

2017 NACDE Employee Conservation Award



It is with great pleasure that the 2017 NACDE (Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees) Employee Conservation Award is being presented to Robert Sweitzer, District Manager for the Centre County Conservation District in Pennsylvania.

Sandy Thompson, District Manager for McKean County CD, Vice President of the NACDE and Deb Wilson, District Manager for Jefferson County CD and members of the PACD District Employees Committee presented the award to Bob for his active participation in state association meetings at the regional and state level as well as serving as a long-time member of the several committees including the PACD District Employees Committee.

Bob has been the manager of the Centre County Conservation District for the past 25+ years where he oversees the county's programs related to urban and agricultural erosion and sediment control; nutrient management and Chesapeake Bay issues; Dirt, Grave and Low Volume Roads; Environmental Education and Watershed Stewardship, the County and PA Envirothon and other activities. In his capacity as District Manager, Bob has consistently guided his staff and directors with skill, and has excelled at promoting the District to elected officials and other stakeholders across Centre County.

Over the years, Bob's expertise in environmental stewardship has allowed him to serve in many leadership roles at the local, regional, and state level, interacting effectively with stakeholders in private consulting, public agencies, and non-profits alike. He has made valuable contributions through various leadership roles at the local, regional and state levels including the County

Health and Safety Committee, GIS Committee, Natural Gas Task Force, Quality Assurance Board for Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads, Served as Secretary of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, member of the Headwaters RC&D Council, the PACD Education & Youth Committee and served on the Conservation District Manager's Advisory Committee to the State Conservation Commission.

Early on, Bob was passionate about educating our youth which is demonstrated by his leading the Envirothon efforts at the county, state, and international levels since the early days of the competition. Bob has led efforts with the Centre County Envirothon competition, which now has more than 15 high school teams. He has been an active member of the Pennsylvania Envirothon Committee and Board of Directors for nearly 30 years, and has led that organization as Chair and Vice-Chair. Currently, he serves as the secretary of the PA Envirothon Board; in that capacity, he cooperatively works with representatives of the international Envirothon organization to ensure Pennsylvania's participation in the North American event every year. Bob was also a member of the Pennsylvania Host committee when Pennsylvania hosted the 1997 and 2012 North American Envirothon.