

CONSERVATION CRIER



LANCASTER COUNTY Conservation District



What's Up

Buttercup?

This newsletter's theme is about updates, as the District's work shows no sign of slowing down. So what's better than saying, "***What's up, buttercup?***" These small yellow flowers are everywhere, but what are they? They're buttercups! While they may look pretty, they are actually mildly toxic to livestock and often pop up in pastures that could use improved management. **Can you find all the buttercups like these in the pictures in this newsletter?**



Leadership Rooted in Purpose



Everyone benefits when our local waters are cleaner. Everyone can play a role in cleaning and caring for our local water ways. This summer, incorporate some local conservation stewardship actions. Consider steps you can take to protect water quality, allow stormwater infiltration, conserve water during dry spells, and stabilize streambanks. Ensuring a healthy environment within your space makes a healthy community and healthy watershed. The Conservation District is excited to share a seasonal e-newsletter with updates and events in all programs to answer the age-old question, **What's Up Buttercup?** - District Manager

Summer Adventure

Lancaster County Youth Conservation School



What is Lancaster County Youth Conservation School?

It's an immersive, hands-on field school with overnight low-impact camp accommodations. Conservation education with real-world experience led by experts in the field and experienced instructors. If you know a teen ages 14 to 16 years old, apply today!

[Apply today for an unforgettable experience!](#)

Buttercup Briefs: A Little Bloom of News

Water Week Event - Free Author Visit!

Join nature author and illustrator Rosalie Haizlett for an art-filled talk focused on her book, *Tiny Worlds of the Appalachian Mountains: An Artist's Journey*. *Tiny Worlds* chronicles Rosalie's 6-month journey from Alabama to Newfoundland as she hiked daily and painted the small, often-overlooked flora, fauna, and fungi that she encountered. This book celebrates Appalachian biodiversity and invites you to tune into our natural surroundings more deeply. Adults and children will get a behind-the-scenes look at her adventures and the opportunity to participate in a Q&A following the talk.



VISIT WITH AUTHOR

Rosalie Haizlett

6 PM Wednesday, June 10

FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Join nature author and illustrator Rosalie Haizlett for an art-filled talk focused on her book, *Tiny Worlds of the Appalachian Mountains: An Artist's Journey*. Adults and children will get a behind-the-scenes look at her adventures observing nature and the opportunity to participate in a Q&A following the talk.

Co-hosted by:



lancasterwatersheds.org/events/

LANCASTER CONSERVANCY 10 YEARS 2026 WATER WEEK JUNE 5-13
lancasterconservancy.org/water-week/

Registration:



This program is financed in part by the Watershed Specialist Grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group.



Scan QR code to register for the [FREE virtual program!](#)



The District is partnering with the Library System of Lancaster County for an exciting week-long watershed-themed event. At each library, the District will have book lists for adults and children focused on conservation and watersheds, providing unique exploration topics for all ages.





What did the buttercup say to the sunflower?

“You really light up my field!”

Greener Lawns and Leaner Files with the Erosion and Sedimentation Department

Going Digital

The Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Department is emptying out its filing cabinets for spring cleaning. As of April 1, 2026, the LCCD E&S Department officially opened its doors to digital plan and permit submissions. This update will increase the department’s efficiency and decrease the use of paper. LCCD hopes to provide additional convenience to the regulated community and create a more sustainable model of operation. LCCD’s resource conservationists prepared for digital submissions by participating in training and transitioning to a new reviewing software. Morgan Regan, Administrative Support Specialist, has been diligently processing hundreds of documents from filing cabinets to digital storage. So far, the department has experienced a smooth transition with approximately 15 plans and permits submitted digitally. Digital submission guidelines, which outline important information pertaining to submittals, can be found on LCCD’s website under the [Erosion and Sedimentation section](#).

Tips for a Green Lawn this Summer

As Pennsylvania enters summer, lawns turn green. The green can quickly fade amidst a drought, and human error can accelerate this process. During dry spells, lawn grass is unable to process fertilizer. Applying fertilizer in the summer can burn grass and your money and send excess nutrients into our waterways. If fertilizer is a must, prioritize phosphorus-free varieties. Phosphorus is known to cause increased algal growth in our streams and contributes to harmful algal blooms in downstream ponds, lakes, and other large bodies of water. To protect your drought-stressed grass from over-trimming and soil compaction, reduce the frequency of mowing and limit foot traffic across your lawn. When you mow, leave the grass clippings in place to act as a natural mulch that will help retain soil moisture. Cover any bald spots that develop with mulch (straw, grass clippings, wood chips, etc.) to avoid erosion. Mulching bald spots can minimize sediment pollution to waterways and the chances of needing to fill a hole later. Once conditions return to normal, apply seed with mulch. The latest drought status for Lancaster County can be found through the PA Department of Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Interstate Water Resources Management Division’s website.



Engineering Panel - LCCD E&S Spotlight

Eric Hout, E&S Technical Manager, was invited to be a panelist at the workshop: Permitting Without Pain, Lessons Learned and Best Practices for Chapter 102. This event was hosted by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts in conjunction with DEP. Eric noted that the panel was engaging and well attended.



From Seeds to Success: Funding Field Day

On a blustery April day, the District hosted a CAP Field Day at the Good Farm in East Earl Township. There were about 60 people in attendance, including landowners, consultants, state agencies, and District staff. The goal was to bring everyone together to learn more about funding opportunities and their impacts on the county's goal towards nutrient and sediment reduction in the Chesapeake Bay. The Countywide Action Plan (CAP) and Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) are countywide funding resources available for landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs). The purpose of BMP's is to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution that affect Lancaster's waterways. The most frequent BMP's that landowners choose to implement are typically manure storages or infrastructure to better manage their livestock, as well as, improving their streams by utilizing streambank fencing and riparian buffers.



The Good Farm is home to Valley Brook Farm and Creamery, where the family has a farm store, selling various dairy products from the milk produced on their farm. The Good Farm was a recipient of CAP funding in 2022, where they implemented a concrete and roofed animal-heavy use area, a roofed manure stacking shed, and cattle walkways. Since being implemented, the family has had success managing their livestock and nutrients on the farm. In addition, there were extensive stream improvements made, with about 2,400 feet of streambank fencing installed, alongside 1.9 acres of buffer planted. This allowed the Good Family to continue grazing their cows without causing potential harm to the streambanks and water quality.

The field day brought a lot of good discussion between landowners, consultants, and the District. There were questions about how each funding program worked, giving both consultants and landowners clarification on what to expect when applying for each grant. The day ended with a tour around the Good Farm to demonstrate what a successful final project can look like.



Why did the buttercup always get invited to parties?

Because it really knew how to spread the joy!

Riffle Report: Summer Watershed Updates

With the sun shining and landscape greening, it's one of the busiest—and most rewarding—times of year for the watershed department. Spring was dominated by riparian buffer plantings. Across 7 properties in different watersheds throughout the county, 9.25 acres of riparian buffer (or 1,850 trees and shrubs) were planted. This was a big undertaking, and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of District staff, student volunteers from the Stone Independent School and Conestoga Valley High School, and Hunting Plots, LLC. The warmer days were perfect for getting hands in the soil, restoring habitats, and strengthening the local ecosystem after the quiet winter months. These projects not only help expand the department's impact but also build a sense of community around environmental stewardship.



Stone Independent School students create a rainbow of empty tree containers after planting a buffer at so and so stream.

This summer's projects focus on improving both land access and stream health through a combination of infrastructure and restoration work. Two stream crossings - one on Conewago Creek and the other on an unnamed tributary to the Conestoga River - will be installed to allow landowners to safely cross the creek without disturbing the streambed and protecting aquatic organisms. In addition, two stream restoration projects - one on the Mill Creek and the other on Donegal Creek - will be undertaken to enhance overall ecosystem function. These efforts will include installing in-stream habitat structures to support fish and other organisms, as well as stabilizing stream banks to reduce erosion and sediment runoff.

While the pace we're working at may seem demanding, it's also been incredibly rewarding. The watershed department is always grateful for the opportunity to work and for the support, collaboration, and dedication of everyone involved.



Tree tubes and stake help protect newly planted trees along an UNT to Mill Creek.



Linktree*



YouTube

What's Up Next?

A Whole Event-ture awaits:

Click on an event to learn more!

- [Board Meetings \(first Wednesday of the month\)](#)
- [Lancaster Conservancy's Water Week](#)
- [LCCD Water Week Author Event](#)
- [Lancaster County Youth Conservation School](#)
- [WQVC Meeting July & October](#)
- [LCCD Watershed Events & Plantings](#)



Student and instructor on the archery range at Youth Conservation School.

Did you find all the buttercups?

Great find! There are 8 buttercups hidden in the pictures throughout this newsletter (10 total including the flowers not in pictures).





LANCASTER COUNTY
Conservation District

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