

vol. 2

Summer 2020

2120 Cornwall Rd, Suite 5
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-277-5275
www.lccd.org



Lebanon County
Conservation District

Rooted in Conservation

Community Outreach Continues

As with many other organizations, Lebanon County Conservation District felt the effects of the COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing, but that didn't stop staff from serving the Lebanon community.

Annual Tree and Plant Sale

The Annual Tree & Plant sale is a long-standing district event that was brought back to life in its current form in 2016. Each year the sale offers over 25 varieties of bare root conifers, potted hardwoods, potted perennials, and bare root fruits, many of which are native plants.

The sale is primarily conducted with pre-orders taken in February and March. Typically only a

small inventory is available for purchase the day of the sale. This year, due to social distancing restrictions, no day of sales were available.

In the days leading up to the Tree Sale, District staff and Directors worked to pre-package over 200 orders for customers in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. On May 8th, customers were given the option of pulling up to the Lebanon Expo doors where a District staff member placed the order in their vehicle or having their orders placed under a tent prior to their arrival for a no-contact pick-up. The sale was one of our most successful yet, and District staff appreciated all the support from our local community to make the day possible.

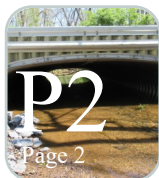
1,875 Seedlings

Distributed to Lebanon County
4th graders since 2017

4th Grade Seedling Outreach

Proceeds from the Annual Tree & Plant Sale are used to purchase tree seedlings for Lebanon County 4th graders. District staff started the program in 2017 at ELCO Intermediate with a goal of expanding the program into a new school each year. Since its inception, seedlings have been distributed to ELCO, Cornwall, South Lebanon, and Ebenezer Elementary 4th graders.

In 2018, LCCD was fortunate to partner with the PPL Community Roots program to provide the seedlings for ELCO Intermediate. Due to the school closures, District staff made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 seedling distribution which was set to expand to Annville Elementary 4th graders this year. However, staff were able to deliver the PPL seedlings to ELCO Intermediate. Those seedlings were distributed to students and staff during locker pick-up and their drive-thru lunch distributions.



**DIRT & GRAVEL
LOW VOLUME ROADS**
Controlling sediment and
improving waterways



WEST NILE VIRUS
Mosquito season is
upon us



**RAIN BARREL
WORKSHOP**
Water conservation
goes virtual



**AGRICULTURAL
LAND
PRESERVATION**
A wise investment in
Lebanon County's
leading industry



Dirt & Gravel Low Volume Roads:

Controlling Sediment and Improving Waterways

DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROAD PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF LEBANON COUNTY INCLUDING BETHEL TOWNSHIP, EAST HANOVER TOWNSHIP, HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP, JONESTOWN BOROUGH AND UNION TOWNSHIP.

Sediment is considered to be the largest, by volume, pollutant to Pennsylvania's waterways. Many of the approximately 20,000 miles of publicly owned, unpaved roads are generators of sediment pollution. Both paved and unpaved roads often act as collection and transport systems for runoff and sediment from adjacent land uses.

Steph Harmon and Karl Kerchner manage the LCCD's Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads program. The program's intent is to fund safe, efficient and environmentally sound

maintenance activities on sections of dirt and gravel roads (and low volume paved roads with an average daily traffic count of 500 vehicles or less) which have been identified as sources of dust and sediment pollution.

In order to be eligible for funding, representatives from municipalities are required to attend a two-day Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training class facilitated by the Center for Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads. Upon completion of

the class, attendees are certified for five years. Maintenance workshops are also presented annually.

Many of the 20,000 miles of publicly owned, unpaved roads generate sediment pollution

Examples of projects done in the county to improve road condition and corresponding drainage include raising portions of a road bed nearly 36 inches, installation of concrete, steel and plastic culvert pipes, reconstruction of road bases, and regrading road surfaces.

For more information on the DGLVR program, contact Steph or Karl at the District.

WEST NILE VIRUS: Mosquito Season is Upon Us

Peak mosquito season is almost upon us! So far, this year has been relatively dry which doesn't give the mosquitoes an opportunity to boost their populations to an unmanageable level. Great news! However, we are learning this year that West Nile Virus (WNV) is nearly always a threat. We are beginning to receive WNV positives across the state – in both mosquitoes and humans. Lebanon County was the third county to detect WNV in its mosquito population across the state. It is possible to see an increase in human illness this year due to people being more aware of sickness during the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus more likely to seek testing. Symptoms of a WNV infection can mimic those of COVID-19, such as fever, headache, body aches and pains, and muscle weakness. If you have these symptoms, it is important to seek medical attention.



The best way to protect yourself from West Nile Virus is

to prevent mosquito bites. Eliminating mosquito breeding habitat – anything that holds stagnant water – is the most effective way to discourage mosquitoes in your area and prevent bites. Take a few minutes next time you're outdoors to evaluate your property for anything that might be holding water such as buckets, tarps, flower pots, or clogged gutters. When it's not possible to control mosquito habitat, remember to wear DEET and long sleeves and pants when outdoors during dusk hours to reduce your risk of West Nile Virus.

GET TO KNOW YOUR DISTRICT

CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

Katie Doster: District Manager
Karl Kerchner: Asst. District Manager
Beth Yeager: Ag Team Leader
Olivia Bingeman: Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program Coordinator
Emily Collins: Ag/NPDES Admin Specialist

Ed Farrell: WNV Control Technician
Stephanie Harmon: Watershed Specialist
Valarie Weaber: Administrative Assistant
Nate Weaver: E&S Pollution Control Technician
Craig Zemitis: Ag Preservation Specialist



DIRECTORS

Board Chairperson: Randall Leisure
Board Vice Chairperson: Brent Kaylor
Board Treasurer: Robert Arnold
Commissioner: William Ames
Jennifer Albright
Kristen Grumbine
Donald Krall
Calvin Miller
John Poff
James Tomanelli, Associate Director



Lebanon County Envirothon:

5 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1 Over **300** Lebanon County students in grades 4 through 12 attend the Lebanon County Envirothons annually

2 Since 2017, the Lebanon County Envirothon has awarded **\$15,000** in scholarship funds to county seniors participating in Envirothon

3 The Envirothon has been held for **36** years for High School, **22** years for Middle School, and **27** years for Elementary School

4 Envirothon tests students' knowledge of **Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife,** and an annual **Current Issue**

5 Even though Envirothon was cancelled due to COVID-19, high school students could still participate in the **Pennsylvania Envirothon Week** online challenge



Rain Barrel Workshop Goes Virtual

FUNDING PROVIDED BY A PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC. GRANT FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER SECTION 319 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT, ADMINISTERED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

Originally scheduled for March (*and in person*), the LCCD needed to find other means to hold our Rain Barrel Workshop due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After postponing once, and with shelter at home orders in place, our Watershed Specialist, Stephanie Harmon, sought other creative means to educate our workshop participants.

Additionally, they were introduced to the connections between NPS pollution, us, watersheds, and water quality. More specifically, participants were introduced to local sources of NPS pollution and how a rain barrel can be used as one measure to minimize NPS pollution and conserve water.



Steph created an online PowerPoint presentation to educate participants as part of the 2020 Lebanon County Rain Barrel Workshop. Viewers were introduced to the concepts of water quality, quantity, and how homeowners can help minimize non-point source (NPS) pollution.

After viewing the presentation, two pick up days were later scheduled to safely distribute the 24 rain barrels purchased for workshop participants through grant funding.

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

A Wise Investment in Lebanon County's Leading Industry

Recognizing the importance of Farmland Preservation, the Lebanon County Commissioners decided to participate in one of the most successful conservation programs in the nation. They appointed a nine-member volunteer board to ensure the viability of agriculture as an industry and a way of life in Lebanon County.

Since 1991, the Lebanon County Conservation District has administered the farmland preservation program under the direction of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board. As of March 2020, 172 farms have been preserved totaling 19,224.87 acres. Currently, there are 40 applicants on the waiting list - 2,356.21 acres.

In order to qualify for land preservation, a farm must be enrolled in an Agricultural Security Area; be comprised of 50% lands in Soil Classes I – IV utilized for commercial agricultural production; be at least 50 contiguous acres, or at least 10 acres if either unique crop is grown or adjoining

a perpetual agricultural conservation easement.

Land preservation funding comes from several sources including Growing Greener funds, Clean & Green penalties, Lebanon General Fund, Marcellus Shale funds, township/private donations, and state and federal sources. Preservation, through easement purchase, may only occur when easement funds have been allocated and certified by a County to the State.

At the February State Ag Land Preservation Board Meeting, the 2020 state spending threshold was set at \$43 million (the highest amount since 2007). County programs certified \$16.4 million this year as well. The 2020 State & County totals for Lebanon County came to just over 1 million dollars!

If you have any questions or are interested in applying your farm for preservation, you can contact Craig Zemitis at craig.zemitis@lccd.org or at 717-277-5275 x142.

BECAUSE
THEIR
FUTURE
IS IN
OUR
HANDS



Together we can inspire the next generation and influence a train of thought that will guide tomorrow's leaders down a path of sustainability and conservation.

Join us in educating our community to conserve today's resources for tomorrow. Call or visit our website to find out how you can support LCCD.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

717.277.5275

WWW.LCCD.ORG



Lebanon County

WOMEN FOR THE LAND CONSERVATION LEARNING CIRCLE

For Women Farmers & Landowners in Lebanon County

American Farmland Trust invites women who farm, or who own farm or forest land in Lebanon County to participate in a 2-day workshop of engaging discussion. Join us for a chance to sit down with local conservation staff to discuss how to protect your land's natural resources.

Free workshop, lunch provided.
In-person attendance not required.



DAY 1:

Wednesday, October 7, 2020
9:00am - 4:00pm
Goldfinch Meadows Farm
16 Albright Ln. Jonestown 17038

DAY 2:

Wednesday, October 21, 2020
11:30am - 4:30pm
Lebanon Valley Agricultural Center
2120 Cornwall Rd. Lebanon 17042



American Farmland Trust

Questions: Mid-AtlanticOutreach@farmland.org or Janice at 240-626-5209

Register: farmland.salsalabs.org/midatlanticwomenfortheland

Sp Adobe Spark