



THE CONSERVATION DIGEST

2011 Volume 2

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Upcoming Events:

- Aug 31**
No-till/Cover Crop Workshop
- Sept 8**
LCD Board Meeting
- Sept 14**
Dirt & Gravel Road Workshop
- Oct 13**
LCD Board Meeting
- Nov 10**
LCD Board Meeting
- Nov 24-25**
LCD Closed
Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 8**
LCD Board Meeting
- Dec 23-26**
LCD Closed
Christmas Holiday

Rainwater Harvesting & Earth Box Workshop Held

The Luzerne Conservation District hosted a Rain Barrel and Earth Box Workshop on June 30, 2011 at the District office.

Shawn Rybka, LCD Watershed Coordinator, gave a presentation on rainwater harvesting and Rain Barrel systems that landowners can implement at their homes. Molly Quinn Philbin, Earthbox Education Director, gave a hands-on demonstration on how to create a self contained garden using the Earth Box gardening system.

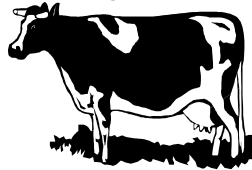


The workshop was a huge success with over 30 participants attending. At the conclusion of the workshop, each household received a Rain Barrel and Earth Box to utilize at their property.

Please visit us at www.luzerneccd.org for upcoming educational events or call the district office at 570-674-7991 to be added to our mailing list.



Agricultural Outreach Efforts Begin in Luzerne County



Starting July 1, 2011, the Luzerne Conservation District's Agricultural Conservation Specialist started scheduling educational visits to farmers.

Pennsylvania has a statewide outreach effort to the agricultural community to meet with farmers and visit agricultural operations to inform them of their obligation to maintain compliance under Chapter 102 for agricultural erosion and sedimentation control and Chapter 91.36 for manure management planning.

This outreach visit is not an inspection or to follow up on a complaint, it is simply a contact to clearly communicate agricultural owners/operators' need to comply with appropriate DEP regulations and answer questions farmers may have.

For more information, or to schedule a farm visit voluntarily, please call 570-674-3408.

Have you seen these?

This prism purple panel trap is used to detect the presence of the emerald ash borer. The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive insect pest from Southeast Asia that kills all members of genus Fraxinus (Ash) in North America. It was first detected in Michigan in 2002, and quickly found to be established in neighboring states and Canada. In 2007, the EAB was detected in Butler and Allegheny Counties in Pennsylvania. Invasive species that affect plants in Pennsylvania are the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.



**If you think you have found emerald ash borer, report it by contacting:
PA Department of Agriculture: 1-866-253-7189
or by email at: Badbug@state.pa.us**



Luzerne Conservation District

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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 II

Ron Jesse
Building and Grounds

Josh Longmore
District Manager

Amber Martin
Environmental Services Technician

Shawn Rybka
Watershed Program Coordinator

Amy Salansky
Agricultural Conservation Specialist

Aaron Stredny
Environmental Services Specialist

Jennifer Verry
Administrative Coordinator

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 or contact us at 570-674-7991.



2011 M.E.C.C. Workshop Held

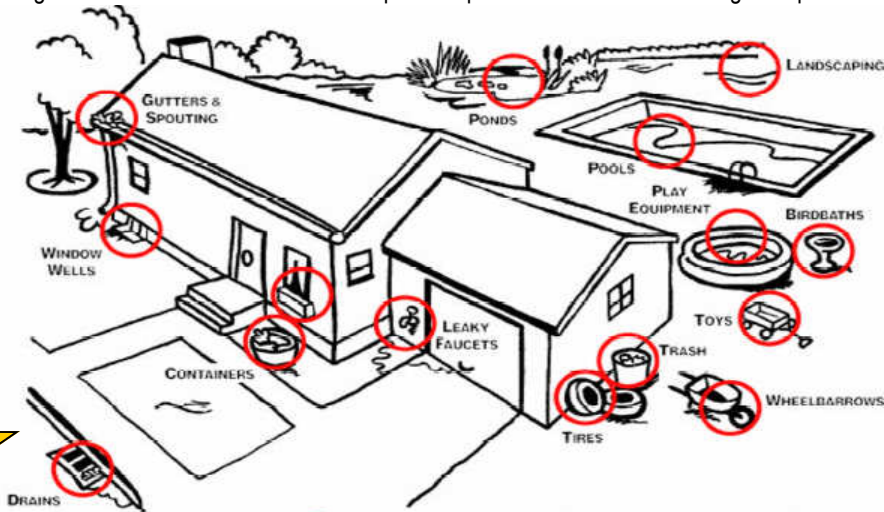
The Luzerne Conservation District recently hosted its 3rd Annual Municipal, Engineer, & Contractor Conservation Workshop on August 5, 2011 at the Penn State University Wilkes-Barre Campus. The workshop began with a presentation on the Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance given by Dave Yefko, Borton Lawson. Breakout sessions included topics on E&S/NPDES Updates and Installing/Maintaining Common BMP's discussed by Heather Berlew and Keith George, LCD, and Municipal Road Maintenance/Dirt & Gravel Roads discussed by Jay Wilkes, Jackson Township and Shawn Rybka, LCD. Joel Kammeraad, Complete Aquatics, gave a presentation on Rainwater Harvesting Systems during the afternoon session.

Over 75 attendees were present at this year's event. Exhibitors showcased their company's products and services throughout the day. We would also like to recognize Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus who allowed us to use their well maintained, spacious facilities for our event!

Fight the Bite!



As is typical, mosquitoes continue to proliferate throughout summer here in NEPA. However, a wet Spring and repeated heavy rains this summer continue to create conditions for flood pool mosquitoes and as a result, nuisance mosquitoes. This has upped the demand on our West Nile Virus Program Staff for larval treatments and surveillance compared to last year. In response, catch basins and flood pool habitats have been treated repeatedly. Additionally, in response to high mosquito trap counts and subsequent West Nile Virus (WNV) samples that tested positive, adult control was used on the evenings of August 17th and 18th in a few select locations. Finally, we would like to remind homeowners to regularly empty standing water in any mosquito-breeding containers around the home to help us keep the local WNV transmitting mosquito population down.



**How
to
Avoid**

**West
Nile
Virus**

- Get rid of standing water where mosquitoes can breed
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly
- Change water in bird baths at least once per week
- Keep swimming pools & outdoor hot tubs chlorinated
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors
- Fix any holes in household screens & make sure doors/windows are tight
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET when necessary
- Wear long sleeves/pants if you go out around dusk which is the prime time for mosquito activity.

The 2011 Luzerne County Envirothon winner is...



Pictured from left: Jennifer Verry, LCD Envirothon Coordinator; MMI Prep Team A; Michael Mele, Team Advisor

The 32nd Annual Luzerne County Envirothon took place this year on May 11, 2011 at the PPL Susquehanna Riverlands in Berwick. 179 students representing 36 teams from 12 different schools competed in the event with MMI Preparatory School's (A) Team achieving the overall highest score. MMI Preparatory went on to compete at the PA State Envirothon at Susquehanna University & Shikellamy State Park on May 24-25, 2011. The following schools placed 2nd through 4th respectively at this year's county event: Greater Nanticoke Area (A), Crestwood (A), and Greater Nanticoke Area (B).

The Envirothon is an environmental competition for 9-12th graders testing their knowledge of soils and land use, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and a current issue. The current issue topic this year was "Salt & Fresh Water Estuaries". Each station is facilitated by a different agency: Luzerne Conservation District, PA Fish & Boat Commission, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, PA Game Commission, and DCNR Bureau of Parks. The Luzerne Conservation District coordinates the competition and encourages every school in the county to participate. This year the following schools put their skills to the test: James M. Coughlin JSHS, Crestwood HS, GAR JSHS, Greater Nanticoke Area HS, Hanover Area JSHS, Hazleton Area HS, Elmer L. Meyers JSHS, MMI Preparatory School, Northwest Area HS, Pittston Area HS, Wyoming Valley West HS and Wyoming Area JSHS. Staff members from the Department of Environmental Protection in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne Conservation District, Wilkes University, USDA NRCS, and Jackson Township volunteered at the Envirothon by monitoring teams and testing stations, assisting with the scoring, and handing out refreshments. PPL was very generous in allowing us to use their well-maintained and spacious grounds for the event. We also recognize PPL for providing lunch and refreshments, as well as Jackson Township, Herr's Foods Inc., and Dominos Pizza in Berwick.

At the State Competition, PennCrest High School from Delaware County placed 1st. MMI Preparatory ranked 5th out of the 67 schools competing and also achieved the overall highest score in the Aquatics division. Congratulations to MMI Preparatory Team A and all of our 2011 winners!



2nd Place: GNA Team A



3rd Place: Crestwood Team A



4th Place: GNA Team B



LUZERNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

325 Smiths Pond Road
Shavertown, PA 18708

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 16
DALLAS, PA

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.

Dirt & Gravel Roads Workshop

ON SITE DEMONSTRATION
PROPER GRADING TECHNIQUES & DSA PLACEMENT

FREE **Wednesday 9-14-11**
8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Jackson Township Municipal Building
2211 Huntsville Road, Shavertown, PA 18708

Lunch Provided



Please RSVP no later than 9-9-11
Contact: Luzerne Conservation District 570-674-7991

2011 NO-TILL/COVER CROP FIELD DAY

2 SESSIONS AVAILABLE

<p>Northern Luzerne Paul & Amy Salansky Farm 133 Sholtis Road Dallas, PA 18612</p> <p>LUNCH PROVIDED</p> <p>11AM—1 PM</p>	<i>or</i>	<p>Southern Luzerne Burger Farms 398 St. Johns Road Drums, PA 18222</p> <p>DINNER PROVIDED</p> <p>3PM—5PM</p>
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**WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 31, 2011**

FREE

Topics include:

- How to control slugs in no-till farming.
- Benefits to no-till farming versus conventional farming.
- Are pesticide storage facilities safe?
- Herbicides & pesticides in no-till farming.

**PESTICIDE
CREDITS
AVAILABLE**

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621 MOUNTAIN ROAD
TAMAQUA, PA 18252

Hosted by:  **Natural Resources
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 **LUZERNE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**