



ELK COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

The Elk Bugle

Volume 5, Issue 1

Fall 2018

Inside this issue:

Director Vacancy	1
Clarion River Cleanup	2
Les Haas Trail Challenge	3
Clays for Conservation	4
Farm Tour	5
Elk Expo & Manufacturing Day	6
Upcoming Events	7



We are in search of a new director to serve on the Elk County Conservation District

DISTRICT DIRECTORS



⇒ **Do you care about Elk County's resources?**

⇒ **Do you have community spirit and pride?**

If so, volunteer as a director for an organization that has been serving Elk County for over 55 years! District Directors help shape the Conservation District by making important personnel, budget, and policy decisions. Please contact Steve Putt (sputt@countyofelkpa.com), message us on Facebook, or call the office for more information.

The Conservation District Board meets from 4:30-5:30 on the 4th Monday of every month. Board Directors are volunteer positions; however, mileage to and from meetings is reimbursed.



Clarion River Cleanup



Ridgway– September 27

The 5th annual Clarion River Cleanup was a great success thanks to St. Marys High School Ecology Club, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Western PA Conservancy, Elk County Community Recycling Center, and Elk County Solid Waste Authority. Together, we were able to clean up 2.5 miles of Clarion River shoreline.



(ABOVE) Students pose with some of the 2,080lbs of litter they picked up along the Clarion River shoreline and riparian area. Litter included a metal drum, 4 tires, a wooden spool, a children's kitchen playset, and 4 televisions among other items.

(BELOW) Students gathered around picnic tables outside Country Squirrel Outfitters and were treated to a pizza lunch donated by Fox's Pizza of Ridgway.



(LEFT) Luke Bobnar, Watershed Scientist with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, talking with the Ecology Club about conservation efforts which have helped restore the Clarion River ecosystem.

Les Haas Trail Challenge



Ridgway– September 22

Despite muddy trail conditions, sixty-three runners participated in the 7th Annual Les Haas Memorial Trail Challenge. Best overall finishers in the 14k race were Leroy Kopp (men, 1:07:37) and Lucy Anthony (women, 1:18:11). In the 7k race, Rick Gabler (00:35:36) had the best male overall time and Megan Quesenberry was the top-placed woman (00:38:26). Megan also broke the women's 7k course record by 00:02:59! Congratulations to everyone who participated and conquered the challenging course! With your help, we were able to raise nearly \$1800 for conservation education in Elk County. We'd also like to extend a special thanks to REBCO, Temple Studio, Sugar Hill Farm, Country Squirrel Outfitters, Purple Lizard Maps, Jordan's Bar and Grill, and Jan Haas for sponsoring another successful race.

(RIGHT) Pictured left to right are our overall course winners Megan Quesenberry (7k), Rick Gabler (7k), and Lucy Anthony(14k). Missing from the photo is the top-placing male from the 14k race, Leroy Kopp.



Clays for Conservation



July 15

Our 4th Annual Clay for Conservation Shoot was a large success and raised nearly \$1000 for environmental education programs in Elk County. Thirty-seven competitors came out to shoot wobble and double trap on a beautiful Sunday morning. Katelynn Decker was the 1st place overall youth competitor (59/75) and Roger Retzinger scored 68/75 to place first overall among adult competitors. Participants were treated to a pulled pork barbeque lunch courtesy of the Bennezette Hotel.

Agricultural Bus Tour

August 14

The District hosted a day-long Agricultural Bus tour which showcased Hoffman Appalachian Farm, Straub Brewery, and Chocolate Drop Farm. Twenty people attended to learn about local farm-to-table initiatives in the St. Marys community.



1



(LEFT) The tour began at Hoffman Appalachian Farm to learn how hops are grown and harvested for beer production. Attendees also learned about Certified Naturally Grown requirements and saw hop trellises.

(RIGHT) The next stop on the tour was Straub Brewery. Tour participants learned how hops are processed at the brewery to make beer in small batches in their hometown of Saint Marys.



2



3

(LEFT) Chocolate Drop Farm was the final stop of the tour. At Chocolate Drop Farm, Hereford Cattle are fed the spent grains from making beer at Straub Brewery.

Tour participants were treated to lunch from Tablespoons Café and granola bars from New Horizons Healthy Foods— both St. Marys businesses which use locally-sourced ingredients for their products.

Elk Expo 2018

Bennezetete– August 18

District staff delivered a stormwater management seminar during the Elk Expo at the Elk Country Visitor’s Center. Each participant was entered into a raffle for a rain barrel, which was given away at the conclusion of the talk.



National Manufacturing Day

Saint Marys– October 2

Stephanie and Kelsey teamed up with Brian Regan, a process engineer from Domtar, for National Manufacturing Day for 5th graders at South Saint Marys Elementary School. Brian taught the students about the paper-making process. Stephanie and Kelsey conducted a wastewater treatment activity with the students. The students learned how Domtar treats water before and after paper processing using common household materials.



Students played the part of wastewater treatment plant operators to ensure “dirty” water was clean enough for paper production and discharge.





Elk County Conservation District

Elk County Recycling Center
850 Washington Street
Saint Marys, PA 15857

Phone: (814) 776-5373
www.co.elk.pa.us/conservation

Follow us on Facebook!
Elk County (PA) Conservation District



Staff

Steven Putt, CPESC
District Manager

Kate Wehler
Resource Conservation Technician

Kelsey Kilhoffer
Resource Conservation Technician

Stephanie Stoughton
Watershed Technician

David Stubber
Solid Waste Enforcement

Diane Myers
Secretary

Directors

Russ Braun- Chairman

Mike Hovatter- Vice-Chairman

Matt Quesenberry- Commissioner

Ray McMinn- Farmer Director

Andy Sorg- Farmer Director

Joe Labant- Public Director

Jerry Olsen- Public Director

Jim McCluskey- Associate Director

Chris Smith- Associate Director

Ron McMinn- Director Emeritus



Election Day Nov 6
Veteran's Day Nov 12
Thanksgiving Nov 22 & 23

Nov Board Meeting Nov 22
Christmas Dec 24 & 25
New Years Day Jan 1