



The Elk Bugle

Volume 4, Issue 2

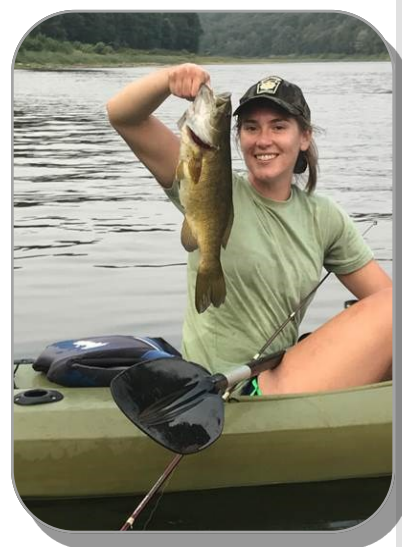
Fall/Winter 2017

The Elk County Conservation District Welcomes New Employees

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Stephanie Stoughton, hired in September 2017, is the new Watershed Technician. Stephanie received her master's degree in Biology from the University of Central Arkansas, while working as a teaching assistant. Her primary roles at the district will include: environmental education, water monitoring & sampling, stream & aquatic habitat improvements, and acid mine drainage reclamation. Stephanie can be reached at: sstoughton@countyofelkpa.com



Kelsey Kilhoffer was hired as a Resource Conservation Technician in October 2017. Kelsey graduated from Shippensburg University with a master's degree in Geoenvironmental Studies. She had previously worked at the Allegheny County Conservation District. Her primary roles at the District will include: environmental education, Geographic Information Systems, and agriculture & forestry assistance. Kelsey can be reached at: kkilhoffer@countyofelkpa.com

The District is excited to be operating at full staff again and is confident that Kelsey and Stephanie will fit in nicely with our Elk County family. If you're in the area or see them out and about, please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome our new staff.

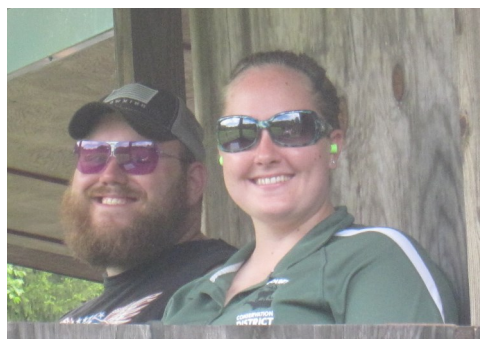
3rd Annual Clays for Conservation a Success!

St.Marys, PA–

The Elk County Conservation District's 3rd Annual Clays for Conservation event was held on July 16th, 2017 at the St.Marys Area Sportsmen's Club. This year showed a turnout of 31 shooters.

The 1st place overall shooter was Gary Krieg, with a score of 66/75. The 1st place overall female shooter was Katelynn Decker, with a score of 49/75. Lastly, the 1st place youth shooter was Robbie Bobenrieth, with a score of 63/75. None of the place winners in 2017 had previously placed at this event.

Kate Yetzer, Resource Conservation Technician-



"Community events like this wouldn't be possible without the support of generous local businesses, individuals, and organizations. The St.Marys Sportsmen's Club, the Benazette Hotel, Dr. Gorlowski, The Superior Trap & Skeet Team, my family (future and current), and other ECCD staff members consistently and freely donated their time, resources, food, & encouragement and this event would not be possible without them. I sincerely appreciate all they have done and continue to do."

Funds generated from this event will be used for the Conservation District's environmental education programs such as the Jr. Envirothon, 4-H summer camp activities, West Creek Wetland Learning Center programs, etc. Additionally, the Conservation District uses this money to help the St.Marys Sportsmen's Club send local students to Conservation Camp. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for local students to work alongside conservation organizations and to learn about the field of conservation, while gaining hands-on experiences.

Bottom Left: 1st Place Overall winner, Gary Krieg is shown receiving his award from Resource Conservation Technician, Kate Yetzer.

Bottom Right: Participant, Tj Wehler, shoots a clay pigeon during the competition. For the 3rd straight year, the weather could not have been any more perfect. The day started out in the 60's and climbed to the mid 70's. It was partly cloudy and comfortable, but most importantly, dry.





7K Overall Results

1. Ethan Swope	20-29 M	Pittsburgh, PA	31:31
2. Russ Micale	20-29 M	St. Marys, PA	36:20
3. Rob Redden	50-59 M	Curwensville, PA	37:19
4. Matt Gildersleeve	40-49 M	DuBois, PA	38:46
5. Joe Benden	40-49 M	Brockport, PA	39:57
6. Gregory Burns	60+ M	Ridgway, PA	40:37
7. Diana Wolfe	40-49 F	Johnsonburg, PA	41:25
8. Kathy Lampman	50-59 F	Ridgway, PA	41:33
9. Linnea Stager	20-29 F	Ridgway, PA	42:11
10. Jack Beyer	0-14 M	Kersey, PA	42:12
11. Chuck Beyer	40-49 M	Kersey, PA	42:13
12. Jason Belsole	30-39 M	St. Marys, PA	42:43
13. Megan Foster	20-29 F	Bradford, PA	43:51
14. Jackie Candalor	50-59 F	St. Marys, PA	47:41
15. John Butterfuss	50-59 M	Ridgway, PA	48:54
16. Stephen Spinda	50-59 M	Kersey, PA	48:55
17. Renee Freidhof	50-59 F	New Stanton, PA	51:13
18. Julie Lang	40-49 F	St. Marys, PA	51:42
19. Sally Villella	50-59 F	Punxsutawney, PA	52:42
20. Dawn Luvaas	50-59 F	St. Marys, PA	53:25
21. Scott Colson	40-49 M	Kane, PA	54:00
22. Melissa Gornati	20-29 F	Kersey, PA	54:35
23. Sarah Colson	40-49 F	Kane, PA	1:01:37

Ridgway, PA-

The Elk County Conservation District's 6th Annual Les Haas Memorial Trail Challenge was held on September 23 at the Laurel Mill Cross Country Ski Trail. This year 57 runners and walkers showed up to tackle this (slightly) muddy event.

In the 7K event, Diane Wolfe took the Overall Female winner award and also set a new course record with a time of 41:25! Ethan Swope was the Overall Male winner in this category.

In the 14K event, Lucy Anthony was the Overall Female winner and Brady Bouche was the Overall Male winner.

The District would like to thank our sponsors for this event, which included: REBCO, Inc., Country Squirrel Outfitters, Jordan's Bar & Grill, Straub Brewery, Dairy Queen, Northwest Savings Bank, Allegheny National Forest, & Jan Haas.



14K Overall Results

1. Brady Bouch	0-14 M	St. Marys, PA	1:07:05
2. Sean Craig	40-49 M	DuBois, PA	1:09:45
3. Rick Gabler	40-49 M	St. Marys, PA	1:12:30
4. Barry Andrulonis	40-49 M	DuBois, PA	1:14:36
5. Nick Mitcheltree	30-39 M	Ridgway, PA	1:19:02
6. Lucy Anthony	15-19 F	St. Marys, PA	1:19:43
7. Frederick Ferguson	40-49 M	Osceola Mills, PA	1:22:30
8. Larie Hall	40-49 F	Morrisdale, PA	1:22:36
9. Ken Huey	60+ M	Kersey, PA	1:23:50
10. Tim Andrulonis	50-59 M	DuBois, PA	1:23:52
11. Eugenia Clark	40-49 F	Emporium, PA	1:24:32
12. Gina Graham	40-49 F	Clearfield, PA	1:28:20
13. Bill Granche	60+ M	Ridgway, PA	1:31:27
14. Jill Raubenstrauch	30-39 F	DuBois, PA	1:31:43
15. Dustin Rhoads	30-39 M	Erie, PA	1:34:37
16. Amanda Alberts	30-39 F	DuBois, PA	1:35:25
17. Emily Mitchell	20-29 F	Ridgway, PA	1:37:40
18. Martha Bralkowski	30-39 F	Ridgway, PA	1:39:00
19. Aimee Kemick	50-59 F	Ridgway, PA	1:42:12
20. Donald Weis	50-59 M	St. Marys, PA	1:42:52
21. Miki Quattrone	20-29 F	Ridgway, PA	1:43:12
22. Travis Sallack	20-29 M	DuBois, PA	1:44:11
23. Lorraine Crocco	50-59 F	Weedville, PA	1:46:23
24. Rob Singer	50-59 M	Kersey, PA	1:57:22
25. Jessica Shannon	30-39 F	St. Marys, PA	2:00:15
26. Lindsey Weidow	30-39 F	St. Marys, PA	2:17:09



Environmental & Conservation Education

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

Environmental & Conservation Education is a very far-reaching activity that the Conservation District partakes in. District staff frequently participate in hands-on activities for various local youth-groups. Recently staff participated in such activities. They include:

In partnership with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Kate gave a presentation on the importance of water and the impacts of erosion to approx. 20 middle school students at the Flying Dove Ranch.

Steve and Kate gave a presentation to approx. fifteen 4-H students about the importance and availability of water in our world.

Kate also gave a Web of Life Wetland activity to approx. 20 elementary students at the Flying Dove Ranch. This was a program to teach students about the various benefits of wetlands and how they connect.

Stephanie gave a macroinvertebrate and wetland program to approx. 6 middle school students from Elk County Catholic.

Together, Kate & Stephanie spoke at a Career Day offered at Big Maple Natural Therapies. This was a program for approx. 20 high school students and was agriculture focused.



Low Volume Road Project Completed in Benezette, PA

A stream crossing located near the intersection of 2nd Street & Walnut Street in Benezette Township was recently replaced under the Elk County Conservation District's Low Volume Road Program. The original structure was a combination of a 36" rusted metal pipe and a 24" plastic pipe. The District replaced this with a 66" corrugated elliptical pipe. A much larger pipe was used because of considerations with the amount of water the stream carries, bankfull measurements, and aquatic organism passage. The photos below are before and after pictures of the outlet and the inlet. The inlet photo on the bottom left shows that substrate is already beginning to fill in the pipe. This will allow for aquatic organisms, such as the Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander (found during construction and pictured right), to pass through the structure freely.



INLET BEFORE



OUTLET BEFORE



INLET AFTER



OUTLET AFTER

WORK PERMIT

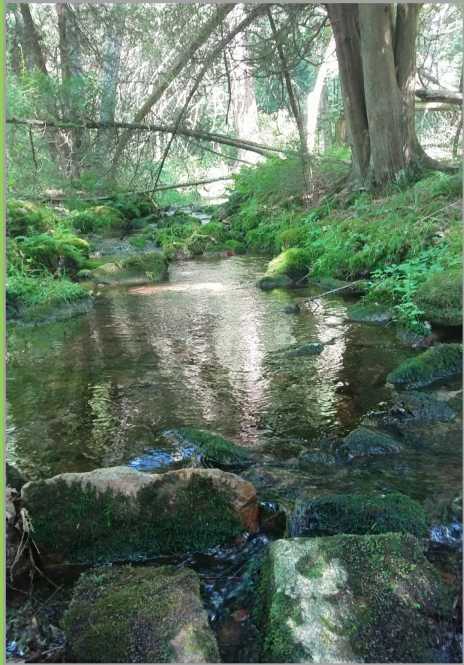
A GP-7 Permit for a permeant minor road crossing was obtained by the township.

The cost of this project was: \$25,061.17.

For the most up to date information
"Like" us on Facebook!



District Staff Provide Field Exercise



On August 16th, Kate Yetzer & Steve Putt attended the 78th Annual Convention of the Elk County Association of Township Officials. Kate & Steve led a group, mostly comprised of road crew and maintenance staff, on a field exercise to practice some common sense engineering tactics. The group learned how to search for bankfull indicators and how to measure bankfull width of a stream. Knowing what bankfull is, can help the municipalities determine what size structure to install, or what size a replacement structure should be.

Annual DGLVR Program Update Meeting

The Annual DGLVR Program Update Meeting was held on November 2nd at Joey's Bakery in Ridgway, PA. The meeting had great attendance, with 17 people present, and over half of the eligible program entities represented. Guests were provided with a buffet-style breakfast. Attendance at this meeting grants the entity 5 bonus points on the Elk Co. DGLVR Program ranking sheet. The topics covered included: 2017 Project highlights, 2018 funding, Buffalo Turbine discussion, & an overview of the new stream crossing policy.



Clarion River Cleanup

On Monday, October 2nd, 2017 the Elk County Conservation District, in partnership with the Elk County Solid Waste Authority & Community Recycling Center, the St. Marys Area Ecology Club, Keep PA Beautiful, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, conducted a Riparian Cleanup of the Clarion River. **Students from the ecology club removed 1,080 pounds of trash, 260 pounds of tires, and a 500 pound tractor tire** from the riparian area located between the Clarion River and SR-949. Many of these items were located on State Game Lands and would have been dangerous to wildlife, unpleasant to conservationists, and detrimental to the environment.



Above: Students from the St. Marys Area Ecology Club with a truck full of tires they removed along the Clarion River.

Right: Students at the Portland Mills canoe launch.

Left: A 500 pound tractor tire was removed during the cleanup.



Tree Planting and Soil Bioengineering Project

Did You Know??

Riparian areas have unique characteristics and are quite different than the surrounding upland landscape

These areas are highly productive and are considered very diverse ecosystems

Many threatened and endangered species live in riparian areas

The most common threats to riparian areas are clearing the vegetation and disturbing the land for development



Above: WPC staff, Luke Bobnar, prepares trees and live stakes to be planted along the East Branch of Spring Creek.

In partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC), the Elk County Conservation District staff took part in a riparian planting, live staking, & soil bioengineering project along the East Branch of Spring Creek on November 14, 2017. This planting was completed to mitigate the effects of tree harvesting done for a previous slope stabilization project. Participants including WPC, the Elk County Conservation District, the Warren County Conservation District, and local volunteers. **Over 180 trees and 100 live stakes were successfully planted near the Pigs Ear Trailhead.**



Above: Staff and volunteers along the Pigs Ear Trailhead, heading toward the tree planting site.
Right: Riparian area where trees and live stakes were planted.

Trees in riparian areas help stabilize the soil against erosion, provide shade to keep water cool for trout, provide habitat for aquatic organisms, and serve as a food source for macroinvertebrates.



Elk County Envirothon 2017



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2018 COMPETITIONS:

Junior High
May 2nd
Bendigo State Park

Senior High
May 9th
St. Marys Sports-
men's Club

Current Issue Topic 2018:

“benefits of grassland
and pastureland
management”

Ten teams from Elk County Catholic, Ridgway, and Johnsonburg High Schools competed in the 2017 Elk County Envirothon. Competitors were tested on their knowledge of forestry, aquatics, soils, wildlife, and the 2017 current issue- “soil and water conservation.” Students enjoyed a pizza lunch provided by the District and had opportunities to interact with professionals representing the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



Elk County Catholic

Charlie Bobby
Jared Braun
Mitchell Cashmer
John Mader
Dan Stauffer

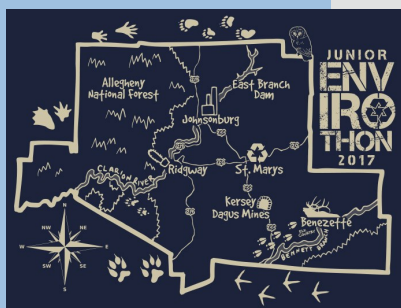
Ridgway

Cassie Cook
Vincent Cristini
Devin Gilmore
Cole Luchs
Jovana Marzella

Johnsonburg

Zach Hodgdon
Austin Hoover
Michael Miller
Kacey Raubenstauch
Phil Ship

The District also hosted five teams from the Elk County Catholic Middle School and St. Marys Area Middle Schools for our junior high competition at Bendigo State Park. Competitors were tested on similar topics as senior high students.



For more information
or to participate in these

events, please contact:
Stephanie (High School)

ssstough-

ton@countyofelkpa.com

&

Kelsey (Middle School) at

kkilhoffer@countyofelkpa.com



St. Marys Area

Andrew Deprater
Caleb Mattiuz
Zachary Mosier
Matthew Wehler

Elk County Catholic

Mackenzie Bonfardin
Tom Dippold
Joey Geci

St. Marys Area

Caitlin Blessel
Lily Bouch
Sam Bowes
Izzy Catalone

Elk County Conservation District

Elk County Recycling Center
850 Washington Street
Saint Marys, PA 15857

Phone: (814) 776-5373
www.co.elk.pa.us/conservation

Staff

Steven Putt, CPESC
District Manager

Kate Yetzer
Resource Conservation
Technician

Kelsey Kilhoffer
Resource Conservation
Technician

Stephanie Stoughton
Watershed Technician

David Stubber
Solid Waste Enforcement

Diane Myers
Secretary

Directors

Russ Braun- Chairman

Mike Hovatter- Vice-
Chairman

Matt Quesenberry- Commis-
sioner

Ray McMinn- Farmer Director

Andy Sorg- Farmer Director

Joe Labant- Public Director

Jerry Olsen- Public Director

Jim McCluskey- Associate
Director

Chris Smith- Associate Direc-
tor

Ron McMinn- Director Emeri-
tus



November 20, 2017– ECCD Board
Meeting, 4:30 PM at the District Office .

November 23 & 24, 2017– District office
closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.



December 25 & 26, 2017– District office
closed for the Christmas holiday.



January 1, 2018– District office closed for
the New Year holiday.

February 2018– Annual BMP Workshop for
contractors. Date TBD

