



LANCASTER COUNTY Conservation District

75 Years of Conservation • 1950–2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conservation District Hosts 75th Anniversary Gala



Thursday, September 25, 2025, a crowd of over 160 gathered at Moonstone Manor near Elizabethtown to celebrate 75 years of conservation efforts in Lancaster County. For 75 years, volunteers and District staff have been working tirelessly with landowners and communities to care for natural and agricultural resources in local watersheds that have a direct impact on the Chesapeake Bay. In 1950, Lancaster County Commissioners approved establishing a countywide Conservation District, initially working with farmers to maintain soils, installing sustainable conservation practices like field contour strips, cattle crossings, streambank fencing, and no till planting practices. Today, the District's mission remains to promote the stewardship of natural resources for Lancaster County and beyond.

Beautiful fall décor led guests down a path to an elegant pavilion lit with thousands of lights on a cloudy night next to the Conewago Creek. In the pavilion, tables decorated by District staff with lanterns, candles, and fall leaves greeted guests who reconnected and celebrated the efforts both past and present, maintaining Lancaster County's rich soils and improving streams and creeks in the county. A historic stone barn on site provided the perfect backdrop for a reflection on the past, featuring historical timeline displays and photo collages.



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Dan Lynch, former PA Game Commissioner Educator, hosted the program. Commissioner Ray D’Agostino shared remarks and presented a proclamation on behalf of the Lancaster County Commissioners.

Dan Lynch introduced the celebration, which included four presentations, highlighting the people, partners, programs, and projects that shaped the Conservation District over 75 years. Speakers included: Sonia Wasco, District Board Chair; Chris Thompson, District Administrator; Jill Whitcomb, PA Deputy Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection Office of Water Program’s; Doug Wolfgang, the Executive Secretary of the State Conservation Commission; Don McNutt, former District Administrator; Jim Caldwell, Rettew Associates; Matt Kofroth, Assistant District Manager; and Dan Zimmerman District Associate Director.

PA Secretary of Agriculture, Russ Redding’s closing presentation connected to the District’s mission and the Diamond Jubilee. The evening ended with a toast by Chris Thompson, recognizing the District’s strong reputation for high-quality service and opportunities for the future.

Photo caption:

Left to right – PA Representative Keith Greiner, PA Representative Nikki Rivera, Sallie Gregory, Matt Kofroth, Sonia Wasco, Chris Thompson, Russ Redding – PA Secretary of Agriculture, and PA Representative Brett Miller.