



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

## Commissioners Attend Conference in New Mexico

By: Lauren Hotaling, Countywide Economic Development Manager

The Bradford County Commissioners had the opportunity to visit Lea County, NM, for the Shale Gas & Conventional EnergyPlex Conference held on January 12-13, 2012.

Lea County, NM and Bradford County, PA, both have shale plays that are rich with natural gas. The Conference brought the two counties together to discuss similar issues.

Lea County, shares a long history with the oil and gas industry in its back yard. In 1925, the first oil well Was drilled in Hobbs, NM, in The Permian Basin. Three generations and nearly 50,000 oil and gas wells later have provided the county residents with a deep under Standing and intimate knowledge of the industry.

Unfortunately, Lea County learned the hard way about the swings in the oil and gas industry. On several occasions the county suffered grave economic depressions with the decline in the Industry.

After the 1980s oil crisis, Lea County sought help from their Economic Development Corporation for aid in bringing additional industry to the area to counter the hard times of the oil and gas industry. To-Day, the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County can be credited with



Left to right: Progress Authority Executive Director, Tony Ventello; BC Commissioner Daryl Miller; Peoples State Bank, Chris Brown; Rep. Tina Pickett; Chesapeake Energy, John Dill; Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Deputy Director, Kim Barnes; Rep. Steve Pearce; Chesapeake Energy, Andy Travis; BC Commissioner Doug McLinko; Susquehanna Commissioner, Mary Ann Warren; BC Commissioner Mark Smith; Bradford County Economic Development Manager, Lauren Hotaling; Penn State Cooperative Extension, Mark Madden.

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diversifying the local economy by providing incentives to developers. The Economic Development Corporation of Lea County and the New Mexico Tech University Center For Energy Policy sponsored the 2012 EnergyPlex

### NOW AVAILABLE

## Endless Mountains Visitors Guide

By: Sheri McHenry, Administrative Assistant

The 2012 Endless Mountains Visitors Guide is now available. The Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau has been promoting tourism in Northeastern Pennsylvania for over fifty years.

The visitors bureau was formerly known as the Endless Mountains Association, and it was created by a group of concerned business owners who had gotten together to promote

tourism for Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties.

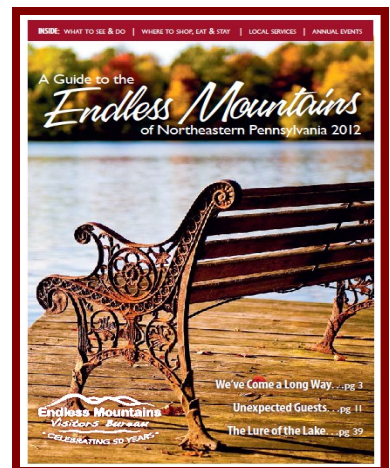
In the beginning when the bureau started producing its visitors guide, it was done annually.

The visitor's bureau published its first annual visitors guide in 1999.

There are over 150,000 guides in print, and it is called "A Guide To The Endless Mountains." Inside

the guide you will find what to see and do, where to shop, eat and stay, as well as local services and businesses and other annual events.

Copies are available here at the courthouse and also by ordering through the [Endless Mountain Visitors website](#).



2012 Endless Mountains Visitors Guide

# Listening Session hosted by State Senator Gene Yaw

By: Sheri McHenry, Administrative Assistant

A Listening Session on Stream Cleaning hosted by State Senator Gene Yaw and the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, was held in Dushore, Sullivan County, PA, on Thursday, January 19, 2012.

Senator Gene Yaw, Chairman for The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, and Barry Denk, Executive Director, for the Center of Rural Pennsylvania gave a welcome and introductions.

Commissioners Doug McLinko, Daryl Miller, and Mark Smith each gave testimonies at this listening session. Joseph Quatrini from the Bradford County Conservation District also offered testimony.

Other participants were local elected officials from Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, and Susquehanna counties, as well as members from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Local Businesses, and Residents who have been affected by flooding.

**Commissioner Doug McLinko** explained "That the creeks and streams and our rivers are the most important issue facing the citizens of Bradford County, as most of our residents live near creeks or the river and have been affected." He also documented a summary from prior floods. Commissioner McLinko said, "We seem to

continue to have meetings and more meetings after horrible events such as this fall and last spring, only to rely on the same policy and then after a while we just give up. The new elected officials take office and new administrations take control. It has been a never ending cycle and it needs to stop! We can't afford it any longer!"

"We need to take a new approach on how we handle our creeks and streams. A policy that is based on science and gives more control to the local Government agencies such as our conservation district. A Policy that has common Sense and will encourage local government to plan for their creeks and streams. one that isn't cumbersome, one that will look at each creek and stream and have a long range plan that will let people volunteer their equipment and time without living in fear of breaking the law and heavy penalties. One that can teach the elected officials, contractors, and volunteers how to manage And maintain their creeks," said Commissioner McLinko.

"We fully understand we need a plan that cleans gravel, maintains flood plains, and secures banks. One that is administered by

people that live on this glacial gravel bank. One size does not fit all in Pennsylvania when it comes to creek and streams."

**Joseph Quatrini**, Technical Team Leader at the Bradford County Conservation District, spoke about Environmentally Sensitive Stream Maintenance in the Northern Tier. He stated that the Conservation District has been working to address stream related issues in our county since the early 1980s. They have conducted surveys, inventories, historic background, and triage reports for the majority of our watersheds. We have a system of Automated gauges throughout the county to better understand the hydrology that our streams experience. The underlying

goal has been to understand The dynamics of how our Streams behave so that we Can begin to address the problems. I emphasize "begin" to underline the fact that until we begin to address the cause and effect of stream channel instability we may never get to the point that our streams can be maintained.

**Commissioner Daryl Miller** shared his observations not only of the recent flood, but the flood of 1972, as well as the several high water events we have had in last 39 years. They may not have been as severe but nonetheless devastating.

Commissioner Miller said, "You have heard Mr. McLinko offer testimony and share a report that our conservation district personnel put to-

gether, as well as the testimony from Joe Quatrini, I respectfully ask, "What good will it do to have our conservation district compile another report?"

(Continued on page 3.)



Above: Commissioner Mark Smith, Commissioner Doug McLinko, Commissioner Daryl Miller, and Technical Team Leader at the Bradford County Conservation District Joe Quatrini at the Listening Session hosted by Senator Gene Yaw..

## Storm Ready Re-Certification Presented

By: Sheri McHenry, Administrative Assistant

On December 29, 2011, a presentation was made during the Bradford County Commissioner's meeting by the National Weather Service Bureau in Binghamton, NY.

Mr. David Nicosia of The National Weather Service presented the 2011 Storm Ready Recertification Award to Bradford County Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr.

John Ambrusch.

The National Weather Service and State Officials declared Bradford County a Storm Ready County on November 3, 2000, under a national program to help communities guard against the ravages of severe weather. Bradford County has gained the skills necessary to sur-

vive severe weather, both before and during the event. Bradford County is also the longest running Storm Ready county in the Binghamton area.



# Bradford County Bicentennial Celebration Plans

Submitted by: Matt Carl, Curator of the Bradford County Historical Society

This year is Bradford County's 200th birthday. On Saturday, March 24, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. There will be an Open House and Bicentennial Exhibit throughout the rotunda area of the courthouse. The exhibit will feature photographs from each township as well as early photographs of county buildings. Anniversary cake will be served by the county in the rotunda. County officials will be on hand to greet visitors. Sheriff's office will be selling tickets for a commemorative gun raffle.

At 1 p.m. a program begins at the Bradford County Historical Society in the Great Room. The event is free but pre-registration is required to ensure ade-

quate seating. Participants can register by calling 570-265-2240 or emailing [info@bradfordhistory.com](mailto:info@bradfordhistory.com). The program will be a recreation of the Centennial celebration held by the historical society in 1912, with speeches about the formation of the county and musical performances featuring songs by Bradford County's own Stephen Foster, P.P. Bliss, Pat Ballard, and D.B. Towner. The museum will be open after the event and light refreshments will be served.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 18-20, 2012 – An event entitled, "Passport Through Time" will be held with museums throughout the county having special hours and free admission during the event. Hours will

be 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. each day. Passports will be available at all participating museums and if patrons visit each museum in the county and acquire a passport sticker from each one, they can enter for a chance to win a prize. The prize will be awarded at the courthouse during the June 23<sup>rd</sup> event. This event coincides with the Endless Mountains Heritage River Trip celebrating Brule's historic Trip and 200 years of Bradford County history.

On Saturday, June 23, 2012 – An event entitled, "Old People's Day" will be held on the courthouse square in Towanda. The event is a recreation of an event held a century ago by the Bradford County Historical Society on the courthouse square each June for

nearly 30 years. The event will feature a free historical program in the courtroom, displays from each museum in the county, a Civil War encampment, bicentennial parade, demonstrations, and much more. The county's oldest residents will be honored. The event will be held 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

On Saturday, October 13, 2012 – The Bradford County Historical Society will host an special exhibit of early county documents on the anniversary of the first county election. A reception will be held. More details will be announced.

December 6, 2012 – The Bradford County Historical Society will host a bicentennial gala in the Great Room to bring the year to a close. More details will be announced.

## Listening Session (continued)

The problem isn't any different now than it was twenty years ago." He said between our conservation district and DEP personnel there have been hundreds if not thousands of man hours spent compiling reports and emergency permits that go on book shelves or in desk drawers.

Daryl offered that while the three commissioners were speaking, there was a series of photos of flood damage on a screen from around our county. There is something you may have not noticed and that was these photos are not just from this last flood in September, but from previous floods as well. The bottom line is that although reports are important, we need to implement a plan that will begin to address the unique stream structure we have in the northeast.

**Commissioner Mark Smith** shared a frightening scenario of flood waters reaching the prison, and what would happen if we had to evacuate 180 inmates and 12 guards stranded in between two

bodies of water where no one could get to them. Thankfully, the flood waters did not reach the prison. The Manor however was not so fortunate. The bridge across Route 6, near the Bradford County Manor had gravel within a foot of the bridge deck, and backed up the water sending it over the road and into the nursing home which sustained major damage. Mr. Smith said that it was necessary to evacuate the whole first floor. The concern at that point after speaking to the nursing home administrator and the warden was to get the gravel removed from the bridge immediately in case something else happened in the coming weeks. The water had no where to go but to the jail or the nursing home.

There was at that time an attempt to get in contact with DEP, to get an emergency permit to clean out from under the bridge and up and down the stream. The permit was granted but Penn Dot would not allow the county to clean up near the bridge, which could be done the next day by the county

crews who do this work all the time with the 52 other bridges the county has. These scenarios are extremely frustrating to the local government and townships who deal with these issues all the time. Mr. Smith used this example to show how issues affect local government in a very negative way and put us at risk financially and liability.

In closing he commented on a trip made a couple of months ago to Delaware County, New York, where they have taken some progressive actions on cleaning out stream banks. Working with the DEP, to not only get the stream banks cleaned out, but managed on a regular basis instead of in response to a crisis.

Commissioner Smith was hopeful that our county could head in that direction with our DEP. We need to ensure that our contractors are trained and can do these things on a regular basis. Permits need to be issued in an expedited manner and these things done regularly instead of waiting for a flood event to occur.

## Quick Updates....

**Chandelier Hoist Bid for the courthouse rotunda was rejected and is currently out for new bids.**

**In recognition of the 200th anniversary of Bradford County this year, the employee fund is selling royal blue t-shirts and polo shirts with a special commemorative logo. If interested, please contact Joyce D'Allesandro (570) 265-**

# Bradford County Environmental Education Grants

By: Sheri McHenry, Administrative Assistant

Mini grants are available to any school, organization, group, or agency looking to provide environmental education based resources and experiences to Bradford County Residents. Funding is being generated by tipping fees at the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority at the Burlington Landfill.

Applications are available on the Bradford county website at [www.bradfordcountypa.org](http://www.bradfordcountypa.org) or at the Bradford County Commissioners' office or the Bradford County Conservation District. For more information visit the website or contact Dan Rhodes at the Bradford County Conservation District (570) 265-5539 ext. 123. The grants awarded include the following:

**Mt. Pisgah State Park- 12th Annual Women in the Wilds— \$500.00**

Women in the Wilds encourages women to become involved in outdoor activities, pursuing activities such as Dutch oven cooking, shooting, canoeing/kayaking, archery, fly fishing, basket weaving, floral design with native materials, etc.

**Mt. Pisgah State Park-3rd Annual Apple Butter Day— \$500.00**

Apple Butter Day is a family-friendly day held annually at Mt. Pisgah State Park. Apple Butter Day is designed to get families involved in outdoor activities.

**Mt. Pisgah State Park- 18th Annual Bradford County Youth Field Day—\$500.00**

Bradford County Youth Field Day is a free event, for children ages 5-18, held annually at Mt. Pisgah State Park. Participants receive a free lunch, t-shirt, commemorative patch and a day full of hands-on conservation education.

**Mt. Pisgah State Park- 2nd Annual Sugar on Snow Day— \$500.00**

Sugar on Snow Day is a family-friendly day held annually at Mt. Pisgah State Park. Sugar on Snow Day is designed to get families involved in outdoor activities.

**Bradford Sullivan Forest Landowners Association- Growing Your Future: Green Career Day—\$500.00**

"Growing your Future" Green Career Day teaches selected local 8th grade students about the importance and the variety of natural

resource job opportunities existing in the Northern Tier. **Tioga Point Museum- Exploring Moths and Butterflies— \$500.00**

The Tioga Point Museum has an established and well attended Moth and Butterfly program that reaches nearly 500 Bradford County children – mostly kindergarteners and first graders.

**Canton FFA- Trout in the Classroom—Transportation— \$500.00**

We plan to take the students out to the stream to sample water quality and release our fish to trout approved waters.

**Canton FFA- Trout in the Classroom—Equipment— \$500.00**

To purchase a cooling unit to keep the water at or below 50 degrees before creating issues with fish health.

## County Government Directory

Accounting	265-1723	Treasurer	265-1700
Assessment	265-1714	Victim Witness	265-1759
Auditors	265-1716	<b>Offices not in Courthouse</b>	
Human Services	265-1760	Penn State Cooperative Ext.	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 Judge (Troy)	297-3880
Jury Commissioners	265-1732	District Judge (Towanda)	268-5057
Personnel	265-1722	District Judge (Wysox)	265-9393
Probation	265-1706	District Judge (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	Veterans Affairs	265-1704



**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)