

CONSERVATION LINK

Delaware Conservation District Employees Association - Linking District Employees Together

CONSERVATION TOUR SHOWS VARIETY OF WORK

Some interesting projects awaited those of us who braved a drizzly day to drive around northern Kent County. The first stop at the Jester farm gave us some excitement as the van got stuck on the field lane and had to be pulled out by a tractor. CREP stands for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Buffers were planted along ditches, wetland cells were constructed and hardwood trees were planted.

The concrete manure structure is a new design that allows for the manure to be piled higher since it is not up against wood. You don't have the risk of fire and rot.

The Puncheon Run project re-established the floodplain along a portion of the stream. Wattles and rock vanes were part of the design.



Dale Churchey talks CREP



Jester Farm CREP project



Spence Farm manure structure



New design with concrete walls



Jared Adkins at Puncheon Run



Plant plugs in restored channel



Rain gardens at Ag Museum



Bio-filtration pond at Museum

2011 Annual Report

2011-2012 Winter Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- DACD Annual Meeting on 1/18/12 at the Dover Sheraton. To register, contact Martha Pileggi.
- Ag Week is 1/16/12 to 1/21/12. Go to the DDA website for a brochure. The three Districts will have a joint display.
- NACD Annual Meeting in Reno, NV from 1/29/12 to 2/1/12.
- DE Chapter American Water Resources Association Annual Meeting on 2/9/11 at Timothy's Restaurant on the Riverfront in Wilmington. Go to www.deawra.org for details.
- Delaware Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference on 2/26/12. Theme is "Turning the Tide Towards Environmental Education" and will be held at the Officer's Club at Cape Henlopen State Park. Go to www.daeonline.org for details.
- Delaware Wetlands Conference on 2/29/12 at the Dover Downs Hotel.
- Women in Ag conference on 2/9/12 and 2/10/12 at Dover Downs.
- Delaware Envirothon on 4/26/12 in Sussex County. Location TBD.

2011 Annual Business Meeting Brings New President



Dale Churchey conducts the annual business meeting

Dale Churchey stepped down as President of DCDEA due to the inability to fund travel to regional and national meetings as part of his duties as President. We thank Dale for serving the past two years. The officers for 2011-2013 are Kerin Walsh—President, Rick

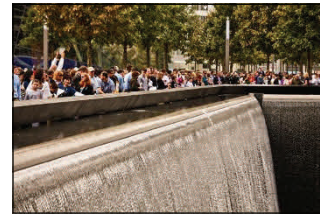
Mickowski—Vice President, Paula Kohout—Secretary, and Gayle Wills—Treasurer.

Rick Mickowski completed a basic employee orientation brochure. This is the first in a series of informational brochures for District employees. The next two brochures will deal with conservation programs and with other environmental conservation and professional organizations.

A scholarship fund committee will develop guidelines so that DCDEA can give out its first scholarship in

time for the fall 2012 semester.

Kerin Walsh is planning details of a



bus trip to visit the Twin Towers Memorial in New York City

in 2012.

Another golf tournament is also being planned. We need someone to volunteer to chair the planning committee.

Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Scholarships

Thanks to the 28 people who made up the seven teams of players in the tournament. District employees, friends, and business associates joined together for this annual event. From New Castle County we had Robert Emerson, Dave Woodward, Kevin Donnelly, Chuck Lightfoot, Greg Duncan, Rob Kelley, J. C. Branner, and Michael Condron. From Kent County we had Brian deYoung, Bill Tanner, Gene Mullen, Ray Richter, Dale Churchey, Mike Scott, Michael Scott, Mike Biggs, Gene Vanderwende, Eddie Dennis, and J.D. Dennis. From Sussex County we had Jim Lee, Chuck Gleadow, Jay Schuman, Bob Larimore, Rich Kirschner, Brent Shockley, Kyle Hearn, Kevin Ryan, and Jimmy Hughes. Rick Mickowski took photographs and Kelly Wilson and Melinda Muehlbronner handled the putting contest and other logistics.



The winning team from NCCD at the putting contest

The tournament raised \$313 for DCDEA of which half was donated to the scholarship fund. Kevin Donnelly's team took first place with an 8 under par 64. Bill Tanner's team had the honor of having the worst score of the day—8 over par 80. Mike Scott won the putting contest and a closest to the pin. Bob Larimore had the other closest to the pin. Eddie Dennis won the longest drive. Thanks for your support!

Thanks to Jimmy Hughes and Kip Foskey from Sussex Conservation District for making the arrangements for the 2011 Golf Tournament.



Kyle Hearn (l) with Jimmy Hughes



Pocomoke Chapter SWCS Summer Meeting Goes to the Choptank

The Pocomoke Chapter SWCS Summer meeting was held September 22, 2011. Attendees learned about the commercial aquaculture business “The Choptank Oyster Company” which is operated by Marinetics, Inc. They produce one to two million oysters per year. This is the only privately funded oyster hatchery in the state of Maryland.

The Horn Point Oyster Hatchery is one of the largest on the East Coast. It produces a variety of oyster larvae for use in research, restoration, and education.



A view of the oyster farm operated by Marinetics, Inc.



Pocomoke Chapter members take a tour of Horn Point Oyster Hatchery operation

A Look Back from the Sussex Conservation District

Gilbert Buckley, Equipment Operator, passed away on February 14, 2011. Ronnie West, Equipment Operator, retired this year. Tyler Brown and Bryan Jones began work this fall as SWAT Planners dealing with CNMP’s. Christie Bonniwell, Conservation Planner Assistant, had a baby (Chase Bonniwell) on

October 19, 2011. Sussex is installing a solar power system at



Tommy Wiltbank with Tyler Brown and Bryan Jones

their Shortly Road office.

“For decades, Delaware’s Conservation Districts have pioneered environmentally sustainable practices” says DNREC Secretary Collin O’Mara.

A Look Back from the New Castle Conservation District



Max Emrey

In June 2011, Hodgson Vo-Tech Co-op Student Max Emrey began working as a Survey Aide. In

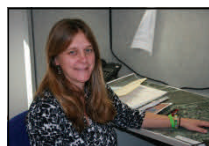
December, James Nardo was hired as a Surveyor with DNREC’s Division of Watershed Stewardship assigned to the NCCD office. James replaces Don Frisco who retired in June 2011. James has 25 years of survey



Jim Nardo

experience and is a Registered Professional Land Surveyor in Delaware and Pennsylvania. Janice

Shute was hired by the District as a part-time project engineer. Rick



Janice Shute

Mickowski was re-elected to serve as President of the Delaware Association for Environmental Education and in December he received the

“Greening Education Award” from the Delaware Center for Horticulture.



Rick with Gary Schwetz

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**Linking District
Employees Together**



Many District employees assist at the annual Delaware Envirothon competition



Many work at the State Fair exhibit each summer

HONOR ROLL OF 2011 DCDEA MEMBERS

KCD Employees: Jared Adkins, Matthew Bailey, Mike Biggs, Chris Breeding, Beverly Darling, Dale Churchey, Janet Dennis, Bill Eisenbrey, Paula Kohout, John Lucks, Anne Magee, Melinda Muehlbronner, Ray Richter, Tim Riley, Bill Tanner, Jim Sullivan, Donald Taylor, Gene Vanderwende, Kerin Walsh, Gayle Wills, and Townsend Yerkes.

NCCD Employees: Claire Fegley, Diane Fernandes, Bruce Hoffmann, Larry Irelan, Sally Lewis, Rick Mickowski, and Claudette Richardson.

SCD Employees: Tyler Brown, Bryan Jones, and Kevin Ryan.

Thanks to all who paid their dues in 2011! Your support is very much appreciated.

Bill Eisenbrey and Claudette Richardson are honorary lifetime members.

A Look Back from the Kent Conservation District

Kent District employees participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program in October. They recently adopted a wetland under the Adopt-A-Wetland program. They have adopted the Puncheon Run site that was recently restored and featured on the conservation tour in October.



Bill Tanner

Bill Tanner has left the District to become an Environmental Scientist III with the Surface Water Section at DNREC. Congratulations Bill!



Kent District Employees and the Kent District Board again spent many hours organizing and holding the annual Delaware Envirothon "Barn Dance"

fundraiser. Three KCD employees serve as



officers for the employee association. Kerin Walsh was elected President, Gayle Wills was re-elected to serve as Treasurer, and Paula Kohout was elected to serve as Secretary. Kerin also serves as Secretary for the Pocomoke Chapter—SWCS.



Adopt-A-Wetland site at Puncheon Run