

For Immediate Release
July 17, 2019

Contact:

Brenda Shambaugh
Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts
717-238-7223
bshambaugh@pacd.org

Conservationists Recognized in Williamsport

(Harrisburg, PA) – Representatives from across the Commonwealth traveled to the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport for the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD)/State Conservation Commission’s 72nd Joint Annual Conference. Several conservationists were recognized at an awards luncheon on July 17, 2019.

“Pennsylvania’s 66 conservation districts and their partners work tirelessly to ensure we have enough clean water for future generations. Today, we took time to recognize some of these outstanding individuals,” said Brenda Shambaugh, PACD Executive Director. “Congratulations to all these conservationists on this well-deserved recognition.”

The 2019 PACD honorees are as follows:

Legislator Leadership Award

This award is presented to legislators recognized for their outstanding efforts to further the activities and accomplishments of the state’s conservation districts or PACD on a statewide basis.

Representative Donna Oberlander (PA 63rd District)

Representative Donna Oberlander supports conservation districts in a variety of ways including championing conservation district programs and grant applications in her area and on a statewide basis. Her door is always open to district staff and directors, and she continuously reaches out to the districts to provide proper constituent services. Additionally, Representative Oberlander is always willing to provide legislative support to develop projects, grant proposals, or ask for support to sustain funding for conservation districts across the state.

(more)



Annually, Representative Oberlander's office recognizes outstanding conservation efforts by agriculture producers, woodland managers, and Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road Program participants at conservation district award banquets and legislative events.

President's Award

Selected by PACD Executive Board President, this award is given, at the discretion of the President, to an individual, organization or agency in recognition of their outstanding efforts that have resulted in furthering the accomplishments of PACD.

Denise Coleman, State Conservationist, Pennsylvania USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Denise understands the important role that conservation districts play in the conservation partnership. Her willingness to work with conservation districts was evident when she became the State Conservationist. In addition to providing financial support to a variety of programs, NRCS leads the way in training conservation district staff. These training programs include an introduction to conservation planning and agricultural conservation technical training. Denise has always been willing to work with conservation districts whenever she can and continues to support the great work that conservation districts do in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award

This award is given to a conservation district director or associate director for his or her outstanding volunteer efforts which have furthered the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis.

Pownall Jones (Chester County)

For over 64 years, Pownall Jones has served the Chester County community through his contributions to the District and beyond. His involvement in the Chester County Conservation District and efforts outside of it, have displayed a longstanding commitment to the stewardship of our environment. Pownall grew up working on the family dairy farm in New Garden Township. He joined the board of the Chester County Conservation District in 1955. He served as director until 1998, including a stint as Chairman from 1991-1993. Pownall was one of the earliest adopters of no-till farming led by example and frequently hosted farmer tours to see his no-till fields with multiple years of crop residue visible. Pownall was nominated as Director Emeritus in 1999 and still attends regularly as an Associate Director on the Conservation District Board.

Conservation District Employee Excellence Award

This award is given to a conservation district employee for his or her outstanding efforts that have furthered the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis.

Carl Goshorn (Cumberland)

Carl has been an invaluable member of the Cumberland County Conservation District for more than 30 years, 28 of which has been served as District Manager. His dedication to environmental protection, especially with the challenges we face as the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth, has been unwavering. Through Carl's leadership and dedication, the District has

(more)



seen significant growth. With his management, the District currently participates in six state programs, hosts nine schools for the annual Envirothon and has MOU agreements with 90% of the County's municipalities. Carl was nominated by the Board of Commissioners because of his dedication, leadership and commitment to conservation efforts in Cumberland County and throughout the region.

Conservation District Employee Service Recognition Program Awards

The Conservation District Employee Service Recognition Awards recognize conservation district employees for their years of dedication to conserving Pennsylvania's natural resources.

30 Years of Service

- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator, Schuylkill County
- Rob Fetter, Resource Conservationist/Network Administrator, York County

For more information about the work of the state's 66 conservation districts, visit www.pacd.org. You can also follow PACD on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/15aWrKi>.

###

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) is a non-profit organization whose guiding values include: Sustainable Resource Conservation; Integrity, Local; Education and Outreach; and Partnerships. PACD primarily serves as the collective voice for Pennsylvania's 66 county conservation districts. For more information about PACD, visit www.pacd.org.

