The Annual Maintenance Workshop, sponsored by the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies and the Dirt and Gravel Road Program is moving. In 2004, the event will be held at the Potato City Country Inn in Coudersport, PA. The program theme for the workshop will be “Better Roads, Cleaner Streams”.

The workshop has been scheduled for June 28-June 30, 2004.

Highlights of the program will include:

1. Township Day (Monday, June 28): a program designed with township officials in mind, including a site diagnostic and Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) maintenance demonstration.
2. A pipe placement demonstration.
3. A DSA maintenance demonstration.
4. A site diagnostic with time to present ideas to the group.

Check your mailboxes for a brochure with the full conference agenda and registration and local accommodation information in February.
2003 Annual Summary Report
Due January 15, 2004

Each January, conservation districts involved in the Dirt and Gravel Road Program are required to submit an Annual Summary Report. This report is submitted using the Program’s DGRoads GIS system and includes information on completed projects, financial expenditures, and annual summary data. The Center compiles information from each conservation district and provides a summary to the PA State Conservation Commission each spring.

Districts:

Please plan to enter data for your projects to bring your GIS files up to date as of December 31, 2003 and submit county data by January 15, 2004. Contact Steve Bloser as early as possible if you need assistance with the GIS reporting system.

Recently, districts should have received a letter detailing Annual Summary Report guidelines and information on SCC spending requirements. Contact the Center ASAP if you have not received this letter. As always, contact Steve Bloser with any questions (814-865-6967, smb201@psu.edu).

Congratulations, Steve & Michele!
The Center’s Steve Bloser was married on October 18, 2003 to Michele Godula. They plan on honeymooning in February on a Caribbean cruise.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly is considering an increase in the state’s vehicle fuel taxes to generate additional monies for state highway and local roadway construction and maintenance. What does this mean for the Dirt & Gravel Road Program?

Currently, the program receives a total of $5M per year of which $1M is earmarked for state forestry roads. At the existing level of funding ($4M annual), an average of 225 Dirt & Gravel Road projects have been completed each year. To date, a total of 935 projects have been completed. 10,365 identified pollution sites await attention. Based on this average, it would take more than 46 years to address these currently identified problem sites. This estimate assumes (incorrectly, of course) that Mother Nature and the unrelenting forces of wind, water and soil erosion will not create any new dust and sediment pollution problems along these roadways.

Likewise, if Dirt & Gravel Road Program funding were increased to $8M, the project completion cycle would be reduced to 23 years to address all known pollution sites. At $12M per year, the project cycle would be a far more manageable 15 years. The benefits of stabilizing unpaved roadways include:

- Protecting important transportation routes that are the economic lifelines of many rural communities;
- Preventing sediment pollution runoff;
- Protecting surface water drinking supplies; and
- Preserving fishing and recreational opportunities along with the positive economic infusion that tourism brings.

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) and the State Conservation Commission have recently voiced their support for funding enhancements for the Dirt & Gravel Road Program. Interested parties are encouraged to contact your legislators in the General Assembly and let them know how the program benefits the communities and constituents of their local districts.

Want to schedule an ESM training in your county?
Contact Kathy Moir at CDGRS:
phone: (814) 865-5355
toll-free: 1-866-No-To-Mud
e-mail: dirtandgravel@psu.edu

2-day Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedford County</td>
<td>February 25 &amp; 26, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong County</td>
<td>March 11 &amp; 12, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia/Montour Counties</td>
<td>March 24 &amp; 25, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry/Cumberland Counties</td>
<td>March 30 &amp; 31, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKeans County</td>
<td>April 6 &amp; 7, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarion County</td>
<td>May 4 &amp; 5, 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Volume 3, Issue 2

www.dirtandgravelroads.org
The Center for Dirt and Gravel Road’s website has some new additions.

1. Demonstration Projects
View demonstration project brochures.

2. Worksites in Focus
In-depth look at completed projects. Available in the Download Center.

3. Approved Products List
Index of products approved for use and purchase with Dirt and Gravel funding.

4. DSA Suppliers List
Index of DSA producers statewide.

We will continue to add new material to the website. Please feel free to offer suggestions for improvement; we want the website to be useful for you!