

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Public Value of Conservation Districts: PRICELESS

(State College, PA) – The conservation district community and its partners met in State College, PA from July 19-20, 2010 for the 63rd annual Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc./State Conservation Commissions (PACD/SCC) Joint Annual Conference themed “The Public Value of Conservation Districts: PRICELESS.”

During the convention several awards were presented. The Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award was given to Clair Dumm, director at the Cambria County Conservation District. The Conservation District Employee Excellence Award was presented to Craig Morgan, retired Manager of the Schuylkill County Conservation District. The PACD President’s Award, selected by PACD President MaryAnn Warren, was presented to Glenn Seidel, director Berks County Conservation District. Legislator Recognition awards were given to Senator Patricia Vance (Cumberland County) and Representative Ron Miller (York County). PA Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Awards were presented to Travis and Christine Sherman of T-n-C Farm in Wellsville, PA; Alvin and Michael Herman of Albavale Farm in Canton, PA; Morrill and Melody Curtis of Port Trevorton, PA; and Jim and Carol Biddle of Mill Hill Farms in Williamsburg, PA.

At the convention professional development opportunities included a session on floodplain monitoring, nonpoint source funding opportunities and a session on the public value of conservation districts. Other issues included a severance tax including a percentage dedicated specifically to the Conservation District Fund and erosion and sedimentation control regulations.

Sponsors for the conference include: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., Filtrexx International, Keller Engineers, Inc., LandStudies, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PennAg Insurance Trust, Waste Management, and Octoraro Native Plant Nursery.

PACD, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization representing Pennsylvania's 66 conservation districts. For more information on the PACD visit www.pacd.org.

