

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

VOLUME 24 , #1

A Publication of the Wyoming County Conservation District

WINTER/SPRING, 2008

LACKAWANNA TRAIL KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT PA FOREST ANIMALS



All five kindergarten classes at Lackawanna Trail Elementary School wearing their animal tracks T-shirts.

Environmental Education Coordinator, Laura Anderson conducted a special program for the entire kindergarten at Lackawanna Trail Elementary School studying “Animals of the Pennsylvania Forest.” Laura read stories to the children and showed them some mounted animals. Each child brought a plain t-shirt to class then imprinted the footprints of their favorite animals on them. They used a variety of colors and used as many of the tracks as they liked. Each shirt is a unique creation and reflects the child’s personality.

Laura has many resources for programs on a wide variety of nature and environmental subjects and can tailor them for any size group no matter the age. Contact her at the Wyoming County Conservation District, 1 Hollowcrest Complex, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, phone 836-2589, extension 105 or e-mail: Laura.D.Anderson@pa.nacdnet.net

PROTECTING LAND THROUGH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS



Stitzinger Farm soon to be preserved (approximately 350 acres).

Many of us would agree that Wyoming County is a very beautiful place to live. No matter where we travel, we are privileged to enjoy scenic farmland, sparkling streams, beautiful trees, bountiful wildlife, plentiful open space, and a seemingly endless supply of space to roam free.

Many individuals residing in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania are not so lucky. A quick drive through some of these counties will likely lead you to find *scenic* strip malls, *bountiful* housing developments, & *plentiful* traffic.

Pennsylvania lost over 1 million acres of farmland and forest to urban sprawl between 1992 & 1997. Urban sprawl has been named the number 1 environmental problem by former Governor Ridge's 21st Century Commission on the Environment.

Everyone Can Make a Difference

The power to shape Wyoming County's future is in the hands of each individual landowner. The Wyoming County Farmland Preservation Program has now been around for several years. This program allows eligible landowners to basically sell their "development rights" so that the County's most productive farmland will always remain in agriculture. To date, 6 farms (1,036 acres) have been preserved throughout Wyoming County. The Wyoming County Farmland Preservation Board has agreed to move forward to preserve approximately 350 acres of farmland in Mehoopany Township.

The proposed easement enrollment is for the Omega River Farms L.P. owned by Michael & Barbara Stitzinger of Doylestown, PA.

What is the purpose of an agricultural conservation easement?

A conservation easement is to protect viable agricultural lands by acquiring agricultural conservation easements which prevent the development or improvement of the land for any purpose other than agricultural production.


Advantages of Conservation Easements:

They leave the property in the ownership of the landowner who may continue to live on it, pass it on to heirs, or even sell it. However, if the land changes hands, the new owners must abide by the terms of the easement.

Easements can be designed to meet the particular needs of the landowner while protecting the property's conservation values.

They provide compensation to landowners in exchange for their relinquishment of the right to develop their property.

Due to limited funding and eligibility requirements, this program is not for everyone. For more information on the Wyoming County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, please feel free to contact:

Bernie Scalzo
Wyoming County Conservation District
Agricultural Programs Coordinator
(570) 836-2589 ext. 107
bernard.scalzo@pa.nacdnet.net 

Tunkhannock Tree Association Sponsors 2008 Photo Contest.

Open to all amateur photographers to celebrate "Urban and Community Trees" and Arbor Day. For more information or an entry form call 836-1548 or 836-3719 before March 17, 2008

2008 CONTRACTORS/ ENGINEERS WORKSHOP

The 14th Annual Northeast Regional Contractors/Engineers Workshop will be held Wednesday March 5, 2008 at Keystone College on Route 6 near Factoryville. This event is specifically designed for contractors, engineers, public works departments, excavators, loggers and anyone who moves soil. This year there will be three general sessions consisting of Underground Safety Law from PA One Call, Inc., "Dredging—Is It Flood Control?" presented by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, and Commercial Vehicle Safety by the PA State Police. Three breakout sessions in the afternoon will address land clearing, demolition and waste burning, new alternative best management practices, and a special session for loggers, "Timber Harvest Planning."

Registration is \$5.00 and includes instruction materials, lunch and coffee breaks. For businesses with products and services of interest to the attendees, the exhibitor fee is \$50.00 per 6-foot table. The grand prize in the door prize drawing at the end of the day is a Hewlett Packard laptop computer. To receive a brochure and registration form contact Carol Owens, 836-2589, ext. 102, or e-mail [☺](#)

2008 CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Two sessions of the Conservation Leadership School will be held at the Penn State Stone Valley Recreation Area, Petersburg, PA. The first session is June 22 thru 28, and the second is July 6 thru 12. Some of the subjects covered are:

- Analyzing your hometown drinking water
- Deer population management and habitat conservation
- Recycling: Beyond the Bin
- What is wood
- "Green Buildings" at Penn State.

Registration fee for the School is \$495 and the District is offering a \$250 scholarship to a student from Wyoming County. For more information about the school and scholarship, contact Charlotte Severcool, District Manager, Wyoming County Conservation District, 836-2589, ext. 104. [☺](#)

WOODLAND RESOURCE ADVENTURE CAMP 2008

The 2008 Woodland Resource Adventure Camp will be July 13 through 17 beginning and ending at Camp Lackawanna, Tunkhannock. Designed for students 12 to 16, the camp presents a multifaceted perspective of real world environmental issues and careers. Among the traditions of this camp is the involvement of professional natural resource managers in field presentations and activities.

The Camp cycles through four annual themes: forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and soils/geology. This year's theme is forestry. There will be two days of field trips to sites in the local area such as a baseball bat factory, tree nursery, Christmas tree farm, and maple syrup production. Among the subjects students will study are tree identification and measurement, forest stewardship planning, wildlife impacts to forest, invasive pests, and tree climbing.

The cost for the camp is \$250, however \$100 is provided in the form of a scholarship. The student is responsible for \$150. A limited number of sponsorships are available from WRA, but students are encouraged to obtain local sponsorship from an organization or business. The fee includes meals, lodging, insurance, tour transportation and program materials.

Along with the application, students must compose a brief narrative explaining his or her interest in the camp and how it might be useful in the future. Because the camp is limited to 20 participants, the narrative will be used in the selection process.

The application deadline is June 15th. For an application and further information, contact the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation & Development Council at (570) 265-3409, ext. 5, or www.endlessmountainsrcd.org [☺](#)

Wyoming County Conservation District
One Hollowcrest Complex
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Phone: 570-836-2589, ext. 3
Fax: 570-836-6063
Email: wccd@ptd.net

Non-Profit Org. Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage PAID
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Permit No. 20

WIN A LAPTOP COMPUTER

At the 14th Annual Contractors/
Engineers Workshop on March 5, 2008
at Keystone College. See page 5 for
details.

SEEDLING SALE ORDER
FORM INSIDE

RECYCLED AND RECYCLABLE

Board of Directors

Bob Robinson, Chairman
Dorne White, Vice Chairman
Butch Sands, Secretary/Treasurer
Stark Bartron, Commissioner
Victor Cappucci
Bob Herman
Jim Luce

Associate Directors

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

District Staff

Charlotte Severcool, District Manager
Bernie Scalzo, Ag Conservation
Programs Coordinator
Doug Deutsch, Watershed Specialist
Dillon Marino, Stream Technician
Paul Hovan, Stream Technician
Dave Taylor, Resource Conservation Specialist
Laura Anderson, Environmental
Education Coordinator
Don Overdorff, West Nile Virus Coordinator
Carol Owens, Resource Planner/ISS/
Newsletter Editor
Jullee Chamberlain, Administrative Assistant

NRCS Staff

Edward A. Patchcoski
District Conservationist

Calendar of Events

March 5 — 14th Annual Northeast Regional
Contractors/Engineers Workshop,
Keystone College, FFI Carol Owens,
570-836-2589, x 102
March 24 — Seedling Sale Order Deadline
March 26 — NEPA Grazing Conference,
Harford Fire Hall, Harford, FFI
Kris Ribble, 570-784-4401, x 111
April 19 — Seedling Sale Order Pickup

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 Wednes-
day of the month, 6:30 pm, Wyoming County Con-
servation District Office.
South Branch Coalition — 2nd Tuesday of the
month, 6:30 pm, Keystone College Willary Water
Discovery Center