



The Elk Bugle

Volume 3, Issue 3

Summer/Fall 2016

1st Annual Photo Contest Results Are In!

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Saint Marys, PA- Winners of the first annual Elk County Conservation District Photo Contest were announced on September 1st, 2016. The Conservation District had over 50 photos submitted including youth and adult entries.



Above: Adult class winner of the photo contest, "Barn Swallow" submitted by Melinda Marconi.

The first place winner in the adult contest was the "Barn Swallow," submitted by Melinda Marconi, second place was "Elk County Chipmunk," submitted by Roger Parsons, and third place was "Beaver Above his Dam," submitted by Janet Blessel. The first place winner received \$50, second place \$25, and 3rd place \$15. "Bull Elk in Velvet" by Paul Staniszewski received the most Facebook votes and received \$10.

In the youth category, Brenden Dauber won 1st place honors with his photo titled "Moon". Julie Wilson earned 2nd place with "Birds of Feather," and Chloe Horning won third with "Through the Eye of a Flower." In the youth category Brendon Dauber also won the Facebook votes with his

photo of the "Bald Eagle."

View all of the place-winning photos on pages 10 & 11.

Check out our web-
site or Facebook
page for more info!



Ridgway, PA—

Join the Elk County Conservation District and the Haas Family for the 5th annual Les Haas Memorial Trail Race! Choose from the 2mile Fun walk, 7k or the 14k option. The race will be held at the Laurel Mill X-Country Trail in the Allegheny National Forest in Ridgway, PA. Money raised from race will go towards environmental education programs in Elk County! Pick up your registration form at our office at 850 Washington Street in Saint Marys, or at the Country Squirrel Outfitters in Ridgway, PA!



Above: Winners from the 2015 race

Clays for Conservation Results

Saint Marys, PA-

The Elk County Conservation District hosted a successful Clays for Conservation Shoot on Sunday July 17, 2017 at the Saint Marys Sportsmen's Club. This year boasted 47 shooters and raised approximately \$700 for environmental education in Elk County! Participants shot 25 birds in one round of Wobble Trap and 50 birds in one round of Doubles.

The Results are as follows:

1st Place: Eric Uhl

2nd Place: Mike Chiodo

3rd Place: Tie btw Rodger Retzinger &

Lon Reigle

Top Female: Olivia Catalone

Top Youth: Kyle Micale (17yrs old)



Top: Participants watch the competition while snacking on a great lunch generously donated by supportive community members.

Center: Carla Wehler competes in the Doubles round.

Bottom: Resource Conservation Technician Kate Yetzer, presents 1st place overall winner Eric Uhl with his award.





September 8-
Clarion River Clean-up

September 22-
Clarion River Cleanup with local high school students, Ridgway, PA

September 24-
Les Haas Memorial Trail Run, Ridgway, Pa
Start Training !



September 26-
Board Meeting at 4:30 PM, Saint Marys, PA



September 28 & 29-
Annual DGLVR Program Workshop, York, PA



October 1-
Rain Barrel Workshop

Space is limited to the first 35 people that are registered and registration is required. Contact the Planning Department for availability and registration (814-776-5335). Participants will receive BOTH a rain barrel and a raised bed!

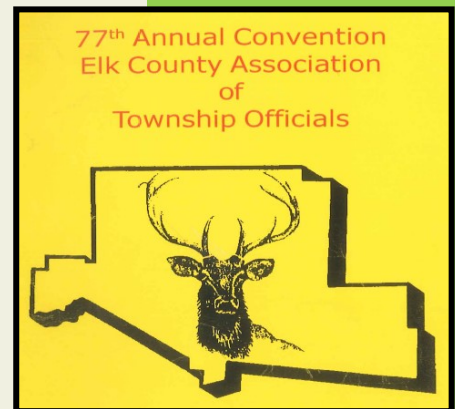


October 19-
Annual Elk County Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Road Update Mtg., Ridgway, PA



77th Annual Convention of the Elk Co. Association of Twp. Officials

On Wednesday, August 17th, Kate Yetzer and Steve Putt with the ECCD attended the 77th annual convention of the Elk County Association of Township Officials. Kate and Steve offered a 1 hour field tour where local road crews could do a “walk-through” of the planning and implementation of a Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program project. The group discussed Best Management Practices (BMP's) for dirt & gravel roads, permits, application instructions, and project installation details. Good discussions, facilitated by the District, were had and the group was able to freely compare opinions and options on various BMP usage.



First Board Meeting Held in Saint Marys at New Office

The Elk County Conservation District held their first board meeting in the new office on August 22nd. It was a great opportunity for board members to check out the setup and get familiar with the new office space. Overall it seemed as though the board felt like the new space was a good fit. All future board meetings will be held at the new office, located at 850 Washington Street in St. Marys. As always, the public is welcome. The next meeting will be held on September 24th, 2016.



Aug 22, board members read minutes from the previous meeting in new board room.



what's underneath

One teaspoon of *healthy* soil contains

100 million-1 billion individual bacteria

Source: *Soil Biology Primer* page c-1 (Elaine Ingham, Andrew R. Moldenke, Clive Edwards)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Want more soil secrets? Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Elk County Fair

Kersey, PA-

The Elk County Conservation District set up a display at the Elk County Fair from August 8-13. This year the display featured "Soil Health, and Benefits of Soil Health." Various handouts were provided and visitors could sign up to win a free soil test kit and sign up to be added to our email list to receive newsletters.



For the most up to date information "Like" us on Facebook!

DID YOU KNOW? unlock the SECRETS IN THE SOIL

FOR EACH **1%** INCREASE IN *organic matter* U.S. CROPLAND COULD STORE THE AMOUNT OF *water* THAT FLOWS OVER NIAGARA FALLS IN **150** DAYS

Like a "water savings account," healthy soils capture and store more water for plants to use when they need it.

Earthworms, arthropods, and decaying roots create "macro-pores" into which water can flow to then be stored in the soil. Bacteria, fungi, and other soil life build and stabilize smaller "micro-pores" that further increase the soil's capacity to hold water.

Calculations based on approximate averages for diverse soils as follows:
U.S. Cropland = 400 million acres
400 million acres soil holding capacity per acre with 1 percent organic matter increase = 2,000 gallons
400 million acres = 2,000 gallons = 10 billion gallons
Average water over Niagara Falls per day = 65 billion gallons
10 billion gallons per acre/acre = 40 acres/acre = 400 acres/acre = 14 hours
The result: 10 billion gallons/14 hours = 714

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Elk County Conservation District

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Jerry Olsen
Public Director

Jim McClusky
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Elk County Conservation District Presents “Fred the Fish” at to Children at the Elk Expo



Above: Kate Yetzer, left, reads the “Fred the Fish” story to students. Amanda Murdock, center, and manager Steve Putt, right, holds the dirty polluted water as the children show off the pollutants.

Benezette, PA-

For the second year in a row, the Conservation District presented a children's lesson at the annual Elk Expo. This year the lesson was called “Fred the Fish.”

This interactive lesson showed various ways pollution may occur and how pollution can be prevented. Children dumped “pollutants” into the stream as Kate Yetzer explained how these pollutants made Fred the Fish feel.

At the end, students were asked how to prevent the pollutants from getting into the stream and ways they could help decrease their impact on natural resources.

Lastly, each participant received conservation tattoos! (temporary, of course) The tattoos, along with coloring books and stickers were generously donated by NRCS.

This was a fun exercise and we had a great turn out this year! The District also set up an educational display to showcase to the public during the 2 day event on August 20 and 21. This event attracts thousands of people each year.

REAP Program Applications are Currently Being Accepted

Harrisburg, PA- The FY 2016 round of Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) is currently accepting applications for completed and proposed projects. New revisions this year include:

1. Precision Nutrient Application Equipment
2. Conservation and Nutrient Management Planning
3. Cover Crops-multi species cover crops are eligible for a higher rate
4. Low disturbance residue management equipment.

REAP is a tax credit program for farmers in Pennsylvania. Tax credits are awarded to farmers for installing Best Management Practices on their farming operations. If you are interested in more information or an application please contact Amanda Murdock at the Elk County Conservation District. **The most popular use of this program is tax credits for the purchase of no-till equipment .**

Please be aware, farm operations must have the proper conservation or agriculture E & S plans, and manure management plans to be eligible.

Contact Amanda Murdock (astoltzfus@countyofelkpa.com) at the Elk County Conservation District for an application and assistance, and for conservation and manure management planning information.



Clarion River Clean-Up Begins

Ridgway, PA-

Partnering with The Western PA Conservancy, Elk County Solid Waste Authority, Allegheny National Forest, and Keep PA Beautiful, the Elk County Conservation District will begin their annual cleanup of the Clarion River this month.

This year the group will target the area between Cherry Tree Flats and the Portland Mills Canoe launch along the Clarion River. On September 8th, two previously identified dumpsters weighing in at 988lbs were removed from the river with a group of adult volunteers.

On September 22, 2016 another cleanup is planned with high school students from Elk County schools to raid the river on canoes and to clean up additional trash in and along the river.



Youth Winners



Most Facebook Votes: "Bald Eagle" by Brendon Dauber.



Above: Youth 1st place photo contest entry, "Moon", Submitted by Brendon Dauber.



3rd Place Youth: "Through the Eye of a Flower," by Chloe Horning.



Left: 2nd Place Youth, "Birds of Feather" by Julie Wilson.

Adult Winners

2nd place adult winner, "Elk County Chipmunk", submitted by Roger Parsons.



3rd place adult winner, "A Beaver above his Dam", submitted by Janet Blessel.



Facebook votes photo contest winner, "Bull in Velvet", submitted by Paul Staniszewski

Thank you for submitting photos! Start taking photos for next years contest!