

CONSERVATION

COMMENTS

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SUMMER/FALL, 2010

3RD ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT

The 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Shoot will be held on Saturday, September 18th at Rock Mountain Sporting Clays in Springville. Registration begins at 12:00 with the shooting to start at 1:00. A catered pork barbeque luncheon (provided by Pecos Bill's BBQ of New Milford) will be served at 4:00 pm. After lunch, there will be a 50/50 cash drawing, door prize drawing and Chinese auction, as well as a gun raffle.

Entry is \$50.00 for adults, \$45.00 for 18 and under. This price includes 100 birds and lunch. Ammunition is not included (shot size 7-1/2 or 8 is required). Eye and ear protection are required; foam ear plugs and sunglasses are acceptable.

Proceeds from the shoot benefit the Damon S. Young Memorial Scholarship Fund and the District's environmental education programs. Damon Young was from Wyoming County and had a keen interest in the environment and conservation. He served as an intern with the District in 2005 and planned to return the following year but sadly succumbed to kidney cancer. The scholarship created in his memory will benefit a deserving local high school student on his or her way to college.

Sponsorships are being sought at levels several levels. For further information, visit our website at wccdpa.org or contact Paul Hovan or Bernie Scalzo at 836-2590.

IT'S FAIR TIME!!



PA Bureau of Forestry's Service Forester Jake Scheib (left), Smokey Bear, and District Environmental Education Coordinator Laura Anderson welcome folks to the information booth.

The onset of the leaves just beginning to turn color signals the coming of the Kiwanis Wyoming County Fair that runs from September 1st through the 6th.

Once again the District will share the booth with the PA Bureau of Forestry. Both agencies will have personnel who can answer your questions and give you information on a variety of subjects. There will be face painting for the kids and free packets of wildflower seeds. Smokey Bear will be at the booth on Saturday, September 4th.

PENNSYLVANIA'S ENDANGERED

SPECIES: This is a series of articles introducing endangered and threatened species, particularly those in and around Wyoming County.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER



This handsome little bird is one of the rarest nesting birds in the state. The largest and most stable population is found in the Dutch Mountain wetland complex of State Game Lands 57 in Wyoming County. In other areas, sites seem to be occupied for a year or two, then go vacant. Development and peat mining in northern PA have eliminated much of the flycatcher's preferred habitat. The nearest other nesting populations are about 100 miles away in the Catskill Mountains of New York.

They are a member of the American tyrant flycatcher family (Tyrannidae), called tyrants because of their pugnacity toward crows, hawks and other large birds which they harass with great determination. Rather difficult to identify, aside from its yellow belly, this brownish-olive flycatcher has whitish eye rings and broad white wing bars. The surest form of identification is through vocalizations. Songs can be heard on several websites including the Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

As the name implies, they feed on flying insects which they catch on the wing as well as spiders and such from vegetation and small branches. The flycatcher nests only where there is an abundance of mosses, especially sphagnum, in coniferous forests. This type of habitat is also home to other species such as the northern flying squirrel, snowshoe hare, silver-haired bat, and fisher. You can see that the Game Lands aren't just for "game." Many other wildlife species benefit from the Game Lands management of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. To learn more about endangered/threatened species, visit their website: pgc.state.pa.us

CONSERVATION PRACTICES & PROGRAMS FOR PA LANDOWNERS -- FARM BILL 2008

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 2008 Farm Bill offers landowners and farm operators several incentives to help them voluntarily implement the conservation structures and practices included in their operation's conservation plan. It provides provisions to help reduce erosion, guard streams and rivers, restore and establish fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality and conserve energy.

There are a variety of financial incentives offered by these programs. Some offer annual payments over several years for a conservation use. Others offer one-time, up-front payments, and most include funds to share the costs of installing conservation measures.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its many partners provide technical assistance, and educational and financial assistance in addition to what USDA agencies provide through the Farm Bill. Some of these programs are:

EQIP -- Environmental Quality Incentives Program: Financial and technical assistance on agricultural land and non-industrial forestland for threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources. One to ten year contract.

CBWI -- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative: This new initiative will offer payments to producers to implement practices to minimize nutrient and sediment losses in local waters and the Chesapeake Bay. Two to five years.

WHIP -- Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program: A voluntary program for private landowners to develop high quality habitat to support wildlife populations of National, State, and local significance.

These are only a few of the Farm Bill programs available. Contact NRCS District Conservationist Ed Patchcoski at 570-836-2490 to see which programs best fit your needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

with Laura Anderson, Environmental Education Coordinator



On May 21, 2010 these first graders at Mill City Elementary School got up close and personal with a frog who dines on insects. The children caught and identified various insects in their school yard.

This is part of a habitat restoration project at the Evans Falls Elementary School. Using a grant from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts for \$2,000, the second grade class weeded and dug and planted a variety of shrubs and plants attractive to several species of birds, insects and other wildlife.



Programs are presented at the Tunkhannock Public Library on a variety of subjects. On the left, children learn about endangered species. On the right, the Recycling Ranger teaches the children to reduce, reuse, and recycle.



The Woodland Resource Adventure Camp was held at "The Haft" in Sullivan County this year. On the left, campers use the Enviro-scape (purchased through a \$1200 grant from DEP) to study the effects of weather on a watershed. Right, they learn boating safety and how to right a tipped canoe from Andy Fedor of the PA Fish & Boat Commission.



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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
 Carol Owens, Resource Planner/
 Information Specialist/Newsletter Editor

NRCS Staff

Edward A. Patchcoski
 District Conservationist

Calendar of Events

Sept. 1 thru 6 -- Kiwanis Wyoming County Fair visit
 our booth.
 Sept. 6 -- Happy Labor Day! (Office Closed)
 Sept. 18 -- 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Shoot (See
 Page 1)
 Oct. 11 -- Columbus Day (Office Closed)

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 Conserva-
 tion District Office.
South Branch Coalition — 2nd Tuesday of the
 month, 6:30 pm, Keystone College Willary Water
 Discovery Center