



2013 Annual Report

About Us...

2013 Directors

Dave Crowl

Chairman, Public Director
Since 2006

Leon Wertz

Vice-Chairman, Farmer Director
Since 2000

Richard Shoch

Commissioner Director
Since 2012

John Kopp

Farmer Director
Since 2004

Michael Erdley

Public Director
Since 2008

Richard Daniels

Farmer Director
Since 2012

Gary Truckenmiller

Farmer Director
Since 2013

Front row l. to r.: Michael McCleary, Dave Crowl, Leon Wertz; Second row l. to r.: Katelyn Williams, Shirley Snyder, Judy Becker, Jaci Harner; Third row l. to r.: Todd Deroba, Gary Truckenmiller, Richard Daniels, John Kopp, Blair Carbaugh, Ted Carodisky

Staff

Judy Becker

District Manager

Shirley Snyder

Administrative Assistant

Jaci Harner

Watershed Specialist

Michael McCleary

Erosion and Sediment
Technician

Todd Deroba

Agricultural Conservation
Technician I

Katelyn Williams

Agricultural Conservation
Technician II

2013 Associate Directors

Dave Swank

Retired Well Driller
Since 1976

Dr. Blair Carbaugh

Retired Professor, Lockhaven University
Former NCCD Board Member
Since 2006

Albert Mabus

Manager of Geology/Environment,
Eastern Industries, Inc.
Former NCCD Board Member
Since 2008

Ted Carodisky

Little Shamokin Creek Watershed
Association, Secretary
Since 2010

John Pfleegor

Farmer
Former NCCD Board Member
Since 2013



EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM

The NCCD administers the Chapter 102 Erosion Control program through a signed delegation agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Under Chapter 102 delegation, NCCD conducts the following program responsibilities:

- Technical Plan Reviews
- Site Inspections
- Complaint Investigations
- Information & Education

The Erosion and Sediment Technician reviews and approves Erosion and Sediment Control Plans for earthmoving sites. Inspections of sites are conducted to assure the plans are properly implemented.

In conjunction with the Erosion and Sediment program is the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. This program requires any earthmoving activities disturbing greater than 1 acre over the life of the project to obtain a permit. Under the requirements of the NPDES program, these activities must have an erosion control plan submitted to the District for review. Permits are not issued until the plan is in compliance with Chapter 102, Title 25 Rules and Regulations of the Clean Streams Law. In addition, projects with less than one acre of disturbance may require District review to meet municipal, state, or federal requirements.

NPDES Permit Applications:	21	Consultations:	414
E&S Plan Submittals:	41	Project Related Meetings:	18
Complaints Investigated:	13	News Releases:	2
Site Visits:	207	Training Sessions for Public:	7

ACT 167 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



In 2013, the Northumberland County Commissioners initiated the process of conducting a county-wide Act 167 plan. The District was invited to participate in the process and have played an active role in facilitating the Stormwater Advisory Planning Committee (SPAC) meetings. The first meeting was held on July 29, 2013 with 20 attendees, including a representative from DEP, the director of the County Planning office, and representatives from 14 municipalities. Meetings will continue in 2014, and we anticipate a plan being approved by the fall of this year.

DAM SAFETY AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT

In early 2013, the NCCD Board of Directors approved taking back the delegation agreement from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer the Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Management program. Chapter 105 in Title 25 of the PA Code contains the permit guidelines for regulating work in or near streams. These regulations are STATE regulations. There are other rules and regulations that are enforced either locally through municipalities and/or by the federal government.

Chapter 105 Permit Applications Acknowledged in 2013:

GP-01	Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures	3
GP-02	Small Docks & Boat Launching Ramps	0
GP-03	Bank Rehabilitation, Bank Protection & Gravel Bar Removal	6
GP-04	Intake and Outfall Structures	6
GP-05	Utility Line Stream Crossings	22
GP-06	Agricultural Crossings and Ramps	2
GP-07	Minor Road Crossings	11
GP-08	Temporary Road Crossings	4
GP-09	Agricultural Activities	0

DIRT AND GRAVEL ROADS

The Dirt and Gravel Roads program is designed to fund environmentally sound maintenance of unpaved roadways that have been identified as sources of sediment pollution. Signed into law in April 1997 as Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code, the State Conservation Commission allocates Dirt & Gravel Roads Maintenance Funds to County Conservation Districts. The funds are available to local municipalities that maintain dirt and gravel roads. Someone from the applying entity must have completed the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training, a two-day course that includes modules on drainage, road maintenance techniques, erosion prevention and sediment control, bank stabilization, roadside vegetation management, and grant procedures.

The NCCD Quality Assurance Board (QAB) accepts and reviews applications each fall. In 2013, we received 6 applications from 3 townships. Each of the 3 townships were awarded funding for 1 project. The projects were Snowdale Road in Jordan Township, Pine Hill Road in Shamokin Township, and Little Mountain Road in Lower Augusta Township. \$68,610.48 was awarded with \$51,190.04 in-kind provided by the townships. All three projects have been completed.

The NCCD is looking forward to new possibilities with the program with the passage of the SB 1 (the Transportation Bill) in late 2013. We have already begun spreading the word to our local municipalities in an effort to make the funding available to as many municipalities as possible in the years to come.

DIRT AND GRAVEL ROADS

Snowdale Road Dirt & Gravel Roads Project, Jordan Township

27,000 Square Feet of Road Stabilized

2,788 Cubic Yards of Road Base Added

Total Project Cost: \$33,771.14

Total Township In-Kind: \$14,759.04



Shoulder erosion



Road ruts and poor drainage



Drainage improvements



DSA placement in 6" or 8" lift. See shoulder stabilization on left.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

NCCD, under a delegation agreement with the State Conservation Commission, administers the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program, Act 38 (formerly Act 6 of 1993), in Northumberland County.

Under Act 38, Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) are required to develop and implement a Nutrient Management Plan. CAOs are defined as agricultural operations where the animal density exceeds 2 animal equivalent units (AEUs) per acre of land suitable for manure application on an annualized basis. An AEU is defined as 1,000 pounds of live animal weight and includes all livestock, whether for production, transportation, or recreation. Land suitable for manure application includes cropland, hayland, or pastureland (owned or rented) that is, or will be, available for the application of manure from the operation. Farmstead and forestland cannot be included in the acres suitable for manure application. Agricultural operations having less than 8 animal equivalent units are not classified as CAOs, regardless of animal density.

During 2013, NCCD approved 8 nutrient management plans.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

The District had a busy summer with a total of 9 agricultural projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our 2 largest projects were the Rob Witmer and Wade Fisher projects, which were funded through a Growing Greener grant totaling \$195,153.



The **Wade Fisher** operation is located in Rockefeller Township where he raises approximately 25 steers. The heavy use area sat atop a steep slope above a tributary to Little Shamokin Creek. The cattle had unrestricted access to the stream which served as their water source. Consequently, the stream banks had little to no vegetation which allowed manure and sediment from the 4,354 square foot heavy use area to flow directly into the stream with any rain event. A heavy use protection area and collection area for manure storage was installed to prevent soil erosion and contain manure so it would no longer contribute pollutants to the stream. A manure transfer and waste treatment area was installed to collect and treat any manure laden runoff coming from the heavy use or manure storage areas. Gutters, downspouts, and a subsurface drainage system were installed so that all clean water is excluded from the heavy use and manure storage areas. Fencing was also an integral part of this project to convert cropland into paddocks for rotational grazing. Finally, a watering system was installed to eliminate the need to use the stream as a water source. Totals: 2,948 square feet heavy use area.

Wade Fisher Farm – Installation of Roof Gutters

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



Wade Fisher Farm – Former heavy use area.



Wade Fisher Farm – Heavy use area near completion.

Rob Witmer owns and operates a 55 head cattle operation located in Rockefeller Township. The cattle had unrestricted access to Plum Creek, a tributary to Little Shamokin Creek. The heavy use area was located at the bottom of a steep slope. Water from upslope, combined with a lack of best management practices, caused the heavy use area to become highly saturated and aided in the transport of sediment and nutrients into the creek. In addition, this operation had 2,000 linear feet of exposed, degraded streambank and a 4,125 square foot heavy use area. A manure storage and roofed heavy use protection area dramatically reduced the amount of sediment and nutrients draining into Plum Creek. Gutters, downspouts, and a subsurface drainage system were installed so that all clean water is excluded from the heavy use and manure storage areas. Streambank fencing, stabilized walkways and a watering system limit the amount of animal exposure to streambanks, thus greatly reducing the amount of bank sediment entering the waterway while also meeting a recommendation listed in the TMDL. Totals: 3,459 square feet gravel heavy use area; 4,900 square feet concrete heavy use area; 900 linear feet of fencing; 547 feet of rain gutters.



Rob Witmer Farm – Former heavy use area.



Rob Witmer Farm – Concrete and gravel heavy use area, as well as gutters.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Joel Knoebel, Shamokin Township

2 Stream Crossings, 118 Linear Feet of Animal Walkways installed

Funded through Northcentral PA Conservancy (Growing Greener Grant)



Jody Cromley, Turbot Township

3 Stream Crossings; 4,575 Linear Feet of Fencing; 3 Rock Cross-Veins; 1,511 feet of bank re-grading

Funded through Northcentral PA Conservancy (Growing Greener Grant)



Randy Kramm, Turbot Township

672 Feet Fencing; 1,029 feet of bank re-grading; 4 stream crossings installed

Funded through Northcentral PA Conservancy (Growing Greener Grant)



Bill Hoffman, Lewis Township

3,011 Linear Feet of fencing; 676 feet of bank re-grading; 1 stream crossing; 1 water-access area; 125 feet of gravel walkway; 55 feet of rain gutters installed; 120 trees planted.

Funded through Northcentral PA Conservancy (Growing Greener Grant)



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Through the Chesapeake Bay Special Projects funding program, the District received funding for two projects. One was to install a 1,250 gallon milkhouse waste water storage tank on the Steve Schnure farm in Turbot Township.

The second project was an outreach which involved four summer interns visiting the farmers of Northumberland County to satisfy the required outreach visits through the Chesapeake Bay program. During the summer of 2013, 936 farms were visited. Each farm visited received a packet with our contact information, the Manure Management and Ag E&S barn sheets, the "Am I in Compliance?" flyer, a Manure Management workbook, and Agronomy Fact Sheets 54 and 68.

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

The NCCD coordinates the activities involved in the Agriculture Land Preservation Program for the county on behalf of the Northumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Applications are received during open application rounds, which are advertised. A \$100 fee is required with applications.

Applications are ranked using a two-part Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA). The LESA looks at the quality of soils/site assessment, and considers local factors that may have an impact on the current or future viability of a farm.

Once the farms are ranked and the funding is provided from the State, the land development rights are purchased from the highest-ranking farms. In 2013, the third and final tract of a 316 acre farm was preserved. The total number of farm easements purchased to date in the county is 18, totaling 2,147 acres. In late 2013, open enrollment was held to accept new applications. Currently there are 52 farms on our waiting list totaling 5,802 acres.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

The Conservation District supports watershed association development and projects with organizational and technical assistance provided by the Watershed Specialist. Watershed Associations invite members of a community to work together to solve or repair complex issues within their waterways and watersheds. Currently there are six active watershed associations in Northumberland County. They are:

- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance
- Little Shamokin Creek Watershed Association
- Chillisquaque Limestone Watershed Association
- Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association
- Tri-Valley Watershed Association
- Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association

WATERSHED PROTECTION

The Irish Valley Project

Little Shamokin Creek

Funded by Northcentral PA Conservancy through a Growing Greener Grant, with cooperation from the PA Fish and Boat Commission, DEP, and the Little Shamokin Creek Watershed Association, the Irish Valley Project was a ½ mile project involving 3 property owners: the Will Haupt produce farm, Jim Taylor, and the Irish Valley Campground. Part of this three-week long project included an educational field days, which provided the public an opportunity to see the project in phases: pre-construction, construction, and post-construction. With the assistance of a lot of volunteers, the project was a great success, and received positive media attention. The total project worth was \$45,875.17.



WATERSHED PROTECTION

St. Joe's Picnic Pavilion

Limestone Run

In the summer of 2012, fish habitat structures were installed at this site. During the summer of 2013, 45 trees and 72 shrubs were planted at the site to complete the project. The total project worth was \$7,225.65. This project was also funded by the Northcentral PA Conservancy through a Growing Greener Grant.

It will be another busy summer with an additional 7 projects being planned for the summer of 2014 through the Northcentral PA Conservancy's Growing Greener Grant. We are thankful for the great partnership with the Conservancy, as well as with PA Fish and Boat Commission DEP. These projects have shown great value since we started installing them approximately 5 years ago.



Shamokin Creek Watershed

In the Shamokin Creek Watershed, grants were awarded to the District through Growing Greener in the amount of \$90,339 for work in the Carbon Run section of the watershed. The District is also working with the local Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area with an Act 13 grant received by them to do additional work on Carbon Run. This work is anticipated to start in mid-2014.

Another project in the Shamokin Creek Watershed which started during 2013 is the Twin Creek/Swift Breaker Bond Forfeiture project in Paxinos. This is a Growing Greener Grant in the amount of \$160,000. The purpose of this project is to complete the remaining reclamation activities on the Twin Creek Coal, Co. Swift Breaker Operation. The site was permitted for 9 acres, for the purpose of processing coal. The operation consisted of a coal breaker, coal storage areas, a scale and settling ponds. Much of the coal breaker structure and the coal stockpiles have been removed. Reclamation of the settling ponds, removal of the breaker remnants, grading of the site, and revegetation are needed. The site had been in operation for more than 50 years until it went into bond forfeiture, which were collected on September 4, 2009. The project is located along Miller's Run near the confluence with Shamokin Creek and is situated along Reading Turnpike and Swift Road. The work being completed consists of dewatering and reclamation of the water impoundment, wood debris removal and disposal, and select grading and revegetation. Work on this project is expected to be completed in mid-2014.

Legislative Kayak Trip

In 2013, the suggestion was made by our Board Chairman to hold a Kayak trip on the Susquehanna River as another way to reach out to our legislators. On a beautiful day in August we kayaked down the Susquehanna River with the assistance of Jim Charles, owner of Isle of Que River Guides. Mr. Charles, as well as Fish and Boat Commission donated Kayaks and safety vests for our trip. We travelled 4 miles, making 2 stops along the way for educational presentations. At the insistence of our legislators in attendance, we will be holding another trip in August of 2014.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

Legislative Kayak Trip (cont.)



Jim Charles, owner of Isle of Que River Guides provides a quick Kayaking lesson for those in attendance.



Robert Maiden, PACD President, joined us for the fun day.



Jaci Harner, NCCD Watershed Specialist, provided information on how the District assists with water quality issues.



We ended the day at a local tavern downstream for some light refreshments.

MEETINGS/OUTREACH

1st Annual CD Forum – March 5, 2013. This new event provided 3 breakouts for farmers, municipalities, and contractors. Topics included Pesticides in the Environment, PA One Stop, New and Emerging Weeds and Insects, Personal Protective Equipment for Ag Pesticide Applicators, Act 167 and Municipalities, Dirt & Gravel Roads from a Township's Perspective, MOU Between the Township and District, Chapter 105 Updates, New BMPs/NPDES Permit Changes, and A Virtual Site Visit Walk Through. 2 Category and 2 Core credits were offered to attendees.



Katelyn Williams, ACT Technician, provides a presentation at our Annual Twilight Meeting on Preventing Non-Point Source Pollution.

Twilight Meeting – August 27, 2013. This year's Twilight Meeting was held at the Spyglass Ridge Winery just outside of Sunbury. Topics presented included a tour of the vineyard, a Late Summer Pest Update, Tools to Prevent Non-Point Source Pollution, Preparing for a Regulatory Visit, and Protecting Yourself When Using Pesticides. Attendees received one core and one category credit, and more importantly, a delicious meal.

Auditing BMPs Workshop – March 9, 2013. This was a joint event with Union County and Columbia County Conservation Districts. The training was offered by Richard Klein of Community and Environmental Defense Services. Information was provided on how to locate and assess existing BMPs in your watershed, how to offer local government inspection agencies with public support to keep BMPs in good working order, and how to help bring watershed activities into full compliance with clean water laws. A tour was also provided of BMPs in the area to give real-life examples.

43rd Annual Tree Sale – Week of April 22, 2013. This year's tree sale was another great success. We sold to 207 customers 15,824 trees.

Susquehanna Valley High School and Middle School Envirothon – May 8 and May 15, 2013. The annual Susquehanna Valley High School and Middle School Envirothons are a joint effort of the Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Conservation Districts. 2013 was a first for our annual High School Envirothon. A continual stream of thunderstorms the day of the event put us in the unusual position to have to cancel the event as it was taking place. Our Middle School Envirothon, held at the Montour Preserve, was much more favorable, weather wise. Northumberland County had 18 teams at the Middle School event.

Dirt and Gravel Roads Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training – August 13 and 14, 2013. Northumberland County held this training jointly with Dauphin and Schuylkill counties. 55 individuals were in attendance.

2013 AWARDS

Environmental Educator of the Year

Winner: Kendra Day, Grace S. Beck Elementary School, Shikellamy School District

About the award: Each year, the Northumberland County Conservation District honors a teacher who demonstrates leadership in environmental education through their class work and involvement in community activities.



About the winner: Kendra Day of Northumberland is a Kindergarten teacher at Grace S. Beck Elementary School. During the past several years, Kendra has been very passionate about teaching her students civic responsibility. She accomplishes this by actively engaging her students in discussions, activities, experiments, and projects about preserving and protecting the environment. When her students arrive in her classroom they are greeted with a Lorax themed room. They learn about recycling through actions in the classroom. During recess, her students are taught to observe and learn to respect living things in the environment. Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Art, and Math are all incorporated into her Environmental Education program. Annually her students participate in the school grounds trash pick-up

and participate in classroom recycling, as well as school wide recycling. As a Kindergarten teacher, Kendra reads a lot of books to her students with environmental themes, including The Lorax, Hey Little Ant, The Ant Bully, Frans Flower, Books from Green Kids, and What Does It Mean to be Green? The most impressive part of Kendra's teaching habits is her commitment to providing a good example to her students in the classroom. At the beginning of the school year before any environmental lessons have been taught, her students learn through example when they see her place items into their class recycling bin. They quickly begin to copy her behavior. Once she points out the recycling symbol on products, they begin to notice it on many things. Kendra recalls one of her proudest moments when a student brought a yogurt cup to school to recycle even though his mom told him to throw it away. This same young man started saving his and his sister's juice cups from the school breakfast to recycle. Finally, Kendra states her goal is to help her students become caring, responsible citizens so they can have a positive impact in the world. For her obvious commitment to educating her students on the importance of conservation and the environment, Kendra Day was selected as Environmental Educator of the Year for 2013.

2013 AWARDS

Swank Outstanding Conservation Organization Award

Winner: Susquehanna River Cleanup Project, Northumberland

About the award: This award is sponsored annually by David and Judy Swank of Elysburg in honor of their granddaughter, Shelby Palmer. It is presented to an outstanding conservation organization in the county which has done exceptional conservation related work.

About the winner: The Susquehanna River Cleanup Project of Northumberland is this year's award winner. Organized in January of 2012, the Susquehanna River Cleanup Project started



with a group of friends concerned about the health of the Susquehanna River. Deciding to do something about it, they organized a non-profit and volunteer-centered organization whose mission is to clean debris and litter from the shores of the Susquehanna River. The organization currently has two staff members, Zach Stotter and Emily Robinson. Since their beginnings, the group has held two mini-cleanups focusing on Northumberland, one event focusing on tire cleanup, and

two larger events focusing on cleanup of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from West Chillisquaque Township to Northumberland. Cleanups consist of removal of debris by both watercraft and by foot. Their 2nd annual cleanup brought in almost 100 volunteers. Several local businesses donated to the project to cover event costs. This event alone was responsible for the recycling of 960 pounds of scrap metal, 1,500 pounds of other recycled materials, 30 tires, and 2,200 pounds of waste materials. 2013's event ended with a concert to celebrate the river. We see great things coming out of this organization in the future; therefore we were proud to present the Susquehanna River Cleanup Project with 2013's Swank Outstanding Conservation Organization Award.

Don Cotner, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Winner: Courtney Anchor, New Columbia

About the award: We were proud to present this scholarship for a fifth year, which is sponsored by Don Cotner, Jr. in memory of his father. The award is given to a senior pursuing a degree in

2013 AWARDS

agriculture or an environmentally related field in the fall 2013 semester. Don Cotner, Sr. was a director for the Northumberland County Conservation District from 1960-1979. Cotner Farms began implementing a soil conservation program in the mid-1930s and has been actively conducting and promoting soil conservation practices ever since. In 1936, Cotner Farms became one of the first farms in central Pennsylvania to implement 'contour' farming. In recognition of over 50 years of practicing soil conservation, Don Cotner Sr. was named Pennsylvania Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1988. Mr. Cotner was a top ten finalist for the National Conservation Farmer that same year. Soil conservation continues at Cotner Farms today. All acreage is still farmed using no-till methods, cover crops are planted each fall, and diversion ditches, waterways, and terraces are maintained and improved upon annually. Employees of the farm routinely participate in soil conservation meetings and panels which provide information to legislators.



About the winner: Our fifth annual award winner of this scholarship was Courtney Anchor, a 2013 graduate of Milton Area Senior High School. She is the daughter of Charles III and Evelyn Anchor. Courtney was accepted to the College of Agricultural Sciences for the fall of 2013 at Penn State Altoona. Her career plans are to use a degree in Plant Science to become involved in research. Her extracurricular activities include the National Honor Society, Basketball, French Club, and Teacher's

Assistant. Her guidance counselor stated "Courtney is an excellent student with impeccable character and strong personal values. She has grown up around farm life and her love for the outdoors and commitment to the environment are unparalleled. She is a hard worker and sets high standards for herself. Truly, Courtney is one of our best!" During Courtney's senior year she had a grade average of 100.4.

Conservation District Patch

Winners: Raiden V. Wiest, David Savidge, Christopher Deppen, Christian Noel Stump; Troop #311, Rebeck (Leader: Rebecca Savidge)

About the award: Northumberland County boy scouts and girl scouts are eligible to receive the Conservation District Patch by earning at least three scout merit badges in conservation. In addition, they must participate in one or more conservation projects, such as tree planting, recycling, wildlife management, litter removal, etc.

2013 AWARDS



About the winners: Raiden V. Wiest earned the Forestry, Gardening Weather, Geology, and Bird Study badges. Raiden is the son of Jerry R. Wiest of Dalmatia.

David Savidge earned the Gardening, Environmental Science and Soil and Water Conservation badges. David is the son of Rebecca Savidge of Herndon.

Christopher Deppen earned the Weather, Geology, and Soil and Water Conservation

badges. Christopher is the son of Donald Deppen of Dalmatia.

Christian Noel Stump earned the Gardening, Environmental Science, Soil and Water Conservation and Bird Study badges. Christian is the son of Susan Stump of Dornsife.

The above scouts all participated in the planting of trees along Himmel's Creek to minimize soil erosion along the stream banks.

Summer 2013 Interns

Ryan Beaver of Locust Gap, B.A. in Geography with a concentration in Environmental Planning (graduated December 2013 from Bloomsburg University)

Michael Kimble of Danville, Geography and Urban Planning Major (graduated May 2013 from Bloomsburg University)

Michael Schlauch of Zion Grove, B.A. in Geography and Environmental Planning (graduated August 2013 from Bloomsburg University, now works for our friends at Luzerne County Conservation District!)

Aaron Yoder of Paxinos, B.A. in Geography with a concentration in Environmental Planning (graduated May 2013 from Bloomsburg University, started graduate school last fall at Shippensburg University)

About 2013's internships: Approximately two years ago, Conservation Districts located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed were tasked with the daunting responsibility to visit every single farm in the county within a five year period. With the last Census of Agriculture numbers putting the amount of farms in Northumberland County at 936, we knew we had our work cut out for us. During the summer of 2012, Bradford County Conservation District faced the task head on by hiring interns to perform this outreach, and ended up getting to every farm in Bradford County. Last summer we decided to give Bradford's idea a try. We hired four interns

2013 AWARDS



and from day one, it became very obvious they were a very motivated group. Within not even two months, these four interns visited 760 farms in the County, which topped the 736 farms we anticipated them needing to visit. (The Northumberland County's Agricultural Conservation Technicians had already visited 200 farms prior to the interns starting.)

We wanted to recognize them for their hard work and dedication to last year's internship. Not only did they achieve what we asked

them to do, but they also provided a great deal of assistance to us during a three week long half a mile stream bank restoration project in Irish Valley on Little Shamokin Creek. We greatly appreciated their time with us, and we miss having them in the office. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

WHO IS NCCD?

As a public agency, we get asked many questions on a daily basis. The biggest one is probably "What is a Conservation District?" We are one of the few grassroots organizations set up by the New Deal still in operation today. Districts were developed specifically to handle agricultural issues on a local level; local farmers familiar with the land making local decisions. Today, our dedicated staff



and Board of Directors provide technical assistance, outreach and make important decisions touching upon important conservation issues, such as manure management, streambank restoration, erosion and sedimentation control, agricultural land preservation, and numerous other conservation issues which affect daily lives.

For more information on what we do, we encourage you to visit our website, www.nccdpa.org. We are also on Facebook. Both sites are updated on a regular basis.

