

The Conservationist

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Phone: 570-928-7057

www.sullcon.com

A Publication of the Sullivan
County Conservation District

MISSION

We provide people with information and assistance for making decisions in the conservation management of natural resources by providing quality services

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Students Compete in Envirothon

Students from Sullivan County High School recently competed in the "Environmental Challenge" known as Envirothon. Envirothon is an environmental testing competition conducted on the local, state and international level. Students are tested in forestry, aquatics, soils and land use, wildlife and an annual current issue. Top teams from each county qualify to move on to the PA State Envirothon. The winning state team then goes on to the international competition known as the Canon Envirothon.

Sullivan County took top honors in the Lycoming/Sullivan Envirothon held on April 27th. A total of 24 teams competed for the spot. Students on the top team were Gwen Heess, Eric Swift, Matt Tubach, Rob Torluccio, and Lloyd Mordan. They will now travel to University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown to compete in the state event.

The district would like to thank the Sullivan County Envirothon advisors, Debbie Geist and Dave Lentz, for their dedication in working with and training the students. Other students competing in the local event included Jesse Signore, Tanya Stasiak, Ashley Janney, Lisa Betts, Rachel Janney, Kyle Trinka, and Christian Reibe.

The conservation district sponsors the local Envirothon and also provides funding for the top team to participation in the state event.

Dry Hydrant Program Applications Available

The Endless Mountains RC&D Council is accepting applications from municipalities and fire companies throughout its region. Dry hydrants provide easy access to fill tanker trucks in any weather at readily available water sources. The hydrant is a low cost pipe system installed along a bank of a stream or suitable body of water to provide a supply of water for fire fighting. For more information or an application packet, contact the RC&D at 265-3409 ext. 5



Darla Treaster is Welcomed to District as West Nile Virus Program Assistant for 2004

The conservation district is pleased to have Darla Treaster of Dushore serving as West Nile Virus Program Assistant for the summer.

Darla resides in Sullivan County with her husband Paul and daughter Tamara. She is currently pursuing an associate's degree in dental hygiene. Darla enjoys horseback riding and pretty much anything that has to do with the outdoors.

Her interest in the outdoors, environment and health field are what drew her interest in working with the West Nile Virus Program.

Darla's responsibility during the summer will be to conduct surveillance, trapping, and identification of mosquito pools throughout the county. She will also be involved in providing public education on the prevention of the virus and general mosquito control.

For more information on the West Nile Virus Program in Sullivan County, contact Jay Bagley, program coordinator or Darla Treaster program assistant at 928-7057.

LAND APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS

Biosolids are primarily organic materials produced during wastewater treatment which may be put to beneficial use. An example of such use is the addition of biosolids to soil to supply nutrients and replenish soil organic matter. This is known as land application. Biosolids can be used on agricultural land, forests, rangelands, or on disturbed land in need of reclamation.

Recycling biosolids through land application serves several purposes. It improves soil properties, such as texture and water holding capacity, which make conditions more favorable for root growth and increases the drought tolerance of vegetation. Biosolids application also supplies nitrogen and phosphorous, as well as, the micro nutrients of nickel, zinc, and copper, all of which are essential for plant growth. Biosolids can also serve as an alternative or substitute for expensive chemical fertilizers.

The nutrients in the biosolids offer several advantages over those in inorganic fertilizers because they are organic and are released slowly to growing plants. These organic forms of nutrients are less water soluble, and therefore less likely to leach into groundwater or run off into surface waters.

New Application Round For L.I.S.A.

The Sullivan County Conservation District will be accepting Applications from May 25, until June 8, 2004 for the Limited Input Sustainable Agriculture Program (L.I.S.A.).

The program offers cost share assistance for innovative agricultural practices at a rate of 80% of the expenses incurred up to the maximum of \$2,100.00. The funded practice must be maintained for at least five years. The applications submitted will be ranked by the Conservation District Board on May 8 during their regularly scheduled board meeting at the Agricultural Resources Center in Dushore.

If you would like more information or an application form for the L.I.S.A. Program, please contact Jay Bagley at the Conservation District Office.

2004 Annual Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop

The 2004 workshop will be held at the Potato City Country Inn in Coudersport, PA. The program theme for the workshop will be

“Better Roads, Cleaner Streams”.

The workshop has been scheduled for June 28 – June 30, 2004.

Highlights of the program will include a “Township Day” (Monday, June 28): a program designed with township officials in mind, including a site diagnostic, pipe placement demonstration and a driving surface aggregate (DSA) maintenance demonstration. This is NOT a substitute for the 2-day “Environmental Sensitive Maintenance” training for township officials and other local project participants.

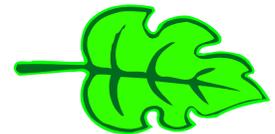
The other two days are set for Quality Assurance Board, District staff and State personnel that work with the program.

If you are interested in attending the “Township Day” or the entire workshop, please contact Randy Reibson by May 28, 2004 so registrations can be completed.

2004 District Seedling Sale a Success

The Sullivan County Conservation District would like to thank everyone who supported the 2004 seedling sale by placing orders. There were 100 orders with approximately 4500 seedlings and trees sold this year. The District donated another 500 seedlings to both elementary schools and Head Start for Arbor Day. This means there should be at least 5,000 new trees growing in the county at this time. All monies raised support Conservation District programs within the County. Thanks again for making this year’s sale a success. We would like to thank Rita Rohe, Hurley’s Super Market, The Sullivan Review and the Cherry Township Supervisors for their support of our fundraiser. We would also like to thank all the businesses that allowed us to post our order forms.

Seedling Sale Coordinator
Randy Reibson



ATTENTION PARENTS: Have Your Child Experience a Summer Adventure

The Endless Mountains RC&D and its partnering agencies are once again offering its Woodland Resource Adventure Camp. The seventeen year old program is held on the campus of Keystone College in La Plume, Wyoming County, PA. The camp will be held July 18-22 and is open to students between the ages of 12 and 15.

The camp is a great summer environmental and forestry experience where students learn about trees, wildlife, aquatic life, logging, streams, soils, urban forestry and how they are all connected. Students will do all this while getting a taste of college campus life by staying in dorm rooms for the five days of activities.

This year’s camp is limited to 30 students. Total cost for registration is \$200.00. The student is expected to pay \$100.00 and the additional cost will be provided through a scholarship by local wood processors, businesses, non-profit organizations and county conservation districts.

The adventure camp is recommended to children who want to learn more about the outdoors and the environment through a hands-on experience. The camp is good in preparing for the Envirothon competitions, 4-H forestry events, and can be used as a credit toward Scout merit badges.

For more information on the Woodland Resource Adventure, contact the Conservation District or the Endless Mountains RC&D at 265-3409 ext. 5

METHAMPHETAMINES: THE FACTS

As we become more aware of the ever-growing concern of drug manufacturing that is taking place in our communities, it becomes even more important to understand the dangers to ourselves and our neighbors.

A special program on methamphetamines will be presented throughout Bradford and Sullivan Counties by Trooper Tom Kelly of the Pennsylvania State Police.

This program will cover everything dealing with methamphetamines including; how it is made, affects on the body, signs of use, signs of a meth lab, and toxic wastes issues. Trooper Kelly will also discuss dealing with someone under the influence and the economic & social impacts on the community.

The program is scheduled to be presented at the following locations and times:

- May 25th - Towanda Gun Club at 1 PM
- June 9th - St. Basil's Hall, Dushore at 6 PM
- June 16th -Troy High School at 6 PM

Calendar of Events

- | | |
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| May 31 | OFFICE CLOSED |
| June 8 | District Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
Ag Resources Center, Dushore |
| June 16 | Registration Deadline for Woodland
Resource Adventure Camp |
| June 19 | Dairy Festival and Parade
Dushore |
| July 5 | OFFICE CLOSED |
| July 13 | District Board Meeting/Picnic
7:00 PM, Connell's Dam |
| July 17 | Managing Wooded Riparian Buffers
along Lakes, Ponds and Streams
10:00 AM Mt. Pisgah State Park |

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