



Out and About In The Tygarts Valley Conservation District

We're Going Green!

TVCD now offers an "e-newsletter" for anyone who is interested. If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of our newsletter, our would like to be added to our mailing list, please visit wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm or call our district office at 304-457-3026.

Dates to Remember

- ⇒ NACD Stewardship Week April 24th – May 1st
- ⇒ Forestry Field Day @ Audra April 29th
- ⇒ Discover Nature Day @ Seneca Rocks April 30th
- ⇒ NRCS LWG Meeting May 16th
- ⇒ Memorial Day May 30th OFFICE CLOSED
- ⇒ Independence Day July 4th OFFICE CLOSED

Cooperators: please be sure to get your soil tested ASAP in order to have the results in time for our next cost-share program. We anticipate sign-ups to start in July.

Spring 2016

Celebrating Arbor Day

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District is hosting a **free** to the public, educational forestry field day at Audra State Park on Friday April 29th, which is Arbor Day.

Taking incentive from the National Association of Conservation Districts' 2016 stewardship theme "We All Need Trees" the day will feature a wide variety of topics and presentations such as:

- ♦ *Fire Safety & Suppression*
- ♦ *Chainsaw Safety and Felling*
 - ♦ *Tree Identification*
 - ♦ *Invasive Plants*
 - ♦ *Forest Insects*
 - ♦ *Tree Planting*

Presentations will be given by:
Tim Casto WVDOF: Fire Forester for Barbour, Marion, Harrison, Preston, and Taylor Counties.
Chris Bolyard WVDOF: Logging Sediment Control Act Forester for Marion, Monongalia, north Preston, and Taylor Counties.

Travis Hays WVDOF: Logging Sediment Control Act Forester for Barbour and Tucker County.
Brian Young WVDOF: Landowner Assistance Forester covering Barbour, Harrison, Taylor, and Tucker Counties.

Dr. Daniel Frank WVU: Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor, specializing in entomology, integrated pest management and insect-plant interactions.

The event will last from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Attendees should plan on arriving by 9am to check-in. Lunch and refreshments will be provided to all who attend.

If you or a group is interested in attending, please RSVP with the TVCD office by Monday April 25th. Call 304-457-3026 or e-mail tvcd@wvca.us



Focused Conservation

The TVCD Local Work Group (LWG) is again taking action and discussing the new NRCS Focused Conservation Approach. The Focused Conservation Approach is a two-step process in which a long range plan (typically five years in length) is developed to identify environmental problems/resource concerns within the district. Once the long range plan is finished, project proposals are then developed to help treat/solve the identified concerns. The project plans can be one or two years long, depending on the work involved, and once completed, new projects can be developed, along with new locations for implementation that allows for variation from one year to the next.

One of the greatest benefits of this approach is that the LWG can pick and choose what environmental problems they want to work on and how to treat them. This approach also gives us a chance to work more closely with our partners and better measure the benefits of implementing conservation practices within the

district. The LWG just finished up its 3rd meeting, and the Long Range Plan is nearly finished. From May through the end of July, the LWG will be working on the “project proposals” - what resource concerns will be treated and where, how best to treat them, and the methods of measuring the resource/environmental improvements.

Producers in the Tygarts Valley have an opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions and discuss possible projects to benefit the District overall. It cannot be stressed enough that this is a collected effort and requires the assistance and input from many different partners and landowners to be successful. This is an opportunity for local conservationists to determine how and where federal dollars are spent. If you are interested in attending, the next LWG meeting will be held on Monday, May 16th at 9:00 am in the conference room at the district office. If you would like more information, contact Ben Collier 304-457-4516 ext. 102.

Abuzz With Beekeeping



TVCD recently held a “Beginning Beekeeping” class that was organized and presented by the District’s Outreach Coordinator and WV Beekeeper, Joyce Frey. As seen in the adjoining pictures, a demonstration was given on how to properly ignite and maintain a smoker while inspecting a hive. We would like to thank those who participated in the course. An advanced beekeeping course may be offered next year. Keep an eye out for future updates.



Roller-Crimper for Rent

TVCD now offers a 4-foot roller-crimper for district cooperators to rent. Use of this high-residue conservation tillage tool produces large amounts of cover crop residue which suppresses weeds, protects the soil from erosion, and conserves soil moisture. The roller-crimper is a useful tool to be used as an alternative to high intensity tillage of small scale vegetable and grain producers.

Tips for successful results include avoiding using the roller-crimper during wet soil conditions, proper timing, and crimping cover crops in the same direction. This three-point hitch attachment is suited best for a small tractor that is capable of pulling 1200lbs. Contact our office to make arrangements for renting the roller-crimper. The cost to rent is \$30/day.



For more information and a video demonstration about how to use this tool visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?=EjcyoalaeAM>

This link also provides some guidance for successful roller-crimping
<http://extension.psu.edu/pests/weeds/cover-crop-rollers-for-northeastern-grain-production>

District Equipment Rental

TVCD offers the following equipment for rental by district cooperators:

- (2) Four ton lime spreaders
- Five ton litter spreader
- 3 Pt. Hitch Fert. Spreader
- Post driver

Effective January 1, 2016 the new pricing of equipment rental is as follows:

- 4 Ton Lime Spreader \$60/day
- 5 Ton Litter Spreader \$60/day
- 3 Pt. Hitch Fert. Spreader \$30/day
- Post Driver \$75/day



If you would like to reserve our equipment for your personal use, please call 304-457-3026. We recommend calling at least a week in advance of your desired pick-up date. All rental contracts are subject to an advance deposit of one day's rental fee.



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Visit us online

<http://www.wvca.us>



District Supervisors

Barbour County
Sigrid Teets

Randolph County
Joe Gumm
Tom Warner

Taylor County
Sheldon Findley
Joe Shaffer

Tucker County
James Nester, SR.
David Bonner

Upshur County
Rex Reeder, Secretary / Treasurer
John Sencindiver, Vice Chairman

Bluebird Houses Available



The district is again selling bluebird houses to the public. Each house costs \$10.00 and all proceeds will be used to help fund the district's educational programs. If you would like to purchase a birdhouse, stop by our district office between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Please call the office for more information.

Our Mission:

"To provide for an promote the protection and conservation of West Virginia's soil, land, water, and related resources for the health, safety, and general welfare of the state's citizens."