19th Annual Conservation District Watershed Specialist Meeting
Toftrees Golf Resort & Conference Center, State College, PA
October 2-4, 2019

Wednesday, October 2

Updated September 13, 2019

Starting at 7:00 AM — **Breakfast Served in The Field Restaurant**
Breakfast vouchers will be provided to those arriving on Tuesday night. (This question will be asked during online registration.)

9:00 AM–10:00 AM — **Registration (Conference Center Foyer)**

9:00 AM–3:00 PM — **Photo Contest Entries on Display (Conference Center Foyer)**
Be sure to stop by and put in your vote for the coveted People's Choice Award!

10:00 AM–10:15 AM — **Opening Remarks**
R. Scott Carney, Chief, Watershed Support Section, PA DEP

10:15 AM–10:45 AM — **Watershed Specialist Reporting**
Tamara Seiler, DEP Grants Center
This session will provide a general review of reporting requirements for conservation district watershed specialists.

10:45 AM–11:00 AM — **Break**

11:00 AM–Noon — **Watershed Specialist Project Showcase**
- ✧ Section 319 West Branch Antietam Creek Restoration
  Tammy Piper, Franklin County Conservation District
- ✧ Mifflin Run Project
  Trevor Weaver, Mifflin County Conservation District
- ✧ Four Seasons Trivia Quest (and Lessons Learned)
  Jean Gomory, Warren County Conservation District

Noon–12:15 PM — **Gather for Group Photo** – *Location to be determined by weather.*

12:15 PM–1:00 PM — **Lunch (Aspen Room)**

1:15 PM–2:15 PM — **Regional Breakouts with Watershed Managers**
- ✧ Northwest – Silver Maple III
- ✧ Northcentral – Silver Maple II
- ✧ Northeast – Red Pine Library
- ✧ Southeast – Silver Maple I
- ✧ Southcentral – White Oak Library
- ✧ Southwest – The Field Alcove

2:15 PM–2:30 PM — **Break**

2:30 PM–4:30 PM — **Watershed Managers Meeting (White Oak Library)**

2:30 PM–3:15 PM — **Prioritizing and Implementing Riparian Forest Buffers Across PA: Using New Tools and Planning Better Projects**
Teddi Stark, Riparian Forest Buffer Coordinator, DCNR Bureau of Forestry
We all know buffers are an important best management practice for water quality protection and improvement across PA, but with so many streams to buffer, where do you even begin? During this session, we'll discuss three different prioritization tools, effective outreach, developing and approving project budgets, and accessing funding sources, all for buffer projects. We'll cover lots of great information for newer watershed specialists, and some new tools and information of interest to more seasoned staff.

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3:15 PM–3:30 PM **Break**

3:30 PM–4:30 PM **Concurrent Activities**

Macroinvertebrate Preservation Workshop – Requires Registration
Kristie Smith, Watershed Specialist, Perry County Conservation District
Participants will learn how to preserve a wide variety of macroinvertebrates (macros) using everyday craft supplies, creating easy to handle, durable, kid-friendly specimens. This preservation technique can also be applied to flowers and plant life, shells, seeds, feathers, pebbles, and much more. Learn how to enhance your hands-on learning activities with real specimens! Participants will need to provide a macro sample that's been sterilized in 91% isopropyl alcohol for at least 24 hours and had time to completely dry prior to the conference. Medium to large macros will need extra time to dry out before the workshop.

Brokenstraw Creek Watershed Improvement Initiative
Kylie Maland, Watershed Manager, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Participants will learn about the Brokenstraw Creek Watershed Improvement Initiative, a comprehensive, community and watershed-based effort to improve water quality at six sites in the Brokenstraw Creek drainage. Come see how the power of partnerships and garnering local community support can drive watershed conservation!

4:30 PM–5:00 PM **Four Season Trivia Quest (Begin outside Silver Maple Ballroom I)**
Look for the pipe painted red and white. Then follow directions or be lost all night. Either one or a group, for yourselves you must fend. And if all goes to plan, you'll end up at The End!

5:00 PM–6:00 PM **Photo Contest and Networking (Aspen Room)**

6:00 PM **End of Day's Activities – Dinner on Your Own**

Thursday, October 3

7:00 AM–8:00 AM **Breakfast Served in The Field Restaurant**
Attendees will be provided with breakfast vouchers to provide to their server.

8:00 AM–Noon **Track for New Watershed Specialists**
Watershed specialists who started after October 11, 2019, should attend this track.

8:00 AM–9:00 AM **Riparian Restoration Methods to Identify Species that Work**
John Levitsky, Watershed Specialist, Luzerne
The restoration of Riparian Zones is a critical component of our initiative to restore water quality to all water courses in the Commonwealth, including the Chesapeake Bay. This session will review methods to identify appropriate vegetation species for riparian projects.

9:00 AM–9:45 AM **2018 Pennsylvania Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Report**
Heidi Biggs, Water Program Specialist, DEP
Participants will see a live demonstration of the draft 2018 Integrated Report, a fully interactive web application that allows the user unprecedented access to DEPs assessment decision data for surface waters. The demonstration will detail some of the novel features of the application, which include interactive graphics and powerful mapping capabilities.

9:45 AM–10:00 AM **Break**

10:00 AM–11:00 AM **Grants and Resources Highlight**
Tali MacArthur, Program Manager for Watershed Outreach, PA Environmental Council and PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers
Faith Zerbe, Director of Monitoring, Delaware Riverkeeper Network (for C-SAW)
Brian Pilarcik, Watershed Specialist, Crawford County Conservation District (for C-SAW)
During this session, the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR), and the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (C-SAW) will share information about what they do, as well as grants, resources, and programs of interest to conservation district watershed specialists.

11:00 AM–Noon **Growing Greener Update**
Ann Devine, Water Program Specialist, DEP
Join DEP's Watershed Support Section staff to learn about the Growing Greener grants program, including grant requirements, project categories and priorities, and applying online, followed by time for questions and answers.

Noon–1:00 PM **Lunch (Aspen Room)**

1:00 PM–2:00 PM **Breakout Sessions** – *See handout for descriptions*
- ✧ Legacy Sediment Impairments and Cost-Effective Riparian Buffer Restoration–Integrated Restoration of Wetland, Stream, and Floodplain Watershed Resources
  - Jeffrey Hartranft, DEP
- ✧ Managing the 4Cs – Crops-Cows-Cash-Conservation
  - Virginia (Ginny) Ishler, Penn State Extension
- ✧ Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI)
  - Eric Oliver, Mineral Resources Program Specialist
- ✧ Watershed Monitoring Opportunities through the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)
  - Julie Vastine, Director, ALLARM

2:00 PM–2:15 PM **Break**

2:15 PM–3:15 PM **Breakout Sessions Repeat**

3:15 PM–3:30 PM **Complete Online Evaluations**

3:30 PM **Departure or Dinner on Your Own**
If you're heading home, please complete your evaluation and pick up your travel check. If you're staying for Friday's tour, you're free to enjoy dinner on your own.

Friday, October 4

NOTE: Because planning for this tour is on-going, times are currently approximate. However, the latest we will plan to return from the tour is 2:00 p.m.

7:00 AM–7:30 AM **Breakfast Served in the Restaurant**
Attendees who signed up for Friday's tour will be provided with breakfast vouchers to provide to their server.

8:00 AM–8:30 AM **Load Bus for Field Tour (Conference Center Entrance)**
Participants should gather at the conference center entrance to board the bus.

8:30 AM–2:00 PM **Watershed Restoration and Riparian Buffer Tour**
The Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center is hosting this tour, which will walk participants through several watershed restoration and riparian buffer projects. Lunch will be provided, and additional details are forthcoming!

2:00 P.M. **Complete Field Tour Evaluations and Depart**
We wish you safe travels home!