



Dirt On the District

Annual Photo Contest

2021 Photo Contest entries are rolling in and we are so excited!
Don't miss your chance to show off your photos and chance for a cash prize! \$\$

Entries will be accepted until **January 14th, 2022**

In an effort to support the conservation of our natural resources, we believe it is important to allow the public an opportunity to showcase what they feel are Lawrence County's finest natural resources.

To participate in the Annual Photo Contest you will find an entry form and contest rules on our website www.lawrencecd.org.

All entries can be mailed or personally delivered to the
Lawrence County Conservation District Office.

If you intend to deliver the photos in person, please call ahead to Jeannie Shay at 724-333-2817

Shirley Seymour
"Looking for his gal"
2020 Submission



Social Media Outreach

The world of Social Media is ever changing and we would like to be part of newest trends to ensure we have the most successful outreach in the community.

Tell us where we can best reach you. Is it Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube or TikTok? Perhaps you can suggest something better. Help us reach our Social Media potential and Email your suggestions to jshay@lawrencecd.org.

In the meantime, "Invite" your family and friends on Facebook to "Like" our page and hit our goal of **1000 Likes!**



Lawrence County Conservation District

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@Lawrence County
Conservation District



Instagram
LCCD_DOD

Take Time to Check for Ticks

Environmental Outreach

The District provides environmental education programs to both adult and youth audiences. The district hosts a variety of programs such as **Summer Nature Camps** but also conducts programs throughout the year by request.

To help fund educational programs, the district has an **Annual Spring Seedling Sale**. The sale is between February - March with orders being available for pick up in April.

Donations Are Needed

Consider a Donation to our **Summer Nature Camps**.

Donations of Check or Cash can be mailed in or personally delivered to the Conservation Office.

Checks payable to *Lawrence County Conservation District or LCCD*

Credit Card Payments are also accepted through PayPal – lcd@lawrenceconservationdistrict.org

What a beautiful time to year in Lawrence County to be out hiking and hunting. The sights of fall foliage are mesmerizing. Nothing says Autumn better than cooler temperatures, rustling leaves and biting ticks.... Biting Ticks??!! Unfortunately, in our area this is a prime time for Adult Blacklegged Ticks (commonly known as Deer Ticks) to be grasping to anyone who comes near.

These tiny creatures can pack a harmful punch if they get the opportunity to bite. The most common illness transmitted in Pennsylvania is Lyme's Disease. Typically this can be avoided if found within 24 hours. Which is why it is so essential to "Check for Ticks"

after a wooded hike and to implement precautions. It is suggested if you do find a tick bite to call your primary care physician in case an antibiotic is necessary.

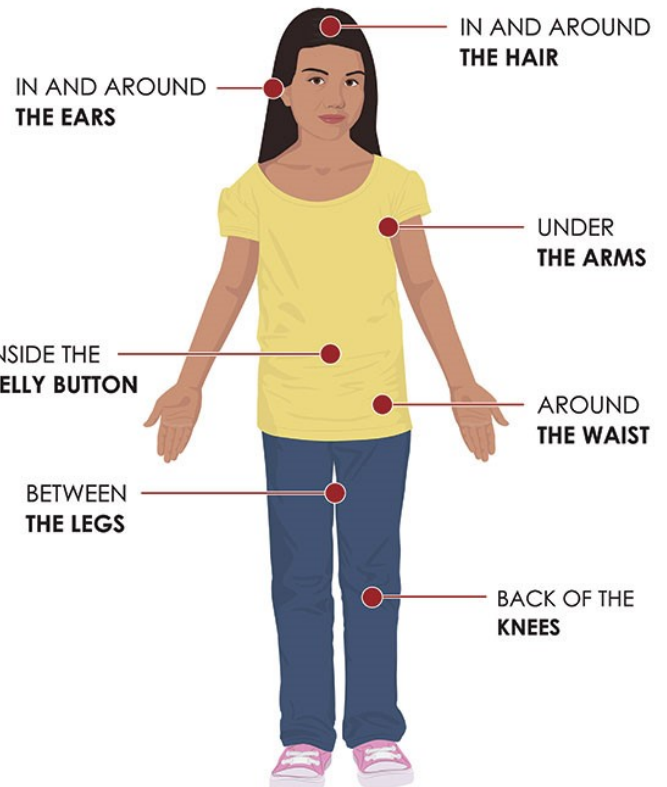
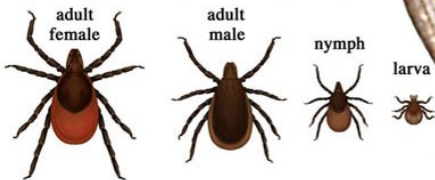


Best Practices include staying in the middle of marked trails avoiding the brushy edges. Wear long pants with tall socks or muck boots. Dress in long sleeves being sure to tuck in shirts. If available, treat clothing with a Permethrin Spray (details on next page). Another trick is to use a Lint Roller to remove unwanted hitchhikers.

Upon completion of your excursion, be sure to wash and dry clothing suspected of having possible ticks attached. Ticks can survive submerged in water so don't skip using the dryer.

Finally, be sure to check your own self being careful to look everywhere including armpits, behind ears, behind knees, on the scalp, along your hairline, on the back of your neck, around your waist band and groin, inside your belly button, around your elbows, around your boot or shoe laces, and between your toes.

Blacklegged Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)



PERMETHRIN FACT SHEET

DID YOU KNOW??

WHAT IS PERMETHRIN?

- It is a stable (synthetic) form of an insecticidal compound produced by the chrysanthemum flower.
- It is commonly used to treat lice (Nix 1% shampoo) and scabies infections (5% cream).
- It biodegrades quickly in contact with soil and water.
- It is odorless and will not stain clothing.

HOW WELL DOES IT WORK?

- It has been used as a clothing treatment to prevent bites from ticks, flies, and mosquitoes since the 1970s, and used by the military since the 1990s.
- It provides a quick tick knock-down effect – both repels and kills.
- A URI study found that people wearing permethrin-treated sneakers and socks were 73.6 times less likely to have a tick bite than those wearing untreated footwear.
- Each at-home treatment lasts for roughly 3-4 weeks (with washing!).
- Commercially-treated clothes can last up to 70 washes.

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT USING THIS CHEMICAL?

- Permethrin is over 2,250 times more toxic to ticks than humans.
- Put directly on the skin, typically less than 1% of active ingredient is absorbed into the body; DEET can be absorbed at over 20 times that rate.
- Exposure risk of permethrin-treated clothing to toddlers is 27 times below the EPA's Level of Concern (LOC).
- A 140-pound person would have no adverse health effects if exposed to 32 grams of permethrin/day. There is less than 1 gram of permethrin in an entire bottle of clothing treatment.
- Permethrin is pregnancy category B (showing no evidence of harm to fertility or fetus).

****Caution:** Permethrin won't hurt humans or dogs but it is harmful to bees, fish, and aquatic insects – do not spray clothing near flowers or water sources. Do not allow cats near permethrin-treated clothing until it has fully dried.



Treating your shoes with permethrin repellent is TickSmart and should be done every month throughout the spring and summer.



Sources:

United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2006. Permethrin Facts. http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/factsheets/permethrin_fs.htm
Toynnton K, Luukinen B, Buhl K, Stone D. 2009. Permethrin General Fact Sheet; National Pesticide Information Center, Oregon State University Extension Services. <http://n-pic.orst.edu/factsheets/PermGen.html>
Miller NJ, Rainone EE, Dyer MC, Gonzalez ML, Mather TN. 2011. Tick bite protection with permethrin-treated summer-weight clothing. J. Med. Entomol. 48(2):327-333. http://www.tickencounter.org/pub/tick_repellent_clothing.pdf

Watershed Specialist - Multi Agency Collaboration

For the past two years, Mary Burris, Watershed Specialist, has been working with other local agencies including the Lawrence Mercer Recycling and Solid Waste Department and on the Shenango Climate and Rural Environmental Study Team (SCREST). SCREST is a network of local organizations, businesses, groups, and nonprofits in northwestern PA striving to provide opportunities for climate education and facilitating the conversation about climate within the surrounding communities. The effort is spearheaded by Mercer County Conservation District and encompasses the Climate and Rural Systems Partnership (CRSP) which is a collaboration between the SCREST members, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Powdermill Nature Reserve.

Through this network we strive to provide opportunities for climate education and open up the conversation about it within our surrounding communities. These conversations are the foundation for fostering relationships and collaborations within our communities to identify, plan, and act on local climate change environmental impacts.

The major goals of the network are to 1) Define locally relevant environmental topics and issues impacting our communities, 2) Address these local impacts through cooperative planning and environmental action, 3) Provide a safe platform to talk about complicated issues including climate change, and 4) Build and establish valuable network connections and collaborative efforts.

As a network we have identified three areas of concern to focus on; stormwater and flooding resilience, agriculture and food production, and climate gardening (showcasing how land use impacts climate change). The network formed three sub groups to address these issues. The stormwater and flooding resilience group has created a story map highlighting the Shenango River as it was voted Pennsylvania River of the Year. The map highlights both issues and solutions in the Watershed and can be viewed here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9f562a5dc2de4ddbace640696cca9b11>

The climate gardening group has conducted several workshops on various gardening topics and has these two scheduled for November and December.



Topic: No-Dig Gardening

Are you tired of hurting your back every spring turning over the soil in your garden? Are you sick of losing out to weeds every summer? Join us to learn more about the "new" No-Dig Gardening method. How, why, what works, what to watch out for, what you need to get started. Nature has been doing this for a long time so let's stop working so hard to fight against the natural system!

November 18, 2021
6:30 – 7:30pm on Zoom

Guest Speaker: Dave Cole, Penn State Master Gardener
Dave is a lifelong gardener with over a half-century of experience with his hands in the soil. As a convert to "No-Dig" Gardening, he no longer breaks his back turning soil and harming his garden by doing so. Follow his journey of discovery and see how you can get better results with less sweat and sore muscles!

No cost, but prior registration required. Visit
www.mercercountycd.com/education/climate-education

Hosted by: Mercer County Conservation District & Shenango CREST Climate Garden partner agencies & organizations



Topic: Rain Gardens

Join us in December to learn all about rain gardens! Rain gardens can offer a sustainable solution to the effects of climate change in their use of plants as a tool for flood mitigation. Rain gardens mimic natural rainwater retention and infiltration characteristics. They can also increase landscape biodiversity, provide wildlife habitat, and increase curb appeal.

December 15, 2021
6:30 – 7:30pm on Zoom

Guest Speaker:
Amy Reeher, Trumbull Soil & Water Conservation District
Amy provides watershed education, watershed plan implementation, watershed group support, and more. She currently serves as a MCD Associate Director and Munnell Run Farm Board Member.

No cost, but prior registration required. Visit
www.mercercountycd.com/education/climate-education

Hosted by: Mercer County Conservation District & Shenango CREST Climate Garden partner agencies & organizations

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program



Municipal forces installing a new cross pipe on Chewton West Pittsburg Road.

The fall season kicked off the completion of the last phase of improvements on Chewton West Pittsburg Road in Shenango Township.

Earlier in the summer, the road crew, with the assistance of Becca Naber, District Technician, completed installation and upgrade of several cross pipes. New pipes were installed in areas where drainage was entering the roadway. Existing pipes were upgraded with improved alignment to allow for better stormwater passage and structural head and end-walls were added to all of the new drainage features. Adjustment of the pipe alignment provides the stormwater less of an opportunity to “destabilize” or erode the ditches.

This practice helps minimize movement of sediment and road material to our area waterways.

Shenango Township’s addition of structural head and end-walls on the pipes provides stability to the road edge and added protection to the area around the pipe where the stormwater enters the drainage system. One of the reasons that the program requires that head and end-walls are constructed is because whenever water changes

direction within the landscape it causes turbulence that has the potential to erode the area around the entrance to a pipe.

Following the drainage and stabilization work in September, the municipal road crew in cooperation with Youngblood Paving, paver-placed over 2500 linear feet of the DGLVR’s specialized aggregate blend called Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) on the road surface.

DSA is a blend of limestone with a well graded stone size that when properly compacted “locks” or binds together to create a stabilized stone driving surface. DSA is put down on the road surface by tailgating the material into a traditional paver. Using a paver allows the material to stay properly mixed and placed in a uniform lift with a consistent cross slope onto the prepared road surface.

The Lawrence Conservation District enjoyed completing another project with our private and municipal partners to continue to bring better road maintenance practices and protection to our area watersheds.

Our office would like to encourage any and all municipalities who are interested in projects for the 2022 construction season to get in touch with **Becca Naber, District Technician, at bnaber@lawrencecd.org**



Shenango Township and Youngblood Paving working to place DSA from a quarry in Armstrong Co.



Chapter 102 Erosion & Sediment Control

After an NPDES permit is issued, a pre-construction meeting must be held at least 7 days prior to the construction start date according to the permit conditions. Primarily permittees, contractors, engineers, municipality personnel, and regulatory agencies (DEP or Conservation Districts) attend. The main purpose of the meeting is to ensure that everyone involved with the project is on the same page.

What is Discussed during a Pre-construction Meeting?

Pre-construction meetings allows all the parties involved with the earth disturbance project to meet and discuss all aspects of the project from beginning to end. These meetings are especially important for the permitting agency to verbally remind the contractors about specific items and answer any questions others may have.

One of the first questions from the regulatory agency is regarding the project timeframe. When will the earth disturbance begin? This is crucial to note because the site inspector needs to perform the first inspection within the first 30 days of the project start date. Then the inspector will perform site inspections periodically throughout the duration of the project.

Then, DEP or the Conservation District reminds the contractor to install the perimeter E&S controls first which is typically compost filter sock or silt fence to keep the sediment controlled on site while vegetative clearing is taking place. The contractor is required to inspect the erosion controls weekly and after rain events of 0.25 inches or greater according to permit conditions.

It is important to ask the contractor whether anything is not feasible for them to properly complete onsite in accordance with the plan and if a future modification to the plan will be submitted. This gives the permitting agency notice that a review of the modification will need to be conducted.

The contractor usually gives the regulatory agency a co-permittee form at the meeting which adds them to the permit. They will be held responsible should issues occur on site. These can range from not following the construction sequence to sedimentation in to a nearby waterway.

A Notice of Termination (NOT) is required to be filed after the permitted site is stabilized with vegetation and the temporary best management practices (BMPs) are removed. The post-construction stormwater management (PCSM) BMPs also need to be functioning correctly and certified by a professional engineer. Once the permit is terminated, then the contractor is no longer responsible to maintain temporary stormwater controls.

Finally, the regulatory agency at the meeting will confirm that the contractor has the current copy of the erosion & sedimentation and post-construction stormwater plans. This ensures that the project will be completed in accordance with the plan that was approved.



How to Apply for NPDES Permits

NPDES permits are required for earth disturbances greater than 1 acre.

Step 1: Contact an environmental engineer for assistance filling out the application.

Step 2: Visit DEP's "E&S Resource" webpage for permitting forms and instructions. www.dep.pa.gov.

Step 3: Visit our website at www.lawrencecd.org to download LCCD's E&S Pollution Control Plan Fee Schedule.

**Contact E&S Technician
Jillian Court at
jcourt@lawrencecd.org
or 724-714-3315 with
questions.**

Agriculture Best Management Practices

The Lawrence County Conservation District has been busy helping to install multiple BMP's on the Bohonik Dairy Farm. The district so far has installed a grassed waterway and an access road with mine belt diverts to help with storm water runoff. Alongside the access road are drains to take the storm water to a vegetated area and divert it away from the Animal Heavy Use Area (AHUA). The farm also had a silo removed and reused the crushed concrete as top dressing on the access road. The District proposed to install a permanent rock construction entrance and rainspouts on the buildings to keep storm water from going onto the AHUA. The benefits of such would reduce sediment and animal waste from flowing into the local waterways.

**For information about Agriculture Best Management Practices, please contact
Travis Gates, Agriculture Technician at 724-656-2473 or tgates@lawrenceccd.org**

Before the Access Road



Access Road in Process



**Drainage Ditch to the vegetated area.
Planting will be next step**



**Drain installed along this Access Road.
Used Mine Belts in construction to divert stormwater.**



GET THE KIDS OUTSIDE

TODAY I WANT TO BE...

1. an ichthyologist!

- I'm going to study **fish**. I'll go to a pond, lake, river or ocean and see what I can spy in the water.

2. an entomologist!

- I'm going to study **insects**. I'll find a sit spot in my backyard or local park and quietly observe insects' behavior.



3. a hydrologist!

- I'm going to study the movement of **water**. When it rains, I'll go outside and see where the water goes. Does it create puddles or make streams?

4. a geologist!

- I'm going to study **rocks**. I'll collect pebbles and rocks and look closely to see how they are similar and how they are different (color, texture, shape, size, etc.).

5. a mycologist!

- I'm going to study **fungi**. Without touching, I'm going to look for mushrooms on the ground and fungus on the trees.

6. an ornithologist!

- I'm going to study **birds**. I'll find a quiet spot outside and see how many birds I can see or hear, then try to identify any differences between them (color, call, behavior, etc.).





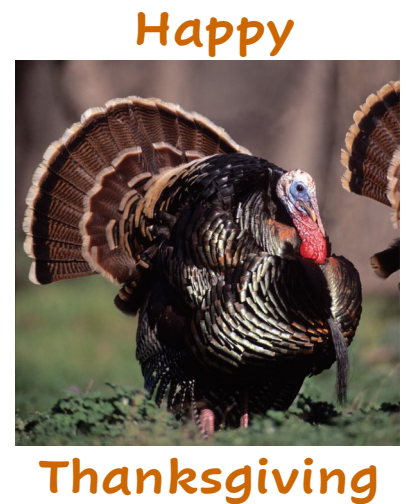
It's why I'm here.

Michael G. Joseph, Agent
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 New Castle, PA 16105
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Your home and car are more than just things. They're where you make your memories – and they deserve the right protection. I get it. It's why I'm here.
LET'S TALK TODAY.

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 1706811



If you are researching opportunities to donate to a nonprofit organization, consider becoming a Sponsor for our 2022 Environmental Education Programming. Our goal is to educate and promote interest in the conservation of our natural resources to all community members.
 Your support makes our goals a reality.
 Find Sponsorship details on our Webpage - www.lawrencecd.org - in January 2022.

2021 - Board of Directors

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 Cliff Wallace - Secretary
 Bruce Badger - Treasurer
 Dan Vogler - Commissioner Member
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 Gary McConnell - Ag Member
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Conservation District Staff

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Becca Naber	District Technician
Travis Gates	Agriculture Technician
Mary Burris	Watershed Specialist
Jillian Court	E & S Technician
Jeannie Shay	Outreach/Education Technician

Would you like to see your Business Advertised in this email publication?

Contact us for rates! Jshay@lawrencecd.org

The "Dirt on the District" is emailed quarterly to over 400 individuals and businesses in Lawrence County and is published on our social media outlets and webpage.



FOLLOW US ON
facebook

Help our Facebook Grow!!

Invite your family and friends to "Like" our page as we strive for **1000** Followers before January 2022!!!



LAWRENCE COUNTY
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT