



Pike County Conservation District

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Leadership

Education

Technical Assistance

Planning

From the Chairman

Protecting Pike County's Clean Water

Pike County is fortunate to have clean water. It is a primary contributor to the local quality of life enjoyed by the people who live, visit and work here.

Our clean water is also an economic driver that supports popular outdoor activities such as fishing and boating, which bring people to our area who dine, stay, and shop at local businesses. As well, our clean water helps to maintain a healthy wild-life population that attracts hunters and birdwatchers, who spend a significant amount of money locally.

Here at the Conservation District, our staff members are the boots-on-the-ground stewards of Pike County's clean water. With the support of our volunteer Board of Directors, these professionals work with local officials, partner agencies, engineers, builders, and citizens to protect this valuable resource for today and over the long-term.

Volunteer Board of Directors

As we navigate a new year, and reflect on 2018, I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members for their guidance and service in fulfilling the District's mission of natural resource conservation.

On the Executive Committee, Vice Chairman John Milliken has been a Director since 2012, and Pike County Commissioner Ron Schmalzle was sworn in, in September 2018. Ron was appointed to former Commissioner Rich Caridi's position. Rich retired in May after 15 years of service to Pike County.

Pete Helms, who stepped down from our Board at the end of this year, has given his time and talents to the District since 2005. John Sivick has volunteered since 2013, and Kelly Stagen joined us in 2014. Kelly is also Northeast Region Director and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and an alternate delegate for PA on the National Association of Conservation Districts. Ken Coutts began his tenure in 2018.

I also want to thank our non-voting volunteer Associate Directors, who contribute their expertise: Bob Engvaldsen (1999), Carole Linkiewicz (2009), Treasurer Jay Morrow (2017), Paul Ranello (2016), and JoAnn Rose (2018).

"Our clean water is an economic driver that supports popular outdoor activities such as fishing and boating, which bring people to our area who dine, stay, and shop at local businesses."

*- Scott F. Savini
PCCD Board Chairman*

In This Issue

- Delegated Programs ... 4
- Dirt & Gravel Roads ... 6
- Staff and Board News ... 8
- Water Monitoring ... 10
- Educational Projects ... 11
- Envirothon ... 12
- Annual Dinner ... 14
- Outreach ... 16

Continues on page 2...



2018 District staff, left to right: Communications Coordinator, Krista Gromalski; Watershed Specialist, Matt Barr; Resource Conservationist, Marianna Quartararo; retiring Executive Director, Sally Corrigan; current Executive Director, Michele Long; Senior Resource Conservationist, Ellen Enslin; and Administrative Manager, Chris Ingulli. Missing from photo is Resource Conservationist Jeremy Oettinger.

Continued from page 1...

Most of all, I'd like to recognize and thank the District's staff for their skill and professionalism in carrying out the day-to-day tasks associated with the programs and initiatives that are detailed in this Annual Report.

Professional Staff

Executive Director Sally Corrigan, who retired in April, dedicated 23 years of service to the people of Pike County in various capacities. Our current Executive Director Michele Long joined the staff in 2003. She began in an administrative capacity, and moved on to handle education and outreach prior to taking the helm.

Senior Resource Conservationist Ellen Enslin recently celebrated her 15th year with the District. Program Assistant Kelly Rodemich has been part of the team since 2011, and Resource Conservationist Marianna Quartararo has been with us since 2012.

Chris Ingulli began with us as a Resource Conservationist in 2015, and advanced to the Administrative Manager position this year. Communications Coordinator Krista Gromalski came on board in 2017, and Resource Conservationist Jeremy Oettinger joined the District in 2018.

We are looking forward to welcoming Watershed Specialist Rachel Posavetz in early 2019.

I'm proud to say that we have one of the finest staff teams ever assembled at the District. The knowledge, experience, collaborative spirit, complementary strengths, and sense of purpose that they bring to the table is impressive.

It bodes well for the future of Pike County's clean water.



Scott F. Savini
Board Chairman
Pike County Conservation District

Our Mission

Pike County Conservation District is committed to natural resource 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.

Directors

Scott Savini, *Chairman*
John Milliken, *Vice Chairman*
Ronald Schmalzle, *Commissioner*
Ken Coutts, Pete Helms,
John Sivick, Kelly Stagen

Associate Directors

Jay Morrow, *Treasurer*
Bob Engvaldsen,
Carole Linkiewicz, Paul Ranello,
JoAnn Rose

Commissioners

Matthew Osterberg, *Chairman*
Ronald Schmalzle
Steve Guccini

Staff

Michele Long, *Executive Director*
Chris Ingulli, *Administrative Manager*
Kelly Rodemich, *Program Assistant*
Ellen Enslin, *CPESC, Senior Resource Conservationist*
Marianna Quartararo, *Resource Conservationist*
Jeremy Oettinger, *Resource Conservationist*
Rachel Posavetz, *Watershed Specialist*
Krista Gromalski, *Communications Coordinator*

What is a Conservation District?

The Pike County Conservation District is a legal subdivision of state government established under Pennsylvania's Conservation District Law (Act 217).

The District is responsible for conservation work within the county's boundaries. This includes conservation of soil, water and other natural resources.

The District was established in 1956 by the Pike County Commissioners. The District has worked throughout its history to conserve soil, water and other natural resources.

The District is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Members make policy decisions, plan programs, and coordinate efforts of other agencies in providing conservation assistance in Pike County. District staff expertise includes: natural resource conservation, watershed protection, grant writing, education, outreach, and program administration.

2018 Strategic Plan Accomplishments

The Pike County Conservation District Board of Directors, at its January 22, 2018 meeting, adopted the 2018 Action Plan, in line with the following six (6) long-range goals outlined in the District's 2015 Strategic Plan, which incorporates input received from Pike County residents and District stakeholders in their evaluation of the critical natural resource issues of Pike County.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION - *Provide advocacy for Pike County's natural resource assets – protecting sensitive natural environments, conserving the quality and quantity of soil and groundwater resources and Pike County's special protection surface water resources.*

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP - *Encourage and build stewardship with all audiences for Pike County's land, water and natural resources through proactive public outreach, education, and technical assistance.*

LAND USE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION - *Provide leadership promoting conservation of natural resources through implementation of best management practices for land use and sustainable development in accord with the integrity of our natural resource base.*

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH - *Expand conservation outreach and education integrating it as a component of all of the District's conservation programs to achieve more effective implementation of these programs and to improve communication of the District's important role in the conservation of Pike County natural resources.*

PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION, NETWORKING, AND AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS - *Establish, nurture and build partnerships and a communication network that provides opportunities for broadening/expanding our outreach and increasing the success of achieving our conservation mission.*

GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL SUPPORT and INFRASTRUCTURE - *Support the District's Mission through responsible governance and financial management and through provision of adequate staff/management capacity and infrastructure resources.*



Senior Resource Conservationist Ellen Enslin, CPESC, at an inspection of the Pond Eddy Bridge replacement project.

Waterways Management

The Pike County Conservation District works with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide technical assistance and oversight to residents and businesses planning to complete work in and around waterways.

Activities that change the cross section of a stream or waterway or that encroach into the floodway of a water body can impact aquatic life, habitats adjacent to water bodies, or cause flooding resulting in property damage. Properly addressing and minimizing these potential impacts is important.

The District handles Chapter 105 (Waterways Management) General Permits, which authorize certain types of work in and along waterways including: Fish Habitat Enhancement; Small Docks & Boat Ramps; Bank Stabilization; Utility Line or Minor Road or Trail Crossings of streams or wetlands. Federal authorization is typically provided depending on the project.

ePermitting

DEP launched ePermitting for Chapter 105 Wetland and Waterway Obstruction and Encroachment General Permits to make application submittal and review more efficient and to enable faster responses to applicants.

A prospective applicant should create a Greenport account, and complete an Electronic Filing Administrator (EFA) registration and security agreement.

The District website contains links to DEP e-Permitting resources to assist applicants with completing and submitting their General Permit registration forms.

Erosion and Sedimentation Control

Pike County Conservation District continued to work with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement state resource conservation programs delegated to the District by DEP.

The District carries out responsibilities for two separate but related state programs, both of which are State regulations under PA Code, Title 25:

⇒ Erosion and Sediment Control (Chapter 102)

⇒ Waterways Management (Chapter 105)

The Erosion and Sediment Control Program applies to land development and other activities which disturb the earth. An erosion and sediment (E&S) control plan is developed to minimize the potential for sediment runoff from the disturbed site. E&S Plans are reviewed by District technical staff to be sure the plan addresses E&S controls and best management practices compliant with state requirements.

District staff also conduct site inspections to assure Best Management Practices identified in the plans are installed on site. The District is also responsible for responding to complaints regarding earth moving activities in Pike County on behalf of DEP.

Also in 2018, District technical staff attended several webinars and listening sessions hosted by DEP staff. These sessions focused on suggested and proposed improvements to state permitting programs, and Standard Operating Procedures, policies and guidance for these programs.

PikeConservation.org

Large Projects

District technical staff continued to work with landowners/applicants and their engineers on several large projects in Pike County to protect and conserve natural resources and to be sure conservation best management practices are being implemented and maintained.

Some of these projects include:

- Blue Heron Woods Residential Subdivision
- Bushkill Falls Parking Lot Improvements
- Columbia Gas Line 1278 Zinc Installation
- Delaware Valley School District Projects
- Dingman Township Bridge Preserve
- Several Dollar General Stores
- Fawn Lake Water Main Replacement
- Interstate 84 Re-construction (Sections 449, 450 and 494)
- Lehman's Pointe Subdivision
- Lehman Township Spoils Site
- PPL-Blooming Grove-Honesdale 69kV Rebuild
- PennDOT Maintenance Garage
- Pocono Ranchlands-Minks Pond Road
- Pond Eddy Bridge Replacement
- Quarry Heights at Parkers Glen Subdivision
- Rivers Edge Residential Subdivision
- Saeilo Enterprises, Inc.
- Sandyston Building
- State Route 739 Shoulder Widening
- State Route 2001 - Section 402 Widening
- Tennessee Gas Orion Pipeline
- Tri-State RV Park
- Walker Lake Verizon Wireless
- Westfall Senior Apartments
- Westfall Senior Center
- numerous other projects throughout Pike County

Please see Delegated Program Stats, at right, for more details.



A sediment trap with baffles at Interstate 84 construction, Section 449.

2018 Delegated Program Stats

E&S Control and NPDES - Chapter 102

Technical Assistance
 Provided - 486
 Initial Plan Reviews - 25
 Follow-up Plan Reviews - 11
 Site inspections - 167
 Project Acres – 936
 Total Acres Disturbed – 312
 Complaints Investigated – 25
 Individual/General Permits
 Processed – 8
 Additional Individual/General
 Permits Managed - 38
 Combined Staff Hours – 4,534

Waterways Management - Chapter 105

Technical Assistance
 Provided - 115
 Permit Acknowledgments - 18
 Complaints Investigated – 11
 New Site Inspections - 2
 Total Inspections - 7
 Combined Staff Hours – 2,808



Applications for Chapter 105 (Waterways Management) General Permits are now accepted through DEP's ePermitting system.



Glen Drive, Shohola Township, before.



Glen Drive, Shohola Township, after.

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program

The focus of the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume (DGLVR) Road Maintenance Program is promotion of Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Practices that reduce the impact of road runoff and sediment to local streams while reducing long-term road maintenance costs.

In 2018, the District awarded five grants for DGLVR projects to several townships throughout the county.

Shohola Township was awarded two grants for a Low Volume Road project on Glen Drive and a Dirt and Gravel Road project on Parkers Glen Road. The Glen Drive project was completed in early fall. Improvements included ditch establishment and stabilization, road fill, underdrain installation, culvert pipe additions and replacements, as well as resurfacing with a chip and tar wearing course. Due to an unusually wet construction season, work on Parkers Glen road will not begin until Spring 2019.

Greene Township was awarded a grant for a Dirt and Gravel Road project on Sawmill Road. Surface and drainage improvements were made on over 1,500 feet of road. Improvements included installation of two water bars at the entrances of a DNCR parking lot to redirect stormwater away from the road surface and into well vegetated forest areas. Cross pipes were replaced and new pipes were installed. Several entrenched tail ditches at pipe outlets were graded and stabilized with erosion control matting and seed. Other improvements included road fill, in-sloping, and resurfacing with Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA), a mixture of crushed stone developed by Penn State's Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies specifically for unpaved roads. DSA has a unique particle size distribution designed to maximize packing density and produce a durable road surface that performs better than conventional aggregates.

Lackawaxen Township was awarded two grants for Dirt and Gravel Road projects on Williams Road and Glen Eyre Road. Due to poor field conditions as a result of high rainfall totals, work on these projects will not begin until Spring 2019.

Apply for Funds

Pike County's Quality Assurance Board (QAB) prioritizes submitted DGLVR applications and funds projects. District staff and Board Members continue work with representatives from the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, which are members of Pike's QAB.



Administrative Manager,
Chris Ingulli.

Conservation District Administrative Manager Chris Ingulli attends monthly meetings of the Pike County Road Task Force to promote the DGLVR program among Roadmasters, PennDOT, LTAP, legislators, and county staff.

Pike County Conservation District is accepting applications for future Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Projects.

Any state or local public entity that owns and maintains public roads is eligible to apply for program funding. If you have questions regarding the program, please contact the District.

**PikeConservation.org/Programs-Services
570-226-8220**



Senior Resource Conservationist Ellen Enslin, CPESC, guided people on two field tours of local sites, such as the rain gardens at Delaware Valley High School, where Best Management Practices related to stormwater runoff and weather resiliency have been successfully implemented.

Educational Opportunities

Throughout the year, Pike County Conservation District hosted educational events for a variety of audiences.

- In February, the District partnered with Monroe Conservation District to present a two-day offering of **Design and Build Workshops** at the Northampton Community College Monroe Campus for engineers and contractors.
- In March, the District partnered with Wayne Pike Building Industry Association on a **Contractors Workshop** at the Pike County Training Center that covered proactive project planning topics such as: how to complete an Erosion and Sedimentation Plan, wetlands and general permitting, and best management practices.
- Also in March, the final of three **"Discovering Your Drinking Water"** workshops was held at the District office in partnership with Penn State Extension with support from a \$2,000 mini-grant from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.
- In May, the District hosted two **free field tours** of local sites that have implemented Best Management Practices related to stormwater runoff and weather resiliency. Participants included engineers, municipal and community association staff, economic development representatives, elected officials, and the public. Tour sites included the Pike County Training Center, Delaware Valley High School and Elementary School, Airport Park, and Little Walker Road. An associated field guide and YouTube video series were also developed. This project was made possible by a \$3,000 DEP Environmental Education Mini-Grant.
- In October, the District held a **Road Maintenance Workshop** at the Dingman Township Fire Hall for municipal and community association staff and officials. Wade Brown of the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies discussed Stormwater Best Management Practices and Robert Peda of PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program discussed Winter Maintenance.

Thank You!

Nominating organizations recommend individuals as Directors or Associate Directors of the Conservation District.

We thank all of our nominating organizations who participate in this important process!

Throughout 2018, outreach was directed toward our 11 nominating organizations through correspondence, phone calls and presentations.

For more information on nominating organizations, please contact the District:

**570-226-8220 or
pikecd@pikepa.org**

Nominating Organizations

Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society

Hemlock Farms Conservancy

Milford Garden Club

Northeast PA Audubon Society

Pike County Penn State Extension

Wayne/Pike Building Industry Association

Pike County Planning Commission

Pike County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Pike/Wayne Chapter Trout Unlimited

Wayne/Pike Farm Bureau



Retiring Executive Director Sally Corrigan, second from left, received congratulatory proclamations from legislators, from left to right: Representatives Michael Peifer and Rosemary Brown, and Senator Lisa Baker.

Congratulations to Sally Corrigan on Her Retirement

Pike County Conservation District's Executive Director, Sally Corrigan, retired in April after 23 years of service to the people of Pike County.

Sally began her career at the District in 1980, becoming the District's first Manager and full-time employee. During this time, she coordinated activities of the Board of Directors, outreach programs of the District, and worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to begin implementation of the Erosion and Sedimentation program in Pike County.

Private Sector Service

From 1985 to 1995, Sally worked as Director at Lacawac Sanctuary. She also spent several years at TraveLearn, focusing on educational learning vacations around the world, coordinating arrangements and in-country lectures. Highlights included travel to Kenya and Tanzania, visits to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, and Costa Rica. She even climbed Mount Kilimanjaro!

Sally also spent a year working as the Northeast Regional Coordinator for the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) arranging weekend events designed to help women become

more involved in outdoor activities. Her service to the Federation continues as a volunteer Committee Member with the Lake Region Longbeards NWTF Chapter.

Pike County Accomplishments

In 1999, Sally returned to PCCD as Conservation Education Coordinator. She eventually became Watershed Specialist before moving to the Pike County Community Planning Office where she served as Director.

During her tenure in the Planning Office, Sally worked with the Commissioners to implement the Comprehensive Plan and develop the county's first Open Space/Greenways Plan, and to launch the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program and Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

In 2012, Sally once again returned to PCCD as Executive Director following the retirement of Susan Beecher. Over the course of Sally's career at the District, she implemented the District's Water Resource Conservation Program including monitoring streams throughout the county, working closely with citizen watershed groups and helping to build the District's groundwater monitoring program in association with United States Geological Survey, which has resulted in four water quality studies.

Michele Long Named Executive Director

Michele Long was named Executive Director of Pike County Conservation District (PCCD) in March.

Long has been employed at PCCD for 15 years, and has represented the District locally and statewide in varying capacities. She has worked closely with the past two PCCD Executive Directors, Sally Corrigan and Susan Beecher, reviewing legislation and policy, developing conservation education and outreach programs, and administering the financial and day-to-day aspects of District operations.

"Michele brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the District's mission and services," says PCCD Board Chairman Scott Savini. "We are pleased to have her at the helm as we continue to support environmentally sound development and land use practices."

Statewide, Long volunteers on the PA Conservation Partnership Leadership Development Committee, the Pennsylvania Association for Conservation Districts Employee's Committee, and is on the National



Executive Director Michele Long.

Geographic Scenic Wild Delaware River Council. She is also Chairperson of the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District.

Long is also a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program, Delaware River Watershed Network.



Board and Staff Updates

Board Member **Kelly Stagen**, left, was named Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

New Board Members sworn in during 2018 include **John Sivick**, **Ken Coutts**, and **Pike County Commissioner Ronald Schmalzle**, right, pictured with Vice Chairman John Milliken. **JoAnn Rose** became an Associate Director.

Jeremy Oettinger, center, joined the District staff in June as a Resource Conservationist. He is a graduate of Wallenpaupack Area High School. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Engineering from Penn State University, with a focus on Natural Resource Engineering and a minor in Environmental Engineering.



Water Resource Highlights

- Staff met with Aquatic Resource Consulting to review our surface water monitoring program and develop a plan for its long-range continuation.
- Raymondskill and Dingmans Creeks were identified as priority watersheds.
- \$32,800 in Scenic Rural Character Preservation funding was secured for well-level monitoring through 2022.
- \$3,000 was obtained from The Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies for water quality monitoring in the Upper Delaware River Watershed.
- Two meetings of the Pocono Sourcewater Collaborative were held to identify opportunities.

Water Quality Monitoring

The District's watershed conservation efforts include a water quality monitoring program, watershed education, outreach and stewardship activities.

Surface Water

The surface monitoring program was initiated in 1987 to assess and track water quality in rapidly developing Pike County. One of the first of its kind among PA's 66 conservation districts, the program has evolved into a watershed-based tool for protecting Pike County's High Quality and Exceptional Value waterways.

Eighteen watersheds are monitored at stream baseline, non-point source, and special study site locations. Since 2006, the District has added groundwater monitoring as a component of the water quality program.

Groundwater

The District recently completed monitoring of 20 local groundwater well sites over a 10-year period. Data sheets were provided to the US Geological Survey for continued entry into the USGS's Pike County Well Network.

The USGS reviewed the data and, on a preliminary basis, evaluated the groundwater-level network with respect to the potential to show valid long-term trends, drought, and groundwater-to-surfacewater relations.

USGS Hydrologist Lisa Senior presented the final report at the Pike County Conservation District Board meeting in October 2018. The final report, as well as water level data, is available on the Water Quality Data page of the District's website.



Board Member Kelly Stagen volunteered for surface water monitoring.



Students from Wallenpaupack Area High School prepare to survey for crayfish in Raymondskill Creek in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Students, left to right, are: Max Olsson, Jillian Tait, Paulina Schmidt, Marlee Olsson, Robbie Opalecky, Charles Olsson, and Ann Olsson.



Supporting Local Students

Delaware Valley High School students, above, and their teacher, JoAnn Anderson, presented the results of their outdoor learning lab project to the District Board of Directors in May.

The project was funded by a 2017 Environmental Education Grant awarded by the District.

During 2018, three student projects each received \$500 Environmental Education Grants.

Wallenpaupack Area Middle School — students are researching natural control methods for ticks, mosquitoes, and fleas. Grant funds will be used to purchase research supplies and materials.

Wallenpaupack Area High School — funds helped to purchase equipment for the Wallenpaupack Field Ecology Camp at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. (see article at left.)

Delaware Valley Elementary School — Funds helped to purchase a hydroponic system for students to assemble and use as they gather native plant seedlings, and grow and replant them locally.

Environmental Projects

A 2018 Pike County Conservation District Environmental Education Grant of \$500 supported the purchase of equipment for an invasive species sampling project conducted by the Wallenpaupack Environmental Club.

Under the guidance of Wallenpaupack Biology teacher Linda Lohner and Ecologist Richard Evans of the National Park Service, the students searched for rusty crayfish on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA). The large, aggressive species of freshwater crayfish had been found on the New Jersey side in 2015.

The rusty crayfish is native to the Ohio River Basin, but was introduced to new areas by fishermen using them as bait. As its range rapidly expands in North America, the rusty crayfish is displacing native species, such as our common brook crayfish and spiny cheeked crayfish.

During their summer break, the Wallenpaupack students sampled 26 sites and logged 580 hours on their project. Of 620 crayfish captured, none were identified as rusty crayfish.

“Engaging in a real research project, working with scientists and collecting

real data, is a great experience for students,” says Lohner. “You can’t learn what field work is like in a classroom or from a book.”

The Wallenpaupack students presented project highlights to members of the PCCD Board of Directors in September.

Ecologist Evans shared the students’ data with scientists at the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University, and Delaware Riverkeeper.

Visit the Education tab on the District’s website for more information about the Environmental Education Grant or call 570-226-8220.



The Enviro Freaks of Wallenpaupack Area High School placed 2nd in the 2018 Pike/Wayne Envirothon. Pictured at the awards ceremony are, from left to right: Pike County Commissioner Steve Guccini; George Carl, Tristan Galdys, Lily Winagle, Abby Soskil, Ella Clabaugh; and former Pike County Commissioner Richard Caridi.

Envirothon 2018

The Spudsters from Honesdale High School were the overall winners of the 2018 Pike/Wayne Envirothon held Thursday, April 26 at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Hawley. Second place went to Enviro Freaks of Wallenpaupack High School.

Both teams competed at the State Envirothon event at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther.

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. The 2018 local event, coordinated by the Pike and Wayne County Conservation Districts, included teams from Canaan Christian Academy, Honesdale, and Western Wayne high schools in Wayne County; and Delaware Valley and Wallenpaupack high schools, in Pike County.

Each five-member team applied their knowledge and problem-solving skills in subject areas that included: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Wildlife, and a Current Issue which

was "Benefits of Grassland and Pastureland Management.

Envirothon partners include the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resource Bureaus of Forestry and State Parks, the PA Department of Environmental Protection, the PA Department of Agriculture, and the PA Department of Education.

These committed partners provide educational reference materials for high school teams as well as technical expertise, knowledge, and manpower at the event.



Sponsors

Each year Pike and Wayne Conservation Districts seek financial contributions to support Envirothon. 2018 sponsors included:

Brookfield

Camp Umpy's Bagels & Stuff
and Wash & Fold

Creamworks

Dirlam Bros. Lumber Company

Dutch's Market

The Dime Bank

Dyberry Sand & Gravel Co.

Fox Hill Farms

The Hideout Property Owner's
Association

Honesdale Farm & Garden

Northern Tier Hardwood
Association

Pennsylvania Trappers Association
District 9

REMAX/Wayne

Wallenpaupack Veterinary Clinic

Woodloch Pines Resort

Additional funding was provided by the Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc. through its education grant with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Fund.



Several members of the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership, from left to right: DCNR Service Forester Mike Roche, Wayne Conservation District Executive Director Jamie Knecht, Pike County Conservation District Executive Director Michele Long, DCNR Delaware State Forest Manager Tim Dugan, Assistant Director of Pike Planning Jessica Yoder, and Lacawac Sanctuary President Craig Lukatch.

Cabinet in Your Community

Staff and Directors of Pike County Conservation District attended Governor Wolf's Cabinet in Your Community event on in February at Wallenpaupack High School.

Guest panelists included Dr. Rachel Levine, Physician General and Acting Secretary of Health; Patrick McDonnell, Secretary of Environmental Protection; Teresa Osborne, Secretary of Aging; and Russell Redding, Secretary of Agriculture, pictured below with Senior Resource Conservationist Ellen Enslin, and Director Kelly Stagen.

Legislative Breakfast

The Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership hosted its annual Legislative Breakfast in April at Lacawac Sanctuary. The event is an opportunity to meet with state and federal elected officials about conservation issues and their fiscal importance to our region.

The Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership is an alliance of government, non-government, non-profit and grass roots organizations. Since 2004, it has worked in unison with shared goals of natural resource conservation, sustainable communities and citizen involvement in community planning.

The Partnership meets regularly to discuss and share information on important environmental issues that impact our natural resources. This collaboration has helped members to develop a better understanding of each other's roles in protecting and preserving the natural resources within the region.



Women in Science

The District participated in the annual Women in Science event presented by Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance and Lacawac Sanctuary. Here is Executive Director Michele Long with Wallenpaupack High School's Kayla Opalecky, left, who is interested in Wildlife Forensics and Biochemistry, and Krysta Fletcher, right, who is interested in Forensic Psychology and Biology.

TREES Featured at Annual Dinner

A hike through the forest might feel very different if you imagine a network of communication happening below your boots.

This year, the Conservation District's Annual Dinner featured a live performance of TREES, an original stilt walking work by NACL Streets about the connectivity, communication, and co-operative existence in forests.

The dinner, which was held at Silver Birches Resort on Lake Wallenpaupack, celebrated the natural resources of Pike County, and the great conservation work completed by District partners, its Board of Directors, and staff.

TREES is based on the bestselling book *The Hidden Life of Trees* by German forester Peter Wohlleben.

"Traditionally, the sustainability equation has included the three pillars of people, planet and profit," says District Executive Director Michele Long. "That equation has been broadened to include culture as a fourth pillar. It is through that perspective that we welcomed NACL Streets to share their work, which blends science and art, and was created by local people under professional direction."



Paul and Deborah Ranello with Gail and Bob Engvaldsen. Paul and Bob serve as Associate Directors.



Don Hamilton, of the National Park Service, with NACL Theatre Board Director Cass Collins and husband Jim Stratton.



PPL's Meg Welker, Greg Gretz of 1st Impression Landscape and Construction, and Ryan and Jennifer Matthews of Natural Resources Conservation Service.



JoAnne and Alex Zidock of Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District.



Kathleen Christie and Steve Schwartz of The Pinchot Institute for Conservation.



NACL Streets performed the original stilt walking work TREES at the Conservation District's Annual Dinner at Silver Birches Resort on Lake Wallenpaupack in October.

Staff Milestones

Several District staff members were recently recognized by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) for their years of service in Pike County.



15 Years of Service

Ellen Enslin, Senior Resource Conservationist; and Executive Director Michele Long, above, celebrated 15 years at the District. They were presented with commemorative coins from PACD.



5 Years of Service

Program Assistant Kelly Rodemich and Resource Conservationist Marianna Quartararo, above, celebrated five years at the District. They received commemorative certificates from PACD.

Outreach Highlights

- The District provided a letter of support for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's federal and state grant applications to fund a potential conservation easement for the Saw Creek Hunting and Fishing Association.
- The District adopted a Social Media Policy.
- Executive Director Michele Long and Communications Coordinator Krista Gromalski met with Mike Sullivan, Executive Director of the Pike County Economic Development Authority, to discuss cooperative efforts.
- Long and Gromalski also attended a luncheon at Maskenozha Road and Gun Club to celebrate more than \$309 million that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been investing in Pennsylvania.
- A \$1,000 mini-grant was obtained from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts to create a guide to completing the most common General Permit Applications for small docks and streambank stabilization.
- Watershed Specialist Matt Barr and Communications Coordinator Krista Gromalski met with leaders of community associations in Pike County's priority watersheds to assess environmental needs. As a result, a Road Maintenance workshop was hosted in October, which attracted more than 60 attendees.
- Staff participated in three meetings and ongoing communications with the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, which unites more than 50 organizations to protect the rivers and streams that provide clean water for more than 15 million people across four states.
- The District Board sent a letter to legislators opposing House Bill 1959. The proposed legislation provides the opportunity for third party reviews of pending permit applications should certain timeframes not be met by the Department of Environmental Protection during review. Board concerns included removal of local oversight and potential conflicts of interest. No additional funding is proposed to implement this proposed legislation. Executive Director Michele Long also met with Representatives Michael Peifer and Rosemary Brown, and Senator Lisa Baker to discuss the bill.
- District Board Member Kelly Stagen and Executive Director Michele Long attended the Our Pocono Waters panel discussion about Exceptional Value Streams in October at East Stroudsburg University.
- To increase public information and interaction, the District expanded its digital presence including its website, monthly Enewsletters, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Board Meetings

Monthly on the third Monday, at 9:00 am, at the Conservation District.

(Unless otherwise advertised).

The public is welcome.

Contact Us

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