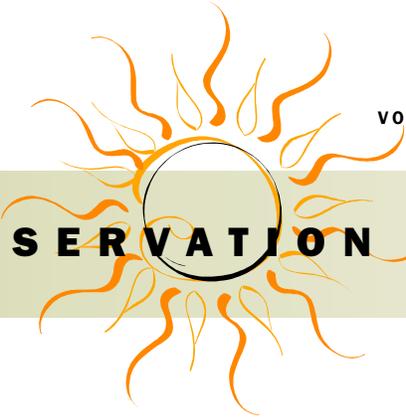


# CONSERVATION NOTES

JULY 2010



## 2010 COVER CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In 2010 the Bedford County Conservation District *will not* offer a cover crop incentive program due to changes in the Department of Environmental Protection's goals through the Chesapeake Bay program. As an alternative, in 2010 a Cover Crop Assistance Program will be held. There will be NO payments made to the producer, as was the case in previous years, instead rental fees for the BCCD no till drills will be waived and paid

for by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Funding is limited and the maximum that can be enrolled in this program for each producer will be 100 acres; although it is highly encouraged to plant as many acres as possible. This is a first come-first served program. Sign ups will be taken starting August 1, 2010, and will continue to be accepted until the total enrollment reaches 3000 acres. All cover crops must be planted by Novem-

ber 1, NO EXCEPTIONS! After the first 3000 acres are signed up in the program, additional acres can be enrolled but are not guaranteed funding. Each producer will be required to sign three Chesapeake Bay Special Project forms (CBPSP-1, CBPSP-3, and CBPSP-5)

Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Cody Waltemire at 623-7900 ext 128.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS COLLECTION

The Bedford County Conservation District is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste and Pesticide collection event for Bedford County residents!

When – Saturday, September 18

Where – Bedford County Fairgrounds

(just look for the Coffee Pot)

Time – 8 am thru 12 noon

For further information please contact Regina Miller, Recycling Coordinator, at 814-623-8099.

### WHAT TO BRING

Oil-Based Paints and Solvents  
Drain cleaners  
Toilet bowl cleaners  
Fireworks  
Oven cleaners  
Wood and metal cleaners  
Insecticides  
Herbicides (weed killers)  
Fungicides  
Wood preservatives  
Fertilizers

Mercury-containing materials  
Automotive: Lead Acid Batteries

### DO NOT BRING

Latex paint  
Explosives, ammunition  
Medical waste, needles  
Smoke detectors  
Radioactive materials  
Propane gas tanks  
Photographic materials  
Prescription drugs  
Asbestos

## FLOODPLAIN PROGRAM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplain Insurance Program is undertaking a nationwide modernization of floodplain maps to update data into a more useful digital GIS (geographic information system) format. The floodplain mapping for Bedford County is currently in

the update process and new digital maps for the county are expected by the end of the year. The new maps will be issued in draft status that will continue for 12 months During this provisional period, participating communities (boroughs and townships) must update their floodplain ordinances

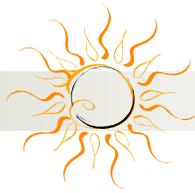
to meet current program requirements and reference the new digital mapping. The Conservation District will be assisting the municipalities by reviewing new ordinances to insure that new requirements are met.

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Cover Crop Program
- Household Waste Collection
- Chapter 102
- Exotic Plants, an Environmental Problem
- 2010 Envirothon Winners
- No Gypsy Moth program for 2011
- Conservation District Website



## CHAPTER 102

Do I need an Erosion and Sedimentation Plan?

Do I need a permit?

Can I create a pond here?

Can I dig out this ditch?

These are common questions you may ask yourself when performing earth moving activities such as creating ponds, digging ditches, and other projects. Unfortunately, some peo-

ple neglect to contact the Conservation District office for more information about Pennsylvania's laws and regulations and encounter fines as a result of moving earth without obtain-

ing proper permits or approval. Before starting an earth-moving project please call Mike Felix, Resource Technician at 623-7900 ext 122.

## EXOTIC PLANTS CREATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

### Invasive Plants

Plants that are introduced to our region from other areas are known as exotics, distinguishing these from our native plant species. Many exotics have become welcome additions to gardens and urban landscapes and many important crop plants are not native. Exotics become problem plants when, escaping cultivation, they spread through habitats displacing native plants. These plants then are referred to as invasive. Other exotic invasives are accidental introductions, entering our country in packing materials from overseas shipments of cargo, in ballast water, or hitchhiking as seeds on animals, other plants or people. Well-intentioned introductions that were proposed for wildlife habitat, erosion control, or other conservation purposes have often proven to be nightmares later as the costs for control exceed any benefit originally envisioned.

The following short introductions to some of the invasive species of concern can also be found on our website with color images to aid in identification.

**Purple Loosestrife** is beautiful plant when flowering but

spreads so rapidly in wetlands and along stream banks that it chokes out our native plants, and can clog irrigation canals. Purple loosestrife seeds are carried by wind and water, and the plant also spreads by underground shoots. Marsh birds and waterfowl avoid areas overtaken by purple loosestrife and the endangered bog turtle loses basking and breeding sites. Purple loosestrife also causes damage to hayfields and pastures. Purple loosestrife is on the PA Noxious Weed list and it is illegal to sell, cultivate, or transport this plant.

**Japanese Knotweed** was introduced to America during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and has spread from the Northeast to Georgia and Louisiana in the south and to California and Alaska. While the seed is carried by wind and water, knotweed usually spreads rhizomes, often invading new areas through flooding and earthmoving. The stems resemble bamboo and dense thickets can shade out other plants and offer little value to wildlife.

**Tree-of-Heaven**, native to China, was brought into this country as seeds in 1784, and for a time was a popular street tree and ornamental here as well as in

Great Britain.

Tree-of-heaven can grow where many other plants cannot and will crowd out native plants, when in competition, by producing toxins in the soil. Male trees are very smelly during the flowering season and the female trees produce large clusters of winged seeds. The root systems can damage sewers and foundations.

**Giant Hogweed** was introduced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from Central Asia as an ornamental and it resembles some other plants such as Queen Anne's Lace, though hogweed is much larger, as tall as 20 feet with flower heads over 2 feet across. Giant hogweed will form dense stands that crowd out native plants but the primary danger of this plant is the toxins in the stems and leaves that cause blistering and scarring. For this reason, it is listed as a PA Noxious Weed. [Do not touch this plant.](#)

**Japanese Barberry** was introduced as an ornamental in 1864 and was promoted as a "living fence" and for soil conservation, as was multiflora rose. While birds eat (and spread) the seeds, deer avoid browsing on Japanese barberry.

This plant is reported to alter the soil chemistry where it grows and recent studies show that areas with dense Japanese barberry growth shelter large populations of both white-footed mice and blacklegged (or deer) ticks, and, therefore, increased incidence of Lyme disease.

**Multiflora Rose** is native to Eastern Asia and was introduced for soil conservation, as a "living fence" and for wildlife habitat and food but has become a nuisance invasive and is listed as a PA Noxious Weed. Multiflora rose differs from native roses in having large clusters of small flowers, white or pink, and in having a fringe of stipules or stiff hairs at the base of each leaf petiole. This plant is a serious pest in hay fields, pastures and fencerows.

### What can you do?

Don't plant or transport invasive plants, and remove them if you find them on your property.

Report sightings of PA Noxious Weeds to the Conservation District or PA Department of Agriculture.

Learn more about invasive plants.



## 2010 BEDFORD COUNTY ENVIROTHON EVENTS

The County Envirothon events are an interactive, hands-on environmental education experience consisting of three outdoor competitions. The events are held in April and May; they test students' knowledge of specific environmental topics and give them the opportunity to learn. These events are open to teams of students in grades 5 – 12. There are three levels of competition: Sr. High 9 – 12 grade students, Jr. High, 7 – 8 grade students and Elementary

5 – 6 grade students. There are five testing stations students rotate through. These stations include: Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, Soils and Current Issue. For all three events, station top scorers are recognized with certificates and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams receive plaques. The Sr. High competition winners have their achievement recognized on a traveling trophy. They will also have the opportunity to compete at the State Envirothon Competition.

The 2010 Envirothons were held at Shawnee State Park, East Beach. The Sr. High event was held on April 22. The Everett Wildfire took first place with a score of 405 out of 500 which sent them to the State Envirothon at PPL Montour Preserve. Second place went to the Everett Neo-Tropical Migrants with a score of 398 and third place went to Northern Bedford Wild Thornberries with a score of 355. The Jr. High event was held on May 4. The Bedford

Roadkills took first place with a score of 431 out of 500. In Second place was the Everett Lumberjacks team with a score of 409 and in third place was the Everett Tree with a score of 405. The Elementary event was held on May 5. The Everett Eagles took first place with a score of 457 out of 500. In Second place was the Everett Bobcats scoring 445 and in third place was the Everett Cardinals with a score of 420.



Everett Sr. High Winners



Bedford Jr. High Winners



Everett Elementary Winners

## 2011 STATE ENVIROTHON CURRENT ISSUE

### Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries

An estuary is a partially enclosed coastal body of water where freshwater from the land measurably dilutes saltwater from the ocean. This mixture of

water types creates a unique environment that is critical for the survival of many species of fish, birds, and other wildlife. They provide safe spawning grounds and nurseries for fish and shellfish, ideal resting and refueling places for migratory

birds, and habitat for many reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Marshes and other wetlands, which often fringe estuaries, protect marine life and water quality by filtering sediment and pollution from upstream sources. Estuaries also create

natural protection to coasts and shorelines from damaging storm waves and floods. Estuaries are valuable features of our natural landscape and important to study as an Envirothon current issue.

## BEDFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING NETWORK

The Environmental Learning Network continues to provide environmental education opportunities to students and outdoor educational recreation for citizens of Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

The Network hosted Earth Day

activities at Shawnee State Park, with approximately 150 people in attendance. Children of all ages planted trees, played games, and interacted in environmentally friendly programs. Next year's event promises to be even bigger and better.

This year's activities include "Farm Day" at the Llewellyn Brothers Farm and workshops on Aquatic and Riparian Resources. Other classes that are available are: Pond Study, Rock & Geology Study, Bird Study, Tree Identification & Study, For-

est Ecology, Reptiles & Amphibians, Maple Syrup Demonstration and Mountain Hikes, covering a variety of topics. For more information contact Darla Guyer at the Conservation District by calling 623-8099.

## GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM

In 2010 surveillance by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry revealed small pockets of Gypsy moth defoliation scattered

throughout Pennsylvania. These small populations will not warrant a side-wide spray program next spring. To date, there have

been no surprises in gypsy moth development and activity. Cool, damp weather are conducive to Entomophage maimaigna

development, a fungus and natural enemy that increases mortality during the caterpillar stage.



Non-Profit  
Organization  
Permit Number

## **POINTS OF CONTACT**

### **BEDFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION**

702 West Pitt Street Phone: (814) 623-8099  
Suites 3 & 4 Fax: (814) 623-0481

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GUY STOTTLEMYER, Watershed Specialist  
CODY WALTEMIRE, Chesapeake Bay Technician  
MICHAEL FELIX, Resource Technician  
JAMES SAYLOR, Equipment Handler

## **BEDFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ON THE WEB**

For the latest news from the Conservation District, check our website. Updates on programs, meeting notices, and other items of interest are added to the site on a weekly basis. Current website enhancements underway are an ongoing expansion of the "Watersheds" topics and, soon to come, "Invasive Plants". Past newsletters and links to other useful sites are also available.

Check it out at

[www . b e d f o r d c o u n t y c o n s e r v a t i o n . c o m](http://www.bedfordcountyconservation.com)

#### **WHO WE ARE:**

Since its inception in 1956, the Bedford County Conservation District has served as the primary local source of information and assistance for natural resource related issues. From its beginnings as an agricultural agency providing soil and water conservation planning on farmland, the District has expanded its services and staff providing additional land use services: watershed management and education in both regulatory and non-regulatory issues in both the farm and non-farm communities.