

Conservation Crier

Vol. 32, No. 2
Fall 2023

Newsletter of the 

LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.lancasterconservation.org - All photos copyright LCCD unless noted otherwise.

With Gratitude

In this season, we are reminded of the many things for which we are thankful. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we extend to you our deep appreciation for your commitment to Conservation. The efforts of many who planted trees in stream restoration projects and backyards, installed agriculture best management practices in fields and barnyards, followed planning and processes for reducing erosion and sedimentation loss on construction sites, and taught others about conservation in the classroom and field sites are to be recognized and thanked for their generosity in caring for the natural resources we all depend on.

Please accept our very best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

– Christopher Thompson, District Manager

Department Highlight: Data and Analysis Department

For over 70 years, the Lancaster County Conservation District's (LCCD) mission has been to promote the conservation of the county's natural resources through stewardship, education, and advocacy. Lancaster County has been a leader in water quality improvement efforts through collaboration with many partnering organizations and numerous water monitoring sites. Of all the counties in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Lancaster has the highest recorded concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in its waterways. As part of an expanded effort to meet these pollution challenges, the Lancaster County Conservation District has created the Data and Analysis team. The team includes Andrew Pauls-Thomas, Grants Coordinator; Noelle LaFaver, Data Management Coordinator; and Caitlyn Tynes, Best Management Practices (BMP) Verification Coordinator managed by Matt Kofroth, Assistant District Manager.

Thankfully, there are grant funds available for installing BMPs to help reduce pollutants in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. Large grants require a great deal of stewardship and oversight, especially those funded with taxpayer dollars. As the Grants Coordinator, Andrew works with District staff and cooperating partners to ensure projects are on track and the funds are being spent responsibly. There is still much more funding needed to clean up our local and regional waterways, Andrew identifies and applies for additional grant opportunities for the District.

As the Data Management Coordinator, Noelle is responsible for tracking the County's progress towards healthy streams. She also oversees the water quality data collected by the numerous District in-stream monitoring units to identify trends in the quality of water throughout the county. In addition, Noelle works with the District's Water Quality Volunteer Coalition to guide volunteers on water testing in their local streams. Data that the volunteers collect are publicly available at

<https://lancasterwatersheds.org/volunteer/> and a great resource to anyone interested in the health of their local waterways.

The Best Management Practice (BMP) Verification Coordinator is a new position developed at the District as a form of quality assurance for conservation practices. In this position, Caitlyn Tynes works with landowners to ensure that the conservation practices that they and the District invested in to install are still functional and provide resources for any needed assistance as these practices get older. Updating this data allows LCCD and landowners to continue getting the hard-earned credit deserved in terms of meeting LCCD's and the Chesapeake Bay's goals for clean streams.

The Data and Analysis team is looking forward to new ways of supporting the District's work in improving water quality in our local streams and beyond.

– Noelle LaFaver, Andrew Pauls-Thomas, Caitlyn Tynes





Matt Kofroth and Amanda Goldsmith conducted an electrofishing survey in the Conestoga River at Poole Forge in September.

Announcing Promotions to Assistant District Manager and Watershed Specialist

The Lancaster County Conservation District Board of Directors announces the promotion of Matt Kofroth to Assistant District Manager and Amanda Goldsmith to Watershed Specialist.

Chris Thompson, Conservation District Manager, is confident that Matt Kofroth is the right person for that role. Thompson recognized, "Matt has proven his abilities and earned the respect of staff and the conservation community. He is a great addition to the administrative team and will help to grow the Conservation District's services to address the county's natural resource needs."

Matt Kofroth has played an integral role in fostering new watershed associations and mentoring volunteers facing challenges with stream restoration funding, and community involvement. As Watershed Specialist, he led countless watershed educational events, launched the county's first watershed website (www.lancasterwatersheds.org), completed numerous stream improvement projects, wrote and partnered on several watershed implementation plans, and worked with many valuable partnering organizations developing local and regional water resource improvements.

Matt Kofroth was appointed to the Assistant District Manager position in spring 2023 and looks forward to the new opportunities in the role. He is pleased to see Amanda Goldsmith recently move into the Watershed Specialist position. "Amanda has a great skillset that combines water quality science and leadership, an important combination working with the challenges facing Lancaster County's water resources. She will be able to expand the District's watershed program even further than I did in the future," said Kofroth.

Amanda Goldsmith has spent three and half years at the Conservation District working in Education, Watershed, and Agriculture programs. For the past year, as the Assistant Watershed Specialist, she has initiated projects, finalized permits, and collaborated on stream restoration projects in the Conowingo, Pequea, Big Beaver, Mill Creek, and other watersheds. The leadership transition will allow her to advance grants for projects, connect watershed associations, and continue to develop a water quality monitoring program. "I am honored to work as the Watershed Specialist and connect our community to one of its important resources: water. Following in Matt's footsteps, I strive to be a leader in this county that unites organizations and furthers the restoration of our local creeks," Goldsmith stated.

Giving Thanks for ACAP

The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), was created through the Clean Streams Fund established by the Fiscal Year 2022-23 General Funds State Budget. This \$154 million program assists farmers and landowners throughout Pennsylvania to design and implement a variety of agricultural best Management Practices (BMP's). Once implemented, these BMP'S greatly reduce or prevent nutrient and sediment losses from farms, ultimately helping to improve water quality and soil health across the Commonwealth.

Through this program, the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) has been delegated \$15,600,000, to help implement a variety of BMP's throughout the county. Since this program began earlier this year, LCCD has been diligently working to identify projects for dispersing funds to the agriculture industry throughout Lancaster. The funds provided to the conservation district are being allocated to many different projects including manure storages, grassed waterways, stream crossings, and other BMP's helping to reduce nutrient pollution in our waterways. With \$22,433.58 spent for one completed project since the start of this program, the conservation district has allocated 44% of the funds towards 43 projects.

Here at the Lancaster County Conservation District we are grateful for the opportunity to be working with this this funding, while also being able to work with landowners throughout Lancaster to get these best management practices planned and installed. Being able to improve the water quality of our county and beyond is a rewarding task that requires a lot of planning for all parties involved. We would like to give thanks to the state legislators, State Conservation Commission, and other community partners working to make the ACAP program within our county a success. If you have any questions regarding the program or would

like assistance submitting an application for ACAP please call our office at 717-299-5361 x.5 or visit our website at [Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program \(ACAP\) - Lancaster County Conservation District \(lancasterconservation.org\)](http://AgricultureConservationAssistanceProgram(ACAP)-LancasterCountyConservationDistrict(lancasterconservation.org)) for more information.

– Lauren Brodbar and Emma Findeisen

New Staff Introductions



Shannon Erdman

Shannon Erdman is a Resource Conservationist in the E&S Department at the District. She's lived in Holtwood for the last 5 years, and grew up near Quakertown in upper Bucks County. Shannon graduated from Kutztown University with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science. After graduating, she worked for an environmental consulting firm for a couple of years before starting a family and later earned a master's degree in Secondary Education from Saint Joseph's University. Most of Shannon's free time is taken up with activities with her 3 sons and hiking with her dog.

Joshua Pullen is an agricultural compliance specialist at the District. He grew up in York and has a criminal justice degree from York College and a fisheries and wildlife science degree from Oregon State University. He spent 23 years as a treatment counselor at the York County Prison before his District employment. Currently, he lives in Wrightsville with his best friend, Jen, and they frequently travel to Lancaster County for the food scene and other fun activities. His free time is occupied by making anything from wood and leather and watching movies in his favorite chair.



Joshua Pullen



Caitlyn Tynes

Caitlyn Tynes is a Best Management Practices Verification Coordinator, which is a new position at the District. She grew up in Lancaster County and graduated from Millersville University in 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology. Before joining the District, Caitlyn worked in a wide variety of sciences, including air pollution monitoring, organic chemistry, and aquatic macroinvertebrate identification with Stroud Water Research Center. She enjoys traveling to the different National Parks, reading, and volunteering with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Grace Chamberlain is an Assistant Watershed Specialist in the Watershed Department at the Conservation District. She grew up in Chester County and stayed in Pennsylvania to complete her Bachelor of Science at Susquehanna University, where she pursued a degree in Ecology and Environmental Science. Grace joins us after moving from Durham, North Carolina, where she recently received a Master's in Environmental Management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. She has had an array of practical experience in the field through her internships over the years, although this is her first full-time position, and she is very excited to have joined the team. In her free time, Grace enjoys spending time outdoors, expressing her creativity through crafting, and attending live music events.



Grace Chamberlain



Rachel DiRosato

Rachel DiRosato is a Resource Conservationist in the E&S Department in the District covering Caernarvon, Earl, East Earl, and Salisbury Townships, as well as Terre Hill and New Holland Boroughs. Rachel is originally from Chester County and attended West Chester University, graduating with a B.S. in Geoscience with a concentration in Geology and a minor in Applied Ethics. She worked on a cut flower farm through college and joined the District after completing an internship conducting soil research on farms all over the state of Pennsylvania. In her free time, Rachel enjoys biking the rail trails across Lancaster County and traveling with friends and family.

Congrats Eric!

Eric Hout is the Technical Manager of the Erosion and Sedimentation department, he has been with the Lancaster County Conservation District for 5 years and has a total of 8 years of experience in the field. Eric is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and recently completed a Certified Erosion, Sediment, and Stormwater Inspector. These certifications are offered by EnviroCert International and are internationally recognized professional certifications in the stormwater community and regulatory agencies.

— Rachel DiRosato



Congratulations!



Brittany Moore

NRCS New Staff

Brittany Moore recently joined the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Lancaster County Field Office as a Soil Conservation Technician. Brittany is originally from Mount Airy, Maryland, and has worked as an NRCS affiliate in Pennsylvania's Southeast region for the last four years. Brittany graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Biology and Animal Science. She has a background in agricultural research, dairy science, and GIS. In her spare time, Brittany enjoys trail running, cycling, and hiking with her dog Eleanor.



Sophia Gilbert

Sophia Gilbert recently joined the York and Lancaster NRCS field teams as a Farm Bill Biologist. Sophia is from Hanover Pennsylvania and before joining the team, spent four months as a Grassland Plant Ecology intern at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. Sophia graduated this past spring with a B.S. in Biology from McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. She has a background in plant-pollinator interactions and plant ecology. In her free time, Sophia enjoys hiking, baking, and picking up new books to read.

Photos provided and sourced by NRCS.

New Staff CWP



Kenn Bennett

Kenn Bennett became the Communications Coordinator for the Lancaster Clean Water Partners in July, serving as the storyteller for our partners' projects and coordinating information across multiple sectors to build engagement in Lancaster's clean water story.

Before the Partners, Kenn spent 30 years in for-profit business, including owning a retail store with his wife and performing all aspects of digital and traditional advertising and marketing including commercial and web design, social media, video production, and writing. Most recently, he worked in marketing for Bird-in-Hand Corporation and served as the Director of Marketing for Iron Valley Real Estate, where he started their now-popular podcast, *Rebels of Real Estate*.

He has a B.S. in Broadcast Communication from Millersville University and an M.B.A. from Elizabethtown College. He serves on the Board of Directors for Willow Street Lions Club and Sunshine Corners.

When not telling the clean water story, Kenn enjoys hiking, fishing, photography, and creating new adventures with his grandkids. *Photo provided and sourced by Lancaster Clean Water Partners.*

Chalk It Up to Education

Can you recall a teacher who helped to spark your interest and drive for more information about a favorite topic? A teacher like that may have grown their understanding through professional development to build their confidence in teaching you. Today, the Lancaster County Conservation District is thankful to be part of a leadership team network supporting teachers in developing a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience for students. This experience may be local to the school or on the school campus meant to inspire an appreciation and student action for improving a watershed. Teachers who completed the June 2023 professional development were thankful for the chance to learn more and have spent the fall season sharing what they learned with students.



Teachers learn from Adam Hartz, District Engineering Specialist, about how erosion and sedimentation agriculture conservation plans are designed and what best management practices do to minimize soil loss and improve water quality.

Thankful for Tree Plantings

Fall is officially here, which means it is the perfect time to plant trees! The fall brings in cooler temperatures and rain that help trees establish a strong and well-developed root system so they are better prepared for the growth spurt they will experience in the spring season. The watershed department has wrapped up construction on several projects, which means it was time to plant trees along the streams to create a riparian buffer. These riparian buffers provide shade for the streams, act as natural water filters, reduce erosion, and help stabilize the streambank.

The fall season allows us to reflect on the things we've accomplished and give thanks to those who helped us along the way. These tree plantings would not be possible without help from landowners, partner organizations, and volunteer groups. The Conservation District planned 3 tree plantings this fall, resulting in a total of 550 trees planted. Not only do these plantings help our streams, but they create opportunities for engagement with the community.

The District is very grateful to be able to collaborate with and work alongside different groups who all share a sense of stewardship for the environment. Partner organizations, such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, connect landowners with resources and programs related to tree plantings and buffer maintenance. Most of the trees we planted were provided by the Keystone 10 Million Trees partnership at no cost to the landowner. Additionally, volunteer groups from school districts across the county, including Warwick High School, Pequea Valley High School, and Lampeter-Strasburg High School, played a huge role in getting those trees in the ground. There is a lot of work that goes into these planting days, but the District is supported by people who make it possible. Next time you see tree protector tubes near a stream, you can think about all of the helping hands that were a part of such great work! There is so much to be thankful for this year, and tree plantings are just one of them.



DGLVR Updates and Information

The Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Quality Assurance Board (QAB) will meet March 6th, 2024 and September 4th, 2024 to discuss upcoming projects, and vote to allocate funding. The suggested projects will then be finalized in the Lancaster County Conservation District board meeting afterwards.

There will be a DGLVR education event in spring 2024, where we will be inviting municipality representatives to see a project before any work is done, and then again after it's done. This will be in Sadsbury township, more info to come.

— Grace Chamberlain

Thanks for Reaching Out

We are on Facebook and Instagram!

Follow us on social media to stay connected and never miss an announcement or District update.



Facebook: Lancaster County Conservation District
Instagram: @lanasterconservation

The Lancaster Chamber is thrilled and pleased to announce the recipient of the 2023 George C. Delp Award.

ROGER ROHRER



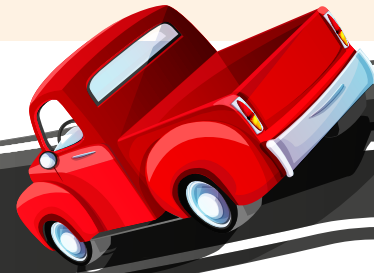
Roger has had a career in agricultural lending in South Central and Southeastern PA that has spanned 40 years. He worked as a manager with Farm Credit, and later as a lender at Hamilton Bank and CoreStates/Wachovia Bank before joining Fulton Bank's Agricultural Lending Group. Roger handled one of the largest ag portfolios in Lancaster County over much of his career. He is a current member of the Board of Directors for Lancaster County Conservation District and a former board member of the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster PA.

In addition to his role as an ag lender, Roger farmed part-time on his family's Century Farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was awarded the Outstanding Cooperator Award by the Lancaster County Conservation District in 2006 and is the recipient of numerous other awards for best practices in environmental stewardship and conservation. Roger was also a speaker at the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture. His family farm won the Century Farm Award for having family ownership for over 100 years.

Roger & his wife Kandy are the fourth generation to own the family farm in Strasburg PA. Operations are now run by their children, the fifth generation. The farm is preserved for agricultural use and won one of four national awards for environmental stewardship. The farm has capacity for 200,000 broiler birds, grows six acres of tobacco in addition to wheat, corn, soybeans, and hay. There is also a retail mulch and mushroom soil enterprise on the farm.

Source: [Lancaster Chamber](#)

Roadway Improvements



We have all been running late for work or an appointment and stuck in traffic on Route 30, likely more than once in our lives. It is easy to get frustrated in traffic, but why is there always roadwork going on in our county, and why do we have such a negative association with roadway construction? I want to highlight three large projects underway in Lancaster County that the Erosion and Sedimentation Department has been involved with that have the goal of improving traffic flow and better managing stormwater runoff, both of which keep roadways safer for everyone.

If you have driven west on Route 30 anytime in the last year, you have likely noticed the Centerville Road Expansion. This expansion contains 30 acres of earth disturbance and utilizes compost filter socks to protect the road from sedimentation. The plan includes the construction of conveyance channels, underground infiltration beds, and an infiltration basin to manage stormwater. Work has more recently begun at the Route 222/Route 30 Interchange to construct additional lanes for ramps on both roadways. This project includes over 70 acres of earth disturbance to construct these improvements. Closer to the heart of Lancaster City there is another well-known project that has just recently opened up to traffic. The Walnut Street Extension, colloquially known as "The Goat Path" has quite a long history. This project was first proposed in the 1970s and only started construction again in 2022! The state ran out of funding for the project in the 70s and ended up abandoning the project, leasing the land to local farmers that used the area for pasture, hence "The Goat Path". This project connects Route 30 to Greenfield Road and has the goal of alleviating traffic around the Greenfield Industrial Park.

All of this to say, there is much more to these roadway construction projects than meets the eye. There are many regulatory agencies involved including local municipalities, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, utility companies, and even the Conservation District. Next time you experience a delay due to roadway improvement activities, think of all the work that goes into preparing these plans especially the folks on site doing the work to make our roads safer and less prone to traffic in the future.

— Rachel DiRosato