

Penn Soil RC&D Relocates Headquarters to Warren

Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, a 501-c-3 not for profit organization serving eight northwestern PA counties has relocated its office from Clarion to Warren County as of September, 2011. The RC&D Council works with the eight counties (Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren) County Commissioners and Conservation Districts to support local and regional efforts to work together in solving environmental, economic, and social problems or providing new opportunities to improve our communities in many ways.

Recent RC&D projects that have improved our area include providing assistance in constructing the Big Bend Bird Viewing Platform, facilitating improvements to the Boat Launches on the Allegheny River below the Kinzua Dam and in Tionesta, upgrading the North Country Connector Trail at Chapman State Park, improving the local tourism economy by designing and helping to administer the Allegheny GeoTrail Project and hosting the international geocaching annual event known as GeoWoodstock, serving as a financial agent for the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways Group, facilitating the design of a mountain biking trail at Jakes Rocks, and facilitating improvements to the Kinzua Beach to Rimrock Trail.

Currently, Penn Soil RC&D is assisting the Warren County Winterfest Committee with its fundraising efforts and is offering a free winterfest souvenir collectible coin to anyone who makes a charitable contribution of \$10.00 or more to Penn Soil RC&D for the Winterfest event. The coin features several elements of the Winterfest including the polar plunge, geocaching, and the Jim Lobdell Memorial Sled Dog Races. It is about the size of a fifty cent piece and has a nice heavy feel to it. Coin collectors and those who like artwork will really enjoy this collectible souvenir that will help sustain the annual event. As an added bonus, and of interest to geocachers, the coin is trackable on geocaching.com using each coin's unique tracking number. Future versions of the collectible coin may feature other aspects of the popular Winterfest. (See page 9 for more information.)

Penn Soil RC&D is co-located in an office with the Warren County Conservation District, USDA NRCS, and the Conewango Creek Watershed Association at 210 North Drive, Suite E, Warren, PA 16365.

The office is staffed by Wes Ramsey, Executive Director of Penn Soil RC&D on a part-time basis. Call Wes at 814-726-1441 to schedule an appointment.

Bits & Pieces

BEEF FUNDRAISER: Thank you to everyone who supported our grass-fed beef fundraiser. There's a lot of beef out there in freezers ready for people to lead a more healthy lifestyle. If you want to continue eating grass-fed, locally raised beef, please contact the District office and we can help you find a farmer who can meet your needs.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE: The Warren County Conservation District will be accepting Ralph G. Eckert Scholarship applications until April 1, 2012. The Scholarship is awarded annually by the Warren County Conservation District to a deserving county student planning to continue her/his education in a conservation related field or service. If you need additional information or an application package, please contact the Warren County Conservation District office at 814-726-1441 or www.wcconservation.net. Applications are also available at each high school guidance office or principal's office.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT WEB SITE: All of the District's programs are featured on the site. You can print the Tree Seedling and Plant Sale order form, applications for camps and the Eckert Scholarship, forms for Chapter 102 and 105, and forms for the Dirt and Gravel Roads program. Lots of nice photos too! Visit www.wcconservation.net.

PAVILION RENTAL: The pavilion at the Hatch Run



Conservation Demonstration Area on Hatch Run Road is available for rent. It offers plenty of parking, picnic tables under the pavilion, an outdoor privy, plus the

beauty of Warren County's nature surrounding you. The cost is \$25.00 and reservations are needed. Contact the District at 726-1441 to reserve the pavilion for your next picnic or gathering.



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