



# Washington County Conservation District Newsletter

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The Washington County Conservation District  
September 2022, Volume 52, Issue 3

## Washington County Fair Days

**Washington County Watershed Alliance**

**Streambank Erosion**

**Washington County Conservation District**  
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

**WINGS OF LIFE**

**WCCD 2022 Calendar Of Events**

**October**

- 10th Columbus Day - Office Closed
- 11th WCCD Board Meeting
- 18th Weed Management and Pasture Walk

**November**

- 2nd WCCD Engineering Meeting 9 am to Noon  
WCCD Municipal Workshop 1 pm to 4 pm
- 8th WCCD Board Meeting  
Beef Quality Assurance Level 1 & 2 Training 6 pm - 8 pm
- 11th Veteran's Day - Office Closed
- 24th & Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed
- 25th

**December**

- 13th WCCD Board Meeting
- 23rd & Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
- 26th



# Staff Announcements

As the Washington County Conservation District (WCCD) celebrates its 75th anniversary, I am honored to serve as the District Manager. For those I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Jennifer Dann. I have worked as the Watershed Specialist for the last twelve years at the WCCD. During that time, I've had the ability to meet many dedicated volunteers and visit so many beautiful portions of the county. I look forward to learning even more about the people and county as I take on this new role. I am excited to work with our incredible staff to expand our programming and outreach in the coming years. Please be sure to keep up with the WCCD through this newsletter and our website as we have many events and programs in the works!



Hello, my name is Alexis Blake. I am currently serving as the Chapter 105 Waterway and Wetlands Resource Conservation Technician for the Washington County Conservation District. A goal of mine was to continue growing within my position and strive to do my job to the best of my ability to help serve the community of Washington County. As of September 13, 2022, I was offered the WCCD Watershed Specialist position. I'm thankful and excited to get this opportunity to serve as your Watershed Specialist. My passion has always been to help protect natural resources through sustainable conservation practices. I hope to apply my personal, professional and educational experience to help people in our community to sustain our natural resources and educate my community by leading by example.



# Recent Events



## WCCD Board of Director's Fall Meeting September 13th

This year's Fall 2022 Board Meeting was held at High Ridge Farm in Bulger PA. There was a farm tour before the meeting and lunch was served. Thank you to the Ulrich Family for hosting this year's event.



# CONGRATULATIONS



This past school year, Range Resources challenged Washington County school districts to decorate rain barrels to display at the Washington County Fair. Fairgoers voted for their favorites, and we are happy to announce the top three teams who will receive additional classroom grants.

1st Place: McGuffey High School  
\$ 1,000 classroom grant

2nd Place: Beth Center Middle School  
\$ 750 classroom grant

3rd Place: Avella Elementary School  
\$ 500 classroom grant

Thank you to the Washington County Conservation District for partnering with us on this new STEAM initiative and to all of the participating classrooms. Each class elected to have their rain barrel donated for use to various locations and organizations throughout the County. Most barrels found a new home at the Washington County Fairgrounds, and all will certainly help to keep local gardens healthy!

Christina Kramer  
Community Relations Specialist  
Range Resources





# Upcoming Educational Events

If you are an engineer, a consultant, a municipal official, or if you know someone who is, please help us spread the word about our upcoming outreach events. The conservation district will be hosting two training events on November 2, 2022. The morning session for engineers and consultants will cover common issues with permit submissions, a 102/105 permitting update and a brief look at the e-permitting system. The afternoon session will be tailored toward municipal officials and employees and provide an overview of District programming, permitting requirements for the regulated community and building relationships with the municipalities that we serve. Registration is required for these events. Please contact the District office at 724-705-7098 with any questions or to register.

## Washington County Conservation District Municipal Workshop

AGENDA TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE DIRT AND GRAVEL PROGRAM, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY PERMITTING, AND COMPLAINT HANDLING

**November 2, 2022**

**From 1:00 to 4:00 pm**

**Location: Washington County Fairgrounds**

**Registration limited to 2 people**

**Registration Deadline: 10/26/2022**

**To RSVP contact Sue Leipold by phone at 724-705-7098 or e-mail [sleipold@pawccd.org](mailto:sleipold@pawccd.org)**



## Washington County Conservation District Engineering Meeting

**November 2, 2022**

**9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Location: Washington County Fairgrounds  
(2151 North Main Street, Washington, PA)**

**Agenda to include DEP updates, permit updates, and a look at the e-permit system.**

**Although the event is free, registration is required, and space is limited**

**Registration Deadline: 10/21/2022**



**NOVEMBER 8, 2022 | 6-8 PM**

## BQA LEVEL 1 & 2 TRAINING

**Location: Washington County  
Conservation District Office  
50 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Ste 1  
Washington, PA 15301**

**RSVP TODAY!**

**Contact: Emma Foster  
[efoster@pabeef.org](mailto:efoster@pabeef.org) | 814-623-2698**



**BEEF**



[www.pa-bqa.org](http://www.pa-bqa.org)





# GET FUNDING FOR YOUR LOCAL ROADS

It's time to start thinking about potential projects for the 2024 Grant cycle. The upcoming DGLVR Grant round for the 2023 cycle recently closed at the beginning of September. It is never too early to begin planning, so if you know of any potential projects within your municipality contact the DGLVR Technician, Jordan Whitmer at [jwhitmer@pawccd.org](mailto:jwhitmer@pawccd.org) or call (724) 705-7098 Extension 211.

## What kind of Projects can we fund with the DGLVR Program?

The program can fund projects that have an impact of sediment pollution to a regulated waterway. Such waterways can be streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, wetlands etc. The bread and butter of the program and most of the projects that get funded are drainage projects. Such projects include adding cross pipes, drop inlets, re-establishing ditch lines, adding riprap to stabilize ditch lines, and raising entranced roadways that promote poor drainage. Other projects that WCCD can fund include roadside slip repair, culvert crossings, resurfacing dirt and gravel roads with driving surface aggregate, and streambank stabilization.

### 2022 Awarded Projects - Dirt and Gravel Roads

Dunkard Church Road	West Bethlehem Township \$186,561
McCready Culvert #1	Jefferson Township \$160,776
Hull Road Drainage Project	Deemston Borough \$16,871.50

### 2022 Awarded Projects - Low Volume Roads

Wilhelm Road Slip Road	Donegal Township \$148,100
Pine Run Road	West Beth Township \$53,740
Chestnut Street	Beallsville Borough \$5,625



Wilhelm Road Culvert,  
Donegal Township.  
The construction on  
the project is ongoing  
and is projected to be  
finished by the end  
of September.

Dates to be ESM certified [In-person] ESM trainings  
October 12 & 13 [Susquehanna County]- Wednesday/Thursday  
November 2 & 3 [Lycoming County] - Wednesday/Thursday

To register for the courses, go to the Penn State Center for  
Dirt and Gravel Road Studies website and click  
"ESM Course" option in the "Education/Training" dropdown menu.  
Click on the green "Register Here" button on the bottom of the page.

~ Jordan Whitmer



# Best Management Practices [BMPs]

A refreshing shower or impressive storm can rejuvenate the land- or it used to.

Today, storms and other rainfall don't always act as they should. Because of impervious surfaces- parking lots, roofs, and roads- plenty of precipitation doesn't infiltrate into the ground. So, what happens to it? Rainwater that doesn't infiltrate will flow along the ground towards a low point picking up debris, toxins and pollutants. If there aren't any drains, this polluted water eventually makes its way to natural water ways, like creeks and streams. Construction sites are often the first line of defense against runoff issues. Each site and project is different.

Because of this, each site will require evaluations to determine which BMP provides the greatest effect. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are structural methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing sediment and nutrient pollutions. BMPs reduce the amount of sediment leaving a site by runoff. Keeping sediment contained to the area of disturbance is key during construction activities. By implementing appropriate BMPs with proper maintenance, we can reduce the amount of sediment entering our waterways in Washington County, leaving us with clear streams for better water quality and recreation.



Compost Filter Sock



Water Pump Filter Bag



Erosion Control Matting

2022/08/31  
14:04



Concrete Washout

12 05 2



# Washington County Conservation District Chapter 105 Waterways and Wetlands

## WHAT PERMITS ARE OFFERED THROUGH THE DISTRICT?

- GP-1 Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures
  - To create habitat for aquatic life. Ex: mud sills and log structures
- GP-2 Small Docks and Boat Launching Ramps
- GP-3 Bank Rehab, Protection, and Gravel Bar Removal
  - To restore and/or protect the bank of the stream.  
Ex: slope protection and retention walls
- GP-4 Intake and Outfall Structures
- GP-5 Utility Line Stream Crossings
- GP-6 Agricultural Crossings and Ramps
- GP-7 Minor Road Crossings
  - For stream crossings with drainage areas of one sq. mile or less.
  - Wetland crossings with one acre of disturbance or less.
- GP-8 Temporary Road Crossings
  - Can only be installed for up to one year then must be removed.
- GP-9 Agricultural Activities



General Permits available through the  
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Only

- GP-10 Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- GP-11 Maintenance, Testing, Repair of Obstructions/Encroachments
- GP-15 Private Residential Construction in Wetlands



# Agriculture

This year has been flying by and there is still a lot of work to be done. First, I would like to thank all the participants that attended one of our workshops held this fall. The evening events were something new that we tried and have seemed to work. We have plenty of more educational opportunities coming up.

The 2023 SW PA Soil Health Conference will be held on January 25, 2023, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at Saint Vincent College. The day will consist of speakers discussing the benefits of planting green, carbon credits, and pesticide credits will be available.

The 2023 Washington County Crops Day meeting will be held February 23, 2023, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Washington County Fairgrounds. The day will consist of speakers discussing soil health, crop management, and pesticide credits will be available.

This Summer we learned of a new cost share program called Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). This program, enacted as part of the Clean Streams Fund legislation, provides financial resources to farmers to install conservation practices. This program will provide a funding allocation to the District which will accept applications, tentatively starting January 2023, from farmers to install the best management practices listed in their conservation plan or manure management plan.

Contact the conservation district for more information on both events and ACAP information. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming events by checking out our website or subscribing to our e-newsletter. As always, the conservation district is available to assist with any questions relating to nutrient management regulations and assistance in completing your manure management manual.

Feel free to contact us at any time. Thanks, and we hope to hear from you!

~ Tom Ulrich



# Washington County Farmland Preservation

## Agricultural Security Areas

Agricultural Security Areas (ASAs) are a tool to protect farms and farmland from non-agricultural uses.

### Landowner Benefits

- Local municipalities refrain from enacting ordinances and regulations that would interfere with normal farming activities.
- Limitations are placed on the use of land condemnation procedures—eminent domain—by state and local agencies unless approval is obtained from the Agricultural Land Condemnation Approval Board (ALCAB).
- The landowner may apply to the Washington County Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program once enrolled into an Agricultural Security Area\*. The ACE Program can provide financial benefits to those landowners that sell an agricultural conservation easement to Washington County. (\*The ACE Program has other criteria that must be met in addition to the ASA enrollment prior to applying.)

### Eligible Property

- The property must be zoned for agriculture and must be in current agricultural use. Cropland, woodland, and pasture are all viable lands to include in an ASA.
- Non-adjacent farmland parcels of at least 10 acres; or if less than 10 acres, capable of producing \$2,000 annually from the sale of agricultural production of crops, livestock, and livestock products on such parcel.
- At the minimum, half of the land that comprises the entire ASA should be in soil capability classes I-IV, as defined by the Washington County Soil Survey.

### Application Information

To apply, submit the application form and attach a copy of your tax map, to the municipality where you reside. Applications can be obtained from the township/borough where you reside, or the Washington County Planning Commission. Applications should be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested.

### Washington County Municipalities with Agricultural Security Areas

Amwell, Beallsville, Blaine, Buffalo, Canton, Carroll, Cecil, Chartiers, Cross Creek, Deemston, Donegal, Hanover, Hopewell, Independence, Jefferson, Morris, Mt. Pleasant, N. Bethlehem, N. Strabane, Nottingham, Peters, Robinson, Smith, Somerset, S. Strabane, Union, W. Bethlehem, W. Pike Run.

### Farmland Preservation

The Washington County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program preserves farmland by purchasing an agricultural conservation easement on productive farmland. An agricultural conservation easement is a legal restriction that limits the use of the property to agricultural purposes. Landowners retain all other rights and privileges of private land ownership. The agricultural conservation easement runs with the land and legally binds future owners to the easement provisions. Applying to the program is voluntary.

As of August 2022, there are 47 farms preserved in Washington County under the Washington County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. These farms total 7,200 acres.

Interested in Preserving Your Farm? Applications are accepted annually until September 30.

Please contact the Washington County Planning Commission at 724-228-6811 or find information at: [www.co.washington.pa.us/173/Farmland-Preservation](http://www.co.washington.pa.us/173/Farmland-Preservation).

~ Caroline Sinchar



# Why Do Autumn Leaves Change Color?

## Penn's Woods in color



We are lucky to live in one of the few parts of the world where nature has one last fling before settling down into winter's sleep.

In these lucky places, as days shorten and temperatures become crisp, the quiet green palette of summer foliage is transformed into the vivid autumn palette of reds, oranges, russets and golden yellows before leaves fall off the trees.

## Where to go

For help planning your "leaf peeping" day out visit the "Fall in PA" page at [www.visitpa.com](http://www.visitpa.com). You will find a fall foliage web cam, route suggestions and dates of local events across Pennsylvania.

Locate the nearest State Forest or State Park destination at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us).

## How does autumn color happen?

For years, scientists have worked to understand the changes that happen to trees and shrubs in autumn. Although we don't know all the details, we know enough to explain the basics and help you to enjoy nature's multicolored autumn display.

Three factors influence autumn color — leaf pigments, length of night, and weather, but not quite in the way we were told as children. The timing of color change and leaf fall are primarily regulated by the increasing length of night. None of the other environmental influences—temperature, rainfall, food supply, and so on—are as unvarying as the steadily increasing length of night during autumn. As days grow shorter, and nights grow longer and cooler, biochemical processes in the leaf begin to paint the landscape with nature's autumn palette.

## Where do autumn colors come from?

A color palette needs pigments. These molecules capture energy from sunlight to power the chemical reactions that convert water and carbon dioxide into sugars—photosynthesis. Trees in temperate zones store these sugars for their winter dormant period. Three major pigment types are involved in the production of autumn color.

**Chlorophyll** is the most abundant pigment. It absorbs red and blue light and reflects green giving leaves their basic color and masking lighter shades.

**Carotenoids**, (carotene and xanthophylls) reflect orange, yellow and brown colors in corn, carrots, buttercups and bananas. The clear yellow of tuliptree leaves and the russets shades of oaks are due to carotenoids.

**Anthocyanins** give red, blue and purple colors to cranberries, apples, grapes, berries, cherries, and plums depending on their acidity. They are water soluble and dissolve in the fluids of leaf cells.

Chlorophyll and carotenoids are present in leaf cells throughout the growing season. Most anthocyanins are produced in the autumn, in response to bright light and excess plant sugars within leaf cells.

During the growing season, chlorophyll is continually used, broken down and replaced and leaves appear green. As night length increases in the autumn, chlorophyll production slows and then stops. Eventually all the chlorophyll is destroyed. Carotenoids and anthocyanins present in the leaf are then unmasked and show their colors.

Tree species have characteristic colors. Oaks turn red, brown, or russet; hickories show golden bronze; aspen and yellow-poplar, golden yellow; dogwood, purplish red; beech, light tan; and sourwood and black tupelo, crimson. Maples differ by species — red maple turns brilliant scarlet, sugar maple glows orange-red and black maple a rich yellow. But the little striped maple becomes almost colorless. Leaves of some species such as the elms simply shrivel, turn brown and fall.



## When is the best time to see autumn color?

The timing of the color change varies by species. Blackgum begins to show brilliant scarlet branches in late August and the related dogwood is draped in brick-red by mid-September. Maples become red and orange in late September and early October. But oaks only put on their colors long after maples have shed their leaves.

In most years, northern PA counties reach their best autumn color October 1-10. Central counties are at their peak October 10-20 and south central and southeastern PA have the most color October 20-31.

### How does weather affect autumn color?

Because carotenoids are always present in leaves, the yellow and gold colors remain fairly constant from year to year. The brilliance of red colors that develop as chlorophyll in the leaves is dwindling can be affected by temperature and soil moisture in late summer and fall.

A succession of warm, sunny days and cool, crisp but not freezing nights seems to bring about the most spectacular color displays. During the day, sugars are produced in the leaf but cool nights and the gradual closing of veins connecting leaves to twigs prevent these sugars from moving out. Lots of sugar and lots of light spur production of brilliant red, purple and crimson anthocyanin pigments.

Dry soils also affect the chemistry of autumn color. Like the weather, soil moisture varies greatly from year to year and place to place. So fall color will never be the same in any two years or locals. A late spring, or a severe summer drought, can affect the onset of fall color. Warm fall weather may lower the intensity of autumn colors. A warm wet spring, favorable summer weather, and warm sunny fall days with cool nights typically produce the most brilliant autumn colors.

## What triggers leaf fall?

In response to the shortening days and weakening sunlight, leaves begin processes leading up to their fall. The veins that carry fluids into and out of the leaf gradually close off as a layer of cells forms at the base of each leaf. These clogged veins trap sugars in the leaf and promote production of anthocyanins. Once this separation layer is complete and the connecting tissues are sealed off, the leaf is ready to drop.

### What does all this do for the tree?

Winter is a certainty that all vegetation in the temperate zones must face each year. Perennial plants, including trees, must protect themselves from freezing temperatures and desiccation. Stems, twigs, and buds are equipped to survive extreme cold and will reawaken when spring heralds the start of another growing season. Tender leaf tissues, however, would freeze and burst in winter, so plants must either toughen up and protect their leaves or dispose of them.

Evergreens — pines, spruces and other conifers — survive by toughening up. Their needle-shaped foliage is covered with a heavy wax coating and the fluid inside their cells contains substances that resist freezing. Thus the foliage of evergreens can safely withstand all but the severest winter conditions. Evergreen needles survive for several years but eventually fall due to old age.

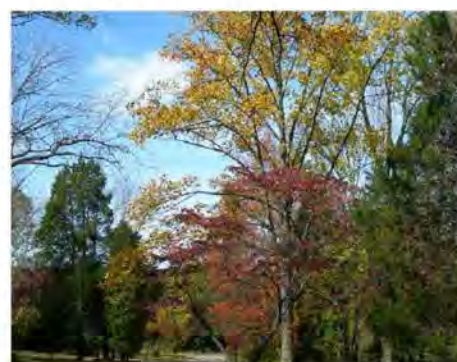
Leaves of deciduous plants, on the other hand, are typically broad and thin and not protected by any coating. They are tender and vulnerable to damage. The fluid in their cells is usually a thin, watery sap that freezes readily. This means that the cells could not survive winter where temperatures fall below freezing. Tissues unable to overwinter must be sealed off and shed to ensure the plant's continued survival. Thus, leaf fall precedes each winter in the temperate zones



Blackgum is one of the earliest trees to turn, showing scarlet leaves in early September in northern Pennsylvania.



Central counties of the state reach their colorful peak in mid-October.



Southeastern Pennsylvania is most colorful in late October with oaks among the last to turn.

## More Information

Download a copy of the *Common Trees of Pennsylvania* booklet from Bureau of Forestry web site:

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry)

Email questions about Pennsylvania trees and forests to

[PAForester@pa.gov](mailto:PAForester@pa.gov)

or phone (717) 787-2703



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES





## THE WASHINGTON COUNTY WATERSHED ALLIANCE

50 Old Hickory Ridge Road, Suite 1, Washington, PA 15301

### Fall 2022

Website: Visit us at [www.wcwalliance.org](http://www.wcwalliance.org), on our Facebook page or Instagram for more information on our activities.

Meetings: All meetings will be held hybrid style; in-person or on the Zoom platform on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please contact us for the link to the meetings. All are welcome!

Chartier's Creek Cleanup/Revival: THANK YOU! We find ourselves still so grateful to everyone and the organizations that helped make September 3rd's cleanup a huge success! By the Numbers: 81 Volunteers, over 30 high school age or younger! 13 different groups sent volunteers. We picked up 30 bags of garbage! We cleared over 1/4 mile of overgrown invasive vegetation from the banks of Chartier's Creek! Based on the current volunteer rates, our volunteers time just on the day of the cleanup was worth over \$9,703.80!!! In addition, we cleaned a major log jam from one of the bridge piers that would have cost the Borough THOUSANDS of dollars to remove!!! Thank you to the following groups that showed up to volunteer or helped out along the way: Upper



Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church, The Dreamers Company, Aaron Miller, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Rotary of Washington, PA, McMurray Rotary, Washington & Jefferson College - Jason Kilgore,



Washington County Historical Society - Clay Kilgore, Clean and Tidy Our County Inc - Fern Sibert, Washington County Conservation District, Observer-Reporter - Mike Jones, PA American Water, Houston Borough, Houston Volunteer Fire Department, Helltown Taproom Houston, Monday's Brewing Company, Rusty Gold Brewing, Voodoo Brewing Co. - West Pike, Dual Devils Garage, and 1781 CLUB. Among others who chose to be anonymous. Again, thank you all for the effort and looking forward to helping out with our next community undertaking!

Day of Giving: Thank you to the 37 donors who helped us reach \$8,716 during the Day of Giving on September 15th. This number is the unofficial total as more check donations and matching funds will be added! Your support helps us protect clean water!

Amazon Smile: You can now help the WCWA with every purchase you make purchasing through Amazon. Login through [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to send 0.5% of each of your purchases to the Watershed Alliance.

#### Upper Chartier's Creek Watershed Association

[www.upperchartierscreek.org](http://www.upperchartierscreek.org); email: [chartierscreekwa@pawccd.org](mailto:chartierscreekwa@pawccd.org);

[facebook.com/upperchartierscreek](https://facebook.com/upperchartierscreek)

Meetings - The ChCWA meets at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Until further notice all meetings will be held hybrid, in-person or online using the Zoom platform. Please email the address above the link to join if you'd like to attend online. All are welcome!



Clean up of Chartier's Creek: Working with the WCWA many of the UCCWA members participated in the clean up of Chartier's Creek. Clean ups were held at Canonsburg Lake, Houston Ballfields, and in Canonsburg along South Central Avenue. Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted with the clean up!

#### Buffalo Creek Watershed Association

[www.buffalocreekwatershed.org](http://www.buffalocreekwatershed.org); facebook: @Buffalocreekwatershedassociation

Meetings: BCWA meetings are the second Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Buffalo Twp. Municipal Bldg.

#### Independence Conservancy (Raccoon Creek)

Raccoon Creek Watershed has lost a tireless advocate for abandoned mine reclamation. Wayne E. Cumer, aged 78, passed away on June 10, 2022, due to an accident at his beloved farm in Cherry Valley, Smith Township. Wayne led a life of service and devotion to his country, community, family, friends, and church. We could always count on Wayne when there was work to do or a problem to be solved. He was instrumental in forming the Raccoon Creek Watershed Association, served on the Washington County Watershed Alliance Board, and was Chairman of the Smith Township Planning Commission. He helped us to sunset the RCWA, merging its members and mission with Independence Conservancy where he served as Vice-Chairman. Wayne enjoyed sampling for bugs in the headwaters of Raccoon Creek and was encouraged to see life return to this once-dead waterway. His keen memory, coupled with a gift for gab, and keeping his finger on the pulse of whatever was going on at the time, helped us bring many watershed restoration projects to life. Wayne had genuine compassion for his friends, always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. He faithfully attended his Army reunions, and the funerals of his brothers-in-arms. Wayne's wife, Janice Patton Cumer, passed away in 2005 after an extended illness. He is survived by his dear companion of fifteen years, Darlene Kopp of Ambridge, who brought light, joy and adventure to his days. Wayne is pictured at left, with the late Al Moran, founding Chairman of Independence Conservancy, who passed away in 2016. We had been celebrating the 2007 rebuild of the JB2 AMD Treatment System in Cherry Valley near Wayne's farm. No doubt these two irreplaceable gentlemen are comparing notes and wondering when we're going to clean up some more AMD!



#### Ten Mile Creek Watershed Association

[tenmilecreekwatershed.org](http://tenmilecreekwatershed.org); Facebook—@tenmilecreekwatershedassociation

Meetings: Upcoming meeting will be held at the Log Cabin Fence Company Meeting Room (411 Ten Mile Road, Amity, PA). The next meeting is planned for April 4, 2023.

Grant Opportunity: The TMCWA is opening a small grant program to entities interested in installation of water quality improvement projects in the Ten Mile Creek Watershed. More information about how to apply for a grant can be found on their website.

#### Upper Wheeling Creek Watershed Association

[www.upperwheelingcreek.org](http://www.upperwheelingcreek.org)

Upcoming Meetings: The Upper Wheeling Creek Watershed Association meets quarterly on the first Wednesday of April, July, and October at 10:00 AM at the East Finley Township Building, 1394 East Finley Drive (Rt. 231). The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022.



# The Spotted Lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect native to Asia and it was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. Since then, there have been 45 counties placed on the quarantine list. With Washington County being added to the list in March of 2022. A county is placed under quarantine when there is evidence of a reproducing population of spotted lanternflies. This evidence can include when egg masses are discovered. The spotted lanternfly quarantine regulates the transport of plants, plant-based materials, and other outdoor household items out of the quarantine area.

Spotted lanternflies feed on the sap of plants. It has a strong preference for certain plants that are important to Pennsylvania's economy. Some of these plants include grapevines, maple trees, black walnut, birch, and willow. Their method of feeding stresses plants which can impact their health and in severe cases cause death.

Spotted Lanternfly Nymphs

Photo by USDA.



Spotted Lanternfly Adult and Nymph.

Photo by USDA.



It is not just the plants that are at risk, this invasion also has an economic impact as well. The Spotted lanternfly can impact vineyards, orchards, plant nurseries, and the timber industry. All of these operations contribute billions of dollars annually to the state's economy. If left uncontrolled, this insect could cost more than \$300 million annually and have an impact on over 2,800 jobs.

Spotted lanternflies can also leave a mess. They excrete honeydew, a sugary waste that attracts bees, wasps, and other insects. This waste builds up on surfaces below them. The build-up of waste can contribute to the growth of sooty mold and black-colored fungi.

What can you do? You can join the effort to control and prevent the spread of Spotted lanternfly. Any efforts you make today in eliminating the Spotted lanternfly or its egg masses can help reduce populations on your property and in your community in the future. There are several ways that the spotted lanternfly can be controlled. First, through the physical removal at any life stage of the insect, its egg masses, nymphs or the adults. You can also eliminate Tree-of-Heaven, one of the host trees. Lastly the insect can be controlled through pesticide applications.

If you live or work within one of the quarantine counties, the Department of Agriculture encourages you to "Look Before You Leave". Spotted lanternfly can move quickly and easily on vehicles and equipment. The Department of Agriculture has a checklist available for residents that travel within or around the quarantine counties. You are also encouraged to report spotted lanternfly sightings at 1-888-4BAD-FLY (1-888-422-3359) or online SLF Reporting at <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly>.

A Spotted lanternfly permit is required for businesses, agencies, and other organizations, both agricultural and non-agricultural that work within the quarantine area and that move regulated products within or out of the quarantine. A permit is also required to move regulated products into other parts of Pennsylvania from other states with existing Spotted lanternfly populations.

**Remember to "Look Before You Leave".**

~ Matt Golden





## JUST FOR KIDS

### Where do the leaves go after they fall from the trees?

#### On the Ground:

Leaves that fall to the ground form a significant source of food for the bacteria, fungi, and insects that live in and around the soil. As the leaves begin to break down, they are consumed and transformed into the major components of great soil! Leaf litter is important to leave in your yard and areas where it can break down to create new healthy soil.

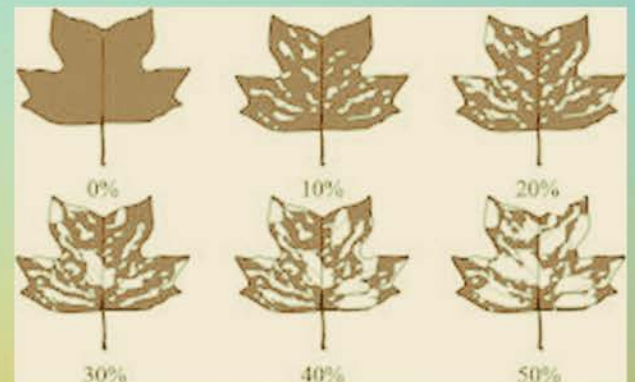


Detritivore – Litter eating invertebrate  
small creature with no backbone)



#### Activity:

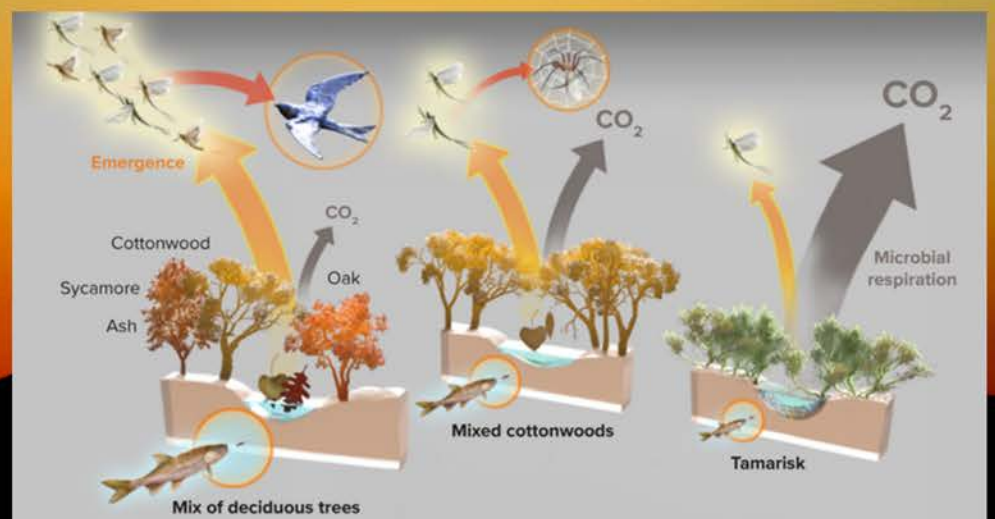
Can you go out and find leaves in each of the decomposition states shown to the right?  
Bonus points if you discover some detritivores while sorting through your leaves!  
Be sure to put the leaves back for the bugs!



#### In the Water:

In the water, when leaves fall into the stream, macroinvertebrates (small insects and crustaceans) consume the leaves as their primary food source through the winter.

Bacteria and microscopic organisms also play a role in breaking down the smallest portions of leaf litter.







Washington County Conservation District  
50 Old Hickory Ridge Road, Suite 1  
Washington, PA 15301

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Celebrating 75 Years  
1947-2022

#### Board of Directors

- William Iams
- Jan Marchezak
- Jose Taracido
- John Hunter
- Don Logue
- Mike Lusk
- Larry Maggi, Commissioner Director

#### Associate Directors

- Jason Kilgore PHD
- Jessica Ullom
- Tom Sierzega
- Keith Small
- Georgiana Griffith
- Don Gardner
- Kathy Hixenbaugh

#### District Location

50 Old Hickory Ridge Road, Suite 1  
Washington, PA 15301  
Phone: 724-705-7098  
Website: [www.pawccd.org](http://www.pawccd.org)  
Email: [washcccd@yahoo.com](mailto:washcccd@yahoo.com)  
Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Monday - Friday

#### District Staff

- Jennifer Dann, District Manager
- Matt Golden, Lead E & S Technician
- Tom Ulrich, Agriculture Technician
- Sue Leipold, Administrative Assistant
- Alexis Blake, Watershed Specialist
- Ian Reinstadtler, Resource Conservation Technician
- Jenna Waller, Resource Conservation Technician
- Jordan Whitmer, DGLVR Technician

#### Cooperating Agencies

- Tom Beresnyak, Penn State Cooperative Extension
- Russell Gibbs, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
- Jonathon Stark, Fish & Boat Commission
- Adam Traynor, PA Game Commission
- Ryan Furrer, DEP
- Caroline Sinchar, Washington County Planning Commission
- Jeff Donahue, Washington County Parks & Recreation
- Michal Roup, Washington/Greene County Farm Service Agency
- Rennie Stoy, NRCS
- Phil Evans, NRCS

*The WCCD Board meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Conservation District Conference Room. Meeting time and date is posted on the District Website.*