



Bucks teacher "shocked" by national recognition

An excerpt from a note from NACD national environmental educational award winner Cindy DeMaria to the board and staff of the Bucks County Conservation District.

"Let me thank you all for your help and support starting with nominating me for Bucks County Conservation District Environmental Educator-of-the-Year. It is an honor to represent Bucks County's many fine environmental educators.

"I appreciated your sponsorship at the state level as well. I was surprised to be honored at that level, knowing that there are many wonderful educators doing vital work in the conservation field across the state.

"To say that I was shocked to receive the national award is a vast understatement.

"I realize I would not be here at all if not for your faith in me and your efforts on my behalf. I will accept this award with grateful humility on behalf of all the teachers across the nation who work hard to instill knowledge and respect for the environment to their students."

Sincerely, Cindy DeMaria

Cindy teaches both Environmental Science and Special Education at Pennsbury High School in Bucks County. She is responsible for starting an environmental club at the school and creating the environmental studies course. Cindy challenges her students to identify environmental problems around the school and community and then design and implement those solutions. Examples of projects her students completed are: school ground beautification, wetland improvement, habitat enhancement, and a park clean-up. Cindy and her students even uncovered and reported a hazardous waste site in Yardley, Pa. Her colleagues use one word to describe Cindy DeMaria's dedication to the environment: *passion*.



Bucks County high school teacher Cindy DeMaria (left) was honored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) at their recent annual meeting in Hawaii. NACD Board Member and Education Committee Chair Pat Sueck presented the Teacher-of-the-Year award to Cindy on behalf of sponsors NACD and Syngenta.

NPDES Workshop - April 8

In response to continuing requests, the Southeast Association of Conservation Districts will sponsor a second workshop on NPDES Phase II issues on April 8.

The seminar, first presented in early February, will focus on construction, post-construction stormwater management, infiltration technology, alternative controls, and West Nile virus.

Limited seating is still available. For information and registration, fax requests to the Delaware County Conservation District (610-892-9489) as soon as possible.

Using technology in the field

In 2000, the Chester County Conservation District purchased a Topcon Total Station with a TDS Data Collector that is used in conjunction with AutoCAD 2000i. With technical assistance from the Lebanon Technical Center, the district's agricultural staff is becoming quite proficient in the use of this equipment. This technology has greatly enhanced the staff's ability to produce and assist in accurate, quality designs and "as builts." In addition, the workload required from the Lebanon Technical Center has been reduced.

Although use of our laser level is still quite prevalent for terraces, diversions and waterways, the Total Station ultimately saves time and manpower on surveys that include waste storage and barnyard runoff control systems. Recently, the district upgraded to AutoCAD 2004, which we expect will further enhance our ability to offer landowners quality technical and engineering assistance.

*Christian E. Strohmaier,
Chester County CD*

IN THIS ISSUE

- Flooding
- New Employees
- Workshop highlights
- Penalties collected
- New address for DEP - SE

"Storming" through the flooding issue

Remember the days of the drought? It wasn't that long ago, yet these days, many Pennsylvanians might welcome the idea. The past year has simply been an overwhelmingly wet year, and it leads us to wonder how 2002 offered such a rainfall deficit, while 2003 has been so unrelenting.

It seems like everyone had their fair share of flooding throughout 2003, but most likely none have been hit as hard as the southeastern areas of the state.

In the upcoming months, Watersheds.tv will be featuring a ten-minute video about the affects of 2003's rainfalls, and how our storm water systems have been put to the test. The video will feature both Bucks County and Chester County, two areas with very serious problems to tackle.

But for now, we'll let you in on a bit of what's to come, starting with Bucks County.

For Southern Bucks County, many issues revolve around the fact that the communities are built within the floodplain of the Delaware River. These areas are naturally wet, and prior to being filled in by development, they were actually wetlands.

Common sense would tell us to simply not build in these areas – but back in those days, we simply didn't understand the importance of wetlands and how they function. For instance, the town of Levittown, well known as one of the first 'great communities,' was built on a very flat area of the floodplain. Not only that, but it was built without any storm water drainage systems in place.

Water literally has no place to go in many Bucks County communities like Levittown, and in times of heavy rainfalls, the water travels through area streams at an alarming rate – taking anything in its path with it. The results are rippling: heavy, fast flows turn small local streams into flooding rivers, tearing down its banks as it flows fast and furiously toward the Delaware.

Losing sediment from streambanks is a widespread problem throughout Pennsylvania. We see it everywhere from the small streams flowing through farm fields to the larger systems flowing through residential communities. The problem here is that we're losing our valuable soil.

Soil is not only lost from our farm fields and streambanks, but it is lost from our properties – our back yards. It's a very popular, even romantic, idea to live along a stream. But what many people don't consider is the fact that their little backyard stream could also tear away at their property. This very thing has happened to Debra Gainer, a homeowner in Levittown.

She and her husband originally bought their property because they loved the natural area behind their house, with a small stream and trees. They dreamed of enhancing the natural habitat and building a small bridge to take them across the stream for wooded hikes. These days her son isn't even allowed to venture into their backyard when it's raining because it becomes too dangerous.

You may wonder how a small stream could become that dangerous. But in fact, there have been several cases in Bucks County alone where children have been washed downstream, some even killed, by heavy flows.

John McHale lives very close to a Bucks County stream that has already claimed the lives of area children. Thankfully, John was in the right place at the right time to help several neighborhood children who were being swept downstream – the banks were too high and muddy for them to climb out. John was there to help.

These banks didn't always look this way, but over the past few years John has seen the detrimental affects that upstream development and poor storm water management have had. You'll learn more about both John and Debra in the upcoming production.

Thankfully, the Bucks County Conservation District is working hard to help homeowners and area residents deal with their storm water issues. Gretchen Schatschneider, Watershed Specialist for BCCD, and I have been working together for months to develop the upcoming video. Gretchen works one-on-one with area residents to help them understand the issues, and offers solutions to their storm water issues.

Be sure to check out the video clips and photo galleries to learn a bit more about the Bucks County issues, and keep your eyes open for the sneak preview of Chester County.

The full-length feature will be airing this spring – so if you haven't already signed up as a Watershed Watcher, you may want to now. We will send you monthly emails with the show schedules, so you won't miss a beat! Become a Watershed Watcher **NOW**. <http://www.greenworks.tv/watershedstv/register.htm>

For more information:

Bucks County Conservation District
<http://www.bucksconservation.org/>

Chester County Conservation District
<http://www.chesco.org/conservation/index.html>
Chester County Storm water BMP program – previously featured on Watersheds.tv
http://www.greenworks.tv/watershedstv/more_information/featuredtopic_stormwater1.htm

Kelly Meinhart, Chester County CD


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fwalte@acfenvironmental.com

A Meeting of the Minds



Ice and snow welcomed local Developers, Engineers, and Municipal Officials as they ventured to the NPDES-Phase II Post-Construction Stormwater Workshop on February 6th.

A joint effort of the Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery County Conservation Districts, the workshop focused on critical current issues, including infiltration technology, West Nile Virus control, and alternative stormwater management strategies.

In addition to speaker presentations, vendors displayed the latest erosion control and stormwater innovations. Participants also had the opportunity to discuss topics of concern with Conservation District staff and representatives from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection.

The Conservation Districts of Southeastern Pennsylvania appreciate the participation of the local engineering community!



DEP Southeast office has moved

As of early February, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP), Southeast Regional Office, moved to a new location in Norristown, across from the Montgomery County Courthouse. The new office space is "green" – encompassing many innovative, energy-efficient elements. The address is:

2 East Main Street
Norristown 19401

Primary phone numbers for the new facility are:

- Main switchboard 484-250-5900
- Air Quality 484-250-5920
- Environmental Cleanup/ Waste Management 484-250-5960
- Regional Director's Office 484-250-5940
- Radiation Protection 484-250-5950
- Water Management 484-250-5970
- Water Supply Management 484-250-5980

Parking is limited, so if you need to visit the office, allow plenty of time to find a place to park your car.



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New Employees

Chester County Conservation District

Pamela Wilkinson joined the Chester County Conservation District in September of 2003 in the position of Mushroom Farm Resource Conservationist. A native of Chester County, Pamela is delighted with the opportunity to stay in her home area and work in the agricultural field. After graduating from Penn State University in May 2003, she traveled out west for five weeks and returned home to work on the farm for the summer before accepting the position at the Conservation District. While at Penn State Pamela earned a Bachelor Degree in Agricultural Business Management.

Beth Arnold was hired by the Chester County Conservation District as an Urban Resource Conservationist in November 2003. She recently received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geoenvironmental Studies from Shippensburg University.

As Urban Resource Conservationist, she will primarily be responsible for reviewing erosion and sediment control plans and inspecting sites in the south-central region of the County in accordance with the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law. A Coatesville-area native, Beth is happy to be back in Chester County working to promote conservation.

During college, she completed an internship at the CCCD where she learned how district operations. While at Shippensburg, Beth traveled to both Arizona and Vancouver/Vancouver Island to complete field studies courses.



A Mushroom Wish

In barns and in houses, all through Chester County, mushrooms are sprouting, offering their bounty. The growers are picking and packaging with care to ship mushroom delicacies to folks everywhere.

Despite all the hustle and bustle and growth, a problem irks growers and environmentalists, both.

The dilemma that threatens this industry of late is what to do with the tons of spent mushroom substrate.

Is it really just agricultural or industrial “waste”, or is it much more, such as abandoned mine “paste”?

A veritable “glue” for reclaiming those places and creating foundations for...say...four-wheeler races?

This produce, which could be a valuable commodity, may instead cost us dearly — what a catastrophic oddity.

Imagine our County without mushroom farms.

The very idea trips all sort of alarms.

Thus out to our legislators goes this appeal: Please don't let legal jargon this great industry steal. With so much in the balance, we're counting on you to introduce laws, innovative and new.

You have so many creative minds in the mix— surely someone can generate a viable “fix”.

The year 2004, with your time and attention, could bring welcome relief from this source of contention.

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Penalties collected in 2003

<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>DEVELOPER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Bucks County		
Hilltown Chase	Elliott Building Group	5,000
St Andrew Brair	Elliott Building Group	6,000
Pennridge School District	Dennis Mccall	2,000
Steskal Site	David Steskal	1,250
Brayton Gardens II	TH Properties	8,000
Heritage Creek	Mignatti Grp.	10,000
Northampton Gate	Toll Bros.	6,000
Northampton Hunt	Toll Bros	4,500
Hesston Track	Toll Bros.	4,500
Jakob Place	The -S- Group	2,000
Blooming Glen Quarry	Haines & Kibblehouse	8,000
Horizon Corp. Center		8,000
Opus East	Keystone Industrial	9,500
Stone Manor Corporate Cntr	Stone Manor Corp.	12,000
Lower Makefield Twp./Rock Run Bike		3,000
Lowes Home Center	CGM Contractors	1,250
Lowes Home Center	Latona Trucking	2,250
Hissam Site	Marc Hissam	1,300
Metz Tract	DeLuca Homes	8,000
Granda Flora Estates	Land Endeavor	1,000
Troop M Trevoze/Commonwealth of PA	C&C Builders	5,500
Grandview Investments	Heritage Building Group	6,500
Trainers Corners Shopping Center		10,500
Chester County		
Peacedale Court	Avery Builders	1,000
Vanguard	Vanguard Group	3,500
Kennett Middle School	Kennett Consolidated.School Dist.	15,000
Catania Subdivision	Mr. Catania	3,500
King George Court	Omega Partnership L.P.	1,500
Hagerty Blvd	Construction and Design Inc.	3,000
Charlestown Oaks II	Sal Lapio	8,000
London Bridge	Greenpoint Farms	2,000
Eagle Point	J. Loew, Brubacker, D.Ficker	16,500
Penn London School District	Penn London School District	8,000
Traditions at Longwood	Pulte Homes	6,000
Branford Woods	Harkins Property	500
Eagle Hunt	Pulte Homes	16,000
Lahawa	Woodstone Development Co	5,500
Davis Estates	Robert Davis	2,500
Hill Farms	Realen Homes \ Myers	30,250
Coscia subdivision	Bullard	6,000
Beaumont	McNabb	7,500
Bell Tavern	Cutler & Myers	10,000
Triple Tree	Wes Hamilton	4,500
Raymoure & Flanigan	Raymoure & Flanigan	9,500
Brookworth Plaza	Talleyville Properties	6,000
Delaware County		
Old Mill Storage	John David Kay	3,500.00
Springton Senior Associates	Springton Senior Associates	6,000.00
Springton Senior Associates	Springton Senior Associates	5,000.00
Montgomery County		
Crosskeys Estates	The Moser Group	48,322.50
Carptners Glenn	The Moser Group	9,520.00
Brandywine Metroplex	Brandywine Metroplex LP	8,000.00
651 Germantown Pike	Moreland Developers LLC	3,500.00
Peter Becker Community	Peter Becker Community	2,400.00
Sanatoga Park	Lower Pottsgrove Twp	3,000.00
Rosemont Estates II	Sukonik Spring Mill Estate Corp	6,000.00
Dock Acres	Dock Woods Community	2,500.00
Harry's U-Pull It	Karl Pedone	1,000.00
Pottstown Airport	Pottstown	2,500.00
Ace Center	Ace Center	8,000.00
Reserve at Salford	WB Homes \ Schlouch	3,000.00
Reserve at Horsham	Cuttler	4,000.00
River Crest	Le June & Toll Bros	11,250.00



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CONSERVATION & YOU is published by the Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery County Conservation Districts in cooperation with the PaDEP, Bureau of Land and Water Conservation. For advertising information, call (610)892-9484.

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