



THE CONSERVATION DIGEST

2010 SPRING EDITION

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Upcoming Events:

- Mar 31**
Envirothon Study Day
- Apr 8**
LCD Board Meeting
- Apr 17**
2010 Horse Course
- Apr 23-24**
Seedling Sale/Spring wkshp
- May 5**
Luzerne County Envirothon
- May 13**
LCD Board Meeting

Spring Seedling Plant Sale & Seminar

PURCHASE \$100 IN PLANTS/BULBS OR

The Luzerne Conservation District is once again selling a variety of plants, bulbs, flowers, trees & shrubs that are just waiting to be planted in your backyard !

This year we are offering a variety of older seedlings and transplants to ensure a better survival rate once planted. We are selling some popular evergreens and deciduous trees, a variety of shrubs and fruit trees, as well as, a large selection of vegetable plants, herbs, flowers, wildflower seed mixes, bulbs and perennials.

**** Come to our free spring workshop on Saturday April 24, 2010 from 9-12 to learn :**

- »How to use your earthbox
- »How earthworms help in the garden
- »Appropriate planting of your seedlings
- »There will be fun activities for the children too!

There is no purchase necessary to attend our workshop, but if you purchase \$100 in

RSVP for the workshop by April 16th

Seedling sale information can be obtained at our website at www.luzerneccd.org or by calling 570-674-7991. Order deadline is March 19th.

Pick-up Dates are : Friday, April 23rd (12:00PM-5:00PM) & Saturday, April 24th (8:00AM-12:00PM)



LUZERNE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AND
Spur of the Moment Tack, Inc.



KEEP THIS DATE.....

APRIL 17, 2010
5PM

More Information to Come....

- FLY CONTROL
- EQUINE EMERGENCY 1ST AID
- CLEAN UP MUDDY PADDOCKS



SPRING HORSE COURSE 2010

RSVP by April 9, 2010 at 674-7991

Luzerne Conservation District

Board of Directors

Timothy J. Ference
Chair

Stephen A. Urban
Vice-Chair

Timothy J. Connolly, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer

Joseph Boiwka

Leonard J. Burger, Jr.

William C. Letwinsky

Bruce Trumbower

Carl R. Urbanski

Associate Directors

Robert Andrews

Jack Hanish

The Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors meet at the Conservation District office on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. The public is invited to attend.

Staff

Heather Berlew

Resource Conservation Specialist II

Keith George

Resource Conservation Specialist I

Ron Jesse

Building and Grounds

Josh Longmore

District Manager

Shawn Rybka

Watershed Program Coordinator

Amy Salansky

Chesapeake Bay Specialist

Aaron Stredny

Environmental Services Specialist

Jennifer Verry

Secretary/Bookkeeper

Who We Are:

On February 13, 1964, out of concern for the conservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic resources of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, the Luzerne County Commissioners established the Luzerne Conservation District.



The Luzerne Conservation District is a local agency with responsibilities in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources within Luzerne County. The District's primary types of activities include: regulatory/voluntary compliance, technical assistance, and education/outreach. Its mission is accomplished through cooperation with landowners and land users; by working with other public and private organizations; and by increasing citizen awareness of their responsibility to be good stewards of natural resources. For more information about the District, visit www.luzernecd.org

Conservation District Board of Directors appointed



From left: Ference, Urban, Magistrate Tupper

The Luzerne County Commissioners reappointed Timothy Ference of Conyngham and Stephen Urban of Wilkes-Barre to the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors.

Mr. Ference has served as Public Director on the board since 2006. His term will run from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013. Commissioner Urban has served as a Director or Associate Director on the Board since

2004. Commissioner Directors serve one-year terms.

The Board of Directors consists of nine members, all appointed by the county commissioners, and two associate members, appointed by the board. Magistrate James Tupper swore in the reappointed directors at the conservation district's January 14, 2010 meeting.

Also during the meeting, the board elected Timothy Ference of Conyngham as Chairman of the Board. Stephen A. Urban of Wilkes-Barre was elected as Vice-Chairman and Timothy Connolly of Kingston was elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board.

SOIL TESTING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Luzerne Conservation District's Chesapeake Bay Soil Testing Incentive Program offers reimbursement of soil testing kit costs. Once the Conservation District receives a copy of the results from Penn State Extension, the costs of the kits may be reimbursed to the landowner. This program is designed as a soil-management program for producers. Penn State samples each for water PH, Mehlich, buffer lime requirement, and for phosphorus, potassium, Magnesium, and calcium by the Mehlich 3 (ICP) test.

This is a cost effective program that helps reduce pollution of local waterways that eventually drain into the Chesapeake Bay while increasing the overall health and productivity of your crop land. A consultation is necessary to determine eligibility.

Please contact Amy Salansky at the District office today for more information about his great program @ 674-7991.



2010 Annual Awards Ban-

The Luzerne Conservation District held its Fifth Annual District Banquet on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at the Genetti Hotel & Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre. With more than 150 people in attendance, the banquet featured a silent and live auction, games of chance and raffles. Many local businesses and artists donated merchandise and original works of art for the event.

The proceeds from the banquet benefit the Luzerne Conservation District's conservation education and outreach efforts by helping to support our ongoing programming to local homeowners, municipalities, educators, students, and the public through workshops, newsletters, special events, and community programs.

The Luzerne Conservation District took the opportunity to recognize the outstanding conservation efforts of local community members by presenting the 2010 Annual Awards at the banquet.

Stanley M. Sowa, Jr. Conservationist of the Year Award



Paul Lumia (right) and Lynn Aldrich (center) on behalf of the **North Branch Land Trust** accepts the *Stanley M. Sowa, Jr. Conservationist of the Year Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (left).

2009 Envirothon Award



Rob Bonczewski, Advisor (center), on behalf of the first place students at **Wyoming Valley West High School**, accepts the *2009 Envirothon Award* from Amy Salansky (left) and District Manager, Josh Longmore (right).

Lewis Rinehimer Conservation Farmer Award



Harry Roinick (center) accepts the *Lewis Rinehimer Conservation Farmer Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (left) and Chesapeake Bay Specialist, Amy Salansky (right).

Conservation Educator Award



Janice Leiby (center) accepts the *Conservation Educator Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (left) and Watershed Program Coordinator, Shawn Rybka (right).

Dirt & Gravel Road Program Stewardship Award



Dorrance Twp Road Department (center) accepts the *Dirt & Gravel Road Program Stewardship Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (left) and Dirt & Gravel Road Program Coordinator, Shawn Rybka (right).

Luzerne County Fair Queen Recognition



The Luzerne Conservation District took this time to recognize the 2009 Luzerne County Fair Queen, **Krista Paluski**.

Pictured in photo from left are: Amy Salansky, Miss Paluski, and Josh Longmore.

The *Watershed Stewardship Award* was given to **Vinnie Cotrone** who was unable to attend the event.

Congratulations to our 2010 award recipients on a job well done!



**LUZERNE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

485 Smiths Pond Road
Shavertown, PA 18708

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The Luzerne Conservation District is a not-for-profit, local agency whose mission is to conserve land and water resources in Luzerne County by promoting public awareness, providing technical assistance, and encouraging regulatory compliance.

NPDES Permitting Updates

The PAG-02 NPDES General Permit expired, on December 7, 2009. The amended permit has been reissued. The major changes to the permit are that it will be reissued for a two year time period, it may not be used if discharges are to surface waters identified as impaired waters where the proposed discharge will result in a net change (pre-condition to post condition) in volume or rate or water quality of the stormwater, or if discharges are pollutants of concern to waters for which there is a TMDL established or approved by EPA unless the E&S and PCSM Plans include implementation measures or controls that are consistent with the assumptions and requirements of such TMDL.

Other major changes include new requirements for permit modification, termination, or revocation and reissuance, a requirement for completion certificates and final plans, and upon the installation or stabilization of all perimeter sediment control BMPs and at least 3 days prior to proceeding with the bulk earth disturbance activities, the permittee or co-permittee shall provide notification to the department or authorized conservation district. In addition, the E&S Plan must be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of any available WLAs for the discharges as set forth in any applicable TMDLs established for the receiving waters. Clean Fill requirements have been added, phased project guidance has been revised, and where infiltration BMPs are being utilized, the permittee and co-permittee must ensure that soil compaction is avoided or minimized in those areas. If the areas planned for infiltration BMPs are compromised, additional soil testing must be performed to verify that the BMP will perform as planned. Stabilization requirements were revised and Act 537 Sewage Facilities requirements were updated.

Finally, the permit will increase from \$250.00 to \$500.00. Based on the revisions to the PAG-02, 2009 Amendment, the NOI/application forms and checklists and instructions have been revised. For additional information, please visit our website at www.luzernecd.org.