

# **CONSERVATION NOTES**

**SEPTEMBER 2007**



## **CLEARVILLE RECYCLING CENTER**

The Bedford County Conservation District opened the Clearville Recycling Center in early May 2006. With the first year quickly passing, recycling is on the increase in this area. The success of this center is largely due to the many volunteers that help on the scheduled drop off days that material is collected. Volunteers accumulated over 200 hours of time at the center in the first year. Much of this time is spent helping to unload the recyclables that people bring and to make sure the materials are placed into the proper containers. Education efforts on how to recycle and what can and cannot be recycled are an important part of

these volunteer efforts. Conservation District staff also work and volunteer their time at making the recycling center run efficiently. Marketing of the materials is challenging due to the constant fluctuation of prices and in trying to find places that will take the recyclables. The cost of hauling many of these materials is higher than the product is actually worth. The markets for these materials are widespread and it takes a very large quantity to ship to cover the trucking costs. Even with these challenges, we look forward to another year. Over 100 tons of recyclables were collected in the first year.

This included 9 tons of plastic, 7 tons of cardboard, 13 tons of newspaper, .5 ton of aluminum cans, 4 tons of steel cans, 12 tons of magazines, 2.5 tons of office paper, 30 tons of brown glass, 15 tons of clear glass, 8 tons of green glass, and over 600 gallons of used motor oil. The Clearville Recycling Center is located along Rt. 26 one mile north of Clearville. Drop off days are the first and third Saturday and the first and third Tuesday of each month from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you would like more information on how and what to recycle, contact the Bedford County Conservation District at 623-8099.

## **FUTURE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**

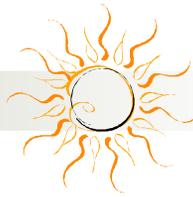
- October is electronics collection month at the Clearville Recycling Center! Acceptable materials are listed on page 2. The Clearville center is open the first and third Tuesday and Saturday of each month, 9am - 1pm.
- One-day electronics collection at the Bedford Fairgrounds on November 3, 8am–12 noon. For more information on electronic materials being collected, please see page 2.
- One-day glass and plastic collection at the Bedford Fairgrounds on November 3, 8am–12 noon
- There will be a glass and plastic collection on the fourth Thursday of the month in September and October at the conservation district office located across from the Bedford County fairgrounds.
- The plastic and glass collection at the Bedford County Conservation District office will be closed during the winter months, November thru March. The collections will resume in April .
- For more information concerning special collection events please contact Regina Miller at 814-623-8099

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### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Recycling Special Collections and Event dates.
- Electronics Collections
- Conservation/Education Fundraising
- 2008 County Envirothon Dates
- No-till cover crop field day
- The Conservation District Website



**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION**

The Bedford County Conservation District will hold an electronics recycling event at the Bedford County Fairgrounds on Saturday, November 3 from 8am - 12 noon. Bedford County recycling will be collecting unwanted home electronics for dismantling, then recycling! Proper recycling of the plastics, glass and metals will keep pounds of materials out of the landfill! The rest of the raw materials will be used for new

products! We encourage you to bring your items. The Fairgrounds are located at 108 Telegraph Road, Bedford. For more information call 814-623-8099. A small fee will be charged for each item.

**ACCEPTABLE ELECTRONICS:**

- CPU's—\$6.00
- Monitors—\$7.00
- Mouses—N/C
- Key Boards—\$0.50

- Small Printers—\$1.50
- Large Printers—\$3.00
- VCR's—\$1.50
- Stereos—\$1.50
- CD Players—\$1.00
- Receivers—\$2.00
- Lap Top Computers—\$5.00
- Answering Machines—\$1.00
- Fax Machines—\$4.00
- TV's—\$15.00 (Large console tv's must have the wood removed)

- Telephones—\$1.00 (remove batteries)

**NON ACCEPTABLE ELECTRONICS:**

- Microwaves
- Electric lawn mowers
- Electric weed eaters
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Kitchen appliances (coffee pots, can openers, food processors, toaster ovens)
- General trash

Acceptable and Non-Acceptable electronics are the same for the October collection event in Clearville.

**A LEGACY FOR CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION**

**Bill Plank Leaves a Legacy**



A committee has formed with staff from the Bedford County Conservation District, the Ridge & Valley Streamkeepers, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, the University of Maryland, and the Maryland US Geological Survey to implement various environmental, recreational and educational projects in memory of William Plank, a long-time conservation activist of Bedford County (PA), adjacent areas, and the world in general. Initial projects, in priority order, are listed below. Do-

nations in general or specified for those projects indicating a need for funding will be welcomed. Note that most granting organizations require private matching funds of 10% to 50%; any contributions will leverage other sources of funding. Make checks payable to the Ridge & Valley Streamkeepers and indicate "Bill Plank Memorial" and specific project (if any) in the memo line. Excess funds will be transferred to the William I. Plank Post-Secondary-Education Environmental Scholarship Fund managed by the Bedford County Conservation District unless the donor indicates another preferred deposition.

**1. Stream Gauge Project:** Designating the US Geological Survey (USGS) automated stream gauge at Sideling Hill

Creek near the Potomac River as the William I. Plank Gauge in conjunction with an onsite memorial marker. Proposed cooperators: Maryland USGS. Initial estimate of funds needed for onsite marker: \$2,000 to \$3,000.

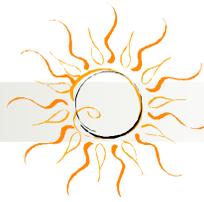
**2. Stream Signage Project:** Erect stream signage for the Sideling Hill Creek watershed where state roads or other major roadways cross streams. Proposed cooperators: Penn DOT, Monroe Township and Mann township, PA. Initial estimate of funds needed: \$3,000 to \$10,000. Potential sources of grants: Cora Brooks Foundation, REI or Community Connections.

**3. Educational Gardens Project:** Potentially locate at the Evitts Creek Educational Center an environmental

education garden, which includes sections emphasizing, respectively, butterflies, wildflowers, and trees. Proposed cooperators: Evitts Creek Steering Committee, City of Cumberland, Bedford County Conservation District. Initial estimate of funds needed: \$10,000. Potential sources of grants: PA DCNR, ICRPB.

**4. Sideling Access Project:** Improve kayak and canoe access to Sideling Hill Creek. Proposed cooperators: National Park Service or State of Maryland/Forestry. Potential future project. Funds not being solicited at this time.

**5. Pike-to-Bike Project:** Create an environmental education display along the Pike-to-Bike project. Potential future project. Funds not being solicited at this time.



## 2008 ENVIROTHON CURRENT ISSUE

### Recreational Impacts on the Natural Environment

Pennsylvania is blessed with a rich diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants. More than 10,000 species of plants and animals are known to exist in the Commonwealth. As inventory efforts continue, it is estimated that the total number of known plants and animals in Pennsylvania will reach 20,000 species. This diversity of species contributes to Pennsylvanians' well being by providing important recreational, economic, and biological benefits to the Commonwealth.

Recreation, whether active or passive, is vitally important to everyone and offers physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits. The amount of time and money people spend on recreation is rising, along with the diversity of recreational opportunities.

Webster's defines recreation as *refreshment in body or mind, as after work, by some form of play, amusement, or relaxation* and includes games, hobbies, sports, and other activities. For our purposes, we will narrow the focus to outdoor activities within a natural setting. Examples for Pennsylvania include hunting, fishing, ATV and horseback riding, hiking and backpacking, skiing, mountain biking, rafting and kayaking, bird watching and cultural observations/explorations. These may be low- or high-tech, low- or high impact, and require little or strenuous physical exertion. No matter the form of recreation, humans are consumers and leave behind some trace upon the earth. This "trace" often grows considerably as the number of people

using that resource increases and can negatively impact vital natural resources.

How might our recreational activities impact natural resources? One impact often gives rise to more, creating a cascading effect that may become difficult for land managers to control. Compaction and erosion often degrade soils. Non-native flora and fauna can be introduced into the ecosystem, causing shifts in the balance from native to non-native species. The frequency of wildfire can change, causing shifts in the flora and fauna of an area. Recreation leads to an increase in the use of energy, especially fossil fuels, leading to air and water pollution. Noise pollution may alter natural range and habitat especially critical to

sensitive species. And, how do we manage human waste that is a by-product of our lifestyle?

These are only a few of the potential impacts. And, all are intertwined. A prime example: as soils are disturbed they may erode with resulting debris creating runoff into nearby streams, thus changing the water quality. The change in water quality may have serious repercussions for native species that rely on cleaner water. Non-native species may out-compete native species if they can tolerate the sediment load while the natives do not. This, of course, is a simplified version of a possible chain of events. In reality, the impacts are far more extensive and complicated.

## 2008 BEDFORD COUNTY ENVIROTHON DATES

The 2008 Sr. High Envirothon will be held at Shawnee State Park on Thursday, April 24. The Jr. High Envirothon will be held at Shawnee State Park on Tuesday, May 6 and the Elementary Envirothon will be held at Shawnee State Park on Wednesday, May 7. If you have any questions concerning the 2008 event, please call Regina at 623-8099

## NO-TILL AND COVER CROP FIELD DAY

**When:** October 3, 2007  
10:00 am—2:00 pm

**Where:** Dividing Ridge Farm,  
Dean and Jeff Hillegass, 207  
Dividing Ridge Road, Berlin,  
PA 15530

**Program:** No-till Systems and

Equipment, Residue Management, Nutrient Management and Cover Crops.

**Sponsored By:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, Somerset County Conservation District, Bedford County Conservation District

and the PA Ombudsman Program.

**Registration:** Attendance is free and lunch will be provided. Registration is required, call the Somerset NRCS Field Office at 814-445-6876 ext. 003,

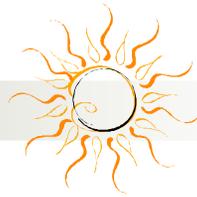
### FIELD DAY

#### REGISTRATION

Attendance is  
**FREE** and Lunch  
is included.

Please RSVP by  
**September 28,**  
**2007.**





**NEW RESOURCE TECHNICIAN HIRED**

**Michael Felix**

Michael Felix filled the district Resource Technician position; he will work closely fulfilling the responsibilities of the Erosion and Sediment/NPDES delegation agreement with DEP. Michael will implement soil and water conservation related programs including the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Chapter 102 regulations, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Chapter 92 regulations and promote practices that minimize acceler-

ated erosion, thereby improving water quality within Bedford County.

Michael resides in Alum Bank and is married to Deborah Felix. They have two children, a daughter Samantha, 8 years old, and a son Shane, 6 years old. Michael grew up in Bedford County, Deborah is native to Montgomery County; together they decided to raise family close to Michael's roots.

Michael formerly worked with

the Franklin County Conservation District in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation program on streambank erosion and manure waste management projects. Michael also worked in the insurance business as a causality claim adjuster.

He earned a Bachelor's degree in Geoenvironmental Studies from Shippensburg University. His education and experience provide him excellent back-

ground and opportunity in natural resource conservation.

Mike, avid outdoorsman, enjoys the opportunity to work in the field.



**RECENT APPOINTMENT**

**Ronald Stanley**

The District welcomes the Commissioners' appointment of Ronald A. Stanley to serve the remaining farmer director term previously held by William Plank. Ron resides in Artemas with his wife Mary; together they own and operate Blackberry Hills Farm, with production blackberries and a collection of heritage apple trees. Mary and Ron together have seven children and seven grandchildren.

Ron is president of the Ridge and Valley Streamkeepers, a Commissioner for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, a member of the American Men and Women of Science, and Who's Who in the World. Ron was an EPA, AID and TVA scientist and program manager that worked closely with exotic species, pesticides, toxins and endangered species. Upon retiring from EPA, he was an environmental

planner with the Commonwealth and managed the Growing Greener Grant program, and the Wild Resource Conservation Program. Ron earned his Ph.D. in plant physiology and zoology at Duke University and his Master's degrees from University of Arkansas and University of Southern California.

Ron enjoys traveling including trips to Hawaii, Latin America, Europe, Africa and

Asia. He has authored several books of poetry and owns a publishing company. Volunteer monitoring with the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network is important to Ron who is also a devoted blood donor.

Ron has an educational and occupational background and a conservation ethic that will be invaluable to the district board.

**PA CLEANWAYS RIVER CLEANUP**

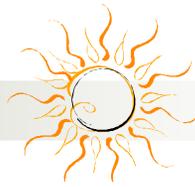
PA CleanWays Plans River Cleanup in October.

PA CleanWays of Bedford County has scheduled a cleanup of litter along the

Raystown Branch of the Juniata River on October 20, 2007. Funding for this project is being provided by Recreational Equipment, Inc. The planned cleanup area in-

cludes the river section within Bedford Borough and adjacent riverside litter 'hotspots'. Volunteers will meet at the Fort Bedford Park at 8:30 AM. Drinks and

a light lunch will be provided. For more information call the Conservation District at 623-8099.



## IN THE DIRECTORS CORNER



Spotlight on Director Commissioner Steve Howsare

This Newsletter edition coincides with the one year anniversary of Commissioner Steve Howsare's service as the District Board Commissioner Director.

### Steve's roots are firmly planted in Bedford County.

Steve, a native of Lincoln Township where his grandfather farmed, moved to Texas in his youth with his mother and stepfather, Nancy and Rusty Jacobson. Close family ties brought Steve back to Bedford County. Steve's wife Amy grew up on a family farm; her parents, David and Linda McCoy, own a 300 acre crop farm in Evitts Creek Watershed near Lakes Koon and Gordon. Steve attended Chestnut Ridge where his eldest son, Drew, is a senior. Steve and Amy have four children together; Zachary 9, Ryan 8, Rachel 7, and Jacob 1 (and a fifth on the way!) Steve and Amy are members of the People's Bible Holiness Church and, like many families in the congregation, they too choose to home school their

children. Actively selecting their children's curriculum is important to Steve and Amy.

When the District adopted its most recent strategic plan, it included an education initiative to diversify the environmental education programs, in addition to providing materials and assistance to home school networks. Steve serving on the District Board and providing insight to education committee is greatly appreciated.

### Steve believes that conservation and civic duty go hand in hand.

Early in his political career Steve identified with environmental concerns; noticing that failing septic tanks and wildcat sewers were degrading Dunning's Creek Watershed. The New Paris Borough Council was actively planning to construct and operate a sewer treatment plant. Steve, a resident of the Borough and with his knowledge of waste water treatment systems was approached in 1995 to serve on the Borough Council.

Prior to his Bedford County Commissioner service, Steve was employed at Bedford Reinforced Plastics. Steve marketed their fiberglass products, components of waste water treatment systems. In marketing and sales Steve had the opportunity to tour numerous wastewater treatment plants and recognized the challenges that faced New Paris Borough. The operating cost of a sewer treatment plant would have been a considerable expense for the 150 households to maintain.

Steve advocated an expansion

of the Chestnut Ridge Area Joint Municipal Authority system that would provide treatment for the New Paris Borough. With more than 2000 households serviced by the Authority a greater number of customers would share in the operating costs allowing for lower user rates. This provided wastewater treatment in New Paris Borough with a reasonable user's rate of \$44 a month and no tap in fee.

Steve was elected to two consecutive terms and served as borough council president until becoming County Commissioner in 2004.

### Steve values agriculture as the number one industry in Bedford County; he is committed to keep it viable.

Recently, the Commissioners endorsed the Penn State Cooperative Extension's Future of Agriculture in Bedford County program. Steve serves on the leadership task force charged with addressing agricultural producers concerns, sustain healthy farm community and promote agribusiness.

The Commissioners are providing community support and assisting with the downtown farmers' market. A growing success in its third year, the market is expanding to two days a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays with a possible center of town location.

Steve acknowledges farmland preservation as a wise investment in Bedford County's leading industry, agriculture. Last year the Commissioners allocated \$250,000 of Growing Greener funds which secured the purchase of a tenth ease-

ment and with commitment from our local leaders two additional easements have been donated. The Bedford County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved a dozen farms protecting more than 2,000 acres of Bedford County's productive farmland.

### As for service to the Conservation District, Steve comprehends that partnerships are beneficial in accomplishing goals.

Serving on the District Board and being Chairman of the South Central Counties Solid Waste Authority, Steve recognized the need and an opportunity to expand Bedford County recycling. The South Central recycling drop off collections had been reduced as well as the number of collected materials. There was a need for additional recycling in the county and last year the Conservation District opened the recycling center in Clearville. The center is challenged with operating costs and the tri-county solid waste authority has provided financial assistance. Steve is hopeful that legislature will provide additional funding under Act 101 by implementing a \$2 per ton surcharge fee to supplement and expand recycling in Bedford County.

Steve recognizes the value of coordinating conservation efforts among the various stake holders, county and state agencies, and private sector interests to enhance efforts and stretch limited financial resources.



Non-Profit  
Organization  
Permit Number 100

**We are on the web!**

**[Bedfordcountyconservation.com](http://Bedfordcountyconservation.com)**

## **POINTS OF CONTACT**

### **BEDFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION**

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

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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J. ALLEN BAKER

KAY KRING

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RON CASHDOLLAR

MARCY LADSON

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RICHARD HERSHBERGER, Ag Conservationist

LORELLE STEACH, PA Envirothon Coordinator

DARIA GUYER, Fiscal Technician

REGINA MILLER, Program Technician/Recycling Coordinator

GUY STOTTEMYER, Watershed Specialist/West Nile Virus Coord.

CODY WALTEMIRE, Ag Conservation Technician

MICHAEL FELIX, Resource Technician

JOSH ROLAND, Chesapeake Bay Technician

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JAMES SAYLOR, Equipment Handler, Chesapeake Bay

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BIRCH SNIDER LOREN WOY

TOM O'NEAL JIM WAKEFIELD

DR. WALTER NORTH

The Conservation District would like to thank our volunteers for their continuing efforts with the recycling program.

Harry Guyer

Jacob Carson

Zach Craig

Robert Hilligas III

Robert Zelanko

Pam Hershberger

Mike & Laura Jackson

Dean May

Sheri & Craig Kern

Samantha Felix

And all the others!!

#### **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.

#### **CONSERVATION PLEDGE:**

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its air, soil and minerals its forests, waters and wildlife.

#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Bedford County Conservation District encourages stewardship and conservation of natural resources for this and future generations.