Spring 2020 Newsletter/2019 Annual Report
Volume 6, Issue 2

Conservation Matters

A new normal…

I think it would only be appropriate to address the current situation considering this new normal we are currently experiencing due to the health crisis and COVID-19.

At the time that I am writing this, our office is currently closed to the public. We are coming into the office once a week to collect mail and voice mail messages. The majority of our office is working remotely, but they can still be reached via email. If you have trouble reaching anyone, please reach out to me at jbecker@nccdpa.org.

A number of events have been cancelled such as the Envirothon and our annual tree sale. We understand many are disappointed, but we feel the most important thing right now is keeping our employees and members of the public safe.

As we forge ahead through this "new normal," we will continue to focus on conservation issues in Northumberland County within the bounds that we must now work in. In the meantime, I wish you and yours good health, and please keep safe. We will see you again soon.

Judy Becker

Meet New NCCD Employee, Rachael Moore:

Hi Folks! I am Rachael Moore, Northumberland County Conservation District's new Agriculture Conservation Technician. I was born and raised in Muncy, PA. I am a 2018 graduate of Dickinson College, where I obtained a B.S. in Environmental Science, focusing on climate change, and a B.S. in Earth Sciences, focusing on environmental geosciences. Following my college graduation, I worked at the Rodale Institute as a Research Technician for two years. In this position, I assisted in agriculture research, primarily focusing on a side-by-side conventional and organic vegetable production research trial. Other research projects I was involved with included industrial hemp and grain production. I have experience in soil health measurements, studying management practices, and vegetable farming. I am excited to be a part of the NCCD team, and I can't wait to start assisting farmers. In my spare time I love spending time outdoors, practicing yoga, and spending time with my family. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. You can contact me at rmoore@nccdpa.org.

Inside this issue

Rain Barrel Workshop 2
NCCD Affiliates..... 3
Conventional Development Issues..... 4
Vector Species Focus 5
Warrior Run Breakfast..... 6
Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Update..... 7
2019 Annual Report..... 12

Advertisers

KIZ Resources LLC..... 4
KW Enterprises LLC..... 9
Trumbull 11
Hoffman Brothers Lumber Inc..... 20

"Conservation Matters" is a quarterly newsletter published by the Northumberland County Conservation District, Sunbury.

Our Programs: Erosion and Sedimentation Control, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Dam Safety and Waterway Management, Environmental Education, Chesapeake Bay Program, Dirt & Gravel Roads, Agricultural Land Preservation, Watershed Protection and Education, Mosquito-borne Disease Control

Visit www.nccdpa.org for more information. We are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nccdpa.

FREE

Make-And-Take

Rain Barrel Workshop

*Due to COVID-19 precautions

This workshops date will be determined at a later date

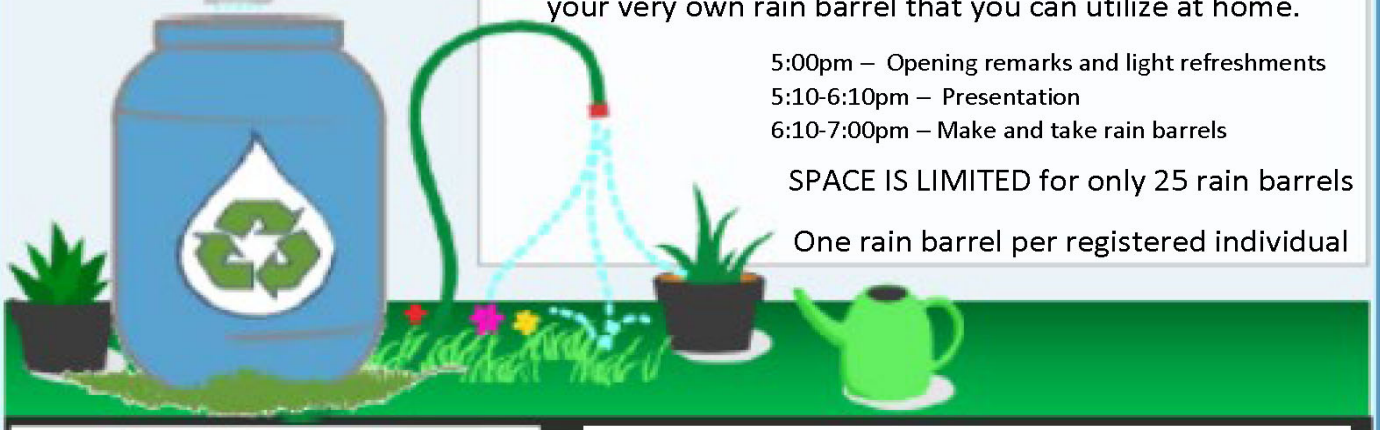
***Please contact the office at 570-495-4665 ext. 306 to confirm the new date and to be placed on waiting list**

Join us for our rain barrel workshop and experience making your very own rain barrel that you can utilize at home.

5:00pm – Opening remarks and light refreshments
5:10-6:10pm – Presentation
6:10-7:00pm – Make and take rain barrels

SPACE IS LIMITED for only 25 rain barrels

One rain barrel per registered individual



Northumberland County Conservation District

Little Shamokin Creek Watershed Association

Chantel Shambach
Watershed Specialist
570-495-4665 ext 306

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The Northumberland County Conservation District Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank our 2020 members for their kind donations. We would not be able to accomplish the work we do without our members' support! For more information on becoming a member of the NCCD, visit our website at www.nccdpa.org or call 570-495-4665. A membership form is also available below.

NCCD Membership Drive Form

Northumberland County Conservation District

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ZIP Code	
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Telephone (business)	
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I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of:
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Credit Card No._____ Exp. Date_____

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Affiliate	*Name in 1 NCCD newsletter.*	$50.00	**Friend of Conservation**	*Business Ad in 2 NCCD newsletters.*	$500.00
Contributing	*Name in 2 NCCD newsletters.*	$75.00	**Conservation Partner**	*Business Ad in 3 NCCD newsletters.*	$750.00
Associate	*Name in all 4 NCCD newsletters.*	$100.00	**Conservation Benefactor**	*Business Ad in all 4 NCCD newsletters.*	$1,000.00

All memberships will appear on our website. NCCD will contact your business with ad due dates for newsletters.

"CONVENTIONAL" DEVELOPMENT NOT ALWAYS BEST FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

by: Michael Hubler, NCCD Board Chairman/Public Director

Author's note: I composed this article twenty years ago for a newsletter published by the Dauphin Conservation District. The thoughts expressed were relevant to Dauphin County twenty years ago and I believe are relevant to Northumberland County today. As Northumberland County experiences improvements to transportation infrastructure and the certain growth that will follow those improvements, it is important to ensure that natural resource management remains in the forefront of municipal planning, land development and subdivision.

"All the easy sites are already developed, only the hard ones are left," laments the designer I recently met with concerning a particularly challenging property. This complaint is somewhat accurate and somewhat inaccurate. It is true that we are beginning to develop areas which were rejected in the past because of natural features which made conventional development difficult or expensive, such as steeper slopes, soil limitations, accessibility problems, etc. The inaccuracy of this statement is that these sites are viewed for development in a conventional format. By conventional format, I mean the type of development we are accustomed to: wide level streets, minimal changes of elevation within individual lots, flat parking lots for commercial enterprises, and projects planned to maximize the number of units in an area.

Two recent projects serve as examples. The first called for the removal of 70,000 to 100,000 cubic yards of soil to an offsite location in order to construct residential units. This was very expensive and obviously greatly altered the natural contour of the land. Additionally, this material was placed in another location filling a 15 acre site so that this too was "level" for development. The second project required cuts of up to 46 feet at the top of a hill. The "cut" material was placed as fill up to 28 feet deep at the base of the hill to allow for development of the parcel.

There are a number of reasons which I believe are responsible for this conventional format type of development. Municipal land development and subdivision ordinances often encourage this type of development by making it the path of least resistance to municipal approval. While some sections of these ordinances address public health and safety issues and need to be strict, other sections can be modified to encourage innovation in site development. Designers are comfortable with this conventional format. These professionals are often under tight time and budget constraints to produce a product acceptable to the client and the municipality. Conventional format allows them to anticipate problems, maintain a budget, and please parties involved because they have designed it the same way frequently before. And finally, investors want a proven saleable product and are sometimes less than enthusiastic about innovation.

So where does this leave natural resource conservation? I believe it is incumbent upon us to work with the existing topography and natural features. Excessive alterations have the potential to result in negative impacts to downstream water quality and quantity. I believe that local municipalities need to encourage innovation in design while protecting public health and welfare. Residents should become involved in these decisions by expressing to municipal officials their preferences in development of the "harder sites" in their communities. Designers, developers and investors should take a chance, be innovative, and develop these sites on terms dictated by the existing natural features.

Stay up to date on our events by visiting www.nccdpa.org or www.facebook.com/nccdpa.

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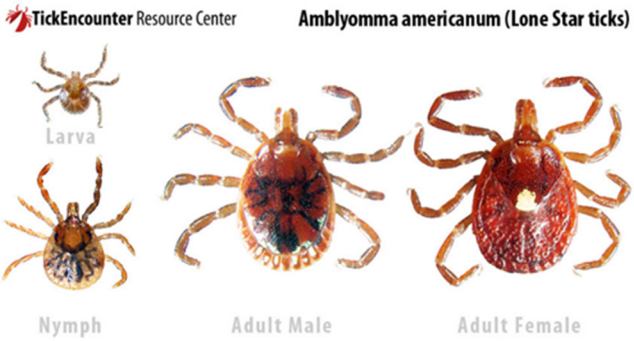
VECTOR SPECIES FOCUS: AMBLYOMMA AMERICANUM, THE LONE STAR TICK

by: Brandon Ball, Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program Coordinator

Amblyomma americanum, also known as the lone star tick, the northeastern water tick, or the turkey tick, is a type of tick indigenous to much of the eastern United States and Mexico, that bites painlessly and commonly goes unnoticed, remaining attached to its host for as long as seven days until it is fully engorged with blood. It is a member of the phylum Arthropoda, class Arachnida. The larvae do not carry disease, but the nymphal and adult stages can transmit the pathogens causing Monocytic Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and 'Stari' borreliosis. Lone Star ticks are notorious pests, and all stages are aggressive human biters.

To date, we have not found any Lone Star ticks in the five counties in which we operate. However, in 2019, a total of 7 adults were collected in the following counties: Bucks, Chester, Erie, and Franklin.

Adults: Adults are active April to late August and can be found questing for larger animals, such as dogs, coyotes, deer, cattle and humans on tall grass in shade or at the tips of low-lying branches and twigs. Females are easily recognized by a single white dot in the center of a brown body, with the males having spots or streaks of white around the outer edge of the body. Females require a week to 10 days or more to engorge and can lay 2,500 to 3,000 eggs.



Nymphs: Nymphs are active May to early August, and can be found questing for deer, coyotes, raccoons, squirrels, turkeys and some birds as well as cats, dogs and humans. Where abundant, nymphs seemingly swarm up pant legs and can become attached in less than 10 minutes. Nymphs typically take 5 to 6 days to become replete, and once fully engorged, they fall off of the host into the leaf litter, where they molt into adults.

Larvae: Larvae are active July to late September and can be found questing for a wide variety of animals, including cats, dogs, deer, coyotes, raccoons, squirrels, turkeys, and some small birds. After feeding for around 4 days, they drop off of the host and bury themselves in the leaf litter, where they molt into nymphs.

Habitat: Lone Star ticks are found mostly in woodlands with dense undergrowth and around animal resting areas.

Red Meat Allergy: Alpha-gal syndrome is a recently identified type of food allergy to red meat. In the United States, the condition most often begins when a Lone Star tick bite transmits a sugar molecule called alpha-gal into the body. In some people, this triggers an immune system reaction that later produces mild to severe allergic reactions when they eat red meat.

The Lone Star tick is found predominantly in the southeastern United States, and most cases of alpha-gal syndrome occur in this region. The condition appears to be spreading farther north and west, however, as deer carry the Lone Star tick to new parts of the United States. Alpha-gal syndrome also has been diagnosed in Europe, Australia, and Asia, where other types of ticks carry alpha-gal molecules.

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VECTOR SPECIES FOCUS: AMBLYOMMA AMERICANUM, THE LONE STAR TICK,

continued

Researchers now believe that some people who have frequent, unexplained anaphylactic reactions — and who test negative for other food allergies — may be affected by alpha-gal syndrome. There's no treatment other than avoiding red meat.

Avoiding tick bites is the key to prevention. Protect against tick bites by wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts and using insect repellents when you're in wooded, grassy areas. Do a thorough, full-body tick check after spending time outside.

Sources:

https://tickencounter.org/tick_identification/lone_star_tick#top
https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alpha-gal-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20428608
https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/niaid-scientists-link-cases-unexplained-anaphylaxis-red-meat-allergy
http://www.wnvcp.state.pa.us/wnv/

PANCAKES, EGGS, BACON… AND WATER QUALITY!

by: Chantel Shambach, Watershed Specialist

The smell of breakfast was in the air as 75 farmers and landowners gathered the Saturday morning of January 25th. In the initial planning phases to create water quality goals in the Warrior Run watershed, the Warrior Run Watershed Team decided a pancake breakfast was a great way to connect with those living in the watershed. The Team could not think of a better way to engage the community than to offer free breakfast and a time of fellowship where they can learn about the watershed in which they live. Many thanks to the time and dedication of Northumberland County Conservation District staff Ryan Cherwinski, Ag Technician, and Chantel Shambach, Watershed Specialist, who made the event became a reality. The community was instrumental in helping with the successful event, too. Landowners contacted neighbors and friends to increase awareness, and many local businesses generously provided financial sponsorship to cover costs.

As landowners were greeted, they were asked to put a pin on a map of the watershed to show the location of their property. Before breakfast, participants had a chance to meet with members of the Team to express their concerns for the watershed. The children enjoyed making animal track imprints in playdough and interacting with a Groundwater Simulator and a Stream Simulator Table. After a delicious breakfast, prepared by the women of Turbotville Community Center, the group learned about the Warrior Run watershed. It started with watching an engaging video of the Warrior Run that the District staff produced. Chantel Shambach then provided water quality data and statistics as well as her plans for future water testing within the watershed. Graham Rhone, Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever, spoke about opportunities to improve wildlife habitat through the CREP program and the Wild Pheasant Recovery Area that is located within the watershed. Janette Lesher, NRCS District Conservationist, explained the National Water Quality Initiative Program (NWQI) for the Warrior Run watershed, the goals established, and the plan to reach those water quality goals. Ryan Cherwinski, Ag Technician and Brandon Ball, Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program Coordinator, discussed potential funding opportunities and upcoming events through the Conservation District. Attendees also heard from Steve Fisher, a landowner in the Warrior Run watershed, about a streambank stabilization project on his property in which the Conservation District was instrumental in implementing.

Watershed Specialist, Chantel Shambach uses the stream simulator table to show attendees how actions can impact the Warrior Run watershed.

At the conclusion of the event, participants left with a better understanding of what was happening in their watershed. In return, the Warrior Run Watershed Team had a list of new landowners and possible cooperators for future projects.

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PANCAKES, EGGS, BACON… AND WATER QUALITY!,

continued

Our friends at the Turbotville Community Center preparing breakfast.

Warrior Run Watershed Team (left to right): Janette Lesher, Axel Acevedo, Ashley Lenig, Pam Richardson, Brandon Ball, Ryan Cherwinski, Chantel Shambach, Graham Rhone at the Warrior Run Breakfast

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY ADDED TO THE SPOTTED LATERNFLY QUARANTINE

by: Chantel Shambach, Watershed Specialist

What does it mean for you and your business?

The Spotted Lanternfly first made its appearance in the United States in 2014, the first siting being reported within the state of Pennsylvania. Since then 26 out of 67 Pennsylvania counties have been placed on the quarantine list, and 6 total states now have spotted lanternfly detections and/or infestations. The most recent addition to the spotted lanternfly quarantine zone came March 3, 2020, when the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture added 12 counties to the already accumulated 14 counties. Those 12 additional counties include: Allegheny, Beaver, Blair, Columbia, Cumberland, Huntingdon, Juniata, Luzerne, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, and York. The total states within the quarantine zone as of March 2020 are seen in figure 1 on the next page.

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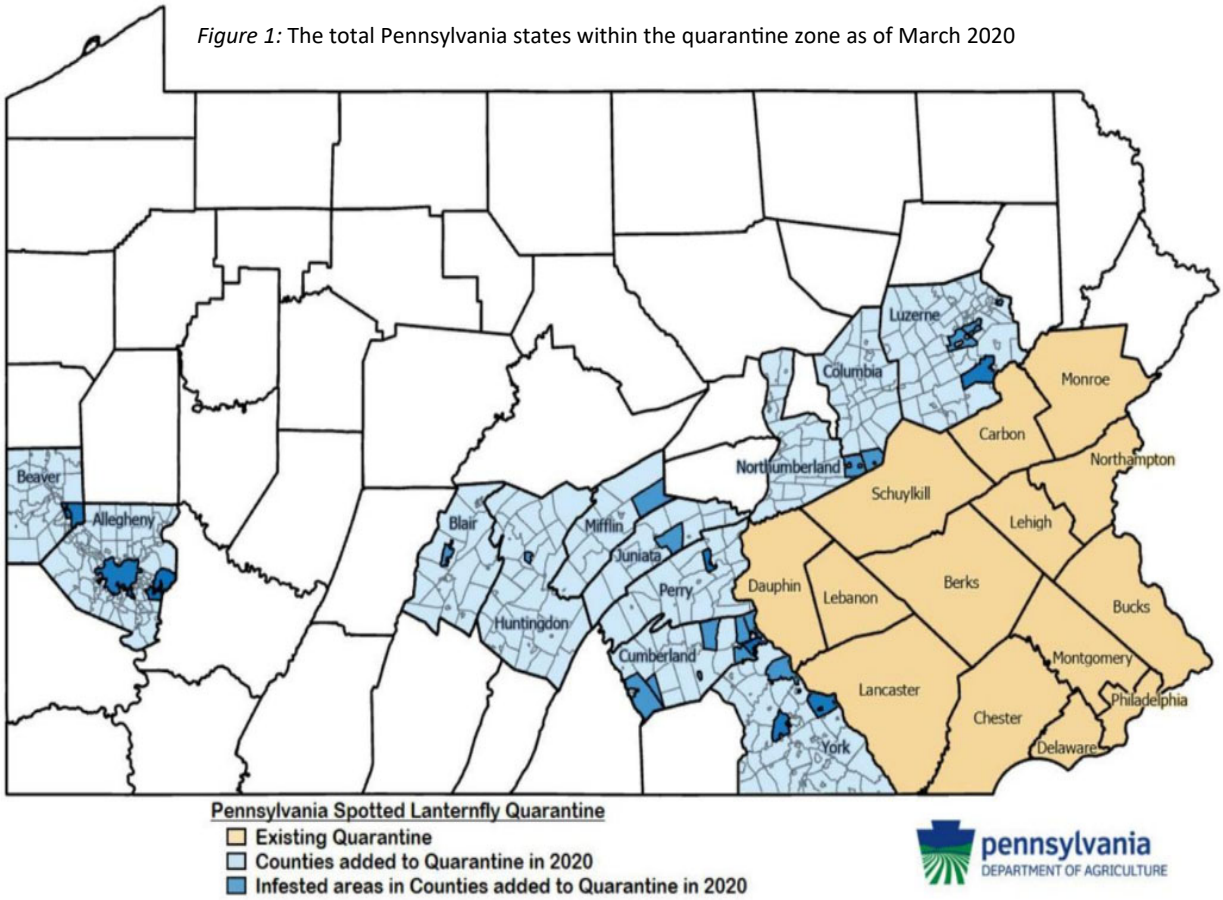
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY ADDED TO THE SPOTTED LATERNFLY QUARANTINE, *continued*

Figure 1: The total Pennsylvania states within the quarantine zone as of March 2020



The spotted lanternfly, Lycorma delicatula (WHITE), is actually not a fly, but a planthopper of the family Fulgoridae, also referred to as "spot clothing wax cicada" or "Chinese blistering cicada." This planthopper is native to China, India, and Vietnam. In its native habitat it is kept in check by natural predators or pathogens. The insect's main threat is to more than over 70 types of ***host plants** including economically important crops like fruit trees, grapevines, hops, hardwoods, nut trees, and ornamentals, though its preferred host is Ailanthus altissima (Chinese sumac or tree of heaven) seen below in figure 2. Visually speaking the Spotted Lanternfly adult is approximately 1" long and 1/2" wide at rest. The forewing is grey with black spots, and the wings' tips are reticulated black blocks outlined in grey. The hind wings have contrasting patches of red and black with a white band. The legs and head are black; the abdomen is yellow with broad black bands. Immature stages are black with white spots and develop red patches as they grow.

***Host plants**- Assists in the progression of life stages to its micropredator by supplying food resources. The micropredators have an evolutionarily stable relationship with their hosts.

Figure 2: Ailanthus altissima (Chinese sumac or tree of heaven)- the preferred plant host for the Spotted Lanternfly

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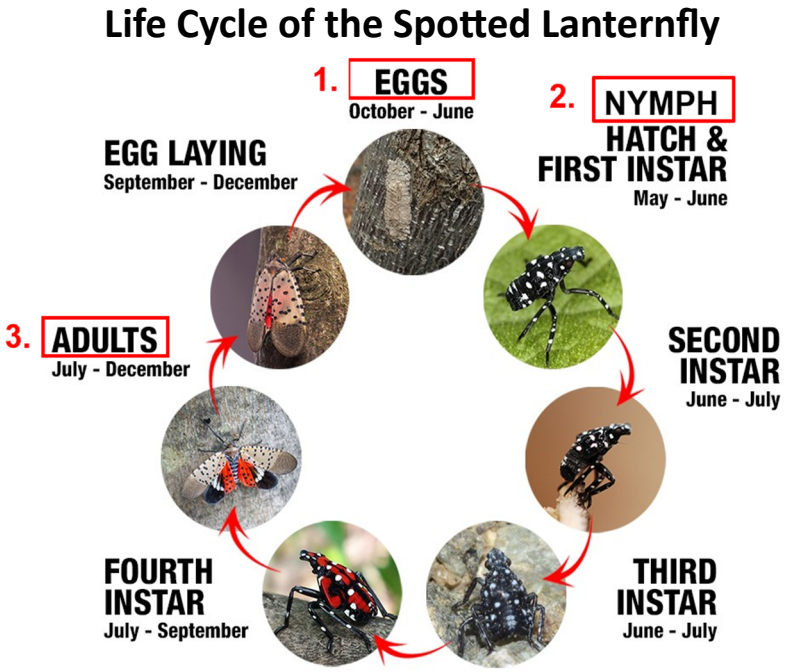
With the assistance of their host plants to progress them through their life stages, the lanternflies go through three main developmental stages; the egg stage, nymph stage, and the adults stage.

1. Egg developmental stage (October-June): The egg development stage occurs between the months of October through June, and they survive through the cold season, to hatch in the spring. This stage is one of the most important life stages to identify and destroy for best control results. Each egg mass (about 1 inch long) contains approximately 30 to 50 eggs, and each egg laying adult is suspected to lay two masses each, hence the reasoning behind the best results for control statement. When laid, they are in columns of eggs side by side, then covered with a wet and glossy residue resembling pale/gray putty or bubble gum. Over time, once dried they start to crack, taking on the resemblance of tree bark, and the bark like coverings break away revealing the ready-to-hatch column of eggs (see figure 3 below). Eggs are commonly laid on host plants and other smooth surfaces.



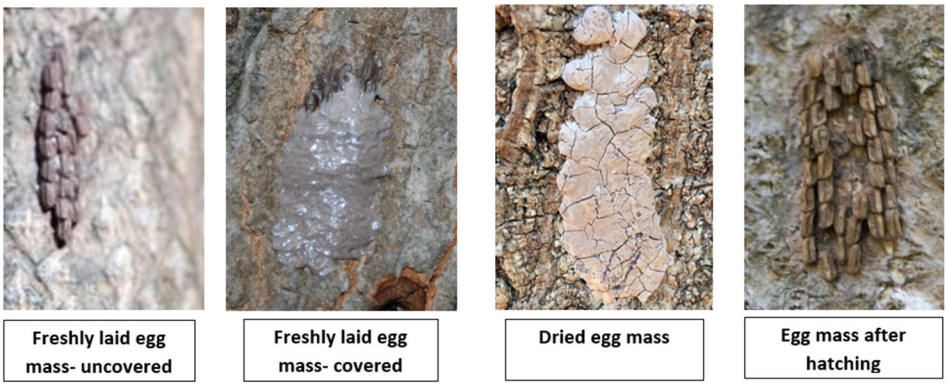


Figure 3: Egg mass evolvement over time

2. Nymph stage - Occurs in 4 instar phases (May-September)

Figure 4: Nymph stage progression

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd instar nymph stages - The 1st instar stage occurs right after they hatch. At the 1st stage (May-June), they are ¼" long and are occasionally mistaken for a tick. Once they emerge, they will feed on the various host plants that are nearby, continuously growing to 2nd and 3rd instar stages (June-July). These three stages all visually appear the same, black with white spots, but progressively get larger throughout each phase.

- 4th and final instar nymph stage - This is the last nymph stage before becoming an adult lanternfly. Unlike the other 3 instar stages, during this stage, the instar does not only increase in size but also changes in color and are stronger jumpers. They are ~1/2 inch long, and are bright red, covered in black stripes and white spots.

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3. Adult stage (July-December) - goes through two developmental changes.

- 1st adult sub-stage - This is the stage in the life cycle where the Spotted Lanternfly is the most destructive. During this stage they should be controlled by any means necessary, along with the next sub-stage phase.

- 2nd adult sub-stage (September-December) - During this sub-stage is a major turning point in a spotted lanternflies life: it is the egg-laying stage. This is why the 1st adult sub-stage is so crucial to control before they progress to this phase. Killing a female before this stage prevents them from laying eggs. Again, this can save 30-50 Spotted Lanternflies from being born per egg mass, when each female will lay approximately 2 of these egg masses per year.

Their reputation when introduced to non-native locations.

The Spotted Lanternfly is an ***invasive species** when introduced to other areas outside of their origin (China, India, & Vietnam). Since the lanternfly is not a life-threatening insect, economic loss is at the top of the list for concerns caused by the invasive pest. It was accidentally introduced in Korea in 2006 and has since rapidly spread to different parts of that country. There, they caused damage to the grape crop industry and other fruits, resulting in significant economic loss, and they continue to wreak havoc. Reports of this species distribution extends south to Taiwan, along with Japan. Though there are also reports of this species from India, they are unconfirmed. Detection of this species in Pennsylvania by the State Department of Agriculture in 2014 was a new continental record of establishment for this species.

***Invasive species** - A species within a non-native location that can harm both the local natural resources as well as threaten human use of these resources. Capable of causing extinctions of native plants and animals, reducing biodiversity, competing with native organisms for limited resources, and altering habitats. This can result in huge economic impacts and fundamental disruptions of local ecosystems

How do they damage plants?

Pennsylvania is no stranger to invasive species. The ash borer decimated nearly all living ash trees, ultimately threatening extinction to our region's ash trees. But, unlike the ash borer the Spotted Lanternfly assaults a broad range of plant species. Once they hatch from their eggs and emerge as nymphs, they begin feeding on their host plants. Once they develop into their 1st adult phase is when most of the damage occurs. The lanternfly feeds on plant sap using a piercing-sucking mouthpart that is inserted into the stems and trunks of the various plants. After ingesting the sap, they utilize the nutrients and consumed bacteria in their guts to help with digestion. After they use the needed nitrogen and proteins within their bodies, they begin excreting the excess sugars and water as waste products. This excrement, also known as honeydew, accumulates around areas where the lanternfly has been feeding.

In some cases, they are visibly seen spewing honeydew from their abdomen. The honeydew will collect and build up on the base, leaves, and branches of the tree/vine and over time it is recorded to start growing sooty mold fungi. This mold doesn't directly harm the plants, but it prevents them from being able to photosynthesize. Apart from the effects of honeydew, the incision area, where the mouthpart enters for extraction, exposes the plants to pathogens that can cause serious damage, including oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling, and tree dieback.

Figure 5: Adult lanternflies covering this apple tree

The Threat to Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has a rich economy surrounding the fruit, hardwood, and wine business, which collectively are worth nearly $18 billion to the state's economy. Many of the states' hardwood industries make furniture, hardwood flooring, musical instruments, bumpers for subway trains, kitchen cabinets and bridge decking. PA also contributes to an incredible production of maple syrup from maple trees, wine distribution, and is the home of many orchards. All of which are under the threat of this invasive pest.

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Requirements for Businesses within Quarantine Counties

To help reduce the spread of the lanternfly, permit requirements are put in place for businesses within the quarantine counties with commercial vehicles traveling between quarantine and non-quarantine areas. For more information related to permit guidelines, how to obtain a permit, requirements, and scenarios on what businesses would need to acquire a permit visit https://extension.psu.edu/does-your-business-need-a-spotted-lanternfly-permit.

How Can You Help Slow Down the Progression?

Thankfully, according to the Department of Agriculture, "Quick, aggressive treatment to newly identified populations" of the lanternfly in Pennsylvania was funded through the Rapid Response Disaster Readiness line of Governor Tom Wolf's 2019 Pennsylvania Farm Bill. However, these pests are expert hitchhikers that you do not want to pick up. There are many ways the community can help slow the advancement of this nuisance species. One of the most important, but difficult, things for controlling them will be identifying them. Amongst the easiest and most obvious ways to "Look Before You Leave" is by checking your vehicle and equipment being hauled (trailers, grills, mowers, recreational vehicles, etc.) between counties before traveling. For an example of a self-checklist for the inspection of your vehicle, visit http://www.met.psu.edu/browse-by-audience/faculty-staff/extension_single_inspection_vehicle_checklist.pdf . It is also increasingly being stressed to refrain from moving firewood between counties. Aside from inspecting your car, it's important to examine your property and eliminate pests by removing eggs, banding trees (see figure 6 below), removing their favored host (tree-of-heaven), and using chemical control when appropriate (always abide by label instructions). To recap from earlier, it is particularly important to control them in the egg stage. Eggs should be scrapped with an old credit card, hard piece of wood, or knife and placed in alcohol or hand sanitizer to kill them (see figure 7 below). If you encounter adults, use whatever means necessary to purge them, including mechanical means (swatting or stepping on them) or through the use of sprays. Finally, if you find this insect in **any** stage of its lifecycle within Northumberland County, please document your findings with photos, dates, times, location, notes on what you are visualizing and REPORT. To file a proper report call 1-888-4BAD-FLY (1-888-422-3359).

Figure 6: Banding tree to trap adult lanternflies

Figure 7: Scrapping egg masses

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NCCD

Northumberland County

Conservation District

2019 Annual Report

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Since 2012

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Watershed Specialist

Michael McCleary
Erosion and Sediment Technician

Ryan Cherwinski
Agricultural Conservation Technician

Brandon Ball
Mosquito-borne Disease Control Coordinator

Tyler Heeter
Mosquito-borne Disease Control Technician

Seth Andes
Mosquito -borne Disease Control Technician

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Since 2006

Albert Mabus
Former NCCD Board Member
Since 2008

Ted Carodiskey
Little Shamokin Creek Watershed Association, Secretary
Since 2010

John Pfleegor
Former NCCD Board Member
Since 2013

Michael Erdley
Former NCCD Board Member
Since 2016

Lynn Wilson
Since 2017

Dave Crowl
Former NCCD Board Member
Since 2017

Left to right: Gary Truckenmiller, Michael Hubler, Leon Wertz, Richard Daniels, John Kopp, Natalie Wertman, Richard Shoch

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM, by Michael McCleary

The NCCD administers the Chapter 102 Erosion Control program through a signed delegation agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Under the Chapter 102 delegation, NCCD conducts the following program responsibilities: community outreach, permit application receipt and review, permit approval or denial, consultation, site monitoring and final inspection upon project completion. These functions require coordination with DEP, the applicants and their consultants and municipal officials.

NPDES Permit Applications:
Approved - 18
Major Modifications - 0
Renewals - 4
Withdrawn by Applicant - 0
Terminated (Projects Completed) - 7
Under review at end of year - 4

E&S Plan Submittals:
Approved - 12
Courtesy Copies on File - 9
Waiver Letters Sent - 3

Complaints Investigated: 25
Invalid Complaints: 7
Complaints Resolved: 16
Resolutions ongoing: 2

Site Visits: 143
Number of sites visited: 99
News Releases: 4
Consultations: 385
Number of people consulted with: 242

Project Related Meetings:
*Pre-application Meetings - 4
*Pre-construction Meetings - 5
*Job Conferences - 5

Multi-County Projects:
UGI Sunbury 20" Diameter Gas Pipeline
Atlantic Sunrise/Transco 42" Diameter Gas Pipeline
Central Susquehanna Thruway
PPL Columbia-Danville 69kv Transmission Line Rebuild
PPL Eldred - Cleveland 69kV Transmission Line Rebuild

DAM SAFETY AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT, by Michael McCleary

In 2019 under a Delegation of Authority Agreement with DEP pursuant to PA Code Title 25 Chapter 105 (Dam Safety and Waterway Management), the Erosion and Sediment Technician has processed and acknowledged registrations to use the following 39 General Permits:

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

DIRT AND GRAVEL/LOW VOLUME ROADS, by Michael McCleary

The E&S Technician is also responsible for managing the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Paved Roads Program for the Northumberland County Conservation District. In 2019, four municipalities submitted six projects requesting a total of $261,175.24 in grant funds. Two grants totaling $129,112.99 were awarded for Low Volume Paved Roads. One was completed within the year. The other will be completed this spring/summer. Four grants totaling $132,062.25 were awarded for Dirt and Gravel Roads. All four were completed within the year.

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION, by Judy Becker

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.

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 and the County Commissioners, the land development rights are purchased from the highest-ranking farms. The total number of farm easements purchased to date in the county is 23, totaling 2,575 acres. One farm easement was approved in 2019 in Lewis Township. Currently there are 49 farms on a waiting list totaling 5,769 acres.

2019 Northumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board:

William Geise, Chairman	Richard Daniels, Vice-Chairman	Mary Crone, Secretary/Treasurer
Benny Snyder, Township	Donald Ferster, Contractor Director	Dave Becker, At-large Member
	Tom Boop, At-large Member	

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION, by Judy Becker

The following activities were completed by our Agricultural Conservation Technician in 2019:

Chesapeake Bay Compliance Inspections- All of the annual required inspections were completed in the following townships: Delaware, West Chillisquaque, East Cameron, and Jordan. For the 2019-2020 state fiscal year, we are focusing on the Warrior Run Watershed.

Plan Writing Assistance- In 2019, 31 producers were assisted with Manure Management plans. 30 producers were assisted with Agricultural Erosion and Sedimentation plans. A series of Manure Management planning workshops were also held thanks to a PACD mini-grant with financial support

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AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION, continued

provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection through the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant and the Clean Water Fund.

REAP Program - In 2019, the NCCD assisted 6 landowners with REAP applications.

Kevin Raker Barnyard Project - This project was a 3-part barnyard project on a cow/calf operation, located in Upper Augusta Township. Project 1: the construction of a 106' -10$^{3/4"}$ X 68' pole type roof installed over an existing heavy use area and new manure stacking area. Project 2: the construction of a 60' X 76' roofed concrete barnyard gave the landowner ample manure storage and bedding area. Project 3: included reinforced gravel cattle walkways and stream crossing and construction of grassed waterways below the culverts. A grassed waterway was installed at the base of a road culvert to address gully erosion that extended from the culvert to the crop field. Funded in part by a PA DEP Growing Greener Grant ($156,108.47) and a Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Grant (CBSP) ($108,323.00).

Cover Crop Incentive Program- This is a two-year program where incentive payments are made for producers implementing a multi-species cover crop in their rotation. During 2019, $73,749.00 was paid to multiple Northumberland County landowners for implementing multi-species cover crops. Funding for this program was provided by a PA DEP Growing Greener Grant.

WATERSHED PROTECTION, by Chantel Shambach

It's been a very busy, yet successful, year in Northumberland County regarding water conservation efforts. Activities included tree plantings, educational outreach, fish habitat structure implementation projects, trout stocking, live stake harvesting and planting, and much more. The unique opportunity to improve water quality in our Warrior Run Watershed has been gaining a lot of attention. Due to being listed as a priority watershed, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has provided assistance through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). The Conservation District is dedicated to serving all watersheds throughout the county. I want to thank all of our participating partners. We would never be able to succeed without the efforts of everyone working together.

2019 Highlights:

Grant activity:

- Constructed a final report for the Williams Pipeline Atlantic Sunrise Grant
- Awarded DEP Environmental Education Grant of $1,475 for Sand and Gravel Simulator Model Purchase, $1,340 for Water Quality and Coal Mining History Field Trip, held in October 2019, and $735 for Rain Barrel Make-and-Take Workshop

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WATERSHED PROTECTION, continued

- Formulated plans, sent out letters, and organized events surrounding the awarded 2019 DEP Environmental Educational Grants
- Press Enterprise article on Columbia and Northumberland counties' success in DEP education grants awarded - "Columbia, Northumberland counties win PA environmental grants"
- News Item article "Tomorrows Trees" published 10/11 that covered the Kulpmont Field Day - ~7500 subscribers

Little Shamokin Creek Watershed Association (LSCWA)

- Assisted members with plans surrounding the 2019 Trout Derby and auction
- Attended LSCWA meetings surrounding the development of a pond on the property
- Participated in trout stocking event
- Helped LSCWA at softball tournament ice cream fundraiser
- Helped Northcentral PA Conservancy (NPC) organize the book signing and 10 year anniversary of LSCWA partnership with NPC

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA)

- Received request from President to apply for a PPL sustainability grant - $1,000 granted for water meter repair and new Site 15 sign
- Assisted SCRA members and Environmental Consultant with the Quaker Run Growing Greener Grant

Water Testing:

- Collected and analyzed water samples from 11 locations throughout Little Shamokin Creek watershed with Little Shamokin Creek Watershed Association and DEP, March through November
- Constructed and completed rough draft budget plan for the NWQI water testing equipment and training
- Assisted in various post-project and pre-project water testing including electrofishing, water chemistry, sedimentation samples, and macroinvertebrate analysis with Susquehanna University and interns at Little Shamokin Creek and Limestone Run
- Reviewed water quality data and protected use assessment review for the Warrior Run Watershed and results of the benthic macroinvertebrate analysis for Stream Surface Water Assessment Protocol (SSWAP)
- Conducted an electrofishing analysis with 3 members of DEP at 4 sites within the Warrior Run Watershed
- Reviewed the Warrior Run Fish Data Summary put together by Tim Wertz, DEP

Agricultural BMP design, implementation, or maintenance:

⇒ Susquehanna River Watershed

- Agricultural BMP design survey with NRCS surveyor, NCCD Ag Technician, and NRCS engineer
- Agricultural East Lot site showing February 2019 and West Lot site showing April 2019 for Growing Greener and Chesapeake Bay special projects grants funded project
- Pre-construction meeting with landowner, contractor, NRCS and NCCD Agricultural Technician for East Lot Project
- Went to East Lot Project site to review progress, truss delivery, footer spacing measurements, and joint connections of roof's undercarriage

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WATERSHED PROTECTION, continued

- Assisted NCCD Agricultural Technician and NRCS Engineer in reading contours and used clinometer to detect slope in order to establish waterway/tiling/diversion plans
- Review of the West Lot roofed manure storage area, helped calculate measurements, provided markers for the footer establishment, and as-build measurements, viewed status of the floor construction and animal crossing

AMD BMP design, implementation, or maintenance:

- DEP Tour of Shamokin Creek with collaboration of Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance to introduce potential future partners and funding opportunities to be placed towards AMD mitigation projects

Stream and Lake Restoration BMP design, implementation, maintenance, or technical assistance:

- Made contacts to numerous individuals who may be interested in DEP fencing program to provide streambank fencing and/or crossing(s)
- Created riparian buffer portfolios for landowners who may be interested in the practice through DCNR
- Talked to DEP Watershed Manager about live stake opportunities for a few sites within county
- Received the 2,000 trees ordered from PPL Community Roots Program (Eastern White Pine, Pin Oak, Red Oak, Eastern Redbud, Swamp White Oak, White Flowering Dogwood)
- Calculated total acreage of each Northumberland County riparian buffer that would be covered by PennVest grant from NPC. Presented information about landowner interest, acreage, and species
- Hosted a live stake ID and harvest event with Milton High School Students
- Lead tree planting event with the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) at the headwaters of the Carbon Run Watershed with Off Road Consulting. Planted approx. 1200 trees,~ 30 people present
- Taught Shamokin high school students and football team how to plant trees. Planted approximately 700 trees at project location. 25 people present, including county commissioner Sam Schiccatano
- Assisted in site visit with Delaware Township personnel, NCCD Dirt and Gravel/Low Volume Roads Technician, and State Representative Lynda Culver's assistant to look at areas of storm damage on Dry Run. Gave technical support for some areas, but others I suggested they get an engineer involved
- Streambank fencing assessment and project outline with DEP, NCCD Agricultural Technician, and Zimmy Brothers
- Site visit to area with extreme stream erosion on Kipps Run, took photos of site and contacted adjacent landowners to assess cooperation for possible future funding; stream is labeled as supporting on DEP integrated report
- Assisted in 1,600 feet of stream restoration construction at a property with DEP, PAFBC, and Montour County CD staff on Limestone Run
- Visited various landowners on Little Shamokin Creek who are interested in multifunctional riparian buffer plantings through Pennvest opportunity with Native Creations
- 7 total visits to a major potential project location on Plum Creek that could result in rain gutter installation, stream bank fencing, spring development, ag crossings, and stormwater management with the collaborative efforts of DEP, NPC, PAFBC, NCCD Agricultural technician and summer interns

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WATERSHED PROTECTION, continued

Educational lessons, presentations, and/or mass outreach activities

- Presented at Oaklyn Elementary School (Shikellamy School District) STEAM program using enviroscape to 30 students
- Beck Elementary (Shikellamy School District) with NRCS and NCCD Agricultural Technician to discuss soil and water health on various levels and used the enviroscape for part of the discussion, ~45 students
- High School Envirothon - helped Union and Columbia Counties with the aquatics station
- Water health and macroinvertebrate kick with advanced Susquehanna University students ~ 20 students. Discussed water health, the importance, and key indicator species. Also performed a macro kick and ID analysis, May 2019
- Girl Scout Presentation with Columbia County Conservation District's Watershed Specialist at Elysburg Alliance church on 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and how it assists in water quality.
- Middle School Envirothon at the Montour Preserve; helped run the aquatics station
- Live stake implementation event with Danville High school students, DEP Watershed Manager gave demonstration on the purpose and proper application, after discussion we planted 100s of live stakes, 15 people
- Went to Oaklyn Elementary School with NCCD summer intern and agricultural technician to do the soil health and water quality educational event with the enviroscape. ~65 4th grade students
- Presentation at Priestly Library for their Summer Learning Program regarding 3Rs and what those actions can do to help water quality
- Attended Ice Cream Social in Warrior Run Watershed. Did an electrofishing demonstration along with a macroinvertebrate session, ~35 people (both English and Amish individuals)
- Attended Hillside Event- ~55 people. Explained what a watershed is and the Chesapeake Bay watershed, how important it is to preserve our water resource for human survival.
- Participated in the Water Education Day at Briar Lake, held by Columbia CCD. I helped Dr. Jennifer Whisner (Bloomsburg University professor) with the stream table station ~300 students
- Met with Milton High School AP students to do a macro kick with Ms. Biddinger and Mr. Bittner, ~15 students
- Susquehanna University 1st year environmental students macro kick and water chemistry analysis. Compared and contrasted areas of Little Shamokin Creek Watershed ~20 students, October
- Organized Kulpmont Coal History and Water Quality Field day paid for through the awarded 2019 DEP Educational Grant, with News Item coverage, ~85 ppl present
- Milton Career Field Day with NRCS, Pheasants Forever, Penn State Ext, Ag Technician, and Mosquito Coordinator ~13 students
- Presented at Milton High School about live stakes and riparian buffers. Discussed the purpose and the upcoming event opportunity at the Montandon Wetlands, ~85 students
- Hosted livestake harvesting event in cooperation with Chesapeake Conservancy and Susquehanna University. Had volunteers from university and Milton High School - ~20 ppl, harvested 1,131 livestakes from the Montandon Wetlands
- Partnered with Scout Troop 309, the City of Sunbury and the Sunbury Police Department to install "No Dumping Drains to River" stencils in front of storm drains in Sunbury. ~ 15 drains and 12 boy scouts.

MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM, by Brandon Ball

Coordinator Duties

- Supervised and trained Seasonal Technicians and coordinated program activities weekly.
- Selected fixed dragging sites for nymphal ticks for each of the five counties.
- Communicated with municipal officials and workers regarding mosquito breeding sources.
- Communicated with municipal officials and workers regarding West Nile Virus positive response.
- Conducted larval and adult control activities as necessary.
- Ordered surveillance equipment, control equipment, and purchased other items as necessary.
- Attended annual Clarke equipment calibration event to have ProMist Dura truck sprayer calibrated.
- Trained the summer interns on mosquito surveillance techniques.
- Provided training and education about the MBDC program for a DEP intern.
- Set a minimum of ten gravid traps to monitor for *Culex* populations weekly.
- Collected a minimum of five larval samples weekly.
- Set BG-Sentinel traps to monitor for *Aedes albopictus* activity bi-weekly.
- Responded to biting complaints as they were received.
- Entered complaints into West Nile Virus (WNV) database as they were received.
- Regularly entered surveillance and control data into the WNV database.
- Set BG-Sentinel traps to monitor for *Culiseta melanura* and *Coquillettidia perturbans*, both of which are vectors for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).
- Reviewed and updated the Seasonal Mosquito Technician job announcement and job description.
- Worked on outreach letters to municipalities for the Mosquito-borne Disease Control (MBDC) Program.
- Reviewed 2019 Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry.
- Responded to waste tire pile complaint in Fishing Creek Township.
- Reviewed seasonal technician applicant resumes.
- Created a mailing list for all municipalities in the Northcentral Coalition.
- Assisted District Manager with interviewing seasonal technician applicants.
- Updated Material Safety Data Sheet binders.
- Completed a pesticide use and resistance survey.
- Updated virus definitions for Mesa.
- Updated contact information for legislators in the Northcentral Coalition.
- Researched and coordinated the hardwiring of the F-150 Extended Cab truck.
- Reviewed AMCA BMP Manual.
- Updated Garmin GPS units for program work.
- Evaluated pesticide inventory.
- Participated in the monthly PA Arboviral Surveillance Network conference calls.
- Attended the MBDC program kickoff meeting.
- Oversaw MBDC program operational expenditures.
- Worked with the District Manager to manage the MBDC program budget.
- Assisted the Seasonal Technicians with housekeeping duties.
- Conducted surveillance and control equipment maintenance, as necessary.

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118 Sand Valley Rd-Richfield, PA

Firewood

Pick-up, Tri-axle or palletized loads

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MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM, continued

- Inventoried equipment in preparation for the 2020 MBDC program grant negotiations.
- Prepared an operational expense budget for 2020 MBDC program grant negotiations.
- Prepared for and participated in 2020 grant meeting with the District Manager and the DEP Regional Biologist
- Prepared questions for exit interviews with the Seasonal Technicians.
- Assisted the District Manager in conducting exit interviews with the Seasonal Technicians.
- Updated 2020 Pesticide Discharge Management Plan.
- Updated Scope of Work for the 2020 MBDC program grant.
- Created a proposal for a tire recycling event for March of 2020.
- Worked with the Seasonal Technicians to update the nomenclature for all of the trapping sites in our counties.
- Dragged for adult ticks as part of the DEP 2019 Spring/Summer Tick Survey
- Dragged for adult ticks as part of the DEP 2019 Fall/Winter Tick Survey
- Attended the DEP Vector Management End-of-Year meeting.
- Attended the annual Pennsylvania Vector Control Association (PVCA) Conference.
- Examined various municipal codes to determine if they contained sections on standing water.
- Scheduled meetings with several municipalities.
- Gave an educational presentation for Riverside Borough officials.

Education and Outreach

- Created presentation for Annual District Winter Forum.
- Presented on the program at Annual District Winter Forum in Watsontown.
- Drafted and mailed an outreach letter to every municipality in the Northcentral Coalition.
- Drafted 'Three D's of Mosquito Prevention' handout.
- Drafted a 'Who to call' sheet for pests for municipalities.
- Gave some information on repellents to some workers from East Cameron Township. I spoke with the secretary for Jackson Township (Snyder County) about the program and emailed her materials.
- Utilized in-person encounters with citizens to educate them about mosquito-borne diseases, proper source reduction efforts, prevention methods, and other mosquito-related information.
- Met with the Shady Nook Association of Property Owners (SNAPO) to educate them on the program, our surveillance, and control activities in Shady Nook, and steps that they can take to aid in reducing nuisance mosquitoes in the area.
- Educated high school students from Milton High School about mosquito-borne diseases and the program.
- Attended the Union County Township Supervisors Annual Meeting in Lewisburg.

Program Numbers

Table 1: Mosquito Surveillance Events

County	Gravid Trap	BGS Trap	Larval Samples	Complaints
Columbia	173	33	81	11
Montour	118	19	36	2
Northumberland	256	27	106	10
Snyder	158	23	60	1
Union	158	26	63	2
Total	863	128	346	26

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MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM, continued

Table 2: West Nile Virus Positives

	Columbia	Montour	Northumberland	Snyder	Union
Mosquito	0	1	2	2	4
Bird	0	0	0	0	0
Human	0	0	0	0	0
Veterinary	0	0	1	0	0
Total	0	1	3	2	4

Table 3: Mosquito Control Events

	Columbia	Montour	Northumberland	Snyder	Union
Adult Control	2	0	3	2	0
Larval Control	28	10	34	14	16

Table 4: Ticks Collected

	Columbia	Montour	Northumberland	Snyder	Union
Adults	57	56	16	4	4
Immature	2	6	6	0	2

2019 AWARDS, by Judy Becker

Don Cotner, Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Winner: ***Calista Eve Noll, Elysburg***

Raymond D. and Mable E. Shaffer Scholarships
Winners: ***Takia Wilhour, Sunbury; Hannah Schaible, Dornsife; Cortney Kieffer, Dornsife***

Conservation District Patch
Recipients: ***Gabriel Yost of Milton, Nick Bennage of New Columbia, Landon Hetrick of Williamsport (Troop 600; Leader: Andrew Rohrer); Penn Patten of Watsontown, Trent Balzer of Watsontown (Troop 610; Leader: James Kurtz)***

Environmental Educator of the Year
Winner: ***Kate Hoover, Sunbury Christian Academy, 4th Grade***

About the winner: Kate Hoover is a 4th grade teacher at Sunbury Christian Academy.

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Ms. Hoover's environmental education activities and accomplishments during the past three years include:

- Heading up the Trout in the Classroom (PATIC) program at Sunbury Christian Academy (SCA) since December of 2016, including working together with various conservation organizations to plan "release day" events.

- Field trips to Woodward Cave in the Fall of 2018 to learn about the geology of the cave, as well as a program to protect the native bat population, Pioneer Tunnel in the Fall of 2017 to learn about natural resources and mining techniques, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences in the Fall of 2016.

- Butterfly Release: Collected caterpillars, observed metamorphosis and released Monarchs at the beginning of each school year in conjunction with an insect study since 2016.

- Insect Study: Included student collections as well as special visitor "Chester Cricket" (from the Cricket Times Square by George Selden incorporated with literacy program), whom the students took home to journal about his experiences (Fall 2017 and 2018).

Ms. Hoover incorporated science, math, social studies, and English and language arts with her environmental education program. The activities in her classroom gave the students a variety of experiences including hands-on learning, the importance of water quality, the proper handling of equipment and chemicals as they monitored and tested water quality, and they were introduced to the concept of a state fish. Students also learned about the geography of the land surrounding our natural freshwater streams, as well as how historic changes in energy production have affected our native waterways.

Ms. Hoover also involved a number of organizations and government agencies in her classroom instruction. The PA Fish and Boat Commission, the R.B. Winter Chapter of PA Trout Unlimited, the PA Department of Environmental Protection, and the Union County Sportsman's Club worked with Ms. Hoover to provide hands-on instruction on the following: fingerling release with the adult trout stockings in Northumberland County, a hands-on stream study during the fingerling release, and a fly-tying demonstration during the release.

Special Conservation District Award:
David Swank of Paxinos

The Northumberland County Conservation District would like to take this opportunity to recognize an individual who has been involved with our organization for over forty years. In 1976, David Swank joined our Board as an Associate Director. Much has changed since that time, but one thing that never changed was Dave Swank's support of the Conservation District. During a large portion of his time as an Associate Director, Mr. Swank recognized outstanding organizations and individuals and their conservation efforts through awards he sponsored, including the Outstanding Conservation Organization and Outstanding Youth Conservation Organization of the Year Awards and an annual scholarship for students heading into a conservation-related field. He and his wife Judy have been supportive of the District's efforts, and the Board of Directors and staff appreciate their dedication to conservation in Northumberland County.

Northumberland County
Conservation District
441 Plum Creek Road
Sunbury, PA 17801
Phone: (570) 495-4665
Website: www.nccdpa.org

Northumberland County Conservation District

The NCCD, formed in 1943 under the Conservation District Law, is a subdivision of state government and is one of 66 Conservation Districts throughout the state of Pennsylvania. The purpose of the Conservation District is to promote protection, maintenance, improvement, and wise use of the land, water, and other natural resources.

Directors

Mike Hubler: Chairman, Public
Leon Wertz: Vice-Chairman, Farmer
Joseph Klebon: Commissioner
Gary Truckenmiller: Farmer
John Kopp: Farmer
Natalie Wertman: Public
Rich Daniels: Farmer

Mike Erdley: Associate
Dave Crowl: Associate
Lynn Wilson: Associate
Albert Mabus: Associate
John Pfleegor: Associate
Ted Carodiskey: Associate

Staff

Judy Becker: District Manager, AgLand Preservation, Editor
Shirley Snyder: Administrative Assistant, Secretary and Treasurer
Chantel Shambach: Watershed Specialist
Michael McCleary: Erosion & Sediment Technician, Dirt & Gravel Roads
Rachael Moore: Agricultural Conservation Technician
Brandon Ball: Mosquito-borne Disease Control Coordinator
Tyler Heeter: Mosquito-borne Disease Control Technician

NCCD Board of Directors Upcoming Meetings:
May 4th, June 7th, July 2nd at 7:00pm
Please check NCCD website for meeting location. (www.nccdpa.org)