



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

## Bradford County Conservation District: Working for You

By: Mike Lovegreen

The Bradford County Conservation District was created through a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners on November 13, 1956, under the authority of P.L. 547 of 1945. Conservation Districts exist in virtually every county across the country. Created in the 1940's and 50's their purpose is to provide the landowners and managers of each county's natural resources a voice in identifying management needs. Assisting in developing strategies to meet those needs and provide them the authority to enter into agreements to implement the strategies.

In Pennsylvania Conservation Districts are governed by a board of directors that represents the land uses in the county. The seven board members in Bradford County are made up of four members from the agricultural community, two from a non-farm background, and one County Commissioner. The board members are appointed to the board by the County Commissioners from a list of nominees provided by approved county-wide representative organizations. They serve for three year terms with the



Conservation District Field Day 2009

exception of the commissioner who is appointed annually. The base of much of what the Conservation District is able to accomplish is its working agreements with various federal, state, regional and local partners. These agreements, often called "memorandums of understanding", outline what type of services and programs are available to people in the county and what the

conditions are for securing those services. A big role of the Conservation District is connecting individuals and organizations to those services. Over the years the Conservation District has developed the expertise and working relationships with their partners that have led to contracts that empower the District to administer cost share programs, technical programs, educational, informational and certification



Conservation District Board of Directors and Staff

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programs. Since each Conservation District is administered locally, even though they share the same mission, they all differ in their approach, scope and expertise. In Bradford County, the District employs 15 professionals. They are configured into several teams which include: Administrative, Agricultural, Technical and Educational. Being locally administered, the District has the flexibility to set priorities on programming and services. It is extremely useful with the Natural Gas educational programs that the District provides. They include a full array of planning, technical, design, informational and educational

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## April is The Month of the Young Child

By: Lynette Wienman– Community Engagement Coordinator

On April 1, 2010, The Bradford County Commissioners proclaimed the month of April as the Month of the Young Child in Bradford County. Heading up this month's events is the Bradford / Sullivan Early Childhood Coalition (ECC). This is a group of dedicated individuals representing state and local government agencies, businesses, schools, child care providers and parents who work with families with children from

birth through kindergarten. The ECC offers information about quality early care services and resources for families, businesses and the community. Members strive to make a difference in our counties and to ensure every child is successful in school. Research shows that high-quality childcare has a positive effect on children—particularly at-risk children. The goal of the ECC is to educate com-

munities in understanding the importance of quality early childhood education and assist families in obtaining these quality programs. The ECC supports quality early learning programs, funded by OCDEL (Office of Child Development and Early Learning). For more information please visit our website at [www.pfcd.org](http://www.pfcd.org)



Bradford County Commissioners stand with 54 children and their teachers from the Wyalusing Valley Child Care Center

## Poll Workers Needed for Election Day

The Bradford County Election Bureau is in need of pollworkers in the following districts:

Athens Borough 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, a Judge of Elections (any party)

Athens Borough 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, a Judge of Elections (any party) & a Republican Inspector and a Democratic Inspector.

Rome Township Democratic Inspector of Elections

Sayre Borough 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, a Republican Minority Inspector

Sayre Borough 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, an Inspector can be Democratic or Republican

Standing Stone Twp Democratic Inspector of Elections

Stevens Township a Democratic Inspector of Elections

Sylvania Borough one

Democratic and one Republican Inspector of Elections

Terry Township Democratic Inspector of Elections

Towanda Borough 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward a Democratic Inspector of Elections

Towanda Township Democratic Inspector of Elections

These positions are paid positions. Judges receive \$100.00 for each election. Inspectors receive \$95.00 for each election, and their Clerks are paid \$90.00 for each election. You must be a registered elector of the municipality/precinct to be eligible for a position. For further information please contact the Bradford County Election Bureau as soon as possible at 570-265-1717.

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assistance, and in some cases financial assistance. Our professionals assist people in the following areas:

- Agriculture conservation and nutrient management
- Agricultural land preservation
- Dirt and gravel roads program
- Stream and watershed rehabilitation and management
- Water quality programs and regulations
- Pond and lake management
- Wildlife and forestry

- Erosion and sedimentation best management practices
- Regulations and permitting, stream, wetland and pond regulations and permitting;
- Teacher and student classroom and field programming;
- Public programs on natural resource related issues Environment
- Poster Contest and Nutrient Management Contest
- Floodplain management
- Stormwater management

The Conservation District is usually able to locate a partner agency or organization that can address the majority of resource related requests it receives. For more information visit our website at [www.bradfordcountypa.org](http://www.bradfordcountypa.org)



Seedling Sale

## Bradford County Communities That Care Offers Class for Parents

Parenting is a rewarding but challenging job! Would you like to help parents be successful? Bradford County Communities that Care is looking for volunteers who would be interested in teaching a program called Active Parenting. The Active Parenting program provides

12 parenting classes to help parents learn how to understand and redirect misbehavior, how to build courage, character and self-esteem in your child and effective communication skills for children of all ages. Active Parenting is nationally accredited research-based parenting education, divorce and abuse

prevention program that empowers and strengthens families. If you are interested and would like to be trained please call 265-6246 to reserve your spot. Active Parenting Training will be held Saturday April 24, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Children's House Hospital Drive, Towanda, PA. [www.pfcd.com](http://www.pfcd.com)

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**Subscriptions to Date: 1657**

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# Natural Gas News

News in Relation to Bradford County's Emerging Industry

## County Level Natural Gas Forum held in Sayre



County Level Leaders meet in Sayre to discuss the role of task forces and committees

On March 30, 2010 the Bradford County Gas Advisory Board hosted a meeting at the Sayre Best Western for several task force groups. It was the first meeting of its kind that brought county level leaders together to exchange and share ideas with nearly 100 people in attendance. Presentations were given by various task force groups. They included Bradford County, Tioga County, NY, and Lycoming County. The meeting was planned by members of the

Bradford County Natural Gas Advisory Committee, Mark Madden, Mike Lovegreen, Mark Smith and Stacey Bellows. It was the hope of the committee to share information and learn from each others experiences. Several of those dealing with natural gas development in their regions had the opportunity to present a short program about their experiences. Kathy Brasier, professor of Rural Sociology at Penn State University, spoke about the role that a county task force can have, the importance of setting goals for the task force, the purpose of the task force and the ability to judge the effectiveness of the task force. She informed the group ways to improve existing task forces and how important it is to organize and establish priorities. Mark Madden said "Everyone involved had a chance to take something

useful from the forum. We identified several areas where fact-sheets could help guide landowners, task force members and/or other stakeholders in this process." Bradford County presented facts about the gas drilling operations in Bradford County and how the committee worked. Smith stated "We have a good committee but we learned a lot of things at the meeting on how to improve what we have." Originators of this event were happy with the numbers who attended and appreciated the exchange of information between the task force groups.

TING-(Tioga Investigates Natural Gas) was formed in 2009 and was initiated by the county Ag Resources office. They spoke about their identification and prioritizing impacts to the county and their mission of addresses public sector impacts and opportunities of natural gas drilling in

Tioga County.

Mike Lovegreen said "I was very happy with the outcome of the meeting, and have received several emails from people who attended who felt it was very informative and well done." Attendees at the event felt it was important to hold this sort of meeting on a regular basis.



Kathy Braiser, Professor of Rural Sociology at PSU speaks to the group about how to set up a new task force and improve existing task force committees.



## Quick Updates....

A moment of silence was observed on March 31, 2010 at 11:30 on the front steps of the Bradford County Courthouse in memory of the slain deputies Mike VanKuren and Chris Burgert.

At the Commissioners meeting held on March 25, 2010 the Board accepted the bid of \$ 225,050.00 from Steve Schmeckenbecher and Kevin Clark for the purchase of the South Towanda property.

## “Old Barclay” : Presentation at Bradford County Library

By: Jeff Singer – Bradford County Library Director

"Old Barclay: A History of Coal Mining on Barclay Mountain," will be presented on Tuesday, April 6, 7 p.m. at the Bradford County Library. Matthew Carl, Managing Curator of the Bradford County Historical Society will do the presentation. "Old Barclay: A History of Coal Mining on Barclay Mountain" reviews the story of Barclay Mountain's coal mining settlements which include Barclay, Fall Creek, Dublin, Graydon, Foot of Plane, Carbon Run, and Long Valley. The old methods of

coal mining are described and the development of the incline plane, railroad, and canal system will also be discussed.

A native of Bradford County, Matthew Carl, became interested in the history of his community at the age of 10. It was at that time that he first visited Laquin, the site of a former lumber town on Barclay Mountain. His interest in the topic grew throughout high school, resulting in local history projects both in school and as a hobby. Today



Incline Plane on Barclay Mountain

he manages the daily operations of the historical society including staff, educational programming, grant writing, exhibition planning and development, collections management, and a variety of other tasks. The program is free but seating is limited so reservations are required by calling the Library at 297-2436

## County Government Directory

Accounting	265-1723	Treasurer	265-1700
Assessment	265-1714	Veterans Affairs	265-1704
Auditors	265-1716	Victim Witness	265-1759
Human Services	265-1760	Penn State Agricultural Extension	265-2896
Bradford County Manor	297-4111	Area Agency on Aging	265-6121
Collections	265-1746	Airport	265-4900
Commissioners	265-1727	Library	297-2436
Courts	265-1707	Correctional Facility	297-5047
District Attorney	265-1712	911 Center	265-9101
Domestic Relations	265-1718	Conservation District	265-5539
Elections	265-1717	Coroner	297-0720
Hearing Master	265-1711	District Justice (Troy)	297-3880
Jury Commissioners	265-1732	District Justice (Towanda)	268-5057
Personnel	265-1722	District Justice (Wysox)	265-9393
Probation	265-1706	District Justice (Athens)	888-6324
Prothonotary	265-1705	Emergency Management	265-5022
Public Defender	265-1713	Planning	268-4103
Register & Recorder	265-1702	Grants	268-4193
Sheriff	265-1701		



**Bradford County Court House**  
301 Main St.  
Towanda, PA 18848  
Phone: 570-265-1727  
Fax: 570-265-1729  
[www.bradfordcountypa.org](http://www.bradfordcountypa.org)