



The Elk Bugle

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Spring 2016

Successful Stream Workshop held in Elk Country

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Above: Dr. Bern Sweeney discusses Forest Buffer Width vs Sediment Trapping Efficiency %

Benezette, PA—

On March 29, 2016 the Elk County Conservation District hosted a stream workshop featuring speakers from Stroud Water Research Center, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC), and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Dr. Bern Sweeney, Director and senior researcher at the Stroud

Water Research Center in Avondale, PA, spoke to attendees about the importance of riparian forest buffers, and how they can effectively filter sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen, from entering a stream. In the photo above, Dr. Sweeney shows attendees a graph on the most effective forest buffer width. Currently most buffers are a minimum of 35 feet. Dr. Sweeney suggests 100-200 feet would be more

beneficial to filter out phosphorus and nitrogen, however, 35 feet is very effective if space is limited.

Kylie Maland, and Luke Bobnar, from WPC spoke to attendees about Hel-lebenders and current studies being conducting in the area, as well as local stream restoration projects taking place in the region.

(Continued on page 2)

Stream Workshop Continued...

Ron Lybrook, of the NW DEP Office discussed flood ways and floodplain management and storm water. Lybrook discussed the effects of undersized culverts and how one can impact others by changing a floodway or a floodplain.

Over 50 guests attended the workshop, located at the Elk Country Visitor Center in the new Outdoor Classroom. Funding for this workshop was provided by a PACD Mini Grant.



Above: Photo of an Eastern Hellbender. Hellbenders are sensitive to sediment pollution in streams. They are a good indicator of stream health.



BMP Workshop Held for Contractors-Engineers

Ridgway, PA—

A contractor, engineering focused workshop was held in Ridgway on February 18, 2016 to focus on Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction. Speakers from the Elk County Conservation District, Lane Enterprises, ACF Environmental, and Ernst Conservation Seeds spoke to attendees.

Lane Enterprises discussed arch, open bottom culverts, and engineered drainage systems. ACF Environmental discussed green infrastructure, storm water BMPs, Geo Web, and Geo Block, in addition to other storm water products.

In addition, Ernst Conservation Seeds discussed the benefits of native plants, and native seed and seed mixes when seeding a construction site after the site was disturbed.

Funding for this workshop was provided by a PACD Mini Grant.



Envirothon Study Day Held for Elk County High School Students

Benezette, PA— Kim Bonfardine, Watershed Specialist for the Elk County Conservation District, arranged an Envirothon Study Day at the Elk

Country Visitor Center in Benezette.

At the study day students received an excellent lesson on invasive species from Sinnemahoning DNR Kim Lott, and Tim Tomon, DCNR Bureau of Forestry.

After the Invasive Species lesson, students chose two, one hour stations. Students attended aquatics, led by Natalie Aiello (PSU Extension), Soils, led by Amanda Stoltzfus and Kate Yetzer, ECCD, Wildlife, led by the PA Game Commission Jason Wagner and Sue Edmiston, or Forestry, led by DCNR staff Sam Johnson and Tim Cherry.

Thank you to all of those that made this study day possible.



Ridgway High School Releases Trout into the Clarion River

Ridgway, PA—

High School Students participating in the Trout in the Classroom program, finally got to release them into the Clarion River on May 6, 2016 at the Country Squirrel Outfitters in Ridgway. Trout in the Classroom is a program sponsored by Trout Unlimited where students raise trout from eggs into fingerlings.

In addition to releasing trout into the Clarion River, students also studied macroinvertebrates from the river. Elk County Conservation District Staff, Kim Bonfardine and Steve Putt acquired macroinvertebrates from the river prior to students arriving, so that students could learn how they are essential in the Clarion River Ecosystem.

Tom McMann, from the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and Sue Edmiston, from the PA Game Commission, spoke to students about careers in the industry and how the students can help the community and environment by being good stewards to the streams and forests. A fun and educational day was had by all! Thank you to PA Fish and Boat, PA Game Commission, and Country Squirrel Outfitters!



Elk County Conservation District to Hold 2nd Annual Clays for Conservation Shoot at Saint Mary's Sportsman's Club



Please "Like" our Facebook Page, and keep checking in for updates and registration for our upcoming "Clays for Conservation"!

If you have questions regarding this event, please contact Kate Yetzer, at kyetzer@countyofelkpa.com

Saint Marys, PA- On Sunday July 17th the Elk County Conservation District will host the 2nd Annual Clays for Conservation Shoot at the Saint Marys Sportsman's Club. Last year the event raised over \$500 towards environmental education programs for youth.



Pull!



Your calendar up and save the date!

Elk County Conservation District 2nd Annual Clays for Conservation Shooting Event!*

What: Wobble Trap (2 rounds, 50 birds)

When: Sunday, July 17th 2016

Where: St.Marys Sportsmen's Club

Why: Raise money for environmental educational programs throughout Elk County

Who: Contact, Kate Yetzer at kyetzer@countyofelkpa.com

***More details to follow soon!**



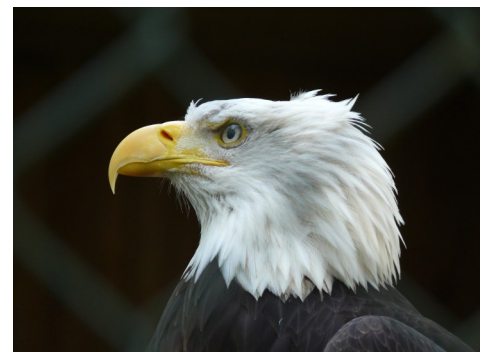
WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!



Calling all photographers! We want your photos! Join the Elk County Conservation District for the 1st Annual Photo Contest. CASH prizes will be awarded. Any age or level is encouraged to submit photos. Photos must be from Elk County, and may be of wildlife, scenery, agriculture, rivers, and more.

Please "like" our Facebook Page, or visit our website for rules and more information.

Contact Kim Bonfardine @ kbonfardine@countyofelkpa.com for more information or questions.





3rd Annual Junior Envirothon a Success

Wilcox, PA- The 3rd Annual Junior Envirothon was held Wednesday May 4, 2016 at Bendigo State Park. This year 2 schools participated, Johnsonburg and Elk County Catholic. The students were 6-8th graders and all did a great job!

Students competed in aquatics, forestry, soils, and wildlife stations, testing their knowledge of each subject. Students worked in teams of 3 at each station.

After the competition, students enjoyed pizza, snacks, and juice. And the top three winning teams received certificates. The top three teams were all from Johnsonburg Middle School.

Thank you to DCNR for assisting the Junior Envirothon for the day. Holly Dzemyan, Environmental Education Coordinator, from DCNR, taught students how to geocache after lunch in the park following the competition.



Elk Co. Conservation District Partners with surrounding Conservation Districts to hold Sustainable Forestry Initiative Workshop

Ulysses, PA— Loggers, foresters, and landowners spent the day with local conservation districts and cooperative agencies at the Lumber Heritage Museum on April 21, 2016 to learn about timber site considerations, forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs), and planning before the harvest. Speakers from Trout Unlimited, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and Cameron, Elk, Potter, and McKean County Conservation Districts spoke at the event.

In the afternoon, district staff and meeting attendees walked outside the museum to evaluate a timber site and fill out a timber action packet, erosion and sediment control plan. In groups, attendees looked at stream crossings, identified the necessary permits, and sensitive areas to avoid or minimize impacts. Landing sites, skid trails, and haul roads, were all

evaluated.

Potter, Tioga, Warren, McKean, Elk, Cameron Conservation Districts and worked together to plan this workshop. The event will be hosted in Elk County next spring.

Foresters and loggers who attended the workshop were eligible to receive SFI and SAF credits if needed.

Funding for the workshop was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD).



Above: Cameron County Conservation District Assistant Manager, Kate Morgan, leads a group loggers and landowners during the afternoon activity at the PA Lumber Heritage Mu-



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Saint Marys Ecology Club Enhances the West Creek Wetlands



Saint Marys, PA—On May 6, 2016 the Saint Marys Ecology Club assisted Conservation District staff in cleaning up the West Creek Wetland Learning Center in Saint Marys. Students collected trash, pulled weeds, mulched, trimmed bushes, and shoveled stone in the rain garden.

Following lunch, Pennsylvania Game Commission WCO, Jason Wagner instructed students about the Eastern Blue Bird and assisted students in assembling Blue Bird Boxes provided by the PA Game Commission. Eight boxes were built and placed in the Learning Center.

Thank you students and WCO Jason Wagner for all your help!



Upcoming Events

May 30— Memorial Day—
Office Closed

June 17— McKean County
Conservation District Pond
Workshop

June 27—Elk County Conser-
vation District Board Meet-
ing—Ridgway, PA

July 17— Clays for Conser-
vation- @ Saint Marys
Sportsmans Club Saint
Marys, PA

August 9-13— Elk County
Fair
Kersey, PA

August 20-21— Elk Expo
Benezette, PA



The Saint Marys Ecology Club poses for a photo with the trash they collected at the West Creek Wetlands.