

Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon...and Water Quality!

The smell of breakfast was in the air as 75 farmers and landowners gathered the Saturday morning of January 25th. In the initial planning phases to create water quality goals in the Warrior Run watershed, the Warrior Run Watershed Team decided a pancake breakfast was a great way to connect with those living in the watershed. The Team could not think of a better way to engage the community than to offer free breakfast and time of fellowship where they can learn about the watershed in which they live. Many thanks to the time and dedication of Northumberland County Conservation District staff Ryan Cherwinski, Ag Technician, and Chantel Shambach, Watershed Coordinator, who made the event become a reality. The community was instrumental in helping with the successful event too. Landowners contacted neighbors and friends to increase awareness and many local businesses generously provided financial sponsorship to cover costs.

As landowners were greeted, they were asked to put a pin on a map of the watershed to show the location of their property. Before breakfast, participants had a chance to meet with members of the Team to express their concerns for the watershed. The children enjoyed making animal track imprints in playdough and interacting with a Groundwater Simulator and a Stream Simulator Table. After a delicious breakfast, prepared by the women of Turbotville Community Center, the group learned about the Warrior Run watershed. It started with watching an engaging video of the Warrior Run that the District staff produced. Chantel Shambach then provided water quality data and statistics as well as her plans for future water testing within the watershed. Graham Rhone, Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever, spoke about opportunities to improve wildlife habitat through the CREP program and the Wild Pheasant Recovery Area that is located within the watershed. Janette Leshner, NRCS District Conservationist, explained the National Water Quality Initiative Program (NWQI) for the Warrior Run watershed, the goals established, and the plan to reach those water quality goals. Ryan Cherwinski, Northumberland County Ag Technician and Brandon Ball, Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Coordinator, discussed potential funding opportunities and upcoming events through the Conservation District. Attendees also heard from Steve Fisher, a landowner in the Warrior Run watershed, about a streambank stabilization project on his property in which the Conservation District was instrumental in implementing.

At the conclusion of the morning, participants left with a better understanding of what was happening in their watershed, which agencies were available to help, and full stomachs. In return, the Warrior Run Watershed Team had a list of new landowners and possible cooperators for future projects.



Warrior Run Watershed Team

Janette Leshner, Axel Acevedo,
Ashley Lenig, Pam Richardson,
Brandon Ball, Ryan Cherwinski,
Chanel Shambach, Graham Rhone
at the Warrior Run Breakfast



The Stream Table was a big hit! Learning how your actions affect an entire watershed.



Our friends at the Turbotville Community Center who prepared breakfast.



Thank you to our many local sponsors for their financial help in making this happen!



Participants enjoying a time of networking and fellowship.