



The Elk Bugle

Volume 3, Issue 4

Summer/Fall 2016

2016 Clarion River Clean– Up a Success!

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Ridgway, PA–
The Elk County Conservation District partnered with local high schools, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Allegheny National Forest, Elk County Solid Waste Authority, and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to conduct two separate Clarion River Clean– Up events in Elk County.

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Above: Photo of the two dumpsters removed from the Clarion River. Directly below students pose for a photo after a long day of canoeing and picking up trash.

Check out our website or Facebook page for official results and more photos!



Ridgway, PA—

On Saturday September 24, over 85 participants braved the fall weather to participate in the 5th Annual Les Haas Memorial Trail Race at the Laurel Mill Ski Trail. Participants could choose between the 2 mile fun walk, 7k run, or challenge themselves to the 14k run.

In the 7k male a new course record was made by 16 year old Gage Yaple of Waterford, PA, with a time of 31 minutes and 27 seconds. The 14k male record was also broken by 17 year old Keelan Kunselman of Brookville, PA with a time of 1 hour and 5 minutes.

In the female division the 7k Winner was Cheri Micale of St. Marys with a time of 45:36, and the 14k Winner was Eugenia Clark of Emporium, with a time of 1 hour and 26 minutes and 20 seconds.

For the 5th year anniversary, a quilt was presented to Mrs. Haas as a tribute to her late husband, Les Haas. Diane Myers, of the Elk County Conservation District, made the quilt herself and used past race tee shirts in the quilt.

All proceeds from the race go towards environmental education programs that the Elk County Conservation District provides to the community.



Above: Winners from the 2016 race L to R: Gage Yaple, Eugenia Clark, Keelan Kunselman, and Cheri Micale



Right: A sprint to the 7k finish!

Bottom: Diane Myers (right) presents the 5th year anniversary quilt to Mrs. Haas (left) during the awards ceremony.





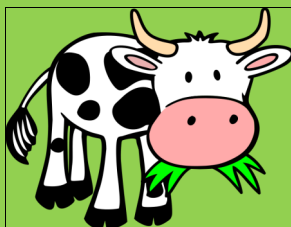
November 21-

Elk County Conservation District
Board Meeting 4:30 PM
Saint Marys, PA



February 16, 2017-

Best Management Practices (BMP)
Workshop-Contractor focused



March 9, 2017 (date tentative)-
Manure Management Workshop
For agriculture operations



March 22-23, 2017-

Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance
Training for Dirt and Gravel Roads



March 2017-

Pollinator Workshop



April 20-

Sustainable Forestry Initiative WS



Rain Barrel Workshop A Success

Saint Marys, PA-

35 participants attended the Storm water and Rain barrel Workshop hosted by the Elk County Planning Department, and the Elk County Conservation District on October 1. All attendees received a free 40 gallon rain barrel and a free elevated raised bed to take home (shown to the right).

Participants learned about chemical free gardening, healthy soil tips when gardening, storm water, and how landowners can minimize storm water on their property.

The goal of the workshop was to educate landowners about storm water issues, and how they can combat those issues using items such as a rain barrel. The rain barrel can be collected and used as a watering source for the raised bed.

Funding for this event was provided by a DEP Education Grant, Elk County, and Seneca Resources.





Students load up in canoes, donated by the Country Squirrel Outfitters, to clean up trash in the Clarion River.



Above: A dumpster was removed from the river. Allegheny National Forest staff assisted the process by cutting the dumpster in half, making it more manageable to carry out.



Right: A student poses with a ball found in the Clarion.

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Thank you to the Western PA Conservancy, Country Squirrel Outfitters, Keep PA Beautiful, Allegheny National Forest, Elk County Solid Waste Authority, Ridgway High School, Saint Marys High School, and Elk County Catholic High School for all of your help and hard work!



Do you Raise Livestock In Elk County?

Do you have a manure management plan?

If you do not have a plan, do not worry! Stop in at the Elk County Conservation District and pick up a Manure Management Plan Book and get started!

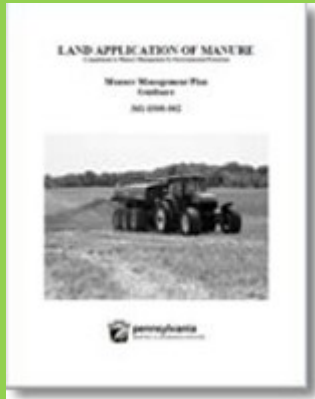
Currently any farm in PA that produces manure (this means 1 horse), or land applies manure, needs a manure management plan. These plans are simple to fill out and are kept on your property.

The plan looks at several areas of your farm operation; including any streams on your property, heavy use areas or barnyards, manure application, manure stacking, animal information, etc. The plan is a great tool to evaluate your operation on how you handle storm water, and nutrients. Often filling out the plan leads farmers to better utilize nutrients and to use less fertilizer. The operator of the farm (you), can fill it out at no cost.

You can also access a copy of this plan electronically but clicking this link below:

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/nutrient-management/manure/overview-of-deps-manure-management-manual/land-application-of-manure-manure-management-plan-guidance>

Please contact Resource Conservation Technician; Amanda Murdock at astoltzfus@countyofelkpa.com or (814) 776-5388 for planning assistance and questions.



Saint Marys Ecology Club Helps Build Pollinator Garden at Elk Country Visitor Center



Benezette, PA—

On Wednesday November 2nd, students from the Saint Marys High School Ecology Club joined forces with the Elk Country Visitor Center and the Elk County Conservation District to begin constructing a pollinator garden, and preparing for a pollinator workshop next spring.

The garden is located at the Elk Country Visitor Center, outside of their new LEED certified ECCO building. Students tilled up the garden area and constructed a rock edge. The garden will be planted next spring. It will feature native plants to attract native pollinators from the area.

The Conservation District will host a pollinator workshop at the Elk Country Visitor Center in the spring of 2017 to promote pollinator habitats and educate Elk County residents about the issues facing pollinators today. During the workday, students assembled pollinator seed packets for workshop attendees next spring.

Did you Know?

You can thank a pollinator for 1 of every 3 bites of food you eat?

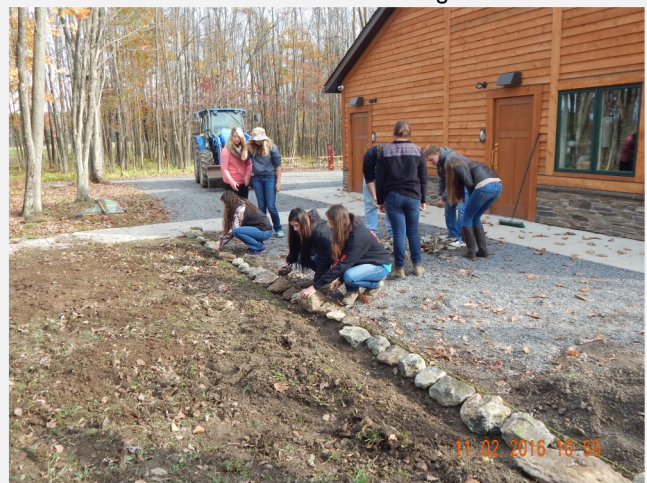


Above: Pollinator seed packets assembled by students.



Above: Saint Marys Ecology Club Students and ECCD Staff

Below: Students construct rock wall of garden.



Kayaking or Fishing the East Branch of the Clarion?

Check out the new Fish Habitat Structures at Bendigo State Park!

Wilcox, PA-

Those who kayak and fish the East Branch of the Clarion River will see some changes next spring!

If you plan to kayak from the East Branch Dam to Bendigo State Park you will notice some new fish habitat structures such as root wads, and rock vanes that were put in place Summer 2016 to improve fish habitat.

This area was previously slow moving, shallow, and flat due to a dam that was previously in place. As a result, it was not very supportive of fish habitat. Now, since the rock vane installation and root wads, the river is more dynamic, creating more riffles, which benefit fish habitat.

Root wads are massive tree roots that are used to protect the streambank by deflecting the stream away from the bank. They also provide habitat for fish and other aquatic critters.

Rock Vanes are also used to protect the streambank from erosion and redirect the stream flow towards the center of the stream channel. Rock Vanes improve stream habitat by creating scour and oxygenation, as well as cover.

This project was completed as part of a grant received by our partners at the Western PA Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, DCNR, and the Elk County Conservation District.



Right: Root Wads imbedded in the streambank along the East Branch of the Clarion at Bendigo State Park



Save the Date!



The Elk & Cameron County Conservation Districts in partnership with the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies and the Pa State Conservation Commission will be hosting an Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training on:

March 22nd & 23rd, 2017

Who: Anyone who maintains unpaved roads!

- Municipalities
- State and National Forests
- State & County DOTs
- Timber operations
- Oil and gas companies
- Landowner associations
- Private road/trail association

What: A comprehensive two-day course focusing on innovative and effective practices to reduce maintenance costs and sediment pollution from unpaved roads

Where: The Elk Country Visitor Center, located in Benezette, PA, Elk County

Why: The course will offer eligibility certification (or recertification) for anyone who participates in the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program. Additionally the course is a great resource in general for anyone who maintains rural roadways.



Above: Jay Twp, Elk County

Below: Portage Twp, Cameron County



How: Registration information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, any questions can be directed to:

Kate Yetzer, Elk Co. Conservation District
at: kyetzer@countyofelkpa.com



Course development funded by the PA State Conservation Commission through the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program

