

For Immediate Release
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Pennsylvania Conservationists Recognized

(Harrisburg, PA) – The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) annual conference was held in Harrisburg, PA. Several conservationists were recognized during the awards luncheon on July 20, 2022.

“PACD is proud to announce the recipients of its 2022 awards. Today, we recognize individuals for their conservation efforts that benefit all Pennsylvanians,” said Brenda Shambaugh, PACD Executive Director. “Congratulations to all the deserving individuals.”

The 2022 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 James B. Struzzi II

Representative Struzzi was nominated by the Indiana County Conservation District. When legislation reaches his desk that is related to conservation or water quality in anyway, he consistently reaches out to the district to get their opinion on the legislation before making any decisions. He and his staff have been incredibly supportive partners in our efforts, lending support towards grant funding applications whenever asked.

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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.

PACD Ad Hoc Budget Committee

Members of the committee include:

- Douglas Beri Jr.
- Emil Bove
- John Dryzal
- Mark Hamilton
- Josh Longmore
- Christopher B. Snyder, and
- Christopher Thompson

President Kelly Stagen selected the Ad Hoc Committee for this award for the hard work and dedication the members have exhibited in this committee. Many conversations and debates were held which were time consuming and often frustrating. Members stayed focused and were able to make recommendations. The state budget recently passed with a \$6.8 million increase in the state budget line items for conservation districts.

Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award

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

Ted Veresink (Northampton County)

Ted Veresink has been a dedicated Director for the Northampton County Conservation District since 2005, after prior serving in an Associate Director capacity. He is active in more-than one District Committee, including the Education and Outreach Committee and various Ad-Hoc Committees as the need arises. Ted is often in the forefront of leading the conversation toward an outcome that serves the districts.

Conservation District Employee Excellence Award

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

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Scott Metzger (Franklin County)

Scott Metzger has been with the Franklin County Conservation District for 25 years. Scott is the Ag Resource Specialist/Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Technician/Assistant Manager. In addition to his day-to-day duties, Scott is involved in several regional and statewide initiatives. With his years of experience, good-natured personality, efficient work ethic and excellent communication skills, Scott is one of the best Conservation District Agricultural Technicians in the state.

Conservation District Trash Champion

New this year, conservation districts were challenged to compete to see who could collect the most trash.

The Washington County Conservation District collected 46 bags of trash and 10 tons of trash and tires! As a result, they will receive the Trash Champion Award for the second year in a row.

Conservation District Employee Service Recognition Awards

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

With 35 Years of Service:

- Sandy Thompson, McKean County
- Susan Moon, Somerset County

With 40 Years of Service:

- Ed Magargee, Delaware County
- Gerald Heistand, Lancaster 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 <https://www.facebook.com/PAConservation>.

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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.

