



HATCH RUN CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION AREA

The Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area (HRCDA) is a 347-acre parcel located at the intersection of Hatch Run Road and Conewango Avenue Extension.

In 1997 the Conservation District took over the management of the property. Our goal was to develop a conservation demonstration area to showcase and demonstrate conservation best management practices (BMPs) in agriculture, forestry, water resources, and wildlife management that improve water quality and reduce non-point source pollution. The result is the development of the Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area. The District was able to purchase the property in 2004 thus giving the District the ability to plan on a more long term basis. A public meeting was held in January 2008 in order to gather public input into the development of a long range plan for the property. Since, 1997 the District has implemented a variety of improvements to the property. The following is an overview of this year's activities.

A Dirt and Gravel Road project was done on the main access road in 2005. This project provided improvements to the existing narrow road while reducing the environmental impact on nearby Hatch Run. We were pleased to see that in the heavy rainstorm during August that the road held up great with very minor damage. This just

proves our point about having proper and adequate drainage on a road.

In May of 2009 we hosted Bish Day in conjunction with DCNR's Bureau of Forestry. Twenty students from the Warren County Career Center assisted the District staff planting trees in our avian fly-in area. After lunch the group participated in another tree planting with American Chestnuts. Sara Fitzsimmons from the American Chestnut Foundation gave a speech about the history and the future of the American Chestnut trees and what is being done to crossbreed them for blight resistance to hopefully one day have them back in our forests.

Also in the spring of 2009 the District offered for rent eighteen community garden plots. All eighteen plots were rented for the 2009 growing season. Late Blight on the tomatoes & potatoes has caused some problems with people's plants. The constant rain and cool temperatures are the culprits that caused the blight to show up. The District requested that everyone remove their tomatoes and any other affected plants to try to break the cycle of the blight from over wintering in the soil. It was disappointing because some people had some really nice tomato crops.

During the fall of 2008 the District began to develop a plan to raise our own livestock as an additional fund raiser. The District

is currently grazing a herd of 17 cattle, ten of which are our own.

The HRCDA averages over 1000 visitors per year including school groups, civic organizations, and individual members of the public. The area is open to public hunting and fishing. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a walk or cross-country skiing on the property.

An Education Center is currently being constructed. The District has begun talks with the PA Hunting and Fishing Museum to co-locate in this facility. Construction has been a painfully slow process due to a lack of funds. A large portion on the work has been completed by PCC and a large number of volunteers from the District board, staff, and many other volunteers. It is our hope that the addition of a partner will make the project more appealing to potential financial donors.



*Education Center/Office Complex
under construction*

For more information or to make a donation contact the Warren County Conservation District office at (814) 726-1441.