

## Columbia County Conservation District Proves Good Water = Good Coffee



Columbia County Conservation District recently held a well-attended outreach event called, "Good Water = Good Coffee." Watershed Specialist Heather Almer brought together a chemistry professor, a coffee brewmaster from a local coffee house, and their conservation district staff to participate in a discussion at the Bloomsburg Public library. The event explored how water chemistry and quality plays a role in the flavor of coffee. Coffee samples were compared using hard water, soft water, and filtered soft water to learn how these elements affect taste.

"It was a great chance to discuss local water sources, water testing, and general water quality issues while enjoying America's favorite beverage, which is, of course, 99% water," said Almer. The district also made t-shirts with a coffee cup and text "protect your H<sub>2</sub>O, protect your morning joe."



So what was the verdict? "At our event, the general consensus was that filtered mildly soft water was best for the coffee they brewed- apparently to get optimal coffee flavor you should have mid- level pH – and not be too hard nor too soft and have ample magnesium...you do not want distilled nor do you want chlorine (which a carbon filter – or aeration can take care of)," said Almer. Now you know!