



Dr. Seuss's Birthday with Focus on Wildlife Conservation

By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - The Grand Central Landfill celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday this weekend with the help of several children from the area. The event included the story *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss and conservation themed crafts. The children participated in a tree identification activity and crafted pictures of how they would help save the earth.

Northampton County's Conservation District Manager, Sharon Pletchan visited with the children and discussed the Spotted Lantern Fly. Guests took home a variety of tree and leaf identification booklets sponsored by Representative Marcia Hahn and the PA Game Commission.

The event is part of Grand Central's "Celebrate Earth Day Everyday" program, which will continue through April at the facility's Earth Day celebration slated for April 27th from Noon until 3 p.m.

Interested guests can learn more about Grand Central's Earth Day on the site's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/grandcentrallenvironmentaleducationcenter/>.

The Water We Share

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We all Learned more about the major threats to the quality of clean drinking water within the Lehigh Valley and surrounding area and what you can do to combat these threats!

Statements on the current state of our water quality in the Lehigh Valley were given as well as discussions on the most significant issues that threaten the area's drinking water, including stormwater runoff, industrial development, fracking, and biosolids.

Also covered was how we got here, how our communities are affected, solutions to mitigate these issues, and what we can do next.

The audience was thanked for their enthusiasm and willingness to delve into the discussion with thought-provoking questions, and took home new information, inspiration, and several actionable steps YOU can use to help improve #theWaterWeShare.

To stay connected with this issue log on to #cleanwater.

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- Sign up to join PennFuture's newsletter to stay informed on their efforts. <https://www.lvsustainabilitynetwork.org>

Opt in here to keep up on the latest events and opportunities from the Lehigh Valley Sustainability Network.

For more info contact Rachel Rosenfeld / Community Outreach Coordinator Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter. rachel.rosenfeld@sierraclub.org, sierraclub.org/pennsylvania



Citizens Climate Lobby, one of the ten groups who handed out literature on saving our water

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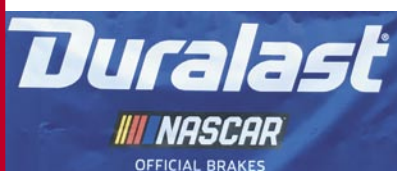
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Norco Parks & Rec Partners With The Pa Game Commission And Met-ed To Build Osprey Nesting Platform At Totts Gap Conservation Area

By Jim Wilson

UPPER MT. BETHEL - The Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation—a lead member of the Friends of Minsi Lake Committee—recently partnered with the PA Game Commission and Met-Ed to build and install an osprey nesting platform at Totts Gap Conservation Area in Upper Mount Bethel Township. On March 7, the platform and supporting pole were installed in the big meadow next to Totts Gap Arts Institute on Totts Gap Road. Totts Gap Conservation area includes 550 acres of meadows, woodlands and wetlands in the greater Minsi Lake Greenway.

Sometimes called “fish hawks,” osprey are large, eagle-like birds of prey found throughout North America. In Pennsylvania, they show up along our major rivers and their tributaries and around lakes, ponds and reservoirs. They are commonly found around these habits in Northampton County, including Minsi Lake. The osprey prefers shallow water and requires an abundant supply of fish within a reasonable distance from its nest. “As the osprey flies,” the nesting platform at Totts Gap is less than ½ mile from the lake. Osprey nests can be found in living or dead trees, on the ground or on manmade structures, like cell towers, utility poles, fishing shacks, billboards, channel buoys, light standards, chimneys and platform-topped poles erected specifically for osprey nesting—like the one recently installed at Totts Gap. Here in Pennsylvania, most known nests are on manmade structures. Osprey migrate south for the winter, returning north to nest in late March and early April.

Last year, Northampton County Parks & Recreation conducted a visual survey of its nearly 800 acres of land in the Minsi Lake Greenway with the PA Game Commission to assess these lands for improving wildlife habitat. The osprey nesting platform is the first product from that assessment to improve wildlife habitat, with future plans for wildlife and pollinator plantings in the greenway.

Early this year, PA Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Biologist Dan Mummert built the 3'x3' wood frame osprey nesting platform, while County Parks bought a 60' telephone pole from Met-Ed; which, agreed to deliver the pole onsite, help mount the platform to it and then erect the pole in the meadow at Totts Gap at no charge. That all happened over a three-hour period on a blustery, cold and snowy March 7.

Due to decades of secondary pesticide poisoning and loss of nesting habitat, the osprey was declared extirpated (locally extinct) in Pennsylvania in 1979. However, thanks to successful osprey reintroduction programs in the 1980s and 90s and the installation of artificial nesting platforms, like the one at Totts Gap, the osprey has made an amazing recovery here in the Keystone State. While protected under the Game and Wildlife Code and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1968, the osprey is no longer threatened or endangered in the Commonwealth and its future looks brighter than ever.

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