

CRAWFORD COUNTY

CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2013 Annual Report

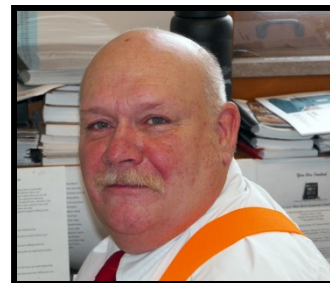
Locally Led Conservation Since 1956

**Crawford County Conservation District
Woodcock Creek Nature Center
21742 German Road
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 763 5269**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Crawford County Conservation District is to protect, conserve, and restore the natural resources of the county for present and future generations by actively seeking resources and partnerships to achieve these goals through voluntary cooperation.

Crawford County Conservation District



Above photo, from left: Crawford County Commissioner Francis Weiderspahn Jr; Commissioner Jack P. Lynch; Commissioner/Director C. Sherman Allen

We are grateful for the help and assistance that we receive from the Crawford County Commissioners. A conservation district is guided by a district board consisting of local people who understand local issues and natural resource needs. The Commissioners appoint those board members from a list of nominees received from county-wide nominating organizations. Over the years the Commissioners have been careful to appoint responsible District Board members who represent all geographic areas in the county and who have the vision needed to provide for the conservation of natural resources that will insure the prosperity and well being of current and future Crawford County residents. With the help of county financial and moral support, we are able to provide the services that the community requires.

District Directors

Our District Directors, appointed by the County Commissioners, are your neighbors. They serve voluntarily to provide for the Conservation of Natural Resources in Crawford County. District Directors are: C. Sherman Allen (Commissioner Director), Sarah Sargent (Chairperson), Vern Knapp (Vice-Chairman), Andrew Hyde (Rural Director), Glenn Kenny (Rural Director), Scott Preston (Rural Director), Heidi Moorhead (Urban Director, Secretary-Treasurer).

Associate Directors

Associate Directors are appointed by the District Chairman. They are non-voting board members who contribute to District planning and projects. Currently serving as Associate Directors are Robert Agnew, Rob Waddell, and Roger Williams. Associate Directors, like Directors, provide their community service voluntarily.

District Staff

The staff of the Crawford County Conservation District is charged with executing programs of the Crawford County Conservation District and providing service to the public. Lynn Sandieson, District Manager; Tracey Crawford, Ag Engineering Technician; Brian Pilarcik, Watershed Specialist; Kathy Uglow, Environmental Educator; Laura Dengler, Administrative Assistant; Maria Dreese, E&S Technician.

Interns



Mikki Baxter (at the Flower Pounding Workshop)

Our fall 2013/ spring 2014 intern is Mikki Baxter. Mikki attends Allegheny College where she is an Environmental Studies major. In 2013 she presented a “Clouds” program, brochure and display for the Nature Center as well as a “Trash to Treasure” program. The Treasure Chest, which was hand built by Mikki, is a kit that can be used here at the Nature Center to present future programs or group activities. The activity reinforces the 3 R’s concept (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and is geared towards promoting the concept of repurposing. Mikki also assisted at many of our programs and she also took on various miscellaneous duties at the Nature Center.

Ben Kusserow

Ben Kusserow is an Allegheny College senior who wrote his senior “comp” (thesis) on Nature Play. He did a survey of our audiences to obtain information about what they liked/didn’t like and what they thought would be appropriate at a Nature Play area here on site. After much research and many meetings with Kathy, Lynn and Tracey, he composed his thesis, which includes a plan, design and budget for the proposed concept. We will be basing our Nature Play area on his design, with some probable modifications.

What is a Conservation District?

Conservation Districts are responsible for the conservation of soil, water, air, and natural resources within their counties. First formed by national legislation in the 1930s to combat the affects of the dust bowl's soil erosion, Districts are now found in every state and territory in the United States. The Crawford County Conservation District was established by the County Commissioners on February 17, 1956, after over 100 farmers signed a petition requesting that a district be formed. In Pennsylvania, Districts are subdivisions of state government as defined by Conservation District Law. They fall under the umbrella of the State Conservation Commission.

How is the District Administered?

The guiding principal behind Conservation Districts is that local people are best suited to identify and protect the natural resources in their areas. The Conservation District is administered by a local board of 7 Directors who are nominated by county-wide organizations and appointed by the County Commissioners to serve four-year terms. Board members serve their communities voluntarily. They set the policy and the goals and objectives of the Conservation District. The District staff is charged with carrying out the conservation district's program.

Nominating Organizations

As stated above, county-wide organizations approved by the State Conservation Commission nominate community leaders with a conservation ethic to serve as Directors on the Conservation District. The County Commissioners then appoint candidates from the list to serve four-year terms as Directors on the District Board. We are grateful to our nominating organizations for their help in providing us with a strong, committed Board of Directors. Our nominating organizations are: Crawford County Cooperative Extension Service; Crawford County Farm Bureau; Crawford County Pomona Grange; Crawford County Farm Service Agency; Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce; Crawford County Holstein Club; and DairyLeas Co-Op Association, Crawford County Senior Enviromental Corps, Crawford County Planning Commission, and the Penn State Master Gardeners.

District Annual Awards & Dinner Meeting

The Crawford Conservation District held its Annual Luncheon Meeting on February 21, 2013 at the Days Inn Conference Center, Meadville. Penn State Marcellus Education Team educator Dan Brockett presented **"The Land Impacts of Shale Gas Drilling"**. Dan is working with landowners and communities on issues related to shale gas development.

Awards were presented to the following people for their outstanding accomplishments in Conservation. The Conservation Forestry Stewardship Award was presented to The Foundation for Sustainable Forests. The Conservation Educator of the Year Award was presented to Bertha Mesarch. The Conservation Farmer of the Year Award went to Dave & Charlene Bish and Dirt and Gravel Road Municipal Awards went to Randolph, Richmond, and Woodcock Townships.

Conservation Education

Programs at the Woodcock Creek Nature Center



The Crawford County Conservation District runs the Woodcock Creek Nature Center and Stainbrook Park, both located just north of Meadville on German Road in Woodcock Township. The District offers year-round educational programs for the public at the center, and keeps the park open in the summer for the enjoyment of Crawford County residents and visitors.

Kathy Uglow, Environmental Educator for the Conservation District, is responsible for setting up a wide variety of programs at the Nature Center. To see our current schedule of events, please check

out the District's web site at: www.crawfordconservation.org, or call Kathy at the Nature Center. (Kathy is shown at right doing Earth Day activities at the Nature Center.)

Almost all of the District's programs are offered free of charge. If you would like to attend a program, please call to reserve your spot!

At the Nature Center:

- In 2013, we offered 46 environmental education programs for the general public with approximately 790 attendees/Nature Center visitors.
- Union City second grade field trip(75 students)
- Bethesda grades 2 & 3 field trip (9 students)
- Union City Early Connections field trip (20 students)
- "Down and Dirty" 3-Day Nature Camp (Tracey and Maria coordinated) (15 children)



In-School or Other Educational Outreach Programs/Projects:

- Did presentations at Conneaut Lake (K, 1, 2) and for Saegertown (K --stream walk, 1, 2) Elementary Schools (485 students)
- "Birth of a Tree" 3rd Grades, (335 students)
- Cochran 4th Grade, Partners in the Deep Program (75 students)
- Presented "*Watersheds*" in-school programs (Dec.) for Saegertown Kindergartens (76 students)
- Presented *Envirosapes* at Titusville Middle School Watershed Day (150 students)
- Partnered with Valesky's, Tops, and H&H Grocery Stores and the Saegertown and West End (at Second District) Elementary Schools to offer the fourth annual "*Earth Day grocery bag project.*" 380 bags were designed.

Other Educational Outreach Programs/Projects

- Presentation for Retired State Workers at Perkins (25)
- Presentation for Masonic Lodge (25)
- Presentation for Master Gardeners (35)
- Fish Hatchery Open House display and activities (2,200)
- Set up a display for the Creek Connections Symposium. (455) Led a focus group activity for 14 middle school students.
- Earth Day display/activities at the Crawford County Care Center, residents/Cochran students (100)
- Took white pine seedlings to the Saegertown, Cambridge Springs and Meadville Public Libraries for Earth Day/Arbor Day seedling distribution to patrons. (65)
- Presentation for Crawford County Sportsmen's Club (10)
- Presentation at Cambridge Springs Senior Center (25)
- Second Saturday "Kids' Day" display and activity(250)

Additional projects/programs

- Envirothon and Envirothon training day at the Nature Center
- Fair display

Interactive Displays are always available at the Woodcock Creek Nature Center, and the displays are always changing.

Some Displays in Nature Center in 2013

- "Rock of the Month" display, sponsored by the Allegheny College Geology Dept.
- Geocaching display
- Digital microscope donated by the Crawford County Senior Environmental Corps in memory of George Wright
- New bat wayside
- Bat observation box that can be raised and lowered to view the bats inside the box
- Bee observation hive
- Clouds and cloud viewers
- Field Guides display with various field guides available for purchase
- Activity Bag Kits for visitors to check out and use outside at the Nature Center (Tracey's project)
- Deer
- Birds and birdsongs
- Touchbox of six nature objects
- Making thistle animals
- Rainbarrel
- Tree and Leaf Identification
- Butterflies
- Groundhogs
- Freshwater Mussels
- Various touch board quiz topics (maple sugaring, groundhogs, butterflies, etc.)

In addition to the displays, lots of free educational materials are available at the Nature Center for people of all ages and interests.

Additional Nature Center Activities

Self-guided Tree Identification Walk - The Nature Center and adjoining Stainbrook Park has a self-guided tree identification walk set up by Mark Lewis of the DCNR Bureau of Forestry. There are trail keys in the Nature Center, and you may also access the trail key on the District's web site, www.crawfordconservation.org.



Bat Houses - Bat expert Terry Lobdell has established a number of bat houses around the Woodcock Creek Nature Center, including one that can be lowered to show the bats inside! Our winged companions keep troublesome insects under control naturally. Bat houses are also for sale at the Nature Center.

Native Plant Gardens - The outside of the WCNC features native plant gardens as well as bird feeders. The natural setting provides a good spot to view wildlife. This year, Pennsylvania Audubon Society volunteers planted native perennial flowers around the gardens in the back yard of the nature center. Our thanks to Judy Acker and all the good people who volunteered to help.



Butterfly Garden – As an Eagle Scout project, designed and planted a butterfly garden using native perennials important to butterflies for food and shelter. The unique butterfly-shaped garden is located near the side entrance to the Nature Center.

Raised Bed Gardens – The District demonstrated the use of raised bed gardening using heirloom seeds donated by the Seed Savers Exchange through their “Herman’s Garden” program. Agricultural Conservation Technician Tracey Crawford and Erosion and Sediment Control technician Maria Drees constructed four small raised bed garden plots in the Woodcock Creek Nature Center’s side yard. They then grew plants from the donated seeds and transplanted them into the beds. The beds were available for all nature center visitors to observe, and the vegetables were harvested at the end of the summer.

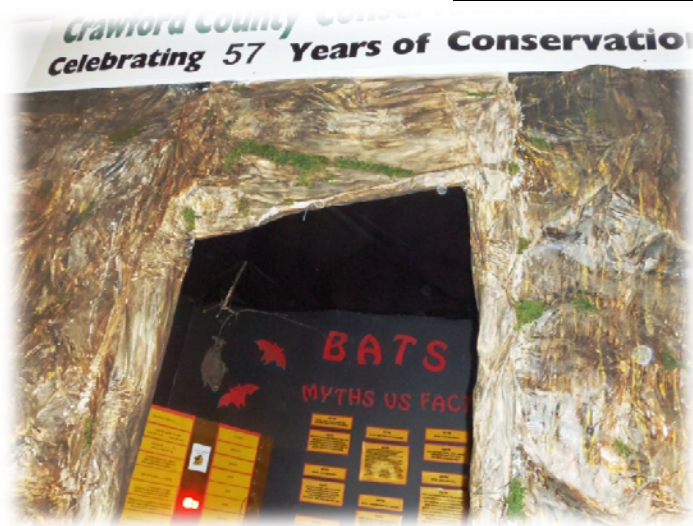
Geocaches – There are several geocaches on the grounds of the Woodcock Creek Nature Center and in the region of Stainbrook Park.

Visible Bee Hive – We have a live bee colony at the Nature Center! Thanks to Charles Vorisek, who donated the bees, and the Meadville Kiwanis Club, who donated the “visible” hive, visitors to the nature center can observe bees coming and going right behind the glass panel of their hive structure – which has been built right into the wall of the Woodcock Creek Nature Center. Intern Mary Ann Mennano crafted a display to help explain some of the bees’ behavior. We spent the summer in awe of the hard working little insects as we watched them pollinate the flowers around the nature center.



The Pete Yeager Memorial Nature Trail – In 2009, using funds from the Peter A. Yeager Memorial fund and the Meadville Kiwanis, District staff blazed a nature trail that leads from the Woodcock Creek Nature Center down to Stainbrook Park. Featuring meadow, forest, and streamside habitats, the trail has many natural ecosystems on it, and makes a nice transition from the Nature Center to the park. In 2011, the trail was expanded to become a loop trail, bringing hikers from the Park back up to the Nature Center. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on the new trail section helped kick off the new feature, with friends and family members of the Pete Yeager family there to celebrate.

Crawford County Fair Display



The Crawford County Fair provides a great venue for Environmental Education. For many years the Conservation District has developed a display for the public on various current issue topics. In 2013, staff created an interactive Bat Cave display. The display features myths and facts about bats.

Nature Camp

In 2013 The Crawford County Conservation District presented its fourth Summer Nature Camp!

This year's theme was **DOWN AND DIRTY GARDENING!** The three day camp featured lots of hands-on learning activities, games, and outdoor fun for the kids. Activities were conducted at the Army Corps of Engineers' Environmental Education Pavilion at Woodcock Dam, at nearby Stainbrook Park, and at the Woodcock Creek Nature Center. The camp was designed and conducted by Tracey Crawford, Maria Dreesse, and Kathy Uglow.



Envirothon

The Envirothon is a fun academic event where high school students learn more about aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soil & land use and important current issues. Sponsored by the Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, and the State Conservation Commission, the Envirothon provides study materials to schools which form teams to prepare and compete at the local county competition. The winning team may then represent their county at the

State Competition. The winner of the State Competition competes in the Canon Envirothon, which is national. The Envirothon challenges students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it. It features both classroom study and in-field experience. Personnel from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks, PA Department of Environmental Protection, as well as from the County Conservation Districts all pitch in to help train students.

To help students prepare for the Envirothon and to give conservation partners a chance to work one on one with Envirothon teams, the Crawford Conservation District hosts an Envirothon Training Day. Our sixth Envirothon Training Day was held at Stainbrook Park and the Woodcock Creek Nature Center near Meadville on May 1, 2013. Thanks again to all the agency folks who turned out to help, and to the dedicated teachers who are serving as Envirothon Advisors.

The Joint Crawford-Mercer Envirothon, sponsored by the Crawford and Mercer County Conservation Districts, was hosted at Pymatuning State Park near Jamestown on Wednesday, May 8th. Students from grades 9 through 12 represented their schools in teams comprised of three to five members. The teams answered questions collectively as they rotated through five natural resource stations that challenged their knowledge of wildlife, aquatic ecology, soils, forestry, and this year's current issue – Grazing Lands and Pasture Management. Thirty-one teams from 11 local high schools competed.

The event was held along the shores of Pymatuning Lake. In addition to the conservation districts, support and prizes were provided by the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, DCNR Bureau of State Parks, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Cruising to a First Place victory for Crawford County with a score of 376 were the "Greco's Geckos" of Saegertown High School, coached by teachers Chris Greco and Phillip Young. The team also had the highest score in the Forestry category. The winning team is comprised of students Meredith Merrit, Seth Allen, Dan Kozubal, Carolyn Bristow and Brendon Byham. The "Greco's Geckos" went on to represent Crawford County at the Pennsylvania State Envirothon, held at the Juniata State University in Huntingdon, PA, on May 21st and 22nd, where winning teams from 61 Pennsylvania Counties competed. Their expenses were defrayed by the Crawford County Conservation District's Environmental Education fund.

Second place, with a score of 374, was won by the "Conservation Confederation" from Conneaut Area Senior High School. Coached by Michael Vorisek, the "Conservation Confederation" also had the highest score in the Aquatics and Wildlife categories. Team members include Savannah Anderton, Kyle Lambing, Emmett Vorisek, Doug Davison and Leanne Sayles.

Third Place honors were won by the "Barracudas" Team from Titusville High School, also coached by Patricia McKellop. Team members are Lisa Harger, Kyle Muzzy, Melissa Hopkins and Grace Champion. The "Barracudas" took first place in the Soils category.

The "Yellow Bellied Sapsuckers", of Saegertown High School, coached by teachers Chris Greco and Phillip Young, took Honorable Mention (4th Place). The team was comprised of Corry Lilly, Cari Vogt, Hunter Ford and Liam Dawson.

Our thanks to the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of State Parks, and to Linda Armstrong in particular, for hosting us at Pymatuning State Park. A big THANK YOU goes out to our co-hosts, the Mercer County Conservation District. We would also like to thank the USDA Soil Conservation Service (Jody Lasko, Cheryl Panciera, Alisha Wolf,); the DCNR Bureau of Forestry (Mark Lewis); our PA DEP Field

Representative, (John Green); the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Chad Foster); and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (Jake Oleksak, Don Chaybin, and Shayne Hoachlander) for all their help and dedication.

2013 COMMUNITY WATERSHED INVOLVEMENT

The Crawford County Conservation District worked to provide watershed education to various schools, watershed associations, community groups, workshops, etc. Some of the most notable events were:

Riparian Restoration Efforts

Maplewood and Clymer High Schools– On April 24th, 2013, Maplewood and Clymer High School students planted nearly 265 trees and 325 shrubs and 500 live stakes along an unnamed tributary of French Creek.

Conneaut Area Senior High School– On April 25th, 2013 students from Conneaut Area Senior High School planted 240 shrubs and 25 trees along the Pymatuning Reservoir shoreline.

Cambridge Springs High School – On April 30th, 2013, Cambridge Springs High School Students planted 140 shrubs, 180 trees, and 300 live stakes along Boles Run.

Cochranton High School – On May 2nd, 2013 Students from Cochranton High School planted 250 shrubs, 100 trees, and 400 live stakes along a UNT to French Creek.

Titusville High School – On May 6th, 2013 Students from Titusville High School planted 150 shrubs, 200 trees, and 400 live stakes along Little Sugar Creek.

Conneaut Lake Middle School – On May 7th, 2013, Conneaut Lake Middle School planted 75 conifer trees along an unnamed tributary of Woodcock Creek. The group also conducted a clean-up day around the Woodcock Creek Nature Center.

Maplewood High School Project– On November 6th, 2013 Maplewood High School students completed a maintenance day on three project sites within the French Creek Watershed.

Titusville High School– On November 13th, 2013 volunteers from Titusville High school planted 100 shrubs, 60 trees along Oil Creek in Titusville.

Cochranton High School – On November 15th, 2013 Students from Cochranton High School planted 100 shrubs along Little Sugar Creek.

Kayak Ecotours

Summer Kayak Ecotour Program – On July 22nd, 2013 the Crawford County Conservation District assisted the DCNR Pymatuning State Park environmental educator with a kayak tour on Pymatuning Reservoir.

Water Quality Monitoring

French Creek Data Logger Deployment – The Crawford County Conservation District was awarded a grant by Iron Furnace Trout Unlimited to purchase and deploy 7 water quality data loggers within the French Creek watershed. The data loggers were all deployed by mid-November and are currently recording conductivity and water temperature data. This information will be used to create a reference of baseline information for French Creek tributaries.

Crawford County Lake and Reservoir Monitoring – In 2013 the Crawford County Conservation District was able to expand the lake and reservoir water quality monitoring program. The District assisted the Pa DEP Clean Lakes Program conduct Trophic State Index, gas, and radiation monitoring on Mud and Lower Lakes. The District Watershed Specialist also assisted DEP with conducting an aquatic plant survey on Woodcock Reservoir. In addition to the projects listed above, the Watershed Specialist conducted an aquatic invasive species survey and pulled in situ water quality data from Sugar Lake, Canadohta Lake, Pymatuning Reservoir, and Woodcock Reservoir.

ALLARM Monitoring Workshop – In February of 2013 the District Watershed Specialist coordinated with Dickenson College and the Crawford County Senior Environment Corps to host a volunteer water quality monitoring training. Over 30 participants attended the workshop from all over NW Pennsylvania. The monitoring program is geared toward developing a baseline of water quality conditions ahead of the anticipated unconventional shale gas development.

Watershed Associations – In 2013 the District Watershed Specialist assisted with efforts by several watershed and lake associations in Crawford County. 2013 saw the formation of the Friends of Tamarack Lake, a group focused on assisting with the rehabilitation of the two dams on the reservoir as well as improvement of the infrastructure surrounding Tamarack.

Lake and Reservoir Improvement

Pymatuning Reservoir Clean Up - On October 30th the District worked with Conneaut Area Senior High School and Pymatuning State park to coordinate the 7th annual clean up of the Pymatuning Reservoir shoreline. A group of around 50 students picked up trash from access points along the Pennsylvania portion of the shoreline, including boat launches and beach areas. The students also covered shoreline areas where accessible.

Pymatuning Reservoir Habitat Improvement - On June 12th volunteers from the Crawford County Conservation District assisted the Pymatuning Lake Association with the installation of 100 Porcupine cribs.

Woodcock Reservoir Habitat Improvement – On June 14th the Watershed Specialist assisted Pa Fish and Boat Commission with dropping 7 trees into Woodcock Reservoir to create habitat. On August 13th volunteers from the Crawford County Conservation District assisted Pa Fish and Boat Commission and US Army Corps of Engineers with the installation of 15 Porcupine cribs in the reservoir.

Chapter 102 Erosion & Sediment Control Program



The purpose of the Chapter 102 Erosion & Sediment Control Program is to implement the intent of the Clean Streams Law of Pennsylvania. The Clean Streams Law prohibits the discharge of any substance into Waters of the Commonwealth that is considered a pollutant. In PA, sedimentation is the number one pollutant by volume to the Waters of the Commonwealth.

During 2013 Maria Dreese, Erosion and Sediment Control Technician for the Conservation District, reviewed 28 Erosion & Sediment Control Plans. She also processed and approved three General NPDES permits and recommended approval of one Individual NPDES permit. In support of the 102 Program the District collected \$12,250.00 in E&S Plan Review Fees and \$6,500.00 in NPDES permit filling fees. Maria responded to 14 citizen complaints, provided 59 technical assistance visits, and inspected 14 permitted sites.

Chapter 105 Obstructions & Encroachments Program

The Chapter 105 Program provides regulation and supervision of dams, reservoirs, water obstructions and encroachments in the Commonwealth in order to protect the health, safety, welfare and property of other people. The 105 program provides assurance that proper planning, design, construction, maintenance, monitoring and supervision occurs for dams and reservoirs. It also provides the same for water obstructions and encroachments to prevent unreasonable interference with water flow and navigation.

In 2013 Maria Dreese reviewed and approved 29 General permits under the 105 Program. She responded to 12 citizen complaints, conducted inspection of six permitted sites and provided 58 technical assistance visits. In support of the Chapter 105 program the District collected \$2,400.00 in permit fees.



GP3 Streambank Stabilization
Technical Assistance

Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) Program

The Crawford Conservation District has participated in the State Dirt and Gravel Roads Program since 1999. The goal of this program is to protect the waterways of the County and improve water quality by redirecting and reducing runoff from dirt and gravel roads. The program also helps townships make a more stable and durable road surface, reducing potholes, dust, and maintenance. Townships with personnel who have received Dirt and Gravel Road training submit projects for road improvements which are then ranked and recommended for approval by a Quality Assurance Board (QAB) as funds permit. The Crawford County Conservation District Board issues final project approval. The overall program is administered by the State Conservation Commission.

2013 Completed Projects

Randolph Township – Grove Rd

Excavation of road base to change road grade onto SR 27 to reduce stormwater and erosion. Tree removal, bank grading, seeding and mulch.

DGR Funds spent: \$8,760.95

Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$13,309.80

Total Project Value: \$22,070.75



Randolph Twp Grove Rd
During Construction



Randolph Twp
Carpenter Rd

Randolph Township –Carpenter Road

Stream crossing pipe replacement with two 24" HDPE pipes with new headwall and endwall. Road base elevated.

DGR Funds Spent: \$9205.01

Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$11,308.75

Total Project Value: \$20,513.76



Richmond Twp Eddie Rd
Damaged Crosspipe
Replacement

Richmond Township – Eddie Road

Replacement of one and addition of one 18" HPDE cross pipe. Replacement of two 36" HDPE stream cross pipes. Road base elevated with fabric and #3's choked with 2RC.

DGR Funds Spent: \$33,238.66

Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$17,257.40

Total Project Value: \$50,496.06

Richmond Township – Hickory Corners Road
 Daylighting of approximately 1,100 feet of road. Installation of underdrain. Forty foot extension of 24" HDPE existing stream crosspipe. New headwall and endwall. Geotextile fabric and 2RC base improvement.
 DGR Funds Spent: \$21,863.51
 Municipal In-Kind Contribution: \$4,918.40
 Total Project Value: \$26,781.91



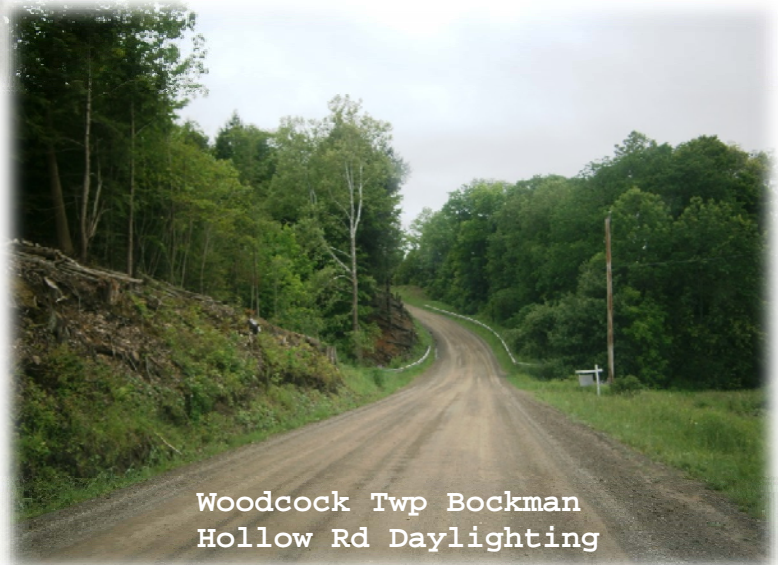
Richmond Twp Hickory Corners Rd Daylighting & Underdrain Installation



Summerhill Twp Carr Rd Perforated Tile Drainage

Summerhill Township – Carr Rd
 Installation of approximately 1900' of 6" perforated tile drainage. Fabric, #3's and 2RC to build road base and crown.
 DGR Funds Spent: \$52,274.58
 Municipal In-Kind Contribution: \$24,704.95
 Total Project Value: \$76,979.53

Woodcock Township – Bockman Hollow Road
 Daylighting of approximately 1,000 feet of western side road embankment. Installation of 620' of 6" perforated drain tile.
 DGR Funds Spent: \$11,729.36
 Municipal In-Kind Contribution: \$1,116.00
 Total Project Value: \$12,845.36



Woodcock Twp Bockman Hollow Rd Daylighting



Athens Twp Taylor Stand Rd Stream Pipe Replacement

Athens Township – Taylor Stand Road
 Replacement of existing stream crossing with 96" galvanized squash pipe. New headwall and endwall.
 DGR Funds Spent: \$13,340.87
 Municipal In-Kind Contribution: \$2,400.00
 Total Project Value: \$15,740.87

Agricultural Best Management Practices and Conservation

In Crawford County, it takes 500 years to form just one inch of fertile topsoil. We all rely on that topsoil to produce our food, and family farmers strive to pass their property on to their children in the most productive condition possible. Soil washed into streams is soil lost from a farm for generations, and a source of pollution in the water. Helping landowners conserve their soil has therefore always been an important objective of the Conservation District.



Installing agricultural best management practices to save soil and protect water quality can often be a simple matter of employing good management techniques. Sometimes, though, the job requires the installation of best management practices, such as roof runoff systems to divert clean water around barnyards, fencing to keep pastures from becoming overgrazed, establishment of stable access roads, fencing cattle out of streams to prevent streambank erosion, and installing milkhouse wastewater filtration systems. These kinds of practices benefit everyone by protecting water quality, but they can be expensive. To help farmers achieve their conservation goals, the Conservation District utilizes grants from several

sources to provide cost-share funding as well as technical assistance for the agricultural producer.

We are grateful for the grant opportunities provided to us and commend the agricultural producers who worked with us to help achieve conservation goals that will benefit present and future generations of county citizens.

The District assisted four operators in installing two Watering Facilities and 1000 ft of Fencing through the **Crawford County Pasture Management & Fencing Program**.

In 2013, District staff also reviewed six PA Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans and assisted with the development of several Manure Management Plans.

Additional Agricultural Best Management Practices installed with the assistance of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) included:

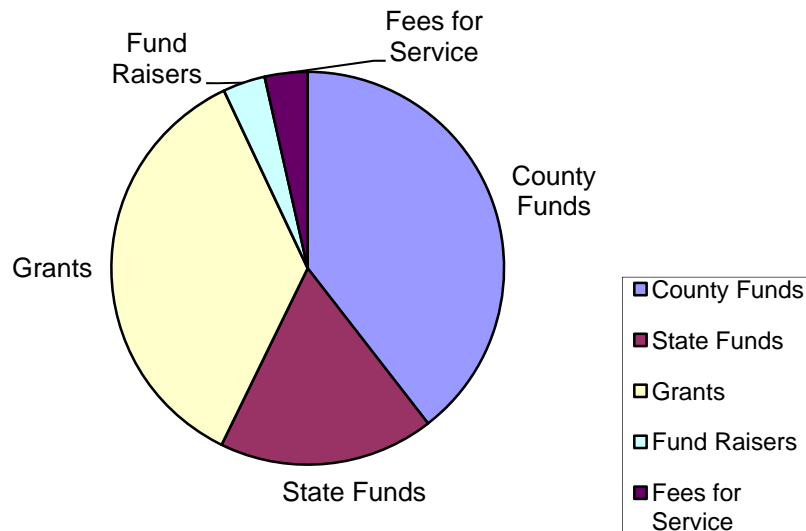
Fencing	3436 ft	Pumping plant	1
High Tunnels	2	Stream Crossing	1
Manure Storages	2	Underground Outlet	726 ft
Subsurface Drainage	204 ft	Watering Facility	8
Pipeline	2897 ft	Well	1

Technical assistance and cost share incentives provided for other BMP's including Cover Crop, Residue Management, Herbaceous Weed Control, Prescribed Grazing, Brush Management, Access Control and Treatment Filter Strips.

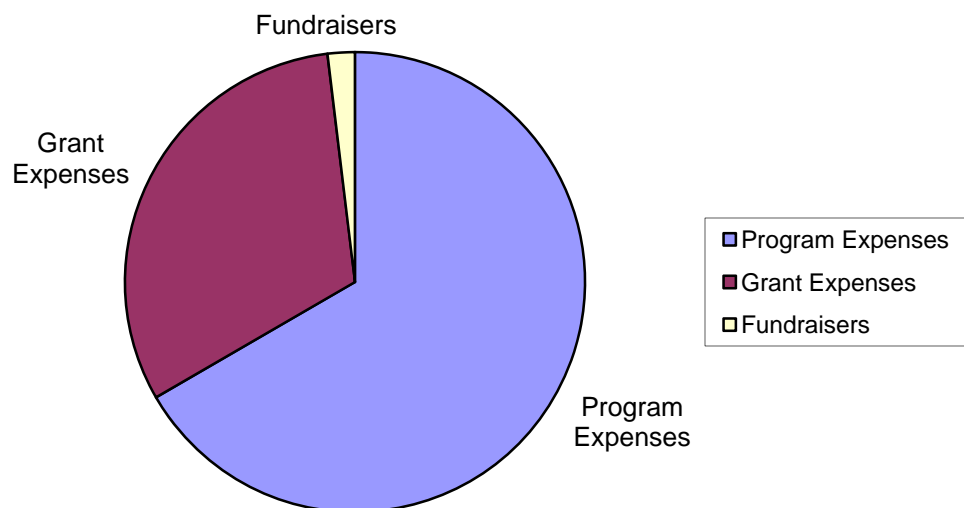
2013 Crawford Conservation District Financial Report

The Conservation District receives funds from Crawford County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Grant incomes, fees for services, and fundraisers.

TOTAL INCOME:
\$768,208



TOTAL EXPENDITURES:
\$716,306



FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Crawford County's number one industry is agriculture. Crawford County residents enjoy being surrounded by beautiful fields, farms, and forests, and having a land base that is capable of providing the fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, grain, wood products, and maple syrup for the community. That scenario is changing. Because of the automobile, people can now easily move out of town. With the financial pressures on farms today, some find it easier to sell the family farm as real estate for development rather than to continue in farming. Crawford County is no stranger to this trend. Between 1987 and 1997, farm acreage went from 236,481 to 207,215, a loss of nearly 30,000 acres. During that decade, the number of farms in the county also decreased from 1,281 to 1,069. This trend appears to have accelerated since 1997, with farms going into bankruptcy and parcels being sold off for non-agricultural uses. Some of the best farmland is being lost to other uses.

The Crawford County Ag Land Preservation Program was established to insure that the best agricultural land in the county can stay in farming. On December 16, 2004 the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board approved the Crawford County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Under the program, a farmer may choose to keep his property in agriculture and receive payment for the difference between the property's value as a farm and its value for development. The farm still belongs to the farmer, and he may use the payment for whatever he wishes. Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of agricultural acres saved in this way; assuring that there will be sufficient land base to produce food and fiber locally for coming generations. Since 2008, the Crawford County Ag Land Preservation has preserved 868 acres and is currently working on 200 more acres.

Crawford County's Agricultural Land Preservation Board members serve voluntarily and are appointed by the Crawford County Commissioners.



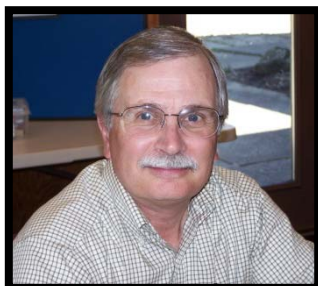
Robert L. Hopkins, Chairman



Scott Preston, Vice Chairman



Dick Deiss, Secretary



John Tautin, Treasurer



Rick Rendulic

Not Shown: Dennis Hindman; Richard Ferguson

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

14699 North Main Street Extension
Meadville, PA 16335
814-336-2127

Our goal is not just a sustainable, nutritious, abundant food supply, but also thriving ecosystems that support a diversity of life. In the next century, NRCS will not only continue to tackle familiar challenges like ensuring clean water and healthy soil, but will also rise to meet new issues, such as Clean air, clean energy, climate change, and new technology.

- Chief Dave White

Originally established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, like climate change.

Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners absolutely critical to the health of our Nation's environment.

NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems.



Science and technology are critical to good conservation. NRCS experts from many disciplines come together to help landowners conserve natural resources in efficient, smart and sustainable ways. Whether developed in a laboratory or on the land, NRCS science and technology helps landowners make the right decisions for every natural resource. **NRCS succeeds through partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and ranchers, landowners, local conservation districts,** government agencies, Tribes, Earth Team volunteers and many other people and groups that care about the quality of America's natural resources.

We work at the local level, – in field offices at USDA Service Centers in nearly every county in the Nation. NRCS employees' understanding of local resource concerns and challenges result in conservation solutions that last.

PA DCNR BUREAU OF FORESTRY

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Insect & Disease Update

Gypsy Moth infestations were heavy enough in 2013 to warrant some aerial spraying. DCNR–Bureau of Forestry is spraying a small outbreak area in the spring of 2014. Even though the population has collapsed, landowners should be vigilant for this pest, especially if they have oak species. More information on Gypsy moth can be found at:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/insectsdisease/gypsymoth/>

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been detected in several counties throughout the state, most notably in northern Venango County. Brush up on the specifics of this insect at

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is creeping ever closer and has been recently found in Cook's Forest and the Allegheny National Forest. This insect attacks our state tree the Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). For more information on this insect go to: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/insectsdisease/hwa/>

Tree Planting

We continue to plant trees throughout the county on riparian waterways. This year we are into our 14th year of school riparian projects. We now utilize students from every school district in the county and from seven different schools. Funding for these riparian planting projects is slated to continue into 2015! If you have a potential project site, contact the DCNR Forestry office or the Crawford Conservation District. To date we have planted more than 50,000 trees along Crawford County waterways.

Timber Stand Improvement (T.S.I.)

Timber Stand Improvement is accomplished by thinning out existing timber stands and controlling wild grapevines. Removing low value trees to create more room for high quality individuals can jump-start a timber stand into increased production. The wood generated by these cuts is harvested for firewood or left to decay and be reintroduced in the nutrient cycle of the forest. Cutting grapevines out of timber stands can also lead to increased forest productivity. The Bureau of Forestry marked over 120 acres of TSI throughout Crawford County in 2013.

Timber Sales

Timber prices have rebounded slightly in the region. Markets are such that even low-value timber sales are receiving competitive and strong bids. Remember that every timber sale should be planned carefully with the help of a professional forester and utilize a timber sale contract. Never use **Diameter Limit Cutting** when conducting a timber sale. It is detrimental to your woodlot and your pocketbook!

State Service Foresters are available to walk your woodlot with you and provide information regarding proper timber harvesting, timber sale contracts, and silvicultural treatments.



PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Our special thanks to John Green, Field Representative for the Northwestern Pennsylvania Region of DEP. John serves as a liaison between the District and DEP, and assists us with many projects, including riparian buffer planting, tree seedling sales, the Envirothon, education programs, inter-agency communication, and staff and board training. Thanks, John!



Field Representative John Green at a Crawford County Conservation District Board Meeting

