



# ***Pike County Conservation District***

## ***Annual Report 2012***

### ***A Letter from the District Board Chairman***

The Conservation District is committed to the protection of the natural resources of Pike County. The District continually works on this commitment in a number of ways. This Annual Report highlights these activities including monitoring our streams and groundwater for quality and quantity, providing educational programs on watershed protection to all audiences, and working with landowners on the permitting process through our state delegated programs.

The District Board and Staff recognize the importance of communicating this commitment and are continually working to find new ways to share this message with the community. This task would be daunting if it were not for the many partners that support District efforts. The Board and Staff would like to thank the Pike County Commissioners, municipal officials, and numerous state and local partners who support these efforts and District programs.

As we pause to reflect on the many District accomplishments of 2012 and the 23 years of exemplary service of Executive Director Susan Beecher, the Board and Staff welcome the new Executive Director Sally Corrigan. A special thank you to my fellow District Board Members, whose dedication to the resources of Pike County is equaled by those of the District Staff.

We encourage you to explore the wealth of natural resources that are in our own back yard. The District leads the way and is constantly working to ensure that the quality of life that we enjoy today is here for generations to come.

*PCCD Board Chairman Scott Savini*



#### **OUR MISSION**

*Pike County Conservation District is committed to natural resources conservation through leadership, education, technical assistance, planning and enforcement to ensure the long term protection and sustainable use of Pike County's natural resources and implementation of environmentally sound development and land use practices.*

### ***Executive Director Susan Beecher Retires***

Executive Director Susan Beecher retired in December 2012 after 23 years with the District. Susan was a staunch advocate for the environment during her tenure promoting the long-term protection and sustainable use of Pike County's natural resources through sound land use planning and environmental compliance. Susan partnered with numerous federal, state and local officials and agencies, businesses, organizations and sportsmen's groups to advance the District's mission. "I'm proud of the way the District has maintained its focus on natural resource protection, in spite of many outside pressures to settle for less. I have great confidence in the abilities of the District staff and the commitment of the Board to make this transition to new leadership a smooth one," states Beecher.

Board Chairman Scott Savini stated "It's been a real pleasure to have worked with Susan. She has exemplary management skills and an unparalleled passion for protecting our natural resources. Pike County is a much better place to live and work as a result of Susan's tireless efforts." The District and local and state government representatives recognized Ms. Beecher for her 23 years of service at the District's Annual Dinner held at Ehrhardt's on Lake Wallenpaupack in November.



Executive Director Susan Beecher  
(Photo by Ken Baumel)

## *District Board Update*

### **2012 Board of Directors**

Scott Savini, Chairman  
 Bob Engvaldsen, Vice Chairman  
 Linda Cioppa, Treasurer  
 Richard Caridi, Commissioner  
 Ray Banach, Roy Borgfeld,  
 Peter Helms

### **Associate Directors**

Ken Ersbak,  
 Carole Linkiewicz, John Milliken

### **2012 District Staff**

Susan Beecher, Executive Director  
 Michele Ulmer, Administrative Manager  
 Kelly Rodemich, Program Assistant/  
 Gypsy Moth Coordinator  
 Tina Spizuoco, Administrative Assistant  
 Ellen Enslin, Senior Resource  
 Conservationist  
 Russell Seese, Resource Conservationist  
 Marianna Quartararo, Resource  
 Conservationist  
 Lori Colgan, Watershed Specialist

### **Monthly Meetings**

Held the third Monday  
 of each month  
 (unless otherwise advertised)  
 9:00 am at the District Office in  
 Blooming Grove.  
 The public is invited to attend.

### **District Office**

556 Route 402  
 Hawley, PA 18428  
 PHONE: 570-226-8220  
 FAX: 570-226-8222  
 email: [pikecd@pikepa.org](mailto:pikecd@pikepa.org)  
[www.pikeconservation.org](http://www.pikeconservation.org)

### **Pike County Commissioners**

Richard A. Caridi  
 Matthew Osterberg  
 Karl A. Wagner, Jr.



### **2012 PCCD Board of Directors**

From left: Commissioner Richard Caridi, Roy Borgfeld, Ray Banach, Pete Helms, Robert Engvaldsen - Vice Chairman, Linda Cioppa -Treasurer, Ken Ersbak, Carole Linkiewicz, and Scott Savini - Chairman. Missing from photo is John Milliken

The Pike County Conservation District Board of Directors work tirelessly to ensure the protection of the natural resources of Pike County. Each year the Directors guide policy and coordinate efforts of the District's conservation programs in Pike County.

In early 2012, the District Board reviewed current programs and discussed issues of concern in the County to identify priorities. With these priorities continuing to evolve from year to year, the Board focused their 2012 efforts on strengthening the Board and additional training for staff to meet the challenge of growing and changing programs these priorities encompass.

A Board Development Committee was formed to reach out to individuals who may be interested in joining the District Board as Associate Directors. From these efforts, the District found John Milliken who joined the Board in September 2012. Another task for the District Board during

the year was the search for a new Executive Director as Susan Beecher announced her retirement at the end of 2012. The District Board worked with Pike County Commissioners on this and Sally Corrigan was hired as the new Executive Director in December.

District Board Member Linda Cioppa continued to serve in her capacity as the PACD Northeast Region Director on a statewide level. The District Board also actively participated in the PACD policy process throughout the year.

The District Board worked closely with staff in their discussions with DEP on policy changes and projects of concern. Among these discussions were compliance issues on pipeline projects, review of the utility line projects, and regulatory changes relating to Chapter 105 permitting fees.

The District Board also partnered with other agencies in Pike County which are highlighted throughout this report.



Associate Director John Milliken (pictured above) stated, "We are struck by the beauty surrounding us and when the opportunity arose to serve on the board of PCCD I jumped at the chance to work with some of the fine people whose jobs and passion are dedicated to preserving Pike County as a very special place in which to live."

### ***Our Vision***

*Pike County Conservation District will be a recognized and respected leader in fostering a conservation ethic among government officials, non-governmental groups, the development community, community associations, land owners and the general public that results in conserving the integrity of the natural systems that enrich the Pike County environment.*





*2012 District Staff*

Pictured from left: Administrative Manager Michele Ulmer, Resource Conservationist Russell Seese, Executive Director Susan Beecher, Program Assistant/Gypsy Moth Coordinator Kelly Rodemich, Senior Resource Conservationist Ellen Enslin, Watershed Specialist Lori Colgan, Program Assistant Tina Spizuoco, and Resource Conservationist Marianna Quartararo

## ***PCCD Staff 2012 Updates***

Besides leading the Staff Team, Executive Director Susan Beecher worked with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation on the Common Waters Fund and was a key player in the Common Waters Partnership. Beecher served as a member of the Grey Towers Heritage Association Board which worked with the Pinchot Institute to plan activities commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of Grey Towers from the Pinchot family to the people of the US. The commemoration will be held in Summer 2013.

Senior Resource Conservationist Ellen Enslin lent her years of experience to a number of committees in 2012. Ellen was a District representative on the Pike County Riverfront Park Santos Planning Committee, the Pike County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and PPL's Lake Wallenpaupack Shoreline Committee. Ellen also represented the District on a statewide Chapter 102/NPDES/Chapter 105 advisory committee which was busy during 2012 with a number of regulatory changes.

Administrative Manager Michele Ulmer was involved in all aspects of District operations handling day-to-day operations and coordinating the education and outreach activities. Michele coordinated meetings and programs of the Pike-Wayne Conservation Partnership and represented the District on the PACD Education and Outreach Committee as well as being a District Voting Delegate to the PACD Executive Council.

Administrative Assistant Tina Spizuoco not only provided administrative and bookkeeping support for the District in 2012, she lent her artistic talents to the Conservation Partnership *Clean Waters, Healthy Communities* campaign. Tina completed a mural that traveled with the campaign. It got rave reviews.

Program Assistant/Gypsy Moth Coordinator Kelly Rodemich juggled the changing permit requirements and reporting of both Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 delegated programs. Kelly also assisted with the local and regional administration of the Common Waters Fund.

Watershed Specialist Lori Colgan provided educational programs to schools, expanded the water quality monitoring program and worked with watershed and community groups to draw attention to our exceptional watersheds. Marianna Quartararo joined the District team as a Resource Conservationist in March. She joined Resource Conservationist Russell Seese to round out the technical team who implements environmental regulatory and natural resource management programs.

## ***Sally Corrigan Hired as Pike County Conservation District Executive Director***



District Board Chairman Scott Savini announced the appointment of Sally Corrigan as Executive Director in December 2012 upon recommendation of the District Board and acceptance by the Pike County Commissioners. Sally brings to the Conservation District thirty-five years of experience including planning, management, administration, funding and program development, public outreach and education in varied positions in government and private non-profit and for-profit corporations. She is no stranger to the work of the Conservation District, having served five years as the first full-time District Manager in the early 1980s, then as Education Coordinator and Watershed Specialist later in her career. In her role as Director of Pike County Community Planning, she worked closely with the District on a variety of natural resource conservation issues and joint projects.

## ***Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership***

The Pike-Wayne Conservation Partnership kicked off the *Clean Water-Healthy Communities* campaign in Spring 2012. The campaign which ran throughout the summer, consisted of coordinated programs that focused on how our water resources support our community. Residents and visitors learned about streams and stream monitoring, native plants of the region, Lake Wallenpaupack water quality, and wetland identification. Each program

provided simple water stewardship tips along with the opportunity to enter a drawing to win a rain barrel. The winner, Madeleine Wootan, entered when she attended a Rain Barrel Workshop in May. The rain barrel drawing was held at the Pike-Wayne Conservation Partnership Legislative Breakfast in August.

The Annual Legislative Breakfast provides a forum for discussing conservation issues with local, state and federal legislators. The topic for this year's breakfast stemmed from a 2011 University of Delaware report, *Socioeconomic Value of the Delaware River Basin in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania*, which discussed the critical economic importance of the Delaware River and the Basin over the past 400 years.

At the Breakfast, partners showcased local businesses that thrive thanks to the unique natural resources in our region and the importance of these locally grown businesses to the economy. Partners also emphasized the need to promote and support development that best suits the region's character. They highlighted the efforts of the conservation community to promote

alternative energies, secure funding for the protection of water resources, and conserve forested lands. The Partners want to thank the legislators who participate each year in these important discussions. The Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership, an alliance of government, non-government, non-profit and grass roots organizations, has been meeting since 2004.



Michele Ulmer, PCCD pictured with PA Representative Sandra Major at the Legislative Breakfast showing the rain barrel prize

### **Conservation Partnership**

Pike County Conservation District  
Pike County Office of Community Planning  
Delaware Highlands Conservancy  
Penn State Extension  
The Nature Conservancy  
Alliance to Keep Pike Green  
The Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
Lackawanna College  
the Upper Delaware Roundtable  
National Park Service - Delaware Water Gap  
National Recreation Area  
National Park Service- Upper Delaware Scenic  
and Recreational River  
Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
The Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources  
The Lackawaxen River Conservancy  
PPL  
Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed  
Management District  
Pocono Environmental Education Center  
Wayne Conservation District  
the Northeast PA Audubon Society  
US Forest Service  
SEEDS  
the Eagle Institute

## ***District Provides Financial Support for Guides to Local Farm and Forest Products***

The Pike County Conservation District provided financial support to an important partner, The Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC) in 2012. DHC is a local nonprofit working with landowners and communities to protect the natural heritage and quality of life of the Upper Delaware River region. DHC recently expanded the *Shop Local Save Land* initiative, which includes hard copy guides and a searchable website, encouraging consumers to connect to local farm and forest product providers of the Upper Delaware region.

In summer 2012, the Conservancy released new editions of the *Shop Local Save Land Guide to Farms and Farm Markets* and the *Shop Local Save Land Guide to Wood Products, Professionals and Resources*. They published these guides as an extension of the award-winning *Shop Local Save Land* initiative ([www.ShopLocalSaveLand.com](http://www.ShopLocalSaveLand.com)), which began in 2008.

Complimentary copies of the *Guides* are available throughout the area at local businesses, visitors' centers, conservation districts, and libraries. The Pike County Conservation District and Agricultural Land Preservation Program are just two of the many sponsors of the guides.





## Common Waters Partnership 2012 Highlights

Common Waters received a 2012 Partnership Award from the Upper Delaware Council in April at a ceremony held in Barryville, NY. The Partnership consists of public and non-profit organizations and agencies focused on supporting the development of sustainable communities and healthy forests in the Delaware River watershed. The mission of Common Waters is to conserve clean water, natural places, and working lands through cooperation, scientific research, education, and technical assistance by and for the stakeholders of the region. The Partnership strives to facilitate information sharing through joint publications, shared web-delivery systems and establishment of a communications network across municipal, county, and state boundaries via regular forums and cooperative projects.

Common Waters also coordinated a one-day training in 2012 for Land Use Leadership Alliance past graduates. This training is provided by the Pace University School of Law. The District provided \$600 to help cover the cost of Pike County graduates who participated in this educational program.

The Common Waters Fund initiative, facilitated by Common Waters, provides incentives to qualifying landowners to develop and implement forest stewardship plans, forest management practices, and/or conservation easements. These activities protect water quality by improving the health of forests, increasing the economic viability of forests and permanently protecting forests with conservation easements. The Common Waters Fund is administered by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

In 2012, the District provided assistance

to the Pinchot Institute for Conservation in coordinating project activities both in Pike County and the region. In this capacity the District carried out workshops and presentations on the Common Waters Fund, provided administrative support to other project partners, collected applications and collated application data, and participated in outreach to downstream water users.

In June the District participated in a field tour of projects that were funded through Common Waters. The projects are great examples of how the funds can be utilized. Examples include:

- A riparian forest buffer planting along the Paulins Kill in Sussex County, NJ completed as part of an overall watershed restoration plan for the Upper Paulins Kill Watershed. District staff (*pictured right*) provided assistance with installing tree shelters in cooperation with The Wallkill River Watershed Association, NJ Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Sussex County Soil Conservation District and NRCS.
- A deer fence installation (*similar to the one pictured to the right*) on approximately 40 acres of two salvage harvest areas to protect developing seedlings, saplings and herbaceous species from browsing deer. The salvage harvest was necessitated by severe gypsy moth defoliation and was recommended, along with the deer fencing, in a forest management plan.
- A Forest Stewardship Plan for a 79 acre forested family-owned property which has seen damage in years past from a poorly managed timber harvest, forest tent caterpillars and ice storms.

For more information visit [www.commonwaterfund.org](http://www.commonwaterfund.org).



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FOR CONSERVATION



From left to right front row: Lori Colgan, Tina Spizuoco and Susan Beecher; back row: Skye Gunter, Russ Seese, Nick Dickerson, Eric VanBenschoten, Nathaniel Sajdak, Eric Olsen  
Photographer: Lelia Pinchot



Participants from the June Field tour of Common Waters Funded projects

## Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control & Stormwater Management Program

*The Chapter 102 regulations require those engaged in earth disturbance activities to protect water quality by implementing best management practices (BMPs) to minimize erosion and sedimentation (E&S) and to manage post construction stormwater. The District administers Chapter 102 and NPDES construction permits through a delegation agreement with DEP. District responsibilities include review of permit applications and plans for land development activities, site inspections, complaint investigations and enforcement.*



Pictured above is a stormwater detention basin



Pictured above: Geothermal wells being installed at the Wallenpaupack Area School District site

The Pike County 2012 budget eliminated the District's Engineer position. The District had to terminate the Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) delegation agreement with DEP and PCSM reviews were sent to the DEP NE Regional Office (NERO) in Wilkes Barre. District Staff worked closely with the NERO staff to make the transition as smooth as possible.

In July 2012 the Governor issued an executive order requiring DEP to implement Permit Decision Guarantee (PDG). The PDG order required DEP to assess how best to make timely permitting decisions, provide clear expectations for applicants to improve the quality of applications, and establish performance measures for DEP review staff. The District has been working closely with DEP to implement these changes. The new DEP policy and the PDG went into effect October 23, 2012.

In September, representatives from DEP performed an evaluation of the District's administration of the Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Programs. The District was evaluated on education and outreach to the regulated community, relationship with municipal officials, records retention protocols, technical plan reviews, complaint investigation, site inspections and enforcement activities. PCCD was found to meet or exceed the required output measures for categories evaluated and some of the District's procedures may be used in future DEP training sessions. The open and informal discussions were beneficial to both the Department and the District in the cooperative implementation of the delegated programs.



Pictured above in green is Turf Reinforcement Matting used for channel stabilization

### 2012 E&S Control & NPDES Program Highlights

Technical Assistance Provided	953
Initial Plan Reviews	72
Follow-up Plan Reviews	67
Project Acres	4837
Total Acres Disturbed	790
Individual/General NPDES Permits	10
Complaints Investigated	60
Site Inspections	260
Enforcement Actions Taken	0
Combined Staff Hours	6521

### 2012 NPDES Permit Applications

Forest Glen Estates – Renewal  
 Black Walnut Inn – Renewal  
 Blue Heron Woods – Renewal  
 DVSD Main Campus Gym Addition  
 DVSD Elementary School  
 WASD Geothermal Wells  
 PPL Hemlock -Blooming Grove Trans Line  
 PPL Kimbles Tap  
 River's Edge – Renewal  
 Pocono Lakefront  
 Pine Hill Farm – Renewal  
 Raymondskill Creek Estates – Renewal  
 Additions to Camp JRF  
 TN Gas Pipeline Northeast Upgrade- (ESCGP permit)



## ***Chapter 105 Waterways & Wetlands***

Through the State delegated Chapter 105 program, the District provides oversight of work in and around waterways. Land development activities that encroach on streams, wetlands and other bodies of water can degrade habitat, impact aquatic life and cause flooding resulting in property and infrastructure damage. The District handles PA DEP General Permits, which authorize certain types of work including: Fish Habitat Enhancement; Small Docks & Boat Ramps; Streambank Stabilization; Utility Line or Minor Road Crossings of streams or wetlands. District staff register General Permits, inspect permitted sites, investigate complaints and provide permitting assistance within Pike County.

State funding for the Chapter 105 program was reviewed in 2012. The District provided comments on the proposed changes in February 2012. Comments included a request to have Districts who have Chapter 105 delegated responsibilities receive the proposed fees and that proposed fees for certain general permits seemed excessive. The updated Chapter 105 fees were effective February 16, 2013.



### **2012 Chapter 105 Program Highlights**

Technical Assistance Provided	465
General Permits Acknowledged	27
Complaints Investigated	31
Sites Inspected	50
Total Inspections	52
Combined Staff Hours	1230

## ***Dirt & Gravel Road Program Funding Available***

Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission's Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program provides training and funding to local municipalities to mitigate sediment pollution to streams originating from municipal owned dirt and gravel roads. Conservation districts work with local municipalities to implement the program.

The Pike County Quality Assurance Board (QAB) is currently accepting applications for 2013. Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2013. Technical assistance will be handled by the District as time permits; however, project planning and cost estimates are the responsibility of the applicant. For questions about the program or more information on how your municipality can utilize these funds please contact the District.

Effective January 1, 2006 at least one person representing the entity that has applied for funds from the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program must have attended environmentally sensitive maintenance training for dirt and gravel roads within the past five (5) calendar years. Program and training opportunities can be found at the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road website at [www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/index.html](http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/index.html).



## ***No Gypsy Moth Program for Pike County in 2012***

Due to the low number of gypsy moth egg masses found and the lack of submissions by county and agency cooperators, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Division of Forest Pest Management did not conduct a gypsy moth suppression program for Pike County in 2012. DCNR will continue to monitor gypsy moth defoliation and populations in 2013 to determine if thresholds warrant implementing treatment in 2013. Updated information on this program can be found on the District website.



## *PCCD Surface and Groundwater Quality Monitoring Efforts*

### **Surface Water Study -**

PCCD has been collecting information about the streams and rivers of Pike County for over 20 years. This process has included the analysis of macroinvertebrate and fish populations, habitat, basic physical and chemical parameters such as temperature, pH, and conductivity as indicators of stream health. The monitoring of surface waters serves several purposes. It can provide early warning of changes in water quality, detect episodic events such as pollution spills, evaluate recovery from disturbed conditions and reveal environmental trends and cycles. The District samples approximately 11 sites per year with over 45 sites county-wide.

In 2012, on a recommendation by the Pike County Marcellus Shale Task Force Environment Committee, the District added additional sites expanding its monitoring of both surface and ground water resources in anticipation of natural gas drilling in the region. This expansion included the addition of new surface water monitoring sites and various monitoring parameters.

### **Groundwater Level Study-**

The District has been working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) since 2007 on a groundwater level monitoring program. USGS project manager Lisa

Senior (*pictured above*) attended the District's September 2012 Board meeting to discuss the findings of the study. Data will assist in managing water resources. Currently 24 wells located in different geologic units and lands use areas throughout the County are sampled. Senior explained monthly measurements can track seasonal and climatic changes, variations in water use as well as drought triggers and conditions. Senior added that the monitoring of well levels is also helpful in determining changes in groundwater storage and can serve as a tool for public education to promote conservation.

The water level data is available to the public through USGS-maintained web pages, including

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/gw> and [http://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/countymaps/PA\\_103.html](http://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/countymaps/PA_103.html).

In 2012, the District was awarded a Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation grant to extend the Groundwater Level Monitoring Program, in cooperation with USGS, for another three years to 2015.

### **Groundwater Quality Baseline Study -**

In coordination with the Pike County Commissioners and the Marcellus Shale Task Force Environment Committee, the



District is also working with the USGS and the Pike County Office of Community Planning to collect baseline data on groundwater quality of shallow aquifers used for drinking-water supply in Pike County. Focused on areas with high potential for Shale gas development that have not yet experienced drilling and hydraulic fracturing, the objective of the study is to document current levels of constituents in groundwater that may be affected by shale-gas development.

In July and August 2012, USGS completed the initial spatial water quality baseline testing for 20 wells throughout the county. Based on preliminary results, 4 wells have been identified for monthly temporal water quality baseline testing which began in September 2012 and will continue through Summer 2013. The USGS is providing partial funding of this project supplemented by funds secured through a grant from the Pike County Scenic Rural Preservation Program.



## *Water Wonders of Pike County Program*

In summer 2012, Biologist and District Associate Director Ken Ersbak (*pictured right*) presented a special program—*Water Wonders of Pike County*. The program highlighted standards used for stream water quality designation, attributes of Pike County that contribute to our excellent water quality and some immediate and longer term threats to our watersheds. Ken also explained how the District monitors surface water quality to support protection of streams in Pike County.

Drawing attention to the outstanding fish and aquatic insect diversity in Pike County and two designated *Rivers of the Year* - the Delaware and the Lackawaxen - Ken also discussed how wetlands support wildlife, reduce flood damage and purify the water that supplies our aquifers. Overall, Pike's water resources support clean drinking water, provide excellent outdoor recreational activities, and contribute to spectacular scenic beauty enjoyed by residents and visitors.

*Water Wonders* was a collaborative effort of the District and the Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy, The Lackawaxen River Conservancy, the Pike-Wayne Chapter #462 of Trout Unlimited, and the Pike-Wayne Conservation Partnership.



### ***District Receives PACD Mini-Grant for Rain Garden Project***

The Pike County Conservation District received a 2012 PACD mini-grant to inform residents and visitors on the benefits of rain gardens in reducing non-point source pollution. The District partnered with the Pike County Area Agency on Aging, Lackawaxen Township Supervisors and the Lackawaxen Fire Department personnel on the project. A rain garden was installed at the Lackawaxen & Shohola Township Senior Center which is located near the confluence of the Lackawaxen River and the Delaware River. The rain garden installation at the Center serves as a demonstration area and is available for educational programs and projects for future Agency and fire hall visitors. Watershed Specialist Lori Colgan worked closely with participants throughout summer 2012 to identify the rain garden site and provide educational and technical assistance on the installation.

Rain gardens help hold storm water and allow it to infiltrate into the ground where many of the pollutants can be filtered out by the soil. Rain Gardens can reduce the amount of water and pollutants which enter our streams by up to 30%. Gardens can be positioned to catch water before it runs into storm water inlets on streets.

The District will be following up with a site visit and a program in 2013. Participants will be encouraged to implement in their own back yards the concepts explained during the rain garden installation. The District is currently working with the Township and the Fire Department to install an interpretive sign at the site so visitors to the Senior Center and fire hall can learn how to prevent nonpoint source pollution on their own property.



Area Agency on Aging participants installing the Rain Garden with the assistance of the Lackawaxen Road Crew



Lackawaxen Township Supervisor Richard Krochta receiving a certificate of appreciation from the District's Watershed Specialist Lori Colgan for their assistance with the Rain Garden Project

### ***Nominating Organizations Support District Efforts***

Nominating organizations are responsible for nominating individuals for service on the District Board. Individuals who are nominated for the Board are subsequently considered for appointment by Pike County Commissioners. By participating in this process, organizations help to shape critical decisions about how we manage our community's natural assets.

In 2012 District Board members and staff reached out to our Nominating Organizations in an effort to explain the nominating process and seek associate directors interested in participating on the District Board. The Board meets monthly to conduct the business of the District and to coordinate district programs with state and federal agencies and local units of government. Board members are not paid but may receive compensation for expenses related to attending meetings and other activities of the board.

*"District Directors and Associate Directors have a direct say in how people in the county deal with many important natural resource issues such as water quality, forestry, and soil erosion"* said District Director Roy Borgfeld. *"Serving on the conservation district board is an excellent way to make an impact on the future of our natural resources."*

Individuals interested in serving as a director for the Pike County Conservation District need to be nominated by an approved nominating organization within the county. For more information, contact the District office at 570-226-8220, the County Commissioners Office at 570-296-3569, or the State Conservation Commission office in Harrisburg at 717-787-8821.

**The District is thankful for the continued support of our nominating organizations!**

Delaware Highlands Conservancy  
Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society  
Milford Garden Club  
Northeast PA Audubon Society  
Pike County Agricultural Fair Association

Pike County Cooperative Extension  
Pike County Builders Association  
Pike County Planning Commission  
Pike Federation of Sportsmens' Clubs  
Wayne/Pike Chapter Trout Unlimited

## ***District Assists with Wyland Clean Water Mobile Learning Experience***

In September, PCCD staff assisted the U.S. Forest Service aboard the *Wyland Clean Water Mobile Learning Experience*. This is an interactive classroom that provides schools “an affordable way to increase student knowledge of the function of watersheds and a broader understanding of the impact that communities have on these systems.” The *Mobile Learning Experience* benefited approximately 400 middle school students from Wallenpaupack and Delaware Valley School Districts in Pike County.

Robert Wyland is an artist known for his large, outdoor murals of whales and other ocean life. As part of his mission of engaging people through nature-themed art and a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, he founded the Wyland Foundation, dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world’s oceans, waterways, and marine life. Partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Wyland Foundation has taught millions of students to become “caring, informed stewards of our ocean, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and wetlands.”



Pictured above is PCCD Resource Conservationist Russ Seese with students from Wallenpaupack School District at the Watershed station.

The Mobile Learning Experience involves students in modeling the impacts of human activities on marine and aquatic life. It explores the changes that occur in a watershed as human populations increase, manipulates how water availability is impacted by upstream usage, examines aquatic insect samples and follows “pollution” as it travels from its source downstream to streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean.

## ***Pike/Wayne Envirothon 2012***

The Envirothon is a one-day educational competition designed to test the knowledge, skills and problem solving capabilities of high school students regarding our earth’s natural resources. Western Wayne High School’s *Wayne Mountain Men* placed first in the 2012 Pike/Wayne Envirothon. Second Place went to Wallenpaupack High School’s *EcoVision*. Canaan Christian Academy, Delaware Valley, Wayne Highlands, Wallenpaupack Area, and Western Wayne High Schools competed in the 2012 event. The Envirothon was held Wednesday, May 2 at the PPL Environmental Learning Center in Hawley. 2012 marked the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the event.

Five-member teams compete by applying their knowledge and problem-solving skills in subject areas that include: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Wildlife, and Current Issue (2012-Non-point Source Pollution and Low Impact Development).

The Pike and Wayne county winning teams advanced to the Pennsylvania Envirothon held May 22 and 23, 2012 at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown. The winning team at the state event represented Pennsylvania at the 2012 Canon Envirothon, North America’s largest environmental competition, which took place July 22 – 27 at Pennsylvania’s own Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon partners with the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource Bureaus of Forestry and State Parks, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. These partners provide educational reference materials for high school teams as well as technical expertise, knowledge, and manpower at the event.



EcoVision – Wallenpaupack High School, Pike County Winners -From left to right: Commissioner Rich Caridi, Pike County, Natalie Christopher, Katlyn Bakker, Lori Colgan, Watershed Specialist, Pike County Conservation District, Danielle Spewak, Danielle Wontor, Rachel Chojnacki

Each year both Pike and Wayne Districts seek financial contributions to support this highly successful youth conservation program. A special thank you to the 2012 sponsors—Pennsylvania’s Trappers Association, Dutch’s Supermarket, Wallenpaupack Veterinary Clinic, PPL Inc., Honesdale National Bank, Elegante Restaurant, Wayne Bank, Honesdale Farm & Garden (Agway), Inc., Natures Grace Health Food, Dirlam Brothers Lumber Company, Northeast Wilderness Experience, Ray’s Shursave Supermarket of Waymart, the Professional Forest Industry Association, the Settler’s Inn, and Yatsonsky’s Farm.



## *Districts Annual Dinner Celebrates Rachel Carson*

District Board and staff celebrated the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* at the District's Annual Dinner held in November. With the assistance of Barbara Leo of the Northeast PA Audubon Society, District Staff quoted portions of this influential book. *Silent Spring*, published in September 1962, condemned the indiscriminate use of pesticides, especially DDT, and the environmental impact they caused. Carson first became aware of the effects of chemical pesticides on the natural environment while working for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries. She wrote, "the more I learned about the use of pesticides, the more appalled I became. I realized that here was the material for a book. What I discovered was that everything which meant most to me as a naturalist was being threatened, and that nothing I could do, would be more important."



In *Silent Spring*, Carson meticulously described how DDT entered the food chain, causing a number of health and environmental problems. Critics called Carson an alarmist, and *Silent Spring* was met with intense rebuttals from the scientific establishment and some major industries. Regardless, Carson was steadfast in her resolve to show the need for new environmental policies and regulations necessary to protect human health and the environment. Her passion for her subject planted the seeds of a movement towards environmental awareness.

## *More Conservation Education and Outreach*

Throughout the year the District participated in a number of education and outreach activities. Below is a listing of some of these efforts:

- Provided program promotion and support for the Pike/Monroe Forest Landowners Association.
- Conducted Groundwater Flow Model demonstration and training for Wallenpaupack High School teachers.
- Awarded \$500 to the Lehman Intermediate School for educational signage to teach the students about the areas flora and fauna along a new trail.
- Provided information on the water cycle, lake ecology and wetlands at Wallenpaupack Middle School's Science Days in cooperation with the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District.
- Displayed macroinvertebrates found in local streams for participants to identify at the Earth Day celebration.
- Provided funding for Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society's *Audubon Adventures* for 8 classrooms. The theme for 2012-2013, "Sharing our Earth" included topics on shorelines, birds, forests, grasslands, and prairies.
- Secured funding through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Administrative Support Program to assist Pike County's Agricultural Land Preservation Program with administrative and educational outreach activities.
- Teamed with Wayne Conservation District, PPL, Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District and Penn State Extension to provide a workshop for local realtors in Pike and Wayne Counties.
- Sponsored the film "Seeking the Greatest Good: The Conservation Legacy of Gifford Pinchot." This documentary, produced by the local public TV station WVIA, was commissioned by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the US Forest Service as a living memorial to Gifford Pinchot's "practical idealism" in developing "a professional approach to the management of our nation's resources."
- Provided a letter of support for the PA Environmental Council USDA Grant Application to educate the public on the impacts of illegal dumping and to clean up several dump sites.



## *Utility Line Construction Continues in Pike County...*

As utility line construction projects continue in Pike County, District Board and Staff advocate for improved construction practices, BMP maintenance and overall compliance with permit conditions to better protect water resources of Pike County.

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline's 300 line project included over 260 acres of earth disturbance over about 15 miles of right of way. Columbia Gas replaced a 14 inch natural gas transmission line with a 20 inch line with more than 140 acres of earth disturbance over a 12 mile right of way from Dingman to Westfall townships. District and PA Department of Environmental Protections Northeast Regional Office (NERO) staff worked with representatives from both companies throughout 2012 on stabilization and re-vegetation of these projects.

As District staff worked with both the Tennessee Gas and Columbia Gas on implementation of these line replacement projects, two additional transmission line projects— the PPL Susquehanna-Roseland and Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Upgrade were submitted to the District for E&S review. These projects are both scheduled to begin in 2013. The multi-county PPL Susquehanna-Roseland

project includes 200 acres of earth disturbance in Pike County.

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Upgrade project has been on the radar of the District Board and County Commissioners since 2010 with concerns regarding the route. A number of other concerns raised by District Staff during the technical review of the project included potential impacts to high quality and exceptional value streams, construction activities in and around wetlands, and reforestation issues. District staff also requested that similar construction activities from the previous Tennessee Gas 300 line project be re-examined to better protect the resources on this new project. The District Board raised similar concerns with DEP. After numerous meetings with federal, state and local legislators, the company and state and federal regulatory agencies and concerns addressed to FERC, the Northeast Upgrade project was granted a permit in November 2012.

District staff will be working with pipeline environmental inspectors, company representatives, FERC officials and DEP NE Region staff throughout 2013 during the construction of these utility line construction projects.



Above: Two examples of pipeline right-of-ways after construction both demonstrating re-vegetation efforts after construction



PPL Susquehanna Roseland before construction

## *Districts Receive Supplemental Act 13 Marcellus Shale Funds*

In February 2012, Act 13—Marcellus Shale Regulatory and Impact Fee Legislation was passed by the state. This Act includes funds that will be distributed to Districts to be used consistent with the provisions of the Conservation District Law and the provisions of the State Conservation Commission's Conservation District Fund Allocation Program Statement of Policy. Act 13 funding is intended to supplement state funding provided by the Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Protection. The District Board would like to thank Legislators for acknowledging Districts were not receiving enough funds to support the state funding goals as outlined by legislators in the 2005 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee Report. This has been a great step in assisting Districts in meeting this goal.

Act 13 funding to Districts is separated in two portions. One-half is distributed equally among Districts by the Public Utilities Commission to be used consistent with the Conservation District Law. The second half is to be distributed by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) consistent with the Conservation District Law and the provisions of the SCC's Conservation District Fund Allocation Program Statement of Policy. The PCCD Board recommended to the SCC that the second half of the funding be distributed based on the level(s) of District delegated responsibilities and not on the number of unconventional wells per county, which fails to account for other direct Shale Gas-related impacts such as pipeline expansion projects. District's received funding in 2012 from the Act 13 funds that were collected from 2011 revenues. The SCC is reviewing the recommendations for funding for revenues collected from 2012 and 2013.