

Cameron County Conservation District Tests Ponds for Homeowners



Cameron County Conservation District Staff (left to right): Conservation Resource Technician Kate Morgan, District Manager Jan Hampton, and Watershed Specialist Todd Deluccia.

Unfortunately, most pond owners have never test their ponds, and water quality problems are usually only detected after they cause a problem. Cameron County Conservation District (CCCD), along with Penn State Extension, obtained a \$6,000 grant from the Headwaters RC&D. The grant paid for water tests for 31 rural ponds located throughout the Sinnemahoning Watershed. The project was designed to encourage pond owners to regularly check the water quality of their pond, to better manage the pond.

Water samples were taken and delivered to the Penn State Water Lab this spring. These ponds were tested for pH, total dissolved solids, nitrate-nitrogen, alkalinity, aluminum, iron, manganese, phosphorous, sulfate, hardness, and *E. coli* bacteria. The results of these tests were shared at a free Pond Management Workshop on Sept. 3, 2013.

During the workshop, which was held at a local property, participants also learned how to manage fish, control algae growth, watch for invasive species, and the benefits of planting native trees and shrubs along the pond perimeter. All 31 participants indicated that they would take action such as testing water, installing a buffer strip, and managing algae as a result of attending the workshop.

