



**Westmoreland  
Conservation  
District**

**60  
YEARS**

Helping People Use Resources Wisely

**Annual Report 2009**





Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors (l-r): Ron Rohall, Fred Slezak, Conrad Donovan, Kim Miller, Commissioner Tom Balya, Paul Sarver, Bill Doney, Albert Barnett and J. Roy Houston at the District's 60th anniversary open house.

## *Dear friend of conservation –*

It's eye-opening to realize that many of the things we take for granted today weren't common practice or even thought about 60 years ago when the Westmoreland Conservation District was founded. Things like farmers plowing on the contour, developers installing silt fence before moving earth on a construction site, or homeowners recycling and composting their trash.

Back in 1949, there was no Earth Day or Clean Air Act; no regulations to manage erosion or control the environmental impacts of coal mining. There were no watershed associations. No major flood-controls. No county parks or trails.

What Westmoreland County did have back then were 300 miles of dead streams and nearly 2,000 acres of barren land caused by careless coal mining. Large swaths of clear-cut forests, where trees had been sacrificed to furnaces making iron. And more than a thousand square miles of soils that no one really knew much about.

Thankfully, 60 years ago Westmoreland County also had some hardy souls willing to take a stand for a new way of thinking about how we treat our natural resources. Their conservation approach suggested we use these resources more wisely...in a way that meets our needs today, yet leaves them in good shape for the next generation to use tomorrow.

These pioneering conservationists and so many of you who followed have accomplished wonders for conservation in the past six decades, restoring much of the vitality of Westmoreland County's natural resources, and securing them against future harm.

With your energy and commitment, the Loyalhanna Creek's water quality is improving...78 farms are preserved forever...1,700 tons of illegally dumped trash are gone...major floods have been averted in Scottsdale and nearby communities...nine county parks are here to enjoy...seven watershed associations are working to improve local quality of life...a new land trust is preserving land of community value...farmers are using no-till practices that save even more soil than contour-plowing...a free system of hiking/biking trails crisscrosses the county...communities are creating comprehensive plans and employing smart growth practices...iron oxide is being cleaned from streams and put to good use as a pigment...some 31 coal waste piles are either green or gone entirely from the landscape...more and more homeowners are using rain barrels to manage stormwater...and a comprehensive survey of Westmoreland County's soils is helping us use our land more wisely than ever.

Some of the many conservation accomplishments of the past 60 years are highlighted throughout this report. A more comprehensive timeline can be found at [www.wcdpa.com](http://www.wcdpa.com).

Looking ahead, there is still more work to be done. More streams to clean, forests to steward, and soil to stabilize. And there are new, less-traditional challenges to face, the biggest of which may be financial.

We are grateful to the Westmoreland County Commissioners for their support of our efforts in a very difficult economy. And to the area foundations, businesses and individuals who have supported us with their volunteer efforts, in-kind gifts, and financial donations.

We're confident that the values of good stewardship, partnership, forward-thinking, and firm resolve that launched our efforts 60 years ago will carry us confidently through the challenges of today as well.

J. Roy Houston  
Chairman

# Clean Streams & Water Resources



Loyalhanna Creek - photo by Stephen Simpson

**W**hen construction activity is going to take place in or near a stream, state regulations require a permit. The type of permit depends on the nature and complexity of the project and how much it will impact the stream.

This year, **the District once again became the entity that issues permits for stream projects in Westmoreland County** that are relatively simple and have only minimal stream impact.

The District reassumed this responsibility in 2009 after a seven-year hiatus, during which the permits were issued by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

After hearing from many of our clients who preferred the convenience and timeliness of being able to get these permits locally, we asked the state agency to delegate that responsibility back to the District.

Since reassuming this ability in June, we reviewed some 77 applications for these Chapter 105 permits in the last six months of 2009.

Members of our staff encounter only a small number of situations here in Westmoreland County where a person refuses to comply with the erosion control provisions of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law. Even so, when those situations do occur, enforcement has been slow in coming because the state has reduced the number of people who do it – the compliance specialists in the Department of Environmental Protection.

This has created a situation where earthmoving activity on these trouble sites continues, often for a significant amount of time after the problem has been identified, and often with

detrimental effects on the soil, water, and other natural resources.

Our Board of Directors and staff have been concerned about this situation, and have lobbied for the past few years to get more consistent and timely state enforcement. Unfortunately, that has not happened.

So, in October, the **District Board voted to ask the Department of Environmental Protection to delegate its ability to enforce the Clean Streams Law in Westmoreland County to us.** This is the first step in a process that ultimately will give the District the ability to take the same steps that the state agency's compliance specialists did.

This is the first time in the District's history that we are requesting this level of enforcement ability. We expect to have it by early 2010.

At the Westmoreland Fairgrounds in Mount Pleasant Township, work got under way to **reduce runoff at the heavily used Grandstand Arena.**

An 80-foot by 200-foot retention basin was constructed to reduce the amount of stormwater and sediment that ends up in the nearby creek, which is part of the Sewickley Creek Watershed.

More work is planned for the Westmoreland Fairgrounds in 2010, including construction of a channel to direct water to the new stormwater/sediment basin, and construction of another basin to control runoff from Fairgrounds Road.

Funding for the fairgrounds work is being provided through



an allocation by the Westmoreland County Commissioners from the state's Growing Greener II County Environmental Initiative fund.

During the year, we completed **three multi-year projects to improve water quality.**

- On **Mill Creek in Ligonier Township**, an exceptional waterway and tributary of the Loyalhanna Creek, practices were put in place to slow the amount of sediment entering the creek from eroding streambanks, and so improve the quality of this waterway, which provides the drinking water supply for some residents of Ligonier Township.

The District and a variety of partners including the Forbes Trail Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and the Youth Conservation Corps, completed the work on Mill Creek with funding allocated by the Westmoreland County Commissioners under the state's Growing Greener II County Environmental Initiative.

- On a section of **Jacobs Creek in Laurelville**, years of erosion had cut 10 to 15 feet deep into a streambank and even into parts of a cement retaining wall, creating a precarious seven-foot-high, near-vertical drop behind several family homes.

Some \$12,000 in county-allocated Growing Greener II funds was used to grade this badly eroded section of streambank to a gentler slope, and to stabilize it with stone and trees.

These conservation improvements have reduced the amount of sediment in Jacobs Creek and improved water quality for residents of Mount Pleasant, Scottdale, and other communities downstream.

- In a commercially developed portion of **Donohoe Road in Greensburg**, a heavy rain can send large volumes of stormwater runoff into Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park, eroding hillsides as it travels and conveying soil into the pond in the park.

To slow the volume and speed of this stormwater, the District used \$24,000 of a \$97,000 Growing Greener I grant to create a stormwater retention basin near the GreenForge building. This basin benefits water quality and reduces flooding in the Slate Creek Watershed.

As part of this project, a link was made from the GreenForge building to the trail system in Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

Our landscape architect and intern were part of a project to **create an outdoor garden plaza beside the new Scottdale Library.**

The 30-foot by 60-foot borough-owned property is only

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**1963, 1967**

Floods of Jacobs Creek and its tributaries cause extensive and repeated damage to Scottdale and surrounding areas.



**1968**

In response, a project that includes three dams – at Greenlick, Acme, and Bridgeport (pictured) – plus a channel at Scottdale is approved by Congress.

It takes nearly 30 years to complete and today is one of only a few flood-control programs in the entire United States to address an entire watershed.

about one-quarter mile from Jacobs Creek, and directly in the path of significant stormwater runoff from the adjacent street.

At the request of the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association and the Scottdale Library, both of which had obtained various sources of funding for the project, we helped to design a number of stormwater management features into the plaza, including porous pavement, a raised planter bed, and a sunken rain garden at the low end of the property – all of which help water infiltrate into the ground instead of flowing into the



town's combined sewer system, and potentially overflowing into Jacobs Creek.

The design also directs some of the water from the new library's roof into the garden, where it is used to water the plants.

The final touches on the new public garden plaza will be complete in the spring of 2010. (Also see *Sustainable Communities*, page 13.)

At the request of Mount Pleasant Borough, **we designed five rain gardens for the town during 2009.** Four of these will be located in the municipal parking lots behind the Levin's furniture store on Main Street and one will be located in the parking lot near the public library/municipal building.

Because of the volume of stormwater runoff at both locations, we also recommended putting some inlets in the street behind Levin's and using porous concrete and planting more trees in the library/municipal lot.

Mount Pleasant Borough secured funding for this project from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection through Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

After the rain gardens are constructed in 2010, they should not only lessen the amount of rain and snow melt flowing into the town's sewer system, but also should help reduce the amount of flooding that occurs in the homes nearby.

The Borough of New Alexandria, which celebrated its 175 anniversary in 2009, was a focus of the **District's efforts to encourage stormwater management by low-impact methods that control runoff water near its source.**

We helped to organize a stormwater work group for this historic community, consisting of borough residents and officials, agency representatives, and the consulting engineer. This work group held three meetings during the year to discuss New Alexandria's stormwater needs and the possibility of linking stormwater management with the borough's upcoming sanitary sewer project.

Our staff offered three stormwater-management concept plans: one for a commercial shopping center, one for a residential street, and one for the borough hall and adjacent property.

We also met with New Alexandria property owners, and pursued potential funding sources regarding potential stormwater work.

With the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association, we submitted a grant proposal to the state's Growing Greener program that would **reduce the volume of runoff from two of the largest parking areas on the Westmoreland County Community College campus** and improve the water quality in Sewickley Creek, a tributary of which flows directly next to them.

If funded, the project would remove 3/4 of an acre of

unused pavement and stabilize 1,000 feet of streambank by adding plantings and a designated no-mow zone.

**Our hydraulic engineer is serving on a committee to revise and update the Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual.** This handbook lists effective practices and principles for managing stormwater so that water quality is protected and flooding potential is reduced.

He was part of the original committee that authored the first manual in 2006.

Our shared water quality educator was part of a **major water-well-testing program in Allegheny Township** in April.

Organized by the township's environmental advisory committee and funded by a \$5,000 grant from Representative John Pallone, the program offered free water tests for well owners on a first-come, first-served basis. The only requirement to participate was that residents attend an informational program on water-quality problems specific to that region.

The program quickly reached its maximum of 114 participants, with at least that many more wanting to participate. Many had never had the water in their wells tested before.

At the information meeting, they learned why water testing is important and how to do it, various ways to treat water, and how to properly construct and maintain a well. They also were given a water test kit designed by Penn State University specifically for the conditions in Allegheny Township.

Participants collected water samples from their homes and returned them to the municipal building the next morning. The samples then were driven to State College and processed by the Penn State Agriculture Analytical Lab.

When the test results were in, our water quality educator returned to the township building for an open house, where participants could pick them up and talk with her about their specific results.

We worked with Sewickley Creek Watershed Association to **develop a comprehensive fact sheet, explaining the work being done at Brinkerton to clean up the largest abandoned coal mine discharge in the Sewickley Creek Watershed.**

The two-page fact sheet explains the scope of the pollution problem, the efforts over the past 15 years to resolve it, and the work yet to be done.

The fact sheet was made available to attendees at the watershed's annual banquet, and is accessible in the Publications section of the District's website, [www.wcdpa.com](http://www.wcdpa.com).

**We introduced some new elements to our popular rain barrel workshop this year.**

We expanded it to include partners Keystone State Park and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and we focused more on explaining stormwater



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**1988**

In response to urbanization in the county, the District Board creates a stormwater management program – the first offered by any conservation district in Pennsylvania.

Jim Pillsbury, a hydraulic engineer, is hired to help implement it.

and the many benefits of capturing and infiltrating it.

4 And even though participants didn't make their own rain barrel in this year's workshop, they still had the opportunity to take one home. We had a supply pre-made by area Boy Scouts, enabling 35 of the workshop's 39 participants to go home with one of these ready-to-install 50-gallon rain barrels. (Also see *Education and Outreach*, page 19.)

For 2010, we plan to host at least two of these stormwater/rain barrel workshops at low cost to participants, thanks to a grant received by our workshop partner, Penn State Cooperative Extension Westmoreland, from the Heinz Endowments Youth Philanthropy Program.

**Our self-guided stormwater trail continues to be a popular resource**, visited by a number of groups and individuals at their convenience during the year.

In early April, we also hosted a guided walk on this 16-station trail, which illustrates a variety of ways that rainwater can be put to good use – from recharging the groundwater as it flows through sidewalks made of permeable concrete, to irrigating flower and vegetable gardens after it's been captured in a cistern.

**A drinking water clinic**, hosted by the water quality educator we share with Penn State Cooperative Extension, **drew 39 participants** to Donohoe Center in early April to learn about

wells and springs, drinking water standards, water testing and interpretation, and water treatment.

The same clinic also was offered in Somerset County. Fifteen people came to that event.

**Our hydraulic engineer shared some of the “lessons learned” during his years of working with stormwater best management practices** with a number of groups during the year, including the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, the Pittsburgh section of the Environmental Water Resources Institute, and students from Saint Vincent College.

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**1982**

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation forms to clean up land and water damaged by past coal-mining practices in 24 counties in western Pennsylvania.



**1997, 1998**

A series of manmade passive wetlands is built at Saint Vincent College to demonstrate this new way of removing abandoned coal mine pollution from streams.





Western Pennsylvania forest - photo by Stephen Simpson

**T**he downturn in the economy and the injection of stimulus funding resulted in some **changes in the nature of the development projects our erosion control staff reviewed and inspected during 2009**, with residential construction almost at a standstill, and infrastructure projects, particularly sewer and waterline projects, increasing.

Major, multi-year road projects in the county continued in 2009, including the **reconstruction and widening of some 2-1/2 miles of U.S. Route 22** in Derry Township, and a **major reconstruction and widening project on the Pennsylvania Turnpike** in the eight-mile stretch between the Irwin and New Stanton interchanges.

The Route 22 project involves expanding the former two- and three-lane roadway to four lanes and an 18-foot concrete median, paving the road shoulders, and making drainage pipe and inlet improvements.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike project in 2009 involved improving two sharp curves about midway between the two interchanges. Most of the 360 acres of land disturbed involved a hillside that was removed to achieve this road-straightening.

Our senior erosion control specialist said the turnpike project was the largest earthmoving job he had ever inspected during his 10 years with the District, and he visited the construction and related waste sites at least twice a month for the full year to ensure that erosion was being kept to a minimum.

Not far from the turnpike work, our senior erosion control specialist **inspected two sanitary sewer projects** that are bringing this important infrastructure to a network of neighborhoods in western Westmoreland County for the first time.

The first project, known as the Andrews Run project, disturbed 15 acres near that stream in an area between Darragh and Wendel. It was completed during the year.

The second, larger project, known as the Herminie Sanitary Sewer project, began in 2009 and involves 83 project acres.

Our staff **inspected two additional sewer projects in other parts of the county** during the year: the Rehoboth Valley project, which disturbed 72 acres in Rostraver Township, and the eight-acre Pine Run project in Washington Township.

We anticipate that infrastructure work will continue to be a major activity in the county during the next few years, with six sanitary sewer and water line plans currently approved and work waiting to begin in Norvelt, Youngwood, and Ligonier, and in Washington, Fairfield, and Hempfield townships.

**North Huntingdon Township was one of the most active development areas in the county**, with the complete reconstruction of the 500-student Stewartsville Elementary School, the building of two new Walgreens, and the launching of two new phases of the Lincoln Hills residential community – a



45-lot single-family phase and a multifamily residence phase.

Near the end of the year, the township commissioners also cleared the way for the restart of the 64-acre Mills Pointe commercial/retail site, which will include the relocation of Barnes Lake Road, improvements along U.S. Route 30, and the construction of a Walmart superstore.

**In Murrysville, three developers looking to build upscale residential housing submitted plans to the District for review in the fall.**

Two of these developments involve some impact on high-quality streams and so are required to employ a greater number of best management practices during construction to reduce erosion, increase infiltration, and limit the amount of water released to the stream.

Our staff personally met with the developers on these sites to discuss the conservation measures needed.

Our watershed specialist coordinated the **installation of some 400 feet of drainage along Beechwood Road in Laurel Mountain Borough**, Ligonier Township, to slow the amount of dirt and gravel eroding from it into the adjacent stream, which is a tributary to the Loyalhanna Creek.

Of the \$10,000 cost for this road improvement, \$7,500 was funded through the Dirt and Gravel Road Program.

**On a site just above the town of Wyano, the District is helping a landowner reclaim some 59 acres of property that was both deep- and strip-mined by previous owners.**

The parcel, which was essentially a large coal-refuse pile, will be systematically returned to “green” condition by being covered over with soil from a nearby hillside and planted with grass.

An existing sediment basin on the property will be retrofitted to capture sediment while the restoration work is going on and to protect nearby Hunter’s Run, a tributary of Sewickley Creek.

As a demonstration, **a 100-foot section of one of the walking trails outside our headquarters was paved with Driving Surface Aggregate**, a compacted mixture of different-sized stones that creates a dense and durable wearing surface.

Driving Surface Aggregate was developed by Penn State’s Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies as a much-less-erodible surface for vehicle roadways that previously were dirt or gravel.

Preliminary studies completed by the center show up to a 90% reduction in sediment runoff from this material, compared to existing road surfaces, even after three years of exposure and use.

The application at the District’s site is unique in that the material is exposed only to foot and bike traffic, helping to determine its suitability for use as a trail surface.

In 2009, we **renewed our Conservation Partnership Agreements with Derry and Donegal townships, and entered into discussions with Washington Township officials about establishing an agreement with them.**

These agreements outline how the District and the municipality will work together on natural resource issues related to forestry, agriculture, erosion and sediment control, and stormwater management.

The potential new agreement with Washington Township is especially timely because of the number of current and upcoming infrastructure projects there, including a 10-plus-acre sanitary sewer project planned for 2010 near Upper Pine Run.

In the spring, the state Department of Environmental Protection took action that **effectively stripped conservation districts of their local authority regarding Marcellus Shale gas-drilling sites.**

The state environmental agency took from local conservation districts the responsibility for reviewing applications for erosion and sediment control permits for Marcellus Shale sites. Additionally, the state agency retained its responsibility for inspecting these sites.

We expressed concern over the loss of this major, local precautionary measure both in person and in a formal letter to

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Photos - USDA NRCS

**1931-1935**

The national conservation movement begins as a result of the Dust Bowl.

From 1931-1934, drought, failed crops, and overplowed and over-grazed land results in some 100 million acres losing its topsoil to the wind.

In 1935, Congress establishes the Soil Conservation Service.





the secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, John Hanger.

Likewise, members of **our staff have been part of an ongoing discussion about the state Department of Environmental Protection's proposed introduction of a "permit by rule."**

Essentially, this approach would allow land developers to obtain certain erosion and stormwater permits by merely filling out forms. No review of their development plans by conservation district staff would be required. Once the developer has these permits in hand, work on the site can begin.

This is a concern to all districts in the state because the best time to ensure proper erosion and stormwater management is during a project's initial planning stage. Once work on a site begins, the soil and water can quickly be compromised, and it is much harder and more costly to retrofit controls.

At year end, the permit by rule proposal was still in discussion.

Our senior erosion control specialist continued to **serve on the committee revising Pennsylvania's Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Program Manual**, a guide used by engineers and others to control erosion on construction sites statewide.

The committee's draft was submitted for public comment in 2009, and the group is now evaluating more than 35 type-written pages of input.

Production of the manual, which in draft form is about two inches thick, has been made more complicated by recent changes in the Pennsylvania Code's Chapter 102 regulations.

The committee is working with legislative staff members in Harrisburg to ensure that the manual's recommendations are in compliance with the new legislative mandates.

**The demonstration switchgrass stand we planted several years ago on our campus to show this plant's ability to decrease erosion and restore wildlife habitat** was sprayed by our Board member Fred Slezak to eliminate the invading Canadian thistle and improve the quality of the plants.

Switchgrass is a summer perennial grass, native to North America. It is resistant to many pests and plant diseases and is capable of producing high yields with very low applications of fertilizer.

Planting switchgrass is one of many measures considered to be a beneficial conservation practice under Pennsylvania's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. It also has potential as a biofuel.

**Highway and commercial contractors interested in better ways to control erosion and manage stormwater on their sites were invited to a special District workshop in January**

that focused on proper installation of water bars, filter bags, and stream crossings; erosion controls for large construction sites; and the use of native plants and low-impact development. Pond construction and requirements for general permits and waste areas also were discussed.

Fifty-five participants attended and each received a copy of the District's *"Typical Best Management Practices for Construction Sites"* reference manual.

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Photo - USDA NRCS

### 1935, 1936

The Soil Conservation Service begins to encourage new farming methods, such as contour strip cropping.

Locally, farmers in the Beaver Run Watershed sign cooperative agreements with the Soil Conservation Service.

A highlight of our annual Engineers' Workshop in March was a demonstration of a **new computer model that creates the kind of smarter, watershed-based site design that is gaining increased popularity.**

Ken Orie PE, of Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co., Inc., who is one of only a few local people currently working with this model, led this workshop session.

The Engineers' Workshop also discussed using trees, shrubs, and plants to control erosion and stormwater; creating effective erosion control on large earthwork sites; fitting a design to the unique features of a site; how a state funding program might help implement green stormwater controls; and working with municipal officials.

The event, which drew more than 190 people over two days, was held at a new venue, Saint Vincent College's Fred Rogers Center, a LEED-certified green building. Optional tours of the building were offered as part of the workshop.





# Healthy Forests

Laurel Hill - photo by Stephen Simpson

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The slumping economy, reduced demand for timber and wood products, and depressed timber prices – including the price of cherry, which has dropped more than 50% in the past two years – have **significantly reduced the number of timber harvests** in the county.

The District received only 13 logging plans for review during 2009 – a significant drop from the 30 plans received in 2008.

Likewise, active logging was almost at a standstill in the county during the year, reducing the number of site inspections we conducted by about a third from most years.

An item we posted on our website regarding federal money available for forest management plans raised interest in the subject and our forester ultimately worked with eight property owners in the county to **prepare basic exams of their woodlots**.

In this stewardship and planning service, our forester visited each property, conducted a basic inventory, and provided general, written recommendations and management advice.

Several property owners indicated that they are considering harvests in the future, and for those he additionally recommended that they retain the advice of a qualified professional forester.

Our forester also began work on a more extensive **Forest Stewardship Plan** for a property in Donegal Township.

Preparing this plan involved conducting a comprehensive inventory of the 60-acre wooded parcel, talking with the property owners to determine their management objectives, and developing a detailed management plan that includes specific recommendations for the site and a 10-year schedule of activities.

Once a woodlot has a Forest Stewardship Plan, it is eligible for cost-share money from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement certain practices recommended in that plan, such as the use of tree shelters to protect newly planted seedlings.

The **timber harvest at Hanna's Town began in 2009**, guided by the forest management plan our forester helped to prepare.

Twenty-six of this county park's 120 acres were harvested to thin and improve the stands, salvage dying trees with market value, remove invasive trees, create wildlife habitat, and initiate regeneration.

Income from the timber sale will be used to support the Westmoreland County park system.



The **management plan for another Westmoreland County park, the Loyalhanna Gorge**, was completed in 2009.

The steep slopes of this scenic 1,300-acre property between Latrobe and Ligonier feature second-growth timber, the vast majority of which the plan recommends should not be harvested.

The Friends of Murrysville Parks asked our forester to **evaluate a problem with hemlocks in Duff Park**, and he determined that it was an infestation of the hemlock woolly adelgid – the first known location of this invasive insect in Westmoreland County.

Native to Asia, this insect develops and reproduces on all species of hemlock, but only eastern and Carolina hemlock are vulnerable when attacked.

Controls are available, but in the case of the Duff Park infestation, expensive, because of the size and number of trees involved.

The District continued to provide administrative and planning support to the **Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association**, a local organization that provides a forum for anyone interested in stewardship of woodlands.

In 2009, the District helped the group host six meetings on topics ranging from invasive plants to wildlife habitat improvement...and to develop a website, which is hosted through the District at <http://www.wcdpa.com/westmoreland-woodlands/>.

In addition to the second-level **“Forestry II” workshop** we offer to the public each spring, our forester also presented a program in Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park on tree identification and ecology to a group of 20 **students from California University of Pennsylvania**, and helped to present the **Project Learning Tree curriculum** to 12 area teachers during their summer vacation.

Project Learning Tree uses the forest as a window on the world to increase students' understanding of our environment, stimulate their critical and creative thinking, and instill stewardship values.

Our forester made a presentation to Greater Latrobe High School students as part of a program on **careers that involve math**.

He explained a forester's need for math to calculate timber volume and values, and to project soil loss and stormwater runoff.

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**1991**

The District Board elevates forestry to full program status.

Tony Quadro, who had served as the District's environmental control officer since 1985, oversees the program.



**1986**

The District creates a “Trees of Distinction” program to recognize trees in Westmoreland County that are outstanding because of their age, size, history, or location.





Laurel Highlands farm - photo by Stephen Simpson

**T**he largest investment of Growing Greener funds ever made on a single farm in Westmoreland County began to be implemented on a beef farm in the Stony Run Watershed in Derry Township.

Fifty thousand dollars in Growing Greener funds are being used on this property to create a nearly one-mile-long riparian buffer along the stream, an animal walkway that's more than 700 feet long, two stream crossings, a concrete pad with a roof, and a manure storage area.

These improvements will help farmer Ken Laughlin reduce the access his 40 beef cattle have to Stony Run from 3,500 feet to just 100 feet, and significantly reduce mud, manure, and erosion in the barnyard, all of which contribute to better animal health and improved viability of his operation.

The new conservation measures also benefit the community by supporting our county's number one industry, agriculture, and by creating better water quality for everyone downstream.

The remainder of the \$133,485 Growing Greener II funds awarded in February for conservation work in this watershed will be used for similar improvements on two other farms, one of which, the Scott Malnofski farm, is under way.

The Stony Run Watershed drains a total of 13 square miles near Blairsville. It has been identified as one of the highest in Westmoreland County in the amount of sediment and nutrient pollution.

The poor economy took a toll on both the **Resource Enhancement and Protection Program**, reducing its available funding by 50% (to \$5 million statewide), and on the number of Westmoreland County farmers participating, as the program requires an upfront financial investment in stewardship plans and/or best management practices before applying for this state tax bill credit.

After record participation by 16 Westmoreland County farmers in 2008, only 4 applied for this program in 2009.

Our agricultural technician is hopeful that more farmers will participate as the economy improves.

Our agricultural technician made **64 personal visits to area farms during the year** to provide assistance, such as suggesting conservation practices that would benefit the specifics of an operation and explaining funding programs available for agriculture.

Four Westmoreland County farmers **voluntarily submitted nutrient management plans for their operations in 2009.**

The farmers whose plans were approved by the Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors during the year, the acres under the plan, and the watershed neighbors who immediately benefit from these stewardship plans, are:

- Robert Berich, 72 acres in South Huntingdon Township, benefiting the Meadow Run Watershed;



- Matt Borbonus, 350 acres in Derry Township, benefiting the Stony Run Watershed;
- Ken Laughlin, 183 acres in Derry Township, benefiting the Stony Run Watershed;
- Pounds Turkey Farm, 190 acres in Allegheny Township, benefiting the Pine Run Watershed; and
- Jack Steele, 95 acres in Salem Township, benefiting the Whitethorn Creek Watershed.

In addition, one farm in Westmoreland County meets the criteria of a “concentrated animal operation” under Pennsylvania’s Nutrient Management Act and so is **required to have a nutrient management plan.**

Tom Svrcek, who owns this 33-acre horse farm in Rostraver Township, submitted a nutrient management plan that was approved by our Board in April. It benefits the Monongahela River Watershed.

A concentrated animal operation is one where the animal density on the farm exceeds two “animal equivalent units” (e.g. 2,000 or more pounds of animals) per acre per year. In 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature revised the nutrient management regulations to apply this regulation to all forms of livestock – including horses.

2009 was the first year that **nutrient management plans created under Pennsylvania’s most recent regulations were up for renewal.**

Pennsylvania nutrient management law changed in October 2006 and among the revised regulations is a requirement that nutrient management plans be formally reviewed every three years by a certified nutrient management specialist, that soil tests be updated, and that certain soil indexes be rerun. Meeting these requirements can cost the farmer between \$400 and \$800.

Fourteen existing, voluntary nutrient management plans in Westmoreland County were up for renewal in 2009. **Five farmers chose to apply for renewal of their plans.** They are:

- Bill Doney, 200 acres in South Huntingdon Township, benefiting the Youghiogheny Watershed;
- Todd Frescura, 193 acres in Unity Township, benefiting the Sewickley Creek Watershed;
- Ralph Frye, 224 acres in Unity Township, benefiting the Sewickley Creek Watershed;
- P. J. Shychuk, 254 acres in Sewickley Township, benefiting the Sewickley Creek Watershed; and
- Bill Smith, 470 acres in Salem Township, benefiting the Crabtree Creek Watershed.

**Another nine farmers in the county chose to allow their nutrient management plans to lapse.** In nearly every case,

the reason was economic and not a lack of commitment to conservation. We are confident that, as the economy improves, these farmers will begin renewing their plans.

The cumulative result of the new, renewed, and lapsed nutrient management plans is that some 15,000 acres in our county are being systematically managed for nutrients in 2009, which is virtually the same number of acres managed in 2008.

The nutrient management plans, some of which were partially funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, help farmers manage their operations in ways that systematically save time and money. They also help the community by keeping excess nutrients out of nearby streams and waterways.

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY



Photo - USDA NRCS

### 1949

The Beaver Run Soil Conservation Association – a group of farmers in the Beaver Run Watershed – takes the lead in forming a “Soil Conservation District” in Westmoreland County.

On October 21, the county commissioners unanimously pass a resolution establishing the entire county as a “soil conservation district.”

Our agricultural technician is partnering with Westmoreland Cleanways, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and a local restaurant chain/catering business to **create a demonstration in Westmoreland County that would take food waste and turn it into compost.**

As the year drew to a close, the group was in discussions with a local farmer who would manage the food scrap until it decays into compost. This compost can then be used to add nutrients to farm fields, or sold to others, such as commercial landscapers, as a soil amendment.

Americans throw away more than 25% of the food we prepare – as either scraps from when we get the food ready to eat,



or as waste when we don't eat it all – according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Bob Berich of South Huntingdon Township was named 2009 “Conservation Farmer of the Year”** by the District.

Bob recently installed a rotational grazing system on the 50-acre farm that has been in his family since the 1960s. He used some 7,600 feet of fencing to create 29 acres of paddocks for his 40 cattle and 20 sheep.

Rotational grazing has significantly reduced the amount of hay he is feeding his animals, reducing his expenses and helping his operation to be more profitable.

About 2,500 feet of the fencing he installed is along the stream that flows through his property, which is a tributary of Meadow Run.

This stream fencing, along with three new dedicated areas he created for the animals to cross the stream, have limited the access his livestock have to the stream, protecting its water quality and the quality of the waterways it flows into, namely Jacobs Creek and the Youghiogheny River.

Bob will be honored at the District's 2010 annual banquet.

Even though our annual banquet changed to a reception and open house this year, **local agriculture was still the culinary heart of these events**, held in honor of our 60th anniversary.

Chef Dato of Youngstown prepared a variety of hors d'oeuvres, using local food provided by:

- Bardine's Country Smokehouse, Crabtree
- Friendship Farms, Latrobe
- Susan and Eric Nelson, Youngwood
- Schramm Farms & Orchards, Jeannette.

Other local providers whose products were enjoyed at the events were Kerber's Dairy, North Huntingdon; Stone Villa Wine Cellars, Acme; and Brown's Candy Kitchen, Mount Pleasant.

Door prizes also promoted local agriculture. Winners received gift certificates to the Farmers' Market Association of Central Westmoreland County, the Latrobe Farmers Market, the Ligonier County Market, and Schramm Farms & Orchards; a wine basket from Stone Villa Wine Cellars; and a gift certificate for cookies by local baker Dorothy Madore of “One Tuff Cookie.”

More than 110 people attended the **Regional Tillage Conference** in January to learn how to put minimum and no-till farming methods to work.

The District has cosponsored this annual event since its inception in 2005.

**We cosponsored a pasture workshop for beef farmers with Project Grass, and spoke at one for horse owners, sponsored by the Second Chance Equine Association.**

Southwestern Pennsylvania is blessed with abundant pastureland, and we had the chance at these events to show how farms can profit from improved pasture management.

The event for beef farmers was held in May at the Kim Miller farm in Ligonier and the one for horse owners was held in June at the Bryce LeJeune farm in Mount Pleasant Township.

A combined total of 63 people attended these events.

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY



### 1950s

Farmers who become “cooperators” with the District and establish conservation plans for their land receive free technical assistance.



### 1953

James Torrance is named as the District's first “Outstanding Farm Cooperator” (later renamed “Farmer of the Year”) for his stewardship of his farm in Franklin Township (now Murrysville).





# Sustainable Communities

Vandergrift neighborhood - photo by Stephen Simpson

**A** grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation in 2009 will allow **citizens in at least three Westmoreland County communities to learn more about managing stormwater.**

The Westmoreland Conservation District will use the Mellon grant to provide stormwater-management information in Mount Pleasant, Scottdale, and Vandergrift during 2010, in conjunction with capital infrastructure projects in each of those communities.

Through a variety of outreach efforts, citizens will have the opportunity to learn more about specific stormwater situations in their communities and ways to manage them.

The specific stormwater projects in each community are:

- **Vandergrift** – adding street trees and permeable pavement in an infiltration bed to reduce runoff into the city’s infrastructure;
- **Mount Pleasant** – using residential rain gardens to reduce flooding in homes in and around the Ramsay Terrace plan;
- **Scottdale** – using infiltration paving and landscape features in the new library garden plaza to protect water quality in Jacobs Creek and lessen runoff into the community’s sewer system. (*Also see Clean Streams and Water Resources, page 2.*)

After decades of ongoing problems, there may finally be **a little less chance of flooding along Little Pucketa Creek near Valley High School in New Kensington**, thanks to a coalition of partners that includes the Westmoreland Conservation District.

13

Over the past year and half, the District and its partners put together an experienced technical team and one of the largest state/private funding packages in its history – more than \$438,000 – to begin to address this large-scale, historic flooding problem.

In 2009, the group put a number of measures in place, including opening the stream channel by removing nearly 2,000 tons of debris from the creek bed, and reducing the amount of sediment entering the stream by adding rocks and trees on the streambanks and deflectors along them to redirect the force of the water.

More work – including construction of a debris basin that will be the first of its kind in the county – is planned for this watershed, which is one of the most stormwater-impacted watersheds in all of Westmoreland County.

Partners on this project include: Senator Sean Logan, the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Fund, PennDOT, the Westmoreland County Commissioners through the state’s Growing Greener II fund, Pucketa and Chartiers Watershed Association, the Colcom Foundation, the New Kensington-Arnold School District and the Municipal Sanitary Authority of the



City of New Kensington.

**On June 17, the “100-year storm” hit the central part of our county, quickly dropping some five inches of rain and damaging more than 1,000 structures** including businesses such as OMNOVA Solutions in Jeannette, a community ball field complex in North Huntingdon, entire streets of family homes, and numerous bridges and roads.

Our technical staff responded quickly, helping people obtain permits to fix bridges and remove flood debris. They also are part of a continuing task force that is working to identify what can be done to avoid similar problems in the future.

In one of the hardest-hit areas, they are looking to make improvements to Brush Creek and its major tributary, Down Run, which carries stormwater from major commercial developments along Route 30 in Hempfield Township.

**When West Leechburg borough was ordered by the state to remove a drained reservoir’s unsafe dam but had no money to do so, our hydraulic engineer facilitated a meeting** between municipal officials and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which had federal stimulus money that could be used for that purpose.

The meeting ultimately led to a partnership that provided the \$650,000 needed to remove the 60-foot dam that had once been part of a 65-million-gallon reservoir operated by the former West Leechburg Water Authority.

Work at the former dam site also will be done to restore the stream channel and to plant trees.

14

We joined with the Allegheny County Conservation District and the nine-county, regional Penn’s Corner Resource Conservation & Development Area to **apply for Growing Greener funds to put demonstration stormwater management projects on the ground in a watershed that includes both Westmoreland and Allegheny counties.**

Beyond the benefit to area communities, these projects would also serve as training experiences for the Allegheny County Conservation District staff, who have not had direct experience with many of the innovative stormwater management practices.

The District is part of a team that **undertook the first-ever comprehensive assessment of stormwater-management conditions in each watershed in Westmoreland County.**

The partners spent most of 2009 gathering a wealth of information about drainage problems, runoff characteristics, floodplain areas, and a host of other current and projected conditions in this assessment, which goes by the official name of the Countywide Act 167 Stormwater Management Study.

Unfortunately, the money allocated for the second phase of this project was eliminated in the 2010 Pennsylvania state

budget. The District and its partners are working to identify alternative sources of funding that could be used to address the top needs identified in the study.

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY



**1990**

PA Cleanways is formed by citizens in Hempfield Township to clean up and discourage illegal dumping.

Through 2009, more than 1,700 tons of trash and 22,000 tires are cleaned up from illegal dump sites in Westmoreland County.

In conjunction with area municipalities, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, and the state Department of Community and Economic Development, **we addressed a need to create a library of information on flood plains and flood insurance.**

Our nutrient management specialist and hydraulic engineer compiled a list of resources – maps, handbooks and guides, and regulations – and posted them on the District website. Hard copies of some of the materials also are available in the District’s in-house Resource Library.

Our staff also **met with officials in six area municipalities to review their floodplain ordinances, maps, and information** and to advise them on other resources available to them.

About 5% of the land in Westmoreland County is designated by the federal government to be in the “100-year floodplain.” This means that these places are expected to be flooded during a very large storm.

Our visual communications specialist developed a **new full-color logo for the Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Council**, a nonprofit organization promoting improvement in six counties in south-central Pennsylvania.

He also helped Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council, a nonprofit organization promoting





improvement in eight northwestern Pennsylvania counties, produce a **field guide to noxious and invasive weeds in that area.**

Penn Soil had seen the field guide we produced in 2007 for our region, and asked us to help them create one showing the problem plants in their area.

Our visual communications specialist took the plant information Penn Soil supplied, formatted it, and coordinated the printing of the guides.

The District provides this kind of support and advice to other, like-minded conservation organizations on a case-by-case basis and as time permits. A modest fee is charged to cover the staff time invested.

**Our landscape architect served on a visioning committee to explore the feasibility of reestablishing the arboretum at the Greensburg Garden Center.**

The arboretum once featured some 150 species of trees, shrubs, flowers, and plants but has fallen victim to age, disease, and lack of adequate maintenance.

The visioning committee drew up a conceptual plan that includes a redesign of the landscape, the addition of stormwater management features, and provisions for perpetual care.

The Greensburg Garden Center is a non-profit educational organization whose main purpose is to stimulate interest in horticulture.

**We continued to support the young Westmoreland Land Trust,** a group that preserves open space in the county, by providing meeting space, photography services, and serving as the organization's official mailing address.

The two-year-old trust made its first acquisitions in 2009 – four properties totaling more than 105 acres in four Westmoreland County communities: North Huntingdon Township, Murrysville, Rostraver Township, and the City of Greensburg.

The Jacobs Creek Watershed – a 98-square-mile area of land that skirts along the southern edge of Westmoreland County – was the focus of this year's conservation bus tour.

In the past, this watershed was beset with frequent and devastating floods and, like most area communities, compromised water quality due to a variety of land uses, from farming to development.

**On the bus tour, 44 participants got a firsthand look at the variety of solutions that have been put into place over the years,** including a watershed-wide flood-control project, stabilized streambanks on a farm, and improvements to a dirt and gravel road.

We cosponsored two workshops during the year on **how to use the Geographic Information System** to solve organizational problems, improve planning, and make important decisions.

The January event was geared to nonprofits and watershed groups and attracted 22 participants. The November event drew nine participants, including several area teachers.

The water quality educator we share with Penn State Cooperative Extension **coordinated onlot septic management workshops** for residents in Jenner Township, Somerset County; Ohio, Fayette County; Greensburg, Westmoreland County; and Ebensburg, Cambria County.

Members of a committee she chairs presented the workshops, which addressed the basics of how septic systems work, proper maintenance procedures, identifying and fixing problems, funding available for repair or replacement, the alternate systems permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and who to call with questions.

The four onlot septic workshops drew a total of 78 attendees, and have gained in popularity as a result of better marketing and publicity.

Sixteen people attended a **pond management workshop** in May at Kiskiminetas Springs School in Loyalhanna Township.

This popular event helps current pond owners do a better job of managing their ponds. It also helps people who are thinking of constructing a pond understand the amount of work involved in keeping it healthy.

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY



### 1990

The District helps to launch the Westmoreland Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

Today, more than 10,000 acres of productive farmland on 78 farms in Westmoreland County have been preserved.



# Green Building & Energy Conservation

Export - photo by Stephen Simpson

16 **W**ith a \$3,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Environmental Education Grants Program, our communications consultant and visual communications specialist researched, wrote, and produced a **10-minute video, highlighting the green building, alternative energy, and stormwater management features of GreenForge, the first commercial building in Westmoreland County to undergo a green rehabilitation.**

The video shows the transformation of the building from an energy-inefficient and dated space to a model of green retrofitting, and features on-camera remarks by some of the project's key visionaries, including Linda McKenna Boxx, Larry Larese, and John Skiavo.

Our staff provided advice and recommendations to Westmoreland County officials regarding the **best ways to use the newly available federal stimulus money to conserve energy in county properties.**

Based on the District's positive experience with the geothermal heating and cooling systems it installed in both its headquarters and in GreenForge, the county ultimately decided to install geothermal in the juvenile detention center.

Near the end of the year, the Westmoreland County Department of Planning submitted a preliminary application to the U.S. Department of Energy for stimulus funding. One of the many elements of this extensive application would enable **the District to expand its technical expertise and offerings in the areas of green building and energy conservation.**

The application requested funding for the District to create new education programs and a dedicated section of our website related to green building and energy conservation, and to add a part-time specialist who would provide technical support on these subjects to municipalities, institutions, and businesses throughout the county.

**The newest GreenForge tenant, Performance Systems Development, moved in in the fall, and is a perfect fit with the building's energy-conservation emphasis.**

Among other services, this energy-efficiency-focused company offers TREAT, an energy-simulation tool for building retrofits, and Green Energy Compass, a residential benchmarking tool.

With Performance Systems Development taking over a suite recently vacated by a private individual, the 23,000-square-foot GreenForge building continues to be fully occupied.



GreenForge is a demonstration green building – showcasing a variety of conservation materials, methods, and techniques in an operating commercial building. The work we did to rehabilitate the building and our day-to-day experience with operating it give us firsthand information on how well these measures are working.

By its very nature, in a demonstration building, things do not always go smoothly. And this was the case with an **out-door fabric canopy, installed at the building entrance, to help shade the glass-ceilinged entrance lobby** and reduce the amount of energy (and expense) needed to cool the building.

This was our first experience with using fabric as a building/energy-saving material, and all went well until a period of unusual winds in December 2008 caused the canopy to tear.

During 2009, we worked with the insurance company to recover the cost of a replacement and to modify the canopy design. The new canopy is expected to be installed in the spring of 2010.

GreenForge’s green roof also presented an unexpected challenge, when we were faced with **removing a 500-square-foot area of crabgrass that had taken hold.**

Removal involved digging out the entire affected area to a depth of three inches, adding fresh soil mix, and then replanting the area with sedums.

We speculate that because GreenForge’s green roof is relatively low, weed seeds blowing in from nearby fields have a greater opportunity to establish themselves than they would if the green roof were higher.

Once the new sedums we planted become well-established and form a dense mat, weeds should be less of a problem.

Tuscano-Maher Roofing Inc. helped with this project.

GreenForge was one of nine projects honored by the Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects in May.

**GreenForge received a “recognition for sustainability” for its stormwater retrofits.**

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY



### 2005-2008

The District undertakes the GreenForge project – transforming a vacant, 1980s-era commercial building into a demonstration of practical, green building and alternative energies, and an incubator for conservation organizations.



# Education & Outreach



Loyalhanna Gorge - photo by Stephen Simpson

In December, the first full-color issue of the District's award-winning newsletter, *Landmarks*, rolled off the presses.

18 Steady advances in design and print technology made

color publication affordable, and launched the biggest visual change in *Landmarks*' 23-year history.

Earlier in the year, we produced our final, two-color issue of *Landmarks* and our 2008 annual report. Each was distributed in hard copy to more than 4,100 households and made available on our website in PDF format.

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY



1971

The District establishes the first "Environmental Information Center" in Pennsylvania and stocks it with publications, slide sets, and films on conservation, all available on loan to county residents.

Carol Pollock serves as the center's director.

Our shared water quality educator was part of a team that completed work on a new field guide on Pennsylvania's common aquatic plants. Amazingly, no such guide had previously existed.

The pocket-size book, which is published by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, provides a written description, drawing, and photograph for each of more than 40 aquatic plants common to our state. It also flags invasive species and suggests methods to control them.

The new book is capturing attention and sales have been steady. It is available for a small fee through the Penn State Cooperative Extension office at Donohoe Center.

A new "Tech Corner" feature and new Photo Gallery program were added to our website, which continued to provide timely conservation information to some 400 or more visitors a week.

We also worked to provide expanded information on our program pages, including an extensive interactive watershed map.



**Online registration and payment capability were added to our website this year**, making it easier than ever to register for education events or to purchase District items.

Since this easy, electronic alternative to writing checks and mailing in forms was introduced in the spring, the number of people using it has been steadily growing.

We produced a **new display for the Westmoreland County Fair**, featuring information about the District and six of the agencies in Donohoe Center.

More than 50,000 people visited the fair this year, where this 11-panel, large-format display was on view for nine days.

After the fair, the display's individual panels were offered to the respective agencies for use in their offices or at other events. We anticipate that this display will be used at the fair for the next several years.

**Some 80 students from 10 area high schools participated in the 2009 Westmoreland County Envirothon** at Mammoth Park in Mt. Pleasant on May 4.

Working in teams, they tested their knowledge on a variety of challenges related to our natural resources.

Kiski Area High School Team 1 took both first place and the special wildlife award in this exciting academic competition, sponsored by the District for the past 24 years.

Other finalists in the 2009 event included:

Yough Senior High School Team 1 – Second place

Greensburg Salem High School Team 1 – Third place

The Kiski School – Special Aquatics Award.

**Nineteen news releases were issued during the year**, promoting major District projects, such as the work to reduce flooding on Little Pucketa Creek; Growing Greener II and other conservation funding; the 60th anniversary events; Board and associate board appointments; good conservation practices, such as repairing flood-damaged dirt and gravel driveways; and education programs.

These news releases resulted in extensive, direct pickup by the media, and also spurred major media-written articles, such as the Tribune-Review's interview with Farmer of the Year Bob Berich and its coverage of the Jacobs Creek Conservation Tour. Likewise, the Latrobe Bulletin gave us a nearly full-page feature on our rain barrel workshop, which the editor herself attended.

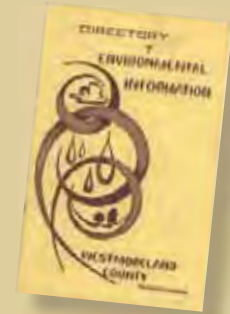
Our staff also pursued new outreach opportunities, such as including District information in "Headlining Hempfield," a specialized publication distributed to all residents of that township, and creating a channel on YouTube.

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY

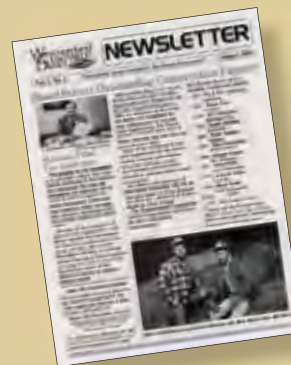
**1971**

The District publishes a "Directory of Environmental Information," a reference guide of conservation organization contacts and issues, and distributes 10,000 copies in just two years.



**1983**

Emil Kuhar develops the first professional logo for the District.



**1986**

The District begins publication of a newsletter.

The premier issue is mailed to 1,800 addresses.



**1998**

After years of working one-on-one with area citizens, the District breaks ground for an education center/headquarters building, the first step in creating a broader education and outreach program.





Loyalhanna Creek - photo by Stephen Simpson

20 **I**n 2009, the District celebrated 60 years of helping people use resources wisely.

Events, information, and commemorative items we developed to mark this milestone conservation anniversary included:

- a 16-panel, large-format timeline of major events in conservation history on display in our office (During the year, this timeline also was displayed at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, and in 214 Donohoe Road. Elements from it have been incorporated throughout this annual report, and the entire timeline can be accessed at [www.wcdpa.com](http://www.wcdpa.com).),
- an evening reception and daytime open house at the District's barn headquarters,
- a public-service brochure featuring "60 Easy Things You Can Do To Conserve Westmoreland County,"
- a ceremony to relocate the District's 50th anniversary time capsule from Donohoe Center to the barn headquarters,
- distribution of more than 450 Colorado blue spruce seedlings to people who came to our events during the year,
- a "60 Seconds for Conservation" feature on our homepage that offered a changing array of conservation-minded

actions that can be done in a minute or less, and

- two commemorative items – a polo shirt and Cats Meow® replica of our barn headquarters, both featuring the District's special 60th anniversary logo.

Others honored the District's anniversary with proclamations (from the Westmoreland County Commissioners), official citations (from the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives), and an Award of Appreciation (from the State Conservation Commission).

We are very appreciative of Adam Eidemiller, Inc. who was our 60th anniversary sponsor, and of everyone who has worked with us to promote conservation over the years!

In addition to celebrating the past, we spent a good deal of time during the year planning for the future.

We gathered input from the public on what they perceive as the District's strengths and weaknesses, the community's needs and issues, and what they think our county will look like in the year 2015.

That input is helping us **set the District's direction and priorities for the next three to five years.**

The highly regarded Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University is helping us with this strategic



planning process, which during the year included meetings with our Board members, staff, and members of the public, as well as one-on-one interviews with 18 leading area citizens.

The Bayer Center has a proven record of helping community organizations set an effective course for the future, even in uncertain times.

The District's new long-range plan is expected to be issued in 2010.

We underwent an **organizational review in March by the Leadership Development Committee** of the Pennsylvania Conservation Partnership.

The committee's six team members attended a District meeting and conducted a combined total of 33 one-on-one interviews with Board members, associate directors, staff, and agency representatives with the goal of evaluating and enhancing our leadership and professional development.

Many areas of excellence were cited in the team's report, which also recommended developing an operations manual, allowing staff to give input to the Board on management performance, and including more discussion time in Board meetings.

Even in the tight economy, our District manager and communications consultant were **able to procure \$184,000 in new grants** from private foundations and state programs, and in donations from businesses and individuals during 2009.

The money is being used to fund work on the long-range plan, the GreenForge video, the Envirothon, a series of brochures on the District's technical programs, and a new water-quality outreach program. Some of the funding also is being directed to select operational needs related to our programs, such as repairs to some of our stormwater trail demonstrations.

## DONOR UPDATE

Donations listed were received during the period January 1 – December 31, 2009.

### GreenForge Project

*(Supporting GreenForge, the demonstration green building and conservation incubator)*

#### Benefactor

*(\$10,000 and above)*

Bruce Construction, LLC

#### Friend

*(\$2,500 to \$4,999)*

Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Fawcett *(third donation)*

John N. Ward, Esquire – Ward & Christner, P.C.

#### Sponsor

*(\$1,000 to \$2,499)*

Video Graphics Inc.

#### Associate

*(\$250 to \$499)*

Tuscano-Maher Roofing

Jesse Jon Salensky, botanic, LLC

### Stormwater Management Program

*(Supporting the District's ability to provide technical advice and assistance for managing stormwater)*

#### Partner

*(\$500 to \$999)*

Fahringer McCarty Grey

Keith Walters Electric Service

### Sustaining Donors

*(Supporting general District operations)*

#### Patron

*(\$5,000 to \$9,999)*

Dominion Foundation

#### Friend

*(\$2,500 to \$4,999)*

The Westmoreland Now & Forever Fund of  
The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County

#### Sponsor

*(\$1,000 to \$2,499)*

Anonymous

Bove Engineering Company

Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds

#### Partner

*(\$500 to \$999)*

botanic, LLC

Adam Eidemiller, Inc.

Greg, Leanne and Brandon Phillips

#### Associate

*(\$250 to \$499)*

Robert and Shirley Gosnell *(third donation)*

#### Donor

*(up to \$249)*

Richard Glance

Richard and Eleanore Pearson

Elwood Leslie Family



In addition this year, we were able to realize the remaining amount of the previously reported, **multi-year, \$150,000 grant from the Colcom Foundation** by completing additional work related to our stormwater program. (*Also see Sustainable Communities, page 13.*)

**Once again, the Westmoreland County Commissioners showed strong support for the District's efforts by granting us an allocation in the county's 2009 budget.**

County support provides the very foundation of our work, allowing us to encourage clean streams, healthy forests, sustainable communities, productive farms, and stable soils throughout Westmoreland County.

We fully appreciate the challenge the commissioners face in providing for the needs of county residents while, at the same time, ensuring that all expenditures are both necessary and judicious.

Likewise, our Board, staff, and volunteers continued to work hard to hold the line on controllable expenses and to provide good value for county residents. A recent independent financial analysis showed that a full 89% of our budget expenditures are investments in programs.

In 2009, our Board of Directors voted in favor of two recommendations made by our stormwater advisory committee to institute fees for certain District services.

22 The first **instituted fees for erosion and sediment pollution control plan reviews related to stream encroachments.** These charges are graduated so that they increase with the length of disturbed area.

The second **added a new fee that would be imposed if a designer makes revisions to an erosion control plan.** This new fee is a percentage of the original plan-review fee, and it increases as the number of revisions increases. The hope is that this new fee will encourage better initial plans and reduce staff review time.

In 2009, we received some **\$86,550 in combined fees for our stormwater and erosion control services.**

This money helps to offset the costs of our erosion control and stormwater programs and staff.

For much of the year, we were **unsure whether the state would continue to make its annual allocation for the watershed specialist position.** The state's allocation – currently \$32,000 per year per county – provides a major portion of the funding that allows most every conservation district to have a person in this position.

In our county, the watershed specialist has realized hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of benefits for our citizens – from cleaner streams for drinking water and recreation,

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY



### 2002

The District successfully concludes its largest fundraising campaign ever, raising nearly \$1 million to create its new education center/headquarters building.

The entire staff moves in.

to less risk of damage from flooding.

Many partners joined with the District in lobbying to secure funding for this important position and, in November, we were notified that we were successful in securing an allocation through June 2012.

In early 2009, a **major effort to refinance the GreenForge building debt was completed**, extending the \$1.3-million loan's repayment time until 2014, and transferring ownership of the building to the nonprofit GreenForge, Inc.

Also, a detailed budget for GreenForge was created to help with planning for expenditures and monitoring the costs of operating the 23,000-square-foot building, which is managed by our administrative assistant.

We also **negotiated a new lease arrangement with the county for our barn headquarters.**

This five-year lease gives the District the opportunity to purchase the property at any time during the lease period, and applies our monthly property rent toward the purchase price.

Our cost-cutting efforts during the year included **consolidating our local, long-distance, cable, and Internet services with one vendor**, for an annual savings of \$2,300.

Likewise, we **reduced our annual equipment leasing expense by \$500** by consolidating a separate copier and fax machine into one unit and by upgrading one existing copier/fax unit.

A third copier was upgraded to a new commercial-grade





color machine, which increased our capability to produce brochures and literature in-house, with significant gains in production time and cost-savings. Producing the annual, 40-page *Conservation Directory* on this new machine, for instance, resulted in a unit cost savings of nearly 45%. Having this on-demand printing capability also allows us to print items as we need them, reducing waste.

**Our cost-cutting efforts during the year extended even to our 60th anniversary celebration activities.**

Instead of our usual evening banquet event, we held a simple open house and reception so that we could redirect some \$4,000 budgeted for the celebration to other projects in the general operating budget.

Our March visit to Harrisburg was an opportunity to continue our regular dialogue with state officials face-to-face.

Our Board vice chairman, District manager, and education coordinator **talked directly to 11 of the 14 legislators representing Westmoreland County.** They had personal conversations with the aides of two other representatives.

Our staff covered a variety of topics in these discussions, including managing stormwater, reducing the threat of floods, and revitalizing older urban communities.

We followed up these discussions with personalized letters to each legislator, reiterating the key points of our discussion and the contributions made by conservation districts.

**Three state legislators representing Westmoreland County were new to their positions in 2009, and we made an extra effort to keep in touch with them this year,** involve them with the District, and make our services and facilities available to them. All were very receptive.

Senator Kim Ward hosted a public meeting at our headquarters with state Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger in May, and Representative Mike Reese hosted a children's day here in the spring. We also participated in the family day hosted by Representative Tim Krieger at Hempfield Park.

**We also bolstered our relationship with the Westmoreland County Farm Bureau** during the year, and invited them to help us identify farmer candidates for our Board (*See item on Paul Sarver in this section*).

Farm Bureau President Dwight Sarver was appointed as an associate director of the District in 2008.

Our secretary conducted the **periodic inventory of the District's major capital assets and durable equipment.**

This information helps us plan for future capital operations and maintenance expenses.

We responded to our first requests for public records under the **new state Right to Know Law** that went into effect January 1.

**Paul Sarver**, owner and operator of Sarver's Hill Organic Farm and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in Greensburg was appointed to the District Board of Directors.

Paul also manages the Farmers' Market Association of Central Westmoreland County, which hosts farm markets in Greensburg and Hempfield Township.

District Board Members **Al Barnett** and **Tom Balya** were reappointed to the Board for terms that will run until 2012 and 2010, respectively.

**Jesse Jon Salensky** of Export and **Dorothy Stoner** of Unity Township were named as associate directors of the District.

Jesse is a principal in botanic, LLC, landscape designers and builders. He also serves as director of business development for Bruce Construction, LLC and as a principal and certified arborist for pH<sup>c</sup>, LLC.

Dorothy is a retired Unity Township dairy farmer who continues to assist her son and daughter-in-law with financial management of the 120-acre family farm. She previously served on the District's Board of Directors from 1995 to 2005.

**Chris Droste**, our erosion control specialist since 1999, was promoted in August to senior erosion control specialist.

Chris is the eyes and ears of the District on earthmoving

## 60 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE USE RESOURCES WISELY



### 2005

With citizen input, Westmoreland County adopts a vision and plan for future growth, the "Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plan."

Retaining the county's rural character is its top priority.



sites in Hempfield, North Huntingdon, Penn, Rostraver, and Sewickley townships as well as in the municipalities of Murrysville, Export, Irwin, Trafford, Manor, Penn, Jeannette, Greensburg, Adamsburg, Arona, New Stanton, Youngwood, West Newton, Monessen, and nearby communities.

In December, our hydraulic engineer, **Jim Pillsbury**, completed the requirements and achieved a master's degree in civil engineering from Villanova University, Philadelphia.

Erosion Control Specialist **Nicole Miller** completed the courses and successfully passed the exam to become a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control™.

This designation certifies individuals who are qualified to practice in the fields of erosion and sediment control or stormwater quality, based on a thorough examination and review of their educational, scientific and service activities.

Our staff participated in a variety of **professional development** opportunities during the year.

Our nutrient management specialist/agricultural conservation technician attended the annual nutrient management conference as well as a number of webinars, including ones on grazing for small animal ruminants, nutrient management updates, concentrated animal feeding operations, and current grant and tax-credit programs.

Our watershed specialist attended the annual watershed specialists' conference and the annual Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation conference.

Our education program coordinator attended a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection grant-writing seminar.

**Joanne Kitsko**, our receptionist/secretary since February 1996, retired in December.

We'll miss her steady presence and strong work ethic, and we know our callers and visitors will miss her always-welcoming smile and willingness to help.

**Christie Sebek**, our secretary since 2003, stepped into the receptionist's position for a three-month trial, giving us time to evaluate whether or not she could add the receptionist duties to her existing workload.

In an effort to encourage cross-training, **our secretary has been working with our fiscal administrator to learn some of the District's accounting procedures.**

She is well-qualified, having a bachelor of science degree in accounting from California University of Pennsylvania.

**Andrea Romano**, a fourth-year landscape architecture student at Penn State University, completed a summer internship

with the District in stormwater management and sustainable practices.

Her hands-on experience ran the gamut from helping to design rain gardens for Mount Pleasant to helping to inspect development sites for erosion and sediment control measures.

## Financial Statement

### Concise Statement of Financial Position

Combined Funds – December 31, 2009

#### ASSETS

Cash	\$	240,745
Loan Receivable-GreenForge, Inc.		192,491
General Fixed Assets		27,393
		<hr/>
TOTAL	\$	460,629

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$	1,406
Funding Source Share of Equipment		27,393
Total Liabilities		28,799
Net Assets		431,830
		<hr/>
TOTAL	\$	460,629

### Concise Statement of Activities

Combined Funds – Year Ended December 31, 2009

#### SUPPORT

Westmoreland County	\$	879,499
State Grants		191,141
Other Revenue		42,449
Fees		85,873
Farmland Preservation		421
Interest Income		79
Special Projects		278,344
		<hr/>
	\$	1,477,806

#### EXPENDITURES

Program Services	\$	1,079,061
Management & General		446,370
Fundraising		0
		<hr/>
	\$	1,525,431
Excess (Deficiency) – Current		(47,625)
Net Assets – Beginning Balance		479,455
		<hr/>
Net Assets – End of Year	\$	431,830

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# Conservation Team

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Roy Houston, *Chairman*  
 Ron Rohall, *Vice Chairman*  
 Conrad Donovan, *Treasurer*  
 William Doney, *Secretary*  
 County Commissioner Tom Balya  
 Albert Barnett  
 Kim Edward Miller  
 Paul R. Sarver  
 Fred J. Slezak

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Robert Ackerman  
 Bruce J. Corna, Jr.  
 Joseph Dietrick  
 Charles Duritsa  
 Alexander J. Graziani, AICP  
 Karen Jurkovic  
 Joseph E. Kalinowski  
 Ellen Keefe  
 Ted Kopas  
 Barbara D. McMillan  
 Theresa Gay Rohall  
 Jesse Jon Salensky  
 Dwight Sarver  
 Elmer G. Slezak  
 Dorothy Stoner  
 John Turack  
 Keith Walters

## STAFF

Gregory M. Phillips  
*District Manager/CEO*  
 Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.  
*Assistant District Manager/  
 Technical Programs Director*  
 Karen Barnhart  
*Fiscal Administrator*  
 Sandra Dzendzel  
*Administrative Assistant*  
 Mark Jackson  
*Visual Communications Specialist*

Christie Sebek  
*Receptionist/Secretary*

## Technical Staff

James W. Pillsbury, PE  
*Hydraulic Engineer*  
 Kathryn Hamilton, RLA  
*Landscape Architect/Stormwater  
 Technician*  
 Robert D. Cronauer  
*Watershed Specialist*  
 Christopher Droste  
*Senior Erosion Control Specialist*  
 Nicole Miller  
*Erosion Control Specialist*  
 Daniel Griffith  
*Nutrient Management  
 Specialist/Agricultural  
 Conservation Technician*  
 Kathleen Fritz  
*Erosion & Sedimentation  
 Program Administrative Assistant*

## Education Staff

Mimi Thomas-Brooker  
*Education Program Coordinator*  
 Dana Rizzo  
*District/Penn State Extension  
 Water Quality Educator*

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### Agriculture

*(formerly Nutrient Management)*

William Clouser  
 William Doney  
 Rita Graham  
 Dustin Heeter  
 John Lohr  
 Kim Edward Miller  
 Robert Pore  
 Betty Reefer  
 Dwight Sarver  
 Paul Sarver  
 John Scott  
 Gary Sheppard  
 Thomas Sierzega

Fred Slezak  
 Larry Stokum

## Communications

Karen Jurkovic  
 Ted Kopas  
 John Turack  
 David Uhrinek

## Conservation Education

Angela Belli  
 William Doney  
 Ed Johnstonbaugh  
 Karen Jurkovic  
 Tom Pearson  
 Theresa Gay Rohall  
 Gary Sheppard  
 Thomas Sierzega  
 Elmer Slezak  
 Joseph Stefko  
 Dorothy Stoner  
 John Turack

## Dirt and Gravel Roads

Ron Rohall  
 Thomas Sierzega  
 James Vatter

## Forestry

Robert Ackerman  
 Edward Callahan  
 Mike DiRinaldo  
 Tom Fitzgerald  
 Ron Rohall

## Stormwater

Andrew Blenko  
 Emil Bove  
 Lucien Bove  
 Kevin Brett  
 John Campfield  
 Joseph Dietrick

Larry Gasparato  
 Donald Hixson  
 Charles Kubasik  
 Dallas Leonard  
 Suzy Meyer  
 Kim Edward Miller  
 Les Mlakar  
 Ken Murin  
 Ken Orié  
 Stephen Pilipovich  
 Bob Regola  
 Ron Rohall  
 Darl Rosenquest  
 Robert Scheib  
 Thomas Sierzega  
 Tamira Spedaliere  
 Ruth Sittler  
 John Surmacz

## Sustainable Energy

Charlie Frederickson  
 Maggie Hall  
 Karen Jurkovic  
 Karen Kuhns  
 John A. Malone  
 Barbara McMillan  
 Gary Sheppard

## Water Quality

Michael Barrick  
 Michael Bazley  
 Todd Burd  
 M. Curtis Fontaine  
 Barbara McMillan  
 Larry Myers  
 Ron Rohall



# Thank You...

These past 60 years of conservation progress have been possible because hundreds of local citizens took action to care for our natural resources.

The names of many of these individuals have been recorded in the District meeting minutes, annual reports, newsletters, and other publications over the years. And while we were researching this information for the 60th anniversary conservation timeline\*, we compiled the names we encountered into a master list (below).

We know there are many, many more people\*\* who have been important to conservation over the years, but whose names were not recorded. And we'd like to remedy that now.

So, if you know of someone – yourself, a friend, family member, neighbor, acquaintance, or coworker – who should be added to this list of conservation friends, please send their name(s), along with a brief sentence or two about how they were involved with the District, to [wcd@wcdpa.com](mailto:wcd@wcdpa.com). The list will appear on our website (see [www.wcdpa.com](http://www.wcdpa.com) "About Us," History) and will be updated regularly.

Thank you to everyone who has made a difference for conservation!

Robert Ache  
Justin Acita  
Robert Ackerman  
BonnieJean Adams  
Linda Adams  
Mother Agnes  
Laura Agnew  
Betsy Aiken  
Harry & Caroline Albert  
Linda Alworth  
Robert W. Amore  
Melissa Anderson  
Lincoln Armbrust  
Stanley Auen  
Bobbi Bailey  
**Tom Balya**  
Drew Banas  
**Albert Barnett**  
Karen Barnhart  
Michael Barrick  
Jill Bates  
Adam Battistella  
Louis Battistella  
John Baughman  
Tom Baughman  
Dee Baumann  
Craig Barras  
Ken Bayle  
Michael Bazley  
Carl R. Beabes  
V. M. Bearer  
E. W. Beatty  
Louis Beck  
Angela Belli  
Robert Bender  
Geri Berlin  
Vivian Bernardo  
Father Firmin Beyer, O.S.B.  
Rich Binns  
Robert Bitner  
Andrew Blenko  
**Frank Bogan**  
Robert Bogle, Sr.  
Marianne Bolling  
Beth Bollinger  
Emil Bove  
Lucien Bove  
Charles Bowers  
Mark Bowers  
Linda McKenna Boxx  
Patty Bradish  
James Brahosky  
Scott Branthoover  
Bev Braverman  
**John D. Brawdy**  
John L. Brentzel  
Kevin Brett  
Jörg Breuning  
John Brown  
Ron Brown  
Vincent Brown  
Michael Bucheit  
Todd Burd  
**William Buttermore**  
Dick Byers  
Joanne Caffrey  
**Eugene Cairns**  
Harriet E. Caldwell  
Edward Callahan  
Randall Campbell  
Rodger Campbell  
John Campfield  
Dan Carpenter  
McCay Carson  
Dr. Frank Cassell  
Roland S. Catarinella

Chris Chendy  
Scott Churbock  
George Church  
Gregory A. Cironi  
Richard & Susan Clark  
William G. Clark  
Lewis Clawson  
Rebecca Clawson  
William Clouser  
Elda Conner  
**P. Scott Conner**  
Marge Copeman  
Bruce J. Corna Jr.  
Larry Cornell  
Naomi Costello & family  
Lawrence Crespo  
Robert Cronauer  
Reid W. Crosby  
Kenneth B. Cyphert  
Ed Czarnnecki  
Alex Dado  
Mae U. Datz  
Jack Davis  
R. John Dawes  
Tony Debnar  
William Deeds  
Devin DeMario  
Charles DeNunzio  
Adam Derr  
Dennis Deverse  
Lindsay DiCasolo  
Joseph Dietrick  
Mike DiRinaldo  
Dan Dodd  
**William Doney**  
**Conrad Donovan**  
Marion Dotterway  
W. Cleland Dowler, Jr.  
William Downs  
Jack Driscoll  
Christopher Droste  
Holly Dugan  
Charles Duritsa  
G. Floyd Dye  
Sandra Dzendzel  
Rick & Bill Ebert  
Jerome Eidemiller  
Jerry Eidemiller  
Mark Eidemiller  
Wilmer Eidemiller  
Heather Eisaman  
George E. Evans  
Charley Fajt  
Tony Farina  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Fawcett  
Mark Feiling  
Imogene Fink  
Dr. Caryl Fish  
Ed Fisher  
Curt Fisher  
Tom Fitzgerald  
Jeffrey Fliss  
Ken & Rose Flodin  
Bill Fodiak  
M. Curtis Fontaine  
Tom Ford  
Nicole Foremsky  
Anita Foriska  
Mike Fowles  
Gloria J. Fox  
James Fox  
Robert Fox  
**Ford M. Frank**  
Charlie Frederickson  
Don Fretts  
Edwin & Joan Fritz

Kathleen Fritz  
Ralph Frye, Jr.  
Wayne & Hope Frye and family  
Kim Gales  
Debbie Garrett  
Larry Gasparato  
Nancy Gearhard  
Joseph Geissinger  
**Calvin Gerhard**  
Misty Giesey  
A. Richard Glance  
Jane Glenn  
Bruce Golden  
**Harry Gongaware**  
**Mortie Gongaware**  
Fred Goodman  
Ryan Gordon  
Wes Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gosnell  
Harry Grabbe  
Bob Graham  
Carolyn Graham  
Gary Graham  
John Graham  
Rita Graham  
Mac & Merriann Grant  
Alexander Graziani  
John Greenawalt  
C.R. Greene  
Harold Grey  
Daniel Griffith  
Leanne Griffith  
Robert Griffith  
**William Griffith**  
Noel Grimm  
W. E. Gross  
Don Guidon  
Paul Haddock  
Dave Hails  
Chef David Hajas  
Maggie Hall  
Kathryn Hamilton  
George Hapchuk  
Representative R. Ted Harhai  
Helen Hart  
**William P. Hartman**  
Arthur Hawkins  
Richard Hawley  
Ali Hebshi  
Bob Hedin  
Dustin Heeter  
John Heidekat  
Alquin Heinnickel  
Philip Heinnickel  
Sylvester Heinnickel  
Father Earl Henry, O.S.B.  
Bob Hepler  
Sherene Hess  
**Paul Heyworth**  
Dave Higinbotham  
Joseph Hill  
Chef Steve Hill  
Brother Norman Hipps, O.S.B.  
Donald Hixson  
Adrian Horvath  
**J. Roy Houston**  
Susan Huba  
Robert Huffman  
Lee Hufton  
Thomas Hughes  
Ralph Hunter  
Donald Hutter  
**Gilbert Hutter**  
Gib Hutter family  
Kathy Hutter  
Pat Iezzi  
Natalie Irizarry  
Mark, Jill, Trudy, Mary &  
Regis Jackson  
Regis & Jane Jackson  
Mary Beth Jakobek  
Michael Jankovic  
Glady's Jellison  
Michael Jennewine  
Gordon Johnson  
Wayne Johnson  
Ed Johnstonbaugh  
Michael Jupina  
Michael & Karen Jurkovic  
A. Richard Kacin  
Joseph Kalinowski  
Ellen Keefe  
Tom Keller  
William Kelly  
**P. Roy Kemerer**  
Richard Kemerer  
Welty, Joanne & Curt Kennan  
**Charles Kepple**  
Glenn R. Kepple  
Ron Kerber  
Steve Kifer  
Mark Killar  
**Joseph Kim**  
H. O. Kimmell  
Ray & Ricarda King  
Neil Kinnier  
Joanne Kitsko

John J. Kitsko Family  
Rob Knight  
Ed Kohl  
Edward G. Kontor  
Mike Kootsourdiss  
Ted Kopas  
Paula Korber  
Bob Kossack  
Bill Kotsenas  
Wade Kozak  
Terri Kromel  
**Jay Kromer**  
Lori Kronenwetter  
Chuck Kubasik  
Karen Kuhns  
Senator Allen G. Kukovich  
Breon Kunkle  
Mike Kuzemchak  
**Thomas Kuzemchak**  
Jules Labarthe  
**John J. LaCarte**  
Stephanie LaFrankie  
Larry Larese  
Fred Lau  
The Lauffer family  
Mike Lavin  
Anita Lengvasky  
Bob Lenhart  
Elmer Lenhart  
Jennifer Lenhart  
Pat Lentz  
Dallas Leonard  
Elwood Leslie  
Francis Licisko  
Nancy L. Light  
Samuel Livingston  
H. Lewis Lobdell  
Ben Logan  
John Lohr  
**P. Graydon Long**  
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Bob Lydick  
Ray & Donna Machulsky  
John A. Malone  
Dave Mankamyer  
Jill Mariani  
Harry Marker  
**Terry Marolt**  
Milan Martinisko  
Sister Mary Benedict  
Dean Matanin  
Terry Matty  
**Robert McAleese**  
Alice Meadow  
Harry Meyer  
Suzy Meyer  
Andy McAllister  
Michele McDonald  
Kathleen McGinty  
Adam McKelvey  
Amanda McMillan  
Barbara D. McMillan  
Barbara McMillen  
Charles Merroth  
Anthony Miele  
Vernon C. Miles  
**John R. Millen**  
John R. Millen family  
Gary Miller  
**Kim Edward Miller**  
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Patty Miller  
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Les Mlakar  
Donald Momyer  
John G. Mondics  
Richard Monticue  
Dr. Thomas & Mary Moran  
Randy & Liz Morris  
Burt Mulhollem  
Don Mulhollem  
Kenneth Murin  
C.H. Myers  
J. R. Myers  
James Myers  
Larry Myers  
Charles Nagy  
Rich Naugle  
John Nehoda  
Dennis Neideigh  
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G. L. Norris  
Mr. & Mrs. Nickola Novosel  
Michael J. O'Barto  
Joseph Obenski  
Eric Oesterling  
Neil Okonak  
J. Thomas Okonak  
Tom Okonak  
Ken Ori  
Helen Ostermiller  
John Otto  
Tom Page  
Dan Painter

Harry Painter  
Representative John Pallone  
Juanita Pallone  
Jack Parry  
Jim Pashek  
Greg Pastor  
Richard Patterson  
Jack Paulik  
**Bill Paxton**  
Richard & Eleanor Pearson  
Tom Pearson  
Tony Pecora  
Thomas A. Perrin  
Rick Perritt  
Clifton Peters  
Harold Peterson  
Claude Petroy  
Edward Philip  
Greg, Leanne &  
Brandon Phillipps  
Stephen Pilipovich  
James Pillsbury  
Curtis Piper  
Pat Piper  
Robert Pneski  
Stella Poyer  
Carol Pollock  
John L. Pollock  
Robert Pore  
Wilmer Pore  
Grant Porterfield, Jr.  
Pounds Family  
Anthony Quadro, Jr.  
Lorrie Quadro  
Tom Qualters  
Vincent Quatrini, Jr.  
Anthony Radomski  
Bill & Ingrid Rea  
Ken Reed  
Betty Reefer  
Shawn & Daniel Reefer  
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Bob Regola  
Douglas P. Regola  
Steve Regola  
Ed Rhoads  
Harry Richards  
Ronald F. Rigby  
Jason Rigone  
**Edward A. Rinkhoff, Jr.**  
Edward Ritter  
Dana Rizzo  
**Ronald Rohall**  
Theresa Gay Rohall  
Dave Roote  
Darl Rosenquest  
Tammy Ross  
William A. Roth  
Glenn Ruff  
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J. A. Rutter  
Earl & Judy Sadler  
Jesse Jon Salensky  
Max & Ed Sapinsky  
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**Paul R. Sarver**  
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Ann Rudd Saxman  
Robert Scheib  
Mrs. Steven Schellin  
James Schenck  
**Dr. Bernard F. Scherer**  
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J. David Schober  
Eugene, Hilary, Ralph,  
& John Schramm  
John Scott  
Ray Seamens  
Christie Sebek  
Ruth Sekora  
Bill Selemba  
Diane Selvaggio  
Joseph Seren  
Joseph Sevchik  
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Kathy G. Shale  
Dr. William Shea  
Gary Sheppard  
Johanna Sheppard  
Lysle Sherwin  
Judy Shields  
**Robert G. Shirey**  
Beth Shoaf  
Lynn Showalter  
Mrs. George Shupe  
Mrs. Robert Shupe  
Bob & Sally Shuster  
Malcolm Sias  
Tom Sierzega  
Levi B. Silvis  
Deb Simko  
E. M. Simmons  
Joseph E. Simon  
**Ted Simon**  
Stephen Simpson  
Derek Sinchar

**Frank E. Skacel, Sr.**  
John Skiavo  
Barbara Skinner  
John Skinner  
Elmer Slezak  
**Fred Slezak**  
**Alex J. Smith**  
Bruce A. Smith  
David Smith  
F. Rodney Smith  
Lisa Smith  
Sue Snyder  
Kelly Sofaly  
Tamira Spedalieri  
C. B. Speicher  
Representative Jess Stairs  
George Stanislaw  
Elaine Stano  
L. M. Stark  
Roxanne Stefanon  
Joe Steffko  
Jerry Stercho  
Nancy Stewart  
Tom Stickle  
Ruth Stitler  
Katie Stokum  
Larry Stokum  
Greg & Holly Stone  
**Dorothy Stoner**  
Richard Stoner  
James Stossel  
Jim Stoy  
Virginia Stump  
William Stutz  
Beverly Sullenberger  
John Surmaccz  
Pat Tatano  
Bob Teeter  
Jeff Telford  
Herman Tewes  
George & Lewis Thomas  
Martin Thomas  
Mimi Thomas-Brooker  
Dr. Stuart Thompson  
John Timko  
Craig Toal  
James F. Torrance  
**Robert Z. Torrance**  
Ken & Shirley Tosh  
Stephen Tower  
Howard Townsend  
William Treagar  
Hank Trice  
Sara Tumulty  
John Turack  
Mrs. John Turnage  
**J. Calvin Turner**  
David Uhrinek  
Nevin Ulery  
Gary Valley  
**Clarence Vance**  
Pia van de Venne  
James Vatter  
Bob Ventorini  
Terri Vrable  
Dr. William H. Walker, Jr.  
Mary Ann Walko  
**Dianne B. Walters**  
**Keith Walters**  
Stanley Walton  
John & Virginia Wandrisco  
John Ward  
R. C. Watt  
Chuck Waugaman  
Bonnie Wenk  
Kathleen Werner  
Robert West  
Lori Whalen  
R. D. Whitting  
John Wigle  
Jack, Jary, & John Wilkinson  
David Williams  
Sue Wiseman  
Mel Wohlgenuth  
**Boyd E. Wolff**  
Jerry Woodward  
Glenn S. Work  
Ben & Carole Wright  
Christine Youngbauer  
Joan Zahorchak  
Matt Zambelli  
Ed Zarnecki  
Robert Zelmore  
Dave Zundel  
Joan Zuricane

\*\* We know that many individuals not specifically listed here may have been part of a larger group, organization, business, club, school, or agency that has partnered with us over the years. We hope to compile a list of these organization names next.



## FRIENDSHIP FARMS Natural Farm & Bakery

Mailing Address: 147 Friendship Farm Lane, Latrobe, PA 15650  
To Visit: Turn from Route 130 onto Deeds Road in Lycippus  
Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Visit Our Farm for Fresh Bread Right Out of  
the Oven & for Home Grown All Natural Beef**  
*Bread also available at:*

Irwin, Eastgate, Ligonier & Latrobe Giant Eagles  
and at Nature's Way, Mount Pleasant County Market,  
Saint Vincent Grist Mill & Schramms  
"Please Call For Additional Information"  
(724) 423-1545 (866) 424-8727  
www.friendshipfarms.com email: sales@friendshipfarms.com



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- Wildflower Meadows
- Reforestation & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
- Commercial & Residential Natural Landscaping
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- Grower & Supplier of Quality Containerized Native Plant Material
- Stream Restoration Construction
- Construction of Agricultural Best Management Practices

### For more information:

Call 866-424-8727 or visit our website at [www.friendshipfarms.com](http://www.friendshipfarms.com)  
Mailing address: 147 Friendship Farm Lane, Latrobe, PA 15650  
To Visit: Turn from Route 130 onto Deeds Road in Lycippus.



795 PineValley Dr. Suite 20 Pittsburgh, PA 15239  
724.325.2979  
[www.botanicllc.com](http://www.botanicllc.com)  
~working outside the box~

## THE Markosky ENGINEERING GROUP INC.

*Joseph R. Dietrick*

*Professional Engineer • Professional Land Surveyor*

4000 Hempfield Plaza Blvd., Suite 983 Greensburg, PA 15601  
Phone: 724.259.4290 ext. 307 Fax: 724.238.4194  
[jdietrick@markosky.com](mailto:jdietrick@markosky.com)

## Wake Robin & White Trillium

Latest Lithograph from Stephen Simpson  
Highlighting the natural beauty of Westmoreland County



20 x 26 inches

## Stephen Simpsons Gallery of Affordable Art

311 Georgian Place, Somerset, PA  
[www.TakeAVirtualHike.com](http://www.TakeAVirtualHike.com)  
814-443-2448

Over 100 selections of Laurel Highlands Art to choose from

## VICTOR P. REGOLA & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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AND  
SURVEYORS

DOUGLAS P. REGOLA, P.E.  
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(724) 925-6440  
FAX (724) 925-8344

402 CLAWSON AVENUE  
YOUNGWOOD, PA 15697



**FAHRINGER, McCARTY, GREY, INC.**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS  
1610 Golden Mile Highway  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
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FAX (724) 733-4577

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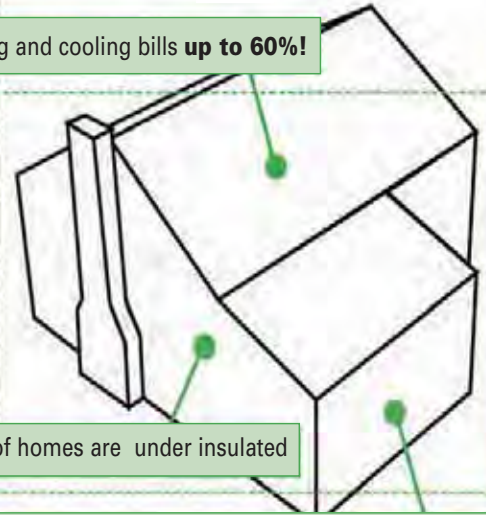


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