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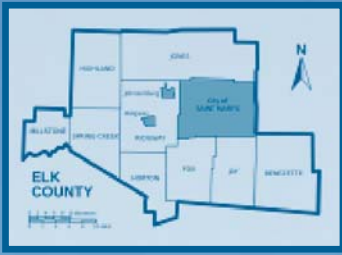
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Micaela Lefever officially joined the ECCD team on June 14, 2021. A native of Clearfield County, Micaela obtained her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Resource Management from the Pennsylvania State University. She has volunteered doing many types of outdoor-related activities such as building stream habitat structures, planting trees, and helping at Youth Field Day events. Micaela enjoys spending time outdoors fly fishing, hunting, and kayaking.

In her first few weeks at the District, she has hit the ground running. Micaela submitted a Growing Greener grant application for the remediation of an acid mine treatment system and has been working with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission on native trout and gill lice surveys.



Who's covering that program?

With recent staffing changes some folks may find themselves wondering who is the correct contact for the various programs at the Elk County Conservation District . Here is a list of staff, their program responsibilities, and contact info.

Kate Wehler

District Manager

District Administration, Chapter 105 Stream and Wetland Permitting, Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control, Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Roads Program

kwehler@countyofelkpa.com

Taylor Gillette

Resource Conservation Technician

Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control, Environmental Education

tgillette@countyofelkpa.com

Micaela Lefever

Watershed Technician

Water Monitoring Program, Stream improvement projects, AMD Reclamation, Aquatic habitat improvement projects, Water Sampling

mlefever@countyofelkpa.com

Ryan Grimm

Resource Conservation Technician

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program,

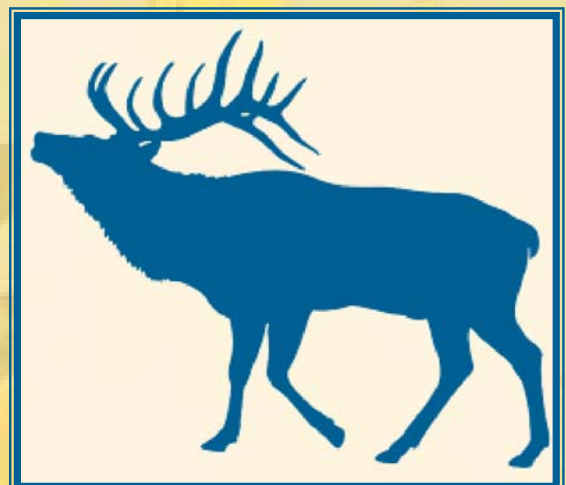
Agriculture Activities

rgrimm@countyofelkpa.com

Victoria Challingsworth

Resource Conservation Technician

Environmental Education, West Creek Wetland Learning Center Activities, Pollinator Programs, Chapter 105 Stream and Wetland Permitting
vchallingsworth@countyofelkpa.com



Senate Bill 465: A Trip to Harrisburg

Harrisburg, PA—On June 8th the PA Farm Bureau invited our own Ryan Grimm to Harrisburg. He was asked to speak to legislators, about the proposed Senate Bill 465 (Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program). Ryan serves as the Resource Conservation Technician that covers both agriculture and the Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program for Elk County. This made him uniquely suited for this opportunity.

Senate Bill 465 would create a program similar to the DGLVR program. However, instead of providing funding to townships, municipalities, and government agencies for upgrading infrastructure, to reduce pollution from their dirt and

low volume roads, it would provide farmers funding to implement best management practices within their operations. These practices include but are not limited to manure storage facilities, watering facilities, barn gutters, heavy use areas, etc.



Above: Ryan Grimm and Doug Sattazahn (Farmer Berks County) Speak to Rep. Dave Zimmerman about SB 465.



Right: Ryan Grimm, Brett Reinford (Farmer Juniata County), and Doug Sattazahn speak to Rep. John Hershey about SB 465.

2021 Junior Envirothon

St. Marys, PA-

The Elk County Conservation District held our 7th Annual Jr. Envirothon on April 15, 2021. This event was held at the St. Marys Area Middle School in the outdoor classroom. Five teams competed in the event with a total of twenty-two participants. The participants ranged from sixth to eighth grade. The categories in which the students participated were soils, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife. The students were awarded environmental-themed stickers from PA Made. It was a close race, as the winning team won by only four points!



Left– The winning team is pictured with their certificates

Right– PA Made stickers awarded to participants

Below– Photos taken from various stages during the event



2021 Senior Envirothon

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Current Environmental Issue:

Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions



April 13, 2021-

Three schools participated in the virtual 2021 Elk County Envirothon competition. These schools were St. Marys Area High School, Elk County Catholic, and Johnsonburg Area High School. The categories in which the students participated were soils, forestry, aquatics, wild-life, and an environmental issues category which is changed yearly. St. Marys Team A won the county competition, moving on to represent the County in the 37th annual state event. The winning team received a hammock for all members from the Elk County Conservation District and a trophy. All participants received an environmental-themed sticker, purchased from PA Made. St. Marys Team A placed 23rd out of 58 teams in the state competition!

Congratulations!



1st Place: St. Marys Team A (SMAHS)

Zachary Mosier, Collin Kline, Luke Gutowski, Caleb Mattiuz, and Andy Deprater

2nd Place Team: St. Marys Team B (SMAHS)

Rosa DePrater, Caitlin Blessel, Jenna D'Amore, Shannon Kaiser, and Matthew Wehler

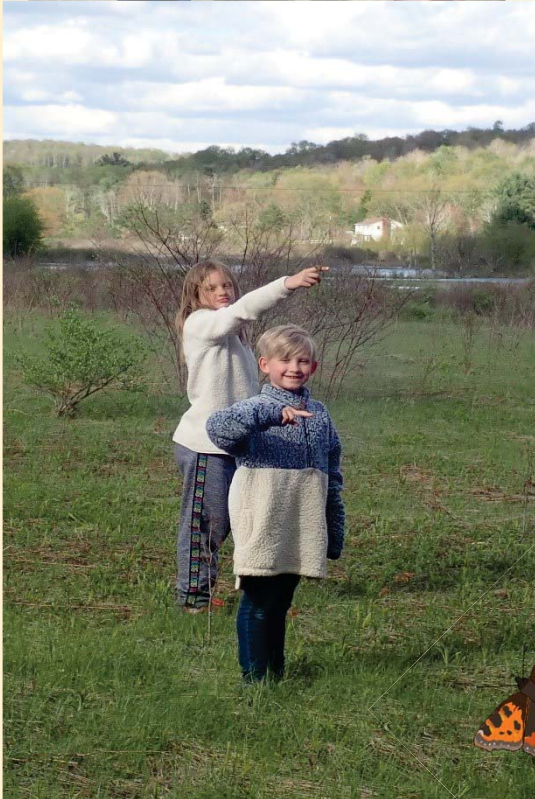
POLLINATOR RELEASE NIGHTS MET WITH GREAT SUCCESS!



Over 400 people attended the Elk County Conservation District's butterfly release at the West Creek Wetlands in St. Marys!

Students from six Elk County schools joined us for the fun!





Thank you to the Headwaters RC&D Council for making this event possible!

ECCOTA NATURE WALK



Ridgway, PA— The Elk County Conservation District joined Elk County Council on the Arts staff on Tuesday June 29th to take part in one of their many summer programs! Conservation District staff took participants on a nature walk at Sandy Beach Park. During our walk we identified common wildflowers in our region, learned to identify several toxic plants, and talked about different tools that can be used to identify plants if we are unsure!

This walk was day one of a 3 day program where students would collect flowers, leaves, small pebbles, and other natural items. After collecting, they learned to press flowers and made resin crafts from their recently acquired flowers! Keep up to date with ECCOTA events on their Facebook: facebook.com/ECCOTA

SUMMER S.T.E.M. CAMP: WATER DAY!

St. Marys, PA — On Thursday July 1st, Elk County Conservation District Staff, Micaela Lefever and Victoria Challingsworth, led a program for students participating in St Marys Parks And Recreation Summer STEM Camp. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. Over the course of the week, summer camp attendees focused on different aspects of the natural world. ECCD staff assisted with Water Day! We taught students about the water cycle and the different steps. Afterward, students were able to explore how water moves and how it picks up pollutants using Enviroscape tables.



2021 Kane Area Logger's & Sawmiller's Safety Meeting

This year the 52nd annual Kane Area Logger's & Sawmiller's Safety Meeting was held on June 3rd at the Flying Dove Ranch, in Ridgway, PA. The Elk County Conservation District was invited to set up a booth and talk with members in the hardwood industry. The District talked about typical interactions, permit requirements, and BMP's for timber harvesting practices.

According to the Kane Area Logging Safety Committee:

“With nearly 150 in attendance, the Kane Area Logging Safety Committee was pleased by the turnout for their 52nd annual event. While normally held in April during spring breakup, the day-long meeting was moved to June and held at an outdoor facility this year in light of Covid. The group offered pipeline safety and Spotted Lanternfly training, which earned participants both PA SFI continuing education credit and a Spotted Lanternfly permit from the PA Dept. of Agriculture. With over 100 permits issued, this was a very successful KALSC/SFI training session, and with the expansion of SLF into Cameron County, a very timely one as well. The guest speaker for the evening was Sam Lincoln, a professional logger from VT who left his private practice for several years in order to advocate within state government to improve safety training and workers comp rates for VT loggers/log haulers. His presentation was followed by an update on PA's efforts to address similar issues. Program updates were provided by AHUG and PA SFI, as well as guest commentary from US Congressman "GT" Thompson and the office of PA Representative Marty Causer.”



Above: Guest Speaker Sam Lincoln

Below: ECCD Staff talks with Mitch Freeman, a representative for AgChoice

Bottom: Over 150 participants enjoy informational presentations on logging practices

Photos provided by: KALSC



Conservation Callout Trash Cleanup

St. Marys PA — As you might imagine, Earth Day is a favorite here at the Conservation District. This year the conservation District Staff did their part to make our community a cleaner, better place! We spent several afternoons picking up trash on local roadways.



We were surprised with how much we found! We collected over 220lbs and 13 bags of garbage. Some of the more notable items included a clothes iron, tires, and a muffler!



Elk County Upcycled Art

Elk County, PA—

In honor of Earth Day, the Elk County Conservation District decided to host a county-wide Upcycled Art Competition! We challenged local children and adults to make beautiful art pieces from recyclable materials or upcycle old products they had laying around the house.

We were so pleased with the projects and we were excited to see the creative vision of so many people. Some entries are pictured to the right, and included a turtle made from old silverware, a ship in a bottle, and airplane from rolled paper, and a poster with flowers cut from old soda cans. Other entries not pictured included a cardboard desk organizer, a dragonfly from railroad spikes and horseshoes, and a weaving from plastic.

We awarded prizes to the winners in the 3 age groups and had so much fun with this project! We can't wait to see what the community comes up with next year!



2nd Annual Conservation Cup



St. Marys, PA -This years' Conservation Cup, held on June 5th, turned out to be a great success. Thanks in part to a very generous donation from Seneca Resources we were able to raise \$3,550 that will be used for environmental education and the continuation of our Elk County Conservation District Scholarship. The 2021 tournament winners were Seth Peterson, Shane Williamson, Anthony Imbrogno, and Matt Walters. Tim Frank of St.Marys won our major raffle item of a cooler that came with two "swanky" camping chairs. We want to thank all of our sponsors and participants for making this outing a success!

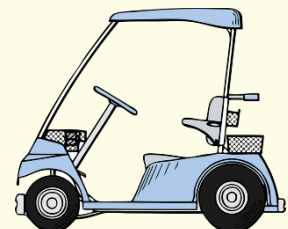
We hope to see you at Bavarian Hills Golf Course on June 4th, 2022 for the next Conservation Cup!



Above: Tim Frank, winner of the major raffle



Left: Conservation Cup winning team members: Seth Peterson, Shane Williamson, Anthony Imbrogno, and Matt Walters.



Elk County Conservation District Awards First Conservation Scholarship

St. Marys, PA—The 2021 recipient of the Elk County Conservation District Scholarship is Anthony Whitaker! Anthony, a Kersey native, is transferring from Slippery Rock University to Penn State Dubois in the fall. He was studying safety management at Slippery Rock but has decided to switch course and has enrolled in the wildlife science and fisheries program at Penn State. Whitaker wrote, “I believe an environmental career is what I was born for and that I can make a difference.”

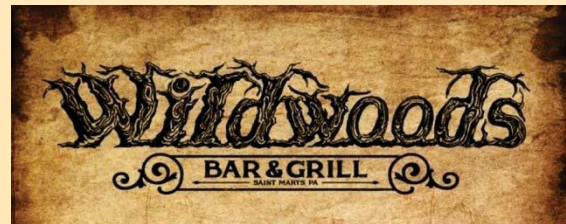


The Elk County Conservation District would like to wish Anthony nothing but the best of luck and can't wait to see the positive environmental impacts he has!

Above: Russ Braun and Kate Wehler award Anthony Whitaker with ECCD's Conservation Scholarship



Thank You To All Of Our Sponsors



Yeah, We Recycle That!

People are always amazed to find what a large and diverse number of items the **Elk County Community Recycling Center** takes for recycling. With such a wide variety, aside from the traditionally thought of plastics and aluminum, we want to feature an item each edition to educate our community about all the incredible services available to them!

Did you know that you can now recycle plastic bags at the Elk County Recycling Community Center? With the purchase of a new bailer the Recycling Center is now able to recycle plastic films. This means items such as bubble wrap, bread bags, produce bags, Ziploc bags, and other plastic films! Please note that stiff plastics that make a harsh crinkle sound and don't stretch (such as tomato bags) are not able to be recycled. Bags **MUST BE** clean and dry!

NEW!



The **Elk County Community Recycling Center** is located at:



850 Washington Street

St. Marys 15857

Ph.: (814) 776-5373

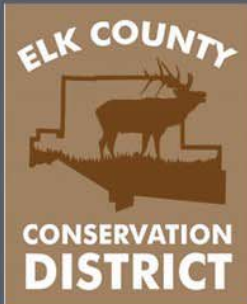
Hours of Operation:

Monday: 10-2

Wednesday: 12-7

Friday: 10-2





Abandoned Mine Drainage Education Workshop



Abandoned Mine Drainage, commonly called AMD, is an issue that impacts stream health in our region. It's a term many of us know, or have heard in passing. Most of us have likely seen a red-orange stream, such as the one pictured here. If you are interested in learning more about Acid Mine Drainage, how it forms, and different methods used to treat Abandoned Mine Drainage then this workshop may be for you!

The **Elk County Conservation District**, in conjunction with **The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy**, is hosting an AMD workshop for any interested members of the community. Join us for informational presentations then enjoy a field tour of an AMD Treatment Site.

When: Wednesday, August 18th from 5-8 PM

Where: St. Joseph Church, Force PA

How: Contact Victoria from the Elk County Conservation District to register **(814) 776-5373** or **vchallingsworth@countyofelkpa.com**

*This event will be held rain or shine. Please dress appropriately, we will be outdoors at times. Participants will drive their personal vehicles to the AMD site, located approx. 5 min from the Church and leave from there at the end of the evening



Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

You Are Invited!



PA No-Till Alliance

Summer Soil Health Field Days

Two days of informative panels & demos. A can't-miss-event for no-till & cover crop advocates!

When: Wednesday, July 21

Where: Roger Rohrer Farm

(22 Girvin Road, Strasburg, Lancaster Co.)

&

When: Friday, July 23

Where: Thiele Dairy Farm

(753 N. Pike Road, Cabot, Butler Co.)

A Meeting of the Minds dinner (6:00 p.m. at the farm) will be held the evening prior to each field day. The topic will be "No-Till & Cover Crops = Improved Soil Health, Water Quality and Carbon Capture."

Schedule of Events:

Tuesday, July 20 – "Meeting of the Minds"

6 p.m. Dinner (free if pre-registered) & Open Discussion

Wednesday, July 21 - Field Day (free if pre-registered)

- 8 a.m. Registration opens; View exhibits and displays
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 9 a.m. Keynote Presentation, Rick Bieber
- 10 a.m. Harvesting Cover Crops for Forage, Panel Discussion featuring Daniel Fisher, Bottomline Ag
- 10:45 a.m. Whole Farm Approach to Water Quality - The Role of CRP and Buffers, Roger Rohrer and Lamonte Garber
- 11:20 a.m. Opportunity to Rotate Among 3 Breakout Sessions
 - Equipment Display
 - Rainfall Simulator
 - View Riparian and Warm Season Grass Buffers
- 12 p.m. Lunch and View Exhibits, followed by Sponsor Comments
- 1:30 p.m. What's Next for Soil Health? Q&A with Rick Bieber & Steve Groff
- 2:30 p.m. Vertical Tillage: Does it Have a Role in Soil Health? Panel Discussion
- 3:30 p.m. Q&A and Closing Remarks

Thursday, July 22 – "Meeting of the Minds"

6 p.m. Dinner (free if pre-registered) & Open Discussion

Friday, July 23 - Field Day (free if pre-registered)

- 8 a.m. Registration opens; View exhibits and displays
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 9 a.m. Keynote Presentation, Rick Bieber
- 10 a.m. Harvesting Cover Crops for Forage, Farmer Panel Discussion
- 11 a.m. Opportunity to Rotate Among 3 Breakout Sessions
 - View Cover Crop Plots
 - Rainfall Simulator
 - Equipment Set-Up Display and Discussion
- 12 p.m. Lunch and View Exhibits, followed by Sponsor Comments
- 1:30 p.m. What's Next for Soil Health? Q&A with Rick Bieber & Steve Groff
- 2:30 p.m. Vertical Tillage: Does it Have a Role in Soil Health? Farmer Panel Discussion
- 3:30 p.m. Q&A and Closing Remarks

PA No-Till Alliance Summer Field Day Pre-Registration Form

(Events are free-of-charge if pre-registered by July 16. If not pre-registered prior to July 16, there will be a \$10 fee, per event, payable at the event.)

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please register me for the following:

_____ **Meeting of the Minds Dinner**
Tuesday, July 20 (Free if pre-registered by July 16)
6 - 9 p.m. (includes meal)

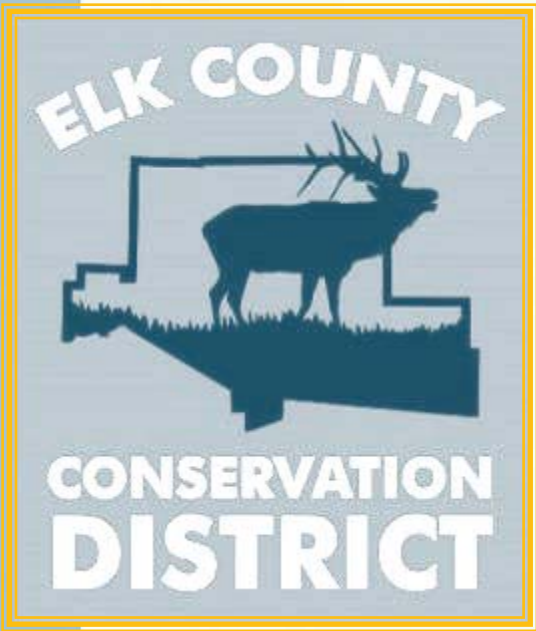
_____ **Meeting of the Minds Dinner**
Thursday, July 22 (Free if pre-registered by July 16)
6 - 9 p.m. (includes meal)

_____ **Field Day - Lancaster County**
Wednesday, July 21 (Free if pre-registered by July 16)
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (includes lunch)

_____ **Field Day - Butler County**
Friday, July 23 (Free if pre-registered by July 16)
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (includes lunch)

Mail to: PA No-Till Alliance • 2215 Forest Hills Dr., Ste 39 • Harrisburg, PA 17112

Pre-registration may also be done via email jhowes@pennag.com or phone 717-574-4510.



Elk County Conservation District
Elk County Community Recycling Center

850 Washington Street

Saint Marys, PA 15857

(814) 776-5373

Directors

Russ Braun- Chairman

Mike Hovatter- Vice-Chairman

Joe Dagher- Commissioner

Ray McMinn- Farmer Director

Andy Sorg- Farmer Director

Joe Labant- Public Director

Chris Smith- Public Director

Jerry Olson- Associate Director

Jim McCluskey- Associate Director

Staff

Kate Wehler, CPESC — District Manager

Ryan Grimm—Resource Conservation Technician

Taylor Gillette—Resource Conservation Technician

Victoria Challingsworth—Resource Conservation Technician

Micaela Lefever—Watershed Technician

David Stubber—Solid Waste Enforcement

Diane Myers—Secretary



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Elk County (PA) Conservation District

