



# Dirt On the District

## 2022 Lawrence County Fair

Lawrence County Fair week **August 15th-20th!**

While out getting your fill of fair food treats and checking out the live animals and various exhibits, stop by the Conservation District table. Our theme this year **“What can you do to bring Dirt to Life?”**

Check out the **2021 Photo Contest Winners** and learn how to enter in the 2022 contest.

It's always an educational experience to talk with our staff and see what the Conservation District provides for the County Community!



### Lawrence County Conservation District

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## Annual Photo Contest

We are accepting entries for the **2022 Photo Contest**.  
Entries will be accepted until **January 13th, 2023**

**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](http://www.lawrencecd.org).

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



Shirley Seymour  
“Ring-Necked  
Pheasant”

2021 Submission



@Lawrence County  
Conservation District



Instagram

LCCD\_DOD

## What Is the Conservation District?

Conservation Districts are a unique unit of government. They are local organizations with local ties to conservation efforts, but they are also political subdivisions of state government. They receive monetary and other needed assistance from local, state, federal, and private entities. This allows conservation districts to draw from many sources to carry out their responsibilities in their county, making them efficient and effective.

### How is a Conservation District organized?

Conservation Districts are comprised of two halves that work together to accomplish community goals: a volunteer board of directors and a group of professional, well-trained staff.

### Why are Conservation Districts important?

Conservation Districts were created to promote the protection, maintenance, improvement, and wise use of land, water, and other related natural resources within their communities. Our guiding philosophy, is that decisions about conservation issues should be made at the local level by citizens who understand their local environment.

### Mission:

The Lawrence County Conservation District is committed to the protection, stewardship and conservation of the County's natural resources to ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of the landowners of the County.

**Our goal is to help Lawrence County achieve Clean Water and Healthy Soil.  
Stop by our table during the Lawrence County Fair for your free sticker!**



## 2022 Nature Camp

LCCD hosted the 8th Annual Nature Camp Week at Ewing Park in Ellwood City July 25th - 29th. If we are to measure success with participation, this was our BEST year yet with 21 campers! With such high volume of interest we opened registration to ages ranging from 7-12.

Again, six attendees were from the previous year.

Monday's Theme was "**Buzzing about Nature**". For the 3rd year, we started the day with a **Wild Edible Educator, Andrew Palumbo**. Along our hike, campers were introduced to Wood Sorrel - many called it "lemon grass" due to it's flavor. Also found a May Apple, not yet ripe and lots of Chanterelle mushrooms. As a morning treat, Mr. Palumbo brought homemade elderberry scones along with a elderberry and blackberry jam. It was DELICIOUS!

As our second presenter, we welcomed back local **beekeeper - Ted Starmack**. He brought the popular Observation Hive, giving all campers a close look at the inner workings of a beehive. It took a while, but we finally found the Queen!



We finished the day with a **Fish Biologist, Ray Starmack**. He taught the campers some aquatic basics and let everyone have a chance to be "hands-on", literally, with Red Faced Shiners.

"**Critters that Crawl, Climb and Fly**" was the theme for Tuesday.

Our first presentation was provided by Naturalist, April Claus. Campers got to watch a Toad eat - using his eyes, touch three different snakes, and see turtles and toadlets- yes its a word.



The second presentation was with our region's **DCNR Forester, Dave Cole**. Such a wealth of information! He showed us a Cucumber Tree. Also learned that poison ivy vines have Arial roots that soak up moisture in the air.

Finally we ended the day with birds from **Tamarak Wildlife Center**. Campers got up close with Kestrels, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Screech Owl.



## 2022 Nature Camp continued

### Day 3 Nature Camp. "Furry WingsDay"!

We started with a fun relay game passing rubber bands on straws - just to get everyone moving. Next a "fan favorite" was our Scavenger Hunt.



Our first presentation was from **Wish Upon a Butterfly** with Andrea Hopper. Campers learned the butterfly basics then had the opportunity to feed the Painted Ladies and Monarchs. Our own volunteer, Randi Jo, helped illustrate by wearing the butterfly costume! As we finished this lesson, campers participated in a Butterfly Release.



Our last lesson of the day was provided by the **Pennsylvania Game Commission**. Officers Kendall and Babilion shared facts about Whitetail Deer and Black Bears.

The PA Game Commission even demonstrated how a Bear trap works. Campers had hands on fun with furs and skulls. Did you know Antlers are made of solid bone. They are fastest growing bone known to man.

Complete growth happens in four months.



## 2022 Nature Camp continued

### Day 4 Nature Camp- "Let's get Creeky"!

Even though we didn't make down to the Connoquenessing Creek- we still had a blast. Today was slower paced so we actually got two crafts done. Mini Turtles and Rain Cycle bracelets. Campers started the day learning how health of habitats can affect wildlife populations by playing "OH Deer". Was fun seeing the "Drama scenes" of Deer not surviving..



Next was our Tiny Turtle craft. Everyone enjoyed this such they all made two turtles!

To cool off in the afternoon heat we played some water games. Let me say there are fierce competitors in this group.



As the day ended, Jeannie Shay, Watershed Specialist incorporated some education on macroinvertebrates. Even shared some live samples collected from the night before. Campers saw a crayfish, and several mayflies nymphs and the remains of Dobson Fly!



### Day 5 Nature Camp "Soil & Paintings are a Hoot"

For our final day of camp we started with an Owl Painting. Supplies were donated by **Casey K. Creations**. It's always fun to see the different variations and creativity.



For snack time, campers learned about soil layers from Sydney White with the USDA-National Resources Conservation Service. The soil layers were represented by oreos, pudding, chocolate chips, coconut and gummy worms. Most delicious soil ever!!

Naturally we had to literally run off that energy- so campers had a water balloon fight! Once those ran out, they used sponges. Was so fun!

The Conservation District served up a Pizza Party for lunch. One of the highlights was the Watermelon

As we wrapped up the day, each camper received a T-shirt and Certificate.

We did our best taking a group photo.

Everyone had a great week. We all learned new fun facts and made new friends.





## Nature Camp Thank You

We really appreciate all who helped to help make Nature Camp a success!

**To the families of the campers:** moms and dads  
grandparents, neighbors and sitters;

Your help with transportation is what allows us to have a camp.

**To this year's volunteers; Mia Pisano and Randi Jo Woloszyn:**  
Having your support and extra eyes helps keep everyone at camp safe.

**Conservation District Staff:**

The entire staff helps with planning, education, and facilitation.



**Special Thanks to all of our presenters and donors during camp week!!  
Your time and expertise are appreciated and were a  
huge addition to the learning experience!**

**Andrew Palumbo** - Wild Edible Educator

**Ted Starmack** - Local Beekeeper

**Ray Starmack** - Fish Biologist

**Dave Cole** - DCNR Forester

**April Claus** - Naturalist

**Andrea Hooper** - Wish Upon A Butterfly

**Officers Kendall and Babilon** - PA Game Commission

**Sydney White** - USDA - NRCS

**Tamarack Wildlife Center**

**Sponsors for 2022: Michael Joseph State Farm Insurance  
Casey K. Creations Paintings and Ceramics  
Ben Franklin's Grille  
Preston Auto Group  
Pizza Joes**

## Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program

Recently, the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads (CDGRs) expanded their policies for the replacement of stream culverts. The new policies implemented this summer are aimed to provide better “continuity” of streams that have been impacted by culverts that are too small and poorly aligned. What does this mean for projects funded by the program in your local community?

It is another way the Conservation District is working with our municipal partners to provide a better road system that contributes less impact to our natural stream systems.

The idea of stream continuity benefits both the stream and the residents that use the road that is over the new stream culvert. Continuity means that we are trying to provide an unbroken, or consistent piece of the stream through the culvert. We will be looking up and down stream of the culvert to see how the stream looks and flows and try to establish a similar section under the road.

Historically, culverts were installed in a manner that often forced the stream to flow through awkward angles and different elevations than the natural stream channel. These situations often create the common maintenance problems like erosion, sediment bar deposition and scour that plague the municipality’s road crews who are tasked with upkeep. A culvert that is too small can contribute to flooding in the areas up and down stream of the road resulting in impacts to neighboring properties. Providing continuity can help these situations by minimizing the wear and tear on a culvert structure.

District Technician, Becca Naber attended several weeks of training to learn techniques to assess streams. Training included how to evaluate stream features including the stream’s slope, width, and flow characteristics. As a result, the District working in cooperation with CDGRs and SCC can assist municipalities install better stream crossing culverts. The process includes taking an elevation survey called a long profile to provide information to the municipalities’ engineers during the design and permitting of the new culverts. Several municipalities have already requested assistance with their stream structures and our staff will be working to provide technical guidance as the year progresses.

If your municipality is interested in replacing a stream culvert and would like to apply for DGLVR funds, get in touch with District Technician, Becca Naber at 724-652-2462 or [bnaber@lawrencecd.org](mailto:bnaber@lawrencecd.org).



A culvert on Lower Boyd School Road that does not provide continuity for the stream.



## Chapter 102 Erosion & Sediment Control

There are many factors that affect erosion such as soil characteristics, vegetative cover, topography, and climate. For example, soils with greater fine sand and silt content are the most erodible whereas soils with more organic matter improves stability. Also, vegetative cover is important to reduce soil erodibility because the vegetation's roots hold the soil particles in place. These factors are complicated further when construction activities take place.

### Erosion Problems Associated with Construction Sites

Land development often expose soils to increased stormwater runoff. The shaping of land for construction purposes changes the soil characteristics which is detrimental to infiltration and runoff patterns. Erosion can be increased to 10 or more times the natural rate which can be harmful to surrounding properties and receiving waterways.

There are serious potential hazards that can occur due to a construction project including:

- Increased exposure of soil to erosive forces.
- Increased volumes of stormwater runoff, accelerated erosion and sediment yield, and higher peak flows caused by:
  - ⇒ Removal of vegetation.
  - ⇒ Exposure of underlying soil which are more erodible than the surface soil.
  - ⇒ Soils reduced capacity to absorb rainfall due to compaction by heavy equipment.
  - ⇒ Enlarged drainage areas caused by grading and stormwater conveyance facilities.
  - ⇒ Prolonged exposure of disturbed areas due to scheduling problems.
- Alteration of the groundwater regime which affects drainage systems, slope stability and vegetative survival.
- Exposure of subsurface materials that are unfavorable to the establishment of vegetation.

Erosion best management practices (BMPs) and post-construction BMPs are implemented to mitigate these hazards.



### 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](http://www.dep.pa.gov).

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

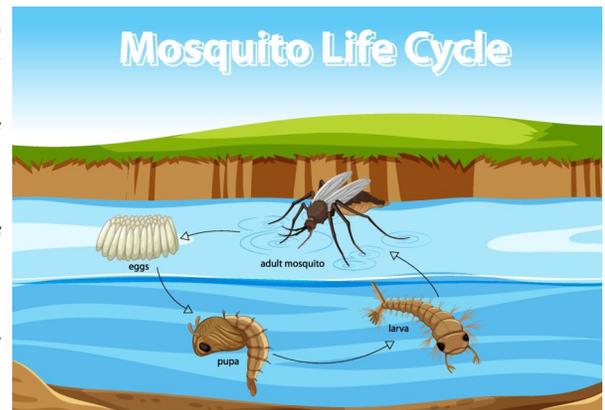
**Contact E&S Technician  
Jillian Court at  
[jcourt@lawrencecd.org](mailto:jcourt@lawrencecd.org)  
or 724-714-3315 with  
questions.**

## Mosquito Prevention Around Your Home

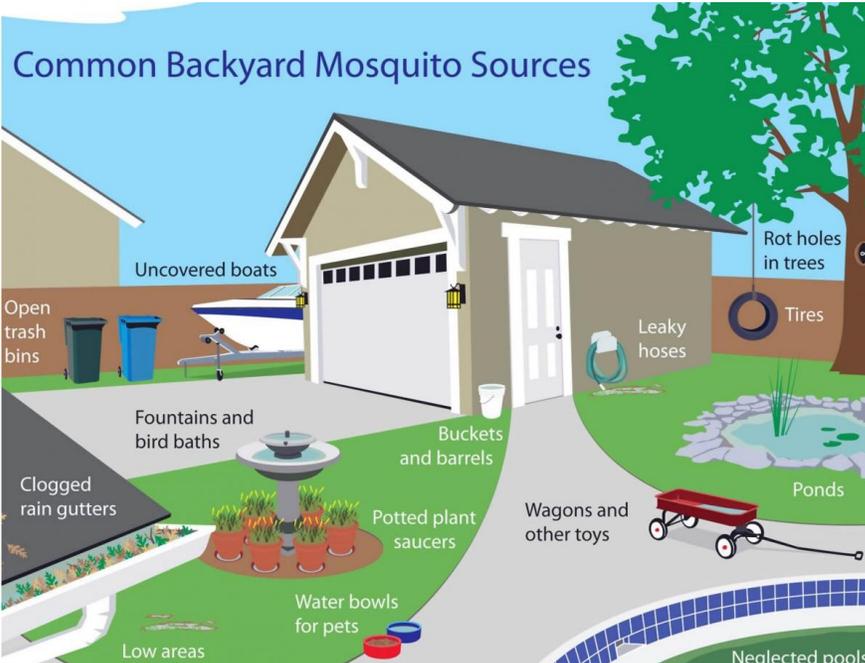
Mosquitoes can carry many diseases such as West Nile Virus which can be life threatening to humans and animals. In Pennsylvania, West Nile Virus maintains itself in nature by cycling between mosquitoes and certain species of birds. An adult mosquito (the vector) bites an uninfected bird (the host), the virus amplifies within the bird, an uninfected mosquito bites the bird and is in turn infected. This cycle compounds itself through summer and fall, increasing the likelihood of someone being bitten by a diseased mosquito. The people most at risk for West Nile Virus are individuals over the age of 50 and immunocompromised. Therefore, it is important to control the mosquito population around your home for the safety of you, your family and neighbors.



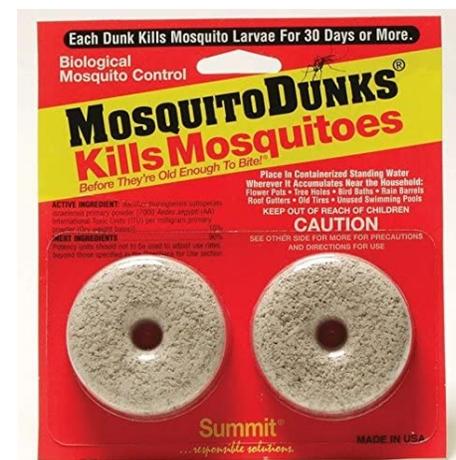
First, let's talk about a mosquito's life cycle. The female mosquito obtains a blood meal from a human or animal. Then, she lays her eggs on or near water and sometimes at the base of certain plants that fill with water. As little as one teaspoon or bottle cap of water is enough for mosquitoes to breed and multiply. Next, the eggs hatch in the standing water and a mosquito larva emerges. The larva lives in the water and develops into the third stage of the life cycle called a pupa. Finally, the adult emerges from the pupal case after two days to a week in the pupal stage. The life cycle can take up to two week; however, it can range from four days to a month depending on water temperature, food and type of mosquito.



To prevent mosquitoes from breeding, it is important to put away unused items outside of your house that collect water. Items such as tires, buckets, toys, pools, pool covers, birdbaths, trash containers, boat or car covers, roof gutters, coolers, and pet dishes can be a mosquito breeding ground. Empty, turn over, or cover these items to control the mosquito population. Keep flower pots and saucers free of standing water. There are some plants that hold water in their leaves; therefore, remember to flush out water-holding plants with your hose at least once a week. The diagram below shows common backyard sources where mosquitoes could breed. If you cannot empty the standing water, you can treat it with mosquito dunks which kill mosquitoes at the larval stage. Dunks can be purchased at your local hardware stores, chain stores or online.



Please contact our office should you take these steps to alleviate the mosquitoes in your backyard but continue to have a large scale mosquito issue. There are cases when a more intense spray by a certified professional needs to occur.





**It's why I'm here.**

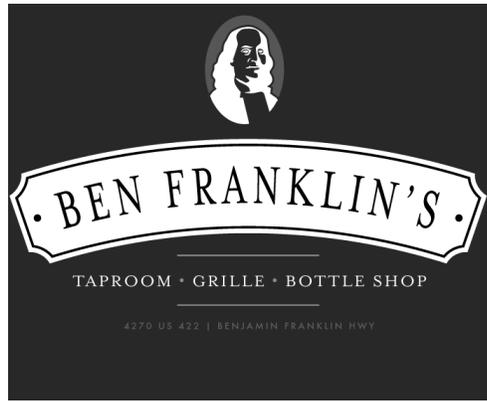
**Michael G. Joseph, Agent**  
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New Castle, PA 16105  
Bus: 724-652-9806  
www.agentmichaeljoseph.com

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.**



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
Bloomington, IL

1706811



# Preston Auto Group



## 2022 - Board of Directors

- Cliff Wallace - Chairman
- Blane Sturgeon - Vice Chairman
- Bruce Badger - Secretary
- Dan Vogler - Treasurer
- Don Hoye - Public Member
- Phil Dean - Ag Member
- Gary McConnell - Ag Member
- Frank Romeo - Associate Director

## Conservation District Staff

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Joann McCready | District Manager  |
| Mary Burris    | Assistant Manager   |
| Becca Naber    | District Technician                                       |
| Jillian Court  | E & S Technician  |
| Jeannie Shay   | Watershed Specialist / Educator<br>Agriculture Technician |



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**LAWRENCE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**