

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Susquehanna Valley Watershed Festival

*Submitted by Columbia County Conservation District*

On Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Columbia County Conservation District (CCCD), in conjunction with the four non-profit watershed organizations in the county, which include Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions (BCAWS), Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA), Fishing Creek Watershed Association (FCWA), and Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association (RCVCA), hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Susquehanna Valley Watershed Festival at Briar Creek Lake Park in Berwick, PA. Attendees got to enjoy live music from Dave Brown and the Dishonest Fiddlers and Don Shappelle and the Pickups as well as various food trucks. Special activities included active fishing, a scavenger hunt, natural art, and a raffle for items and baskets donated by local businesses. The main goal of the festival is to educate the public, especially kids, on the importance of our watersheds, water quality, and all of our natural resources as well as raise awareness for conservation needs and the continuous hard work that many non-profits, government agencies, and private organizations put in to achieve conservation goals and protect our resources. It's important for people to enjoy nature and have fun so that they gain an appreciation for everything that it has to offer and understand why we work so hard to protect our natural resources.

Over 20 organizations participated by setting up tables with giveaways, educational activities, informational displays, and games all relating to natural resources, conservation, and watersheds. Highlights included tie-dying t-shirts with AMD and a virtual reality experience from the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), a native plant and seed giveaway from PPL Electric Utilities, active fishing with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), and a StoryWalk with the Columbia County Travelling Library. Other participating organizations included DCNR, DEP, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Trout Unlimited, Native Fish Coalition, Farm Service Agency, and the Sierra Club. The District hopes that the festival continues to grow year to year as each watershed organization gets a chance to host the event and highlight their area, events, projects, and initiatives. Thank you to all participating organizations and donors!





