

# CONSERVATION

# COMMENTS

VOLUME 25 , #2

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SUMMER, 2009

## LEILA RICE HONORED AT 30TH CONSERVATION FIELD DAY EVENT



Leila Rice (center) received commendations from the U.S. House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the Wyoming County Commissioners, and from the Conservation District. Leila and her late husband, Jim, began hosting Conservation Field Days in 1979 when the parents of many of today's kids were 5th graders themselves. Leila was accompanied by her son, Jim, Jr. (far left) and granddaughter, Cindy (far right). Also pictured are Laura Anderson, District Environmental Education Coordinator (2nd from left), and 5th grade Middle School teacher Lisa Burgess (2nd from right).

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

The Board of Directors and staff of the Wyoming County Conservation District invite the public to our Annual Awards Banquet to celebrate our 60th anniversary. The banquet will be held October 14, 2009 at the Shadowbrook Inn and Resort on U.S. Route 6 east of Tunkhannock. Registration is at 6:00 pm and a buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

The evening's entertainment is a live eagle program presented by the Carbon County Environmental Education Center. A bald eagle and a golden eagle will be on display during the program. It will be exciting to get "up close and personal" with these magnificent creatures.

Tickets for the banquet are \$20.00 per person and may be purchased at the district office or from any board member. Space is limited, so please make your reservations early. For further information call 836-2589.



## VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THE KIWANIS WYOMING COUNTY FAIR

Once again, the Conservation District will be setting up our booth, including the water fountain, at the Kiwanis Wyoming County Fair. There will be displays of the various programs the District administers, such as the Dirt and Gravel Roads Pollution Prevention Program, the Farm Land Preservation Program, and the West Nile Virus Program.

Environmental Education Coordinator Laura Anderson will be on hand with all her face painting materials for the children. We expect to be sharing the booth with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

Come enjoy the fair and drop in to see us.

## READ THIS NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.wccdpa.org](http://www.wccdpa.org)

Our website has been under construction and we still have more work to do on it, however, you may wish to read future newsletters and our Annual Reports on the web. Having the newsletters on the website has benefits for everyone; namely, it reduces the District's postage costs and the reader will see the letter faster and in color.

If you choose to read the newsletter on line, let us know if you wish to have your name taken off the mailing list. Call Carol Owens, 836-2589 ext. 102.

## 2008 FARM BILL: Conservation Stewardship Program

New in the 2008 Farm Bill is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities, and improving, maintaining and managing existing ones.

Through CSP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to eligible applicants to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

Persons, entities, corporations and Indian Tribes may be eligible for the program. Potential applicants interested in entering into a stewardship contract for CSP assistance may file an application at any time. NRCS provides a producer self-screening checklist to help potential applicants decide for themselves whether CSP is the right program for them and their operation. For more information about CSP and other Farm Bill topics, go to the NRCS website [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp)

## CAPPUCCI RECOGNIZED FOR CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP



The Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission recognized District Board of Directors member, Vic Cappucci, with its individual Leadership Excellence Award. Vic served as president of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts from 2005 to 2007 and as regional director for the northeast counties. He has also been a member of the District Board of Directors for many years. Vic and his wife, Milly, live on their farm west of Mehoopany where they raise hay and pasture.

The Pennsylvania Departments Agriculture and Environmental Protection oversee the State Conservation Commission which is a 14-member panel that provides oversight and supports the state's 66 county conservation districts.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SHOWCASE

By Laura Anderson, Environmental Education Coordinator

**Educators Workshop:** In conjunction with Susquehanna County's Environmental Educator, Matt Purdy, a workshop entitled "Energy Thinking" was held on April 17, 2009. Participants received a kit which included all the materials necessary for their classroom activities as well as the resources explaining the curriculum.



Representatives of Claverack Rural Electric Co. gave examples of presentations showing the programs they can bring into the classrooms to go along with the material being taught.

**Field Trips:** Every spring field trips are organized to study a variety of subjects. For example, the kindergarten at Lackawanna Trail Elementary School (left) learned how to make their own backyard habitat attractive to wildlife. Ag Programs Coordinator Paul Hovan and Watershed Specialist Bernie Scalzo (center) showed the children how to identify the little creatures that live in the stream. Shane Kleiner, Department of Environmental Protection District Field Representative, (right) took the children exploring the woods on a nature hike.



**Envirothon:** About 100 students from schools in Wyoming and Lackawanna counties competed in this year's Envirothon held at Keystone College on May 13, 2009. The "Trail Mix" team of juniors from Lackawanna Trail High School won the overall competition and came in first in three of the five competitive stations including wildlife, aquatics, and current issues. The other stations were forestry and soils as well as several informational sessions.

In the photo at left, Environmental Education Coordinator Laura Anderson presents the first place award to the Trail Mix team, Megan Lombardi, Nancy Levensailor, Tyler Crawford, Alex Barbolish, and Mike Harris.



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***RECYCLED AND RECYCLABLE***

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 Stark Bartron, Commissioner  
 Victor Cappucci  
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 Jim Luce

***Associate Directors***

Mike Kolman  
 Ginny Miner  
 Carmon Robinson  
 Harold Grow, Director Emeritus  
 Meeting the second Monday of each month, 9:30 am, District Office

***District Staff***

Doug Deutsch, District Manager  
 Jullee Chamberlain, Administrative Assistant  
 Bernie Scalzo, Watershed Specialist  
 Paul Hovan, Ag Conservation Programs Coordinator  
 Dave Taylor, Resource Conservation Specialist  
 Laura Anderson, Environmental Education Coordinator  
 Don Overdorff, West Nile Virus Coordinator  
 John Fisher, West Nile Virus Field Technician  
 Carol Owens, Resource Planner/Information Specialist/Newsletter Editor

***NRCS Staff***

Edward A. Patchcoski  
 District Conservationist

***Calendar of Events***

**Sept. 2 thru 7 — Kiwanis Wyoming County Fair (See Page 2)**  
 Sept. 7 — Happy Labor Day, Office Closed  
 Oct. 14 — Annual Awards Banquet (See page 1)

***Watershed Organization Meeting Dates***

**Bowmans Creek WA** — 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, Noxen/Monroe Sportsmen's Club  
**Mehoopany Creek WA** — 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, Mehoopany Township Building  
**Meshoppen Creek WA** — 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, Meshoppen Township Building  
**Lower Tunkhannock Creek WA** — 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm, Wyoming County Conservation District Office.  
**South Branch Coalition** — 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, Keystone College Willary Water Discovery Center