existing and new facilities and to direct all of the runoff from the animal areas into the tank. The project started in late winter of 2023 and was completed by June 2023. All that remains is for grass to grow. The farmer is also working with our office to plant trees in an old pasture that he no longer uses.



*FCCD Engineer John High navigates tall grass to complete site surveying necessary for an Ag BMP project.*



The FCCD Engineer continues to work closely with producers to design Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address resource concerns on their farms, the majority of which involve manure management. The District Engineer also works closely with the Chapter 102 program reviewing Post Construction Stormwater (PCSM) plans for large projects and projects in high quality or exceptional value watersheds.



## New Cover Crop Program

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Annual planting of approved cover crop seed takes place following the harvest of corn, sorghum, soybeans or vegetables (no later than November 10).
- A minimum of 40% coverage must be obtained by December 31.
- Cover crops may not be harvested for grazing, forage or grain.
- Cover crops may not winter kill.
- Spring termination may not occur prior to April 1.
- Minimum acres enrolled: 5 acres (Max: 200 acres)

The Franklin County Conservation District is offering a Cover Crop Incentive Program for the 2023-2024 crop year. Utilizing funding from the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), cost share funds are being provided for the establishment of vegetative winter cover on cropland. Vegetative winter cover can provide many benefits such as: protecting your soil from rain and wind generated erosion, building organic matter, increasing infiltration, reducing growth of winter weeds, and reducing nutrient losses to leaching and surface water runoff. Cover crops will also allow for late fall and winter manure applications which require fields to have at least 25% cover. Using cover crops after corn silage harvest can be especially beneficial since there is usually less residue left on the field.

The program is open to any grower who is currently utilizing cover crops or has never grown one. Incentive payments will be \$50 per acre for single species and \$70 per acre for multi-species.

Growers participating in this program will need to have a verifiable Manure Management Plan or Nutrient Management Plan and a Chapter 102 Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plan or Conservation Plan in place.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 31, 2023**  
The Cover Crop Incentive Program is first come, first served. For more information or to apply, please call Jonathon Ott at 717-264-5499 or email at [jott@franklinccd.org](mailto:jott@franklinccd.org).

## Dirt Gravel & Low Volume Roads Maintenance Program

Many of us are familiar with road construction projects such as resurfacing and grading, however Lurgan Township completed a unique project this spring with funding assistance from the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies Low Volume Road program. These funds are available through county conservation districts for municipalities to apply for road maintenance projects that will result in improvements to water quality.

Otterbein Church Road runs parallel to an unnamed tributary to Clippingers Run. There is an approximately 170' section with a steep road bank that had been eroding into the tributary and action needed taken to stabilize the area to minimize erosion and prevent damage to the road. A 'soil nails and high-tension mesh stabilization system' was designed to accomplish both goals.

This project, which only took one week in late April to complete, was outsourced to a private contractor who specializes in this type of work. Multiple rows of approximately 20' soil nails were drilled into the bank just below the road in a grid pattern. Threaded rebar was inserted into the pipes and concrete grout was forced into the pipe so the rebar was secured within the bank. These pipes and rebar were cut back so just enough was protruding from the bank to lay ground cover and galvanized steel wire mesh on top. Galvanized steel plates were then attached to the rebar securing the galvanized mesh to the bank. After the stabilization was in place, new guard railing was installed along the road.

The total cost of this project was \$241,395.21, which included the stabilizing

structure, road closure signage, excavation, tree removal, grass seed, and hiring a commercial vacuum to clean up loose soil that was disturbed when the soil nails were installed. This prevented the soil from reaching the stream. The Franklin County Conservation District contributed \$130,000 through the Low Volume Road program funds.



## Streamside Grass Buffer Program Update

Do you have a stream on your farm? Are you concerned about the potential for field runoff to reach that stream? If you planted a buffer, would you like to have the opportunity to harvest the grass as well as receive an incentive payment? If so, the Streamside Grass Buffer Program (SGBP) might be beneficial to your operation.

Under the SGBP guidelines, producers are encouraged to harvest the grass buffer so valuable cropland is not taken out of production. To date over 11.5 acres have been committed to the SGBP, providing over 3,100 nutrient reduction credits towards the Franklin County Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay.

For more information about the SGBP, please call the office at 717-264-5499.

**Now is the time to contact us if you would like to do a fall seeding.**

## Stream Restoration Project

The first legacy sediment removal and floodplain restoration project in Franklin County is currently underway! Legacy sediments are thick layers of sediment that have accumulated in valley bottoms throughout the watershed as a result of historical human activity such as mill dams. These legacy sediments are known to inhibit many functions necessary for a fully functioning stream and riparian area. By removing legacy sediment from stream systems, we reconnect streams with their natural, historical floodplains and restore numerous functions of a healthy watershed. Stay tuned for the reveal of the restoration results in the Winter newsletter!

# TREE PROJECTS



## Calling all tree enthusiasts!

The Franklin County Conservation District is excited to share that we are launching a new program: the Franklin County Branch of the Riparian Rangers! The program is administered by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and overseen by county-level “branches”. Relying

on local volunteers, the program aims to ensure the successful establishment of newly planted trees by providing routine maintenance support for the first three years after their planting. To learn more about becoming a Riparian Ranger in Franklin County, please call us at 717-264-5499. *Planting trees is easy. but establishing a forest is not, and we need YOU!*

## Keystone 10 Million Trees (K10)

This past spring, the FCCD Watershed Specialist began working with the Keystone 10 Million Trees partnership, a program that began in 2018 with the goal of planting 10 million trees in Pennsylvania by 2025. In total, 560 trees and shrubs (25 difference species) were distributed and planted by six individual Franklin County landowners and two partner organizations in 2023. Species included arrowwood, buttonbush, eastern redbud, red maple, river birch, sycamore, white oak.

For more information about this program and how to get involved, please contact us at 717-264-5499.



April 25: 25 trees were planted by volunteers in the Franklin County EcoPark.



April 29: 60 trees were planted by volunteers at the Great Commission Deliverance Ministries church in Waynesboro to replace trees that died following the original planting.

## Billy Timmons Planting



Earlier this year, students from the Chambersburg Area Senior High School spent the day planting trees on the Timmons Farm near Roxbury. This planting, in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, was the third installment of a multi-phase riparian buffer planting on the Timmons Farm. Prior to getting their hands dirty, students learned about the value of planting trees and establishing riparian buffers, a discussion led by the

Left: Ryan Davis, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay’s Senior Forest Projects Manager, demonstrates how to harvest and plant live stake cuttings from a black willow tree.

Alliance’s Senior Forest Projects Manager, Ryan Davis. In total, nearly 100 live stakes and over 200 trees were planted and sheltered by the enthusiastic high school students. Following the planting, students learned about careers in conservation and had the unique opportunity to learn about the history of the Timmons Farm and the conservation improvements that have been made over the years from Mr. Billy Timmons.

In cooperation with:



## Furnace Run Park

Furnace Run Park, located in Southampton Township, Franklin County, PA, is a 226-acre nature park that has two quarries, together totaling about 25 acres. These quarries were graded when Southampton Township gained possession of the park; however, regrowth was non-existent and the steep slopes began to erode. Through a coordinated effort by Southampton Township, DEP and New Enterprise Stone and Lime, and with funding from the PA Environmental Council, the Township has had both quarries “ripped” by a D8 dozer.

On April 14 and 15, Southampton Township hosted nearly approximately 150 volunteers to plant approximately 14,000 PA-native trees, of which 12,500 were donated by the Keystone 10 Million Trees program to reforest the quarries. A great selection of native trees for habitat and seasonal beauty were planted by volunteers from all over the state,

followed by seed mix for additional ground cover between the trees.

Some of the groups and individuals who volunteered for this event include, but are not limited to: Susquehanna River Basin Commission, CBF, Southampton Township, Franklin County Conservation District, Penn State Mont Alto, Conococheague Audubon Emma Munson Foundation, Walmart, various watershed groups from surrounding areas, and friends and families of Franklin County and beyond! This effort will generate immeasurable ecological uplift and serve as great contribution to Franklin County’s progress in reaching nutrient/sediment reduction goals for our Clean Water Plan. This two-day effort will account for 24 acres (60%) of the plan’s 40-acre goal for tree planting.

Thank you to all involved, and a special thanks to Southampton Township for such a great event!



Approximately 14,000 trees were planted in two days!



# Conococheague Creek Priority Projects Plans (CP3) - Update

In 2021, the Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD), with grant funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), initiated an assessment of the Conococheague Creek Watershed. With the help of our dedicated stakeholders (municipalities, agencies, Non-Government Organizations [NGOs], and additional partners), this assessment identified local restoration opportunities to assist with your water quality improvement and resource protection goals. The plan was recently completed with support from LandStudies, Inc. (LSI).

Following completion of the plan and ArcGIS Online StoryMap, FCCD held a follow-up meeting on June 7 to reveal the newly completed plan. (Thank you to our hosts, Goldfish Barn, LLC and funding source of the outreach related to plan development, TC Energy's Build Strong Program!) The meeting included discussion of next steps to implement the restoration opportunities outlined in the plan and how we (all involved) fit into the puzzle to work as partners. At this working meeting, FCCD provided detailed information related to designing, permitting, and funding these large-scale projects for quicker, successful implementation. Additionally, a focused panel of agency individuals, funders, and industry professionals, including PA DEP, US Army Corp of Engineers, LandStudies, and more, answered questions related to BMP-specific programs and permits for the stakeholders.

The goal of this plan was to choose a sample of projects across the watershed which demonstrate the defining characteristics of a "priority project". While these projects reflect a pilot scale study of a massive watershed, the objective of this effort is to equip stakeholders to use this dynamic plan in identification and prioritization of projects that exhibit alignment with the tenants of this plan, and

which may have potential to be added to the active digital Story-Map. Many additional opportunities have since been identified, and additionally, some of the projects have already secured funding for designs or entered the construction phase. (Stay tuned for updates on those projects!)

For questions regarding the plan, or projects resulting from the effort, contact Franklin County Conservation District and ask for Caitlin Lucas, Clean Water Coordinator, or Emily Hartley, Watershed Specialist at 717-264-5499.

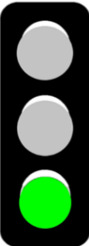


## Erosion & Sediment Control

### Are you proposing earthmoving activities on your property?

Below is a condensed version of guidelines to follow. A full version can be found on our website.

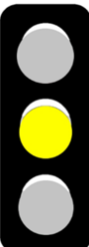
**NOTE: Prior to ANY earth moving activities, CONTACT US at 717-264-5499!**



**Earth disturbance = 5,000 square feet or less (Gardens, Sheds, Pools, etc.)**

#### **Good to Go**

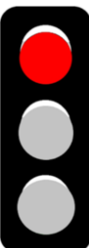
- Remove the grass cover and any topsoil as necessary. Any stockpiled topsoil should be seeded and straw mulched if it will remain on the property for greater than four days.
- Complete the proposed project. Re-spread topsoil, and seed and straw mulch all disturbed areas. Maintain vegetated buffer.
- Possibly install a compost filter sock or silt fencing below the disturbed area.



**Earth disturbance = 5,000 square feet – 1 acre (House, Barns, Large garage, etc.)**

#### **Proceed with Caution**

- If the proposed earth disturbance is greater than 5,000 sq ft, it is recommended to contact your local Conservation District.
- A written Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control plan is required showing the location of the proposed earth disturbance and its Limit of Disturbance (LOD), the existing contours (direction of existing stormwater flow), proposed contours (the direction of the stormwater after construction), E&S Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as Rock Construction Entrance, silt fence, compost filter sock, and contained concrete washout.
- A project **may not** be broken into less than one-acre phases to circumvent obtaining an NPDES permit.



**Earth disturbance = 1 acre or greater**

#### **STOP**

- Consult a licensed design professional. You will need to apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- The NPDES permit *must* be prepared by a licensed professional with prior experience in Erosion and Sedimentation pollution control and Post Construction Stormwater Management practices.
- The NPDES permit application will be submitted to the Conservation District and will be reviewed ensuring consistency with 25 PA Code § 102.
- After the permit has been issued, construction may begin.



185 Franklin Farm Lane, Suite 201  
Chambersburg, PA 17202

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Phone: 717-264-5499  
Fax: 717-264-5482  
Website: [www.franklinccd.org](http://www.franklinccd.org)  
E-mail: [franklinccd@franklinccd.org](mailto:franklinccd@franklinccd.org)

**SUMMER 2023**

**We're on the Web**  
[www.franklinccd.org](http://www.franklinccd.org)

 <https://facebook.com/FranklinCCD>



**Franklin County Conservation District Staff**  
*Phone: 717-264-5499*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dave Stoner	General Manager	davestoner@franklinccd.org
Scott Metzger	Asst Manager/ Ag Resource Specialist	baytech97@franklinccd.org
Jennifer Bratthauar	Ag Conservation Technician	jbratthauar@franklinccd.org
Brady Byers	E&S Technician	bbyers@franklinccd.org
Rhoda Crider	Administrative Asst Board Secretary/Treasurer	rcrider@franklinccd.org
Emily Hartley	Watershed Specialist	ehartley@franklinccd.org
John High	PE District Engineer	jhigh@franklinccd.org
Caitlin Lucas	Clean Water Coordinator	clucas@franklinccd.org
Jonathon Ott	Ag Conservation Technician	jott@franklinccd.org
Chris Swartz	Ag Conservation Technician	cswartz@franklinccd.org
Thomas Swartz	Ch 102 Program Manager	tswartz@franklinccd.org