

ANNUAL REPORT

— 1 9 8 6 —



The Year of the Forest

Westmoreland
Conservation
District 

1040

Square Miles of Opportunity



County Celebrates The Year Of The Forest

In declaring 1986 as "Year of the Forest", Governor Richard Thornburgh urged all Pennsylvanians to recognize the importance of forests in our daily lives and to help preserve these valued resources for future generations.

The "Year of the Forest" was an all-out effort by everyone involved to raise public awareness about our forests, which provide wood products, clean water, employment in forest related industries, a home

for wildlife, and a place to enjoy outdoor recreation.

Through our Newsletter, we helped celebrate the "Year of the Forest" by making the public aware of the economic benefits of the forest and the use of proper management as a means of protecting and enhancing this resource. The District conducted educational workshops on Timber Harvesting Operations and the Gypsy Moth.

Tony Quadro, Environmental Control Officer, assisted with the development of a new Timber Harvesting Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual.

Though 1986 has come to an end, the "Year of the Forest" spirit has not. We all must continue our effort to promote stewardship that will safeguard and improve these resources for future generations.

Westmoreland Conservation District Roster of Outstanding Conservationists

1985 - Rick and Bill Ebert, Derry	1978 - Donald Hutter, Mt. Pleasant
1984 - Ed and Max Sapinsky, Smithton	1977 - Fred Slezak, New Alexandria
1983 - Ralph Frye, Latrobe	1976 - John R. Wigle, Latrobe
1982 - The Schramms, Harrison City	1975 - Boyd Wolff, New Alexandria
1981 - James Schenek, Scottdale	1972 - Jess Stairs, Acme
1980 - Welty Keenan, Hunker	
1979 - John Greenawalt, West Newton	

Board Selects Outstanding Conservationists

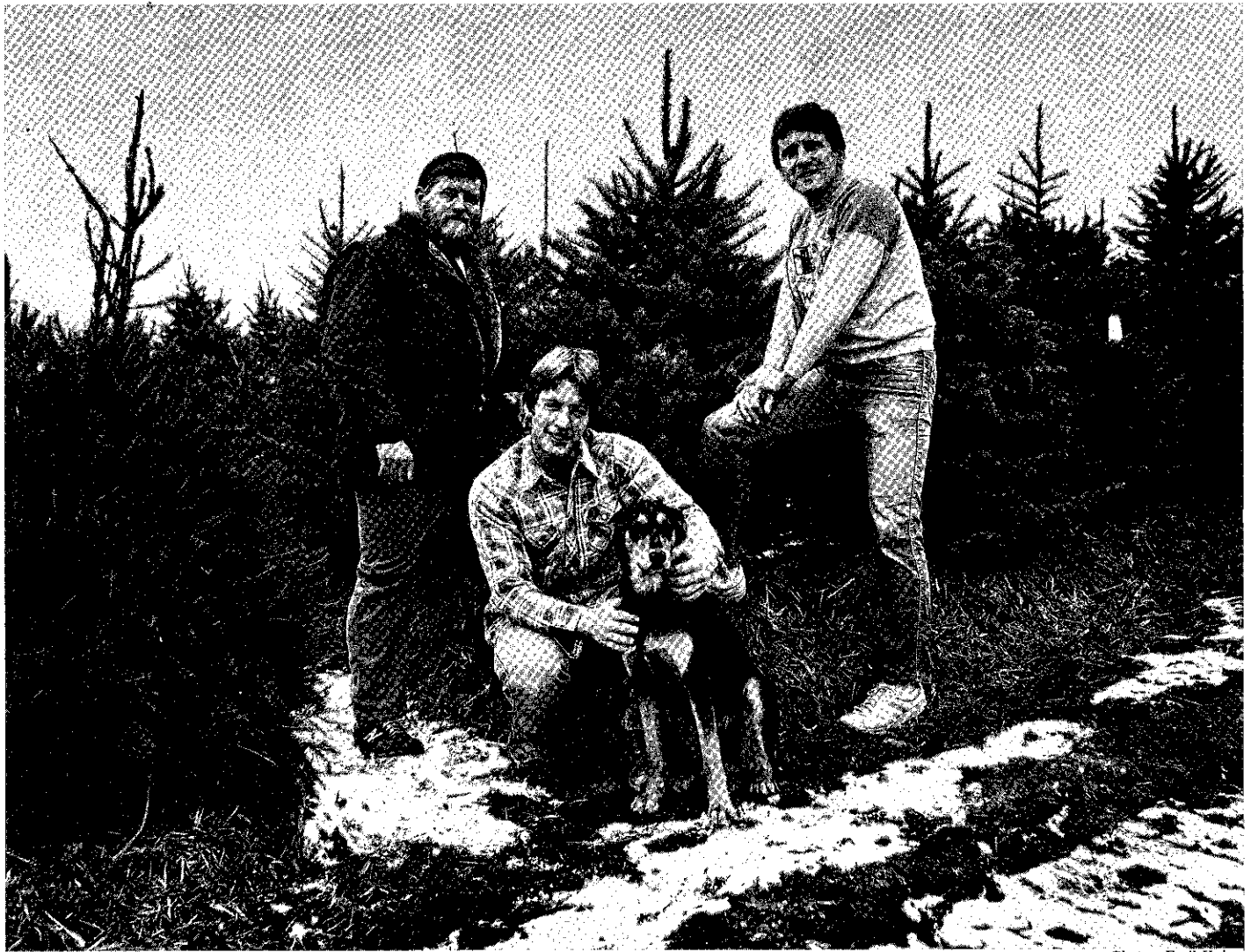


Photo - Emil Kuhar

1986 Outstanding Conservationists - left to right: Jack, John Jr., and Jary Wilkinson with dog, "Muffin"

Jack, Jary, and John Wilkinson, Jr. were named Westmoreland County's Outstanding Conservationists by the District's Board of Directors. As recipients of the award, the Wilkinsons are recognized for their commitment to soil and water conservation. The Wilkinsons own approximately 1,000 acres of land in Hempfield Township. Most of the land is used to produce nursery crops.

In 1932, John Wilkinson, Sr. bought nine acres of land near Armbrust. When natural gas was discovered on the property in 1941, Mr. Wilkinson used the royalties to purchase and plant

1,000 arborvitae seedlings. The nursery business prospered, and today Wilkinson's Nursery is one of the largest in Southwestern, Pennsylvania.

Some of the conservation practices that the Wilkinsons have incorporated into the nursery operation include: 8,000 feet of diversions, three spring developments, 18,700 feet of sub-surface drainage, two ponds, and one drop box to handle surface water. Nursery stock is planted on the contour, and where slopes are very steep, the stock is planted in sod.

You can sometimes find Jack

"decked-out" in authentic buckskins and "totin" a muzzleloader. Not only does Jack practice conservation ... he preaches it. He often entertains Scouts, Brownies, and conservation camps and teaches them about the local history and the value of their natural resources.

Jack states, "We recognize the importance of our topsoil. It is our lifesblood. Essentially, we lose a little topsoil with each tree or shrub we dig, so we have to conserve all of it we can!"

Congratulations from the Westmoreland Conservation District to Jack, Jary, and John Wilkinson, Jr.!

Conservation Computer System Installed

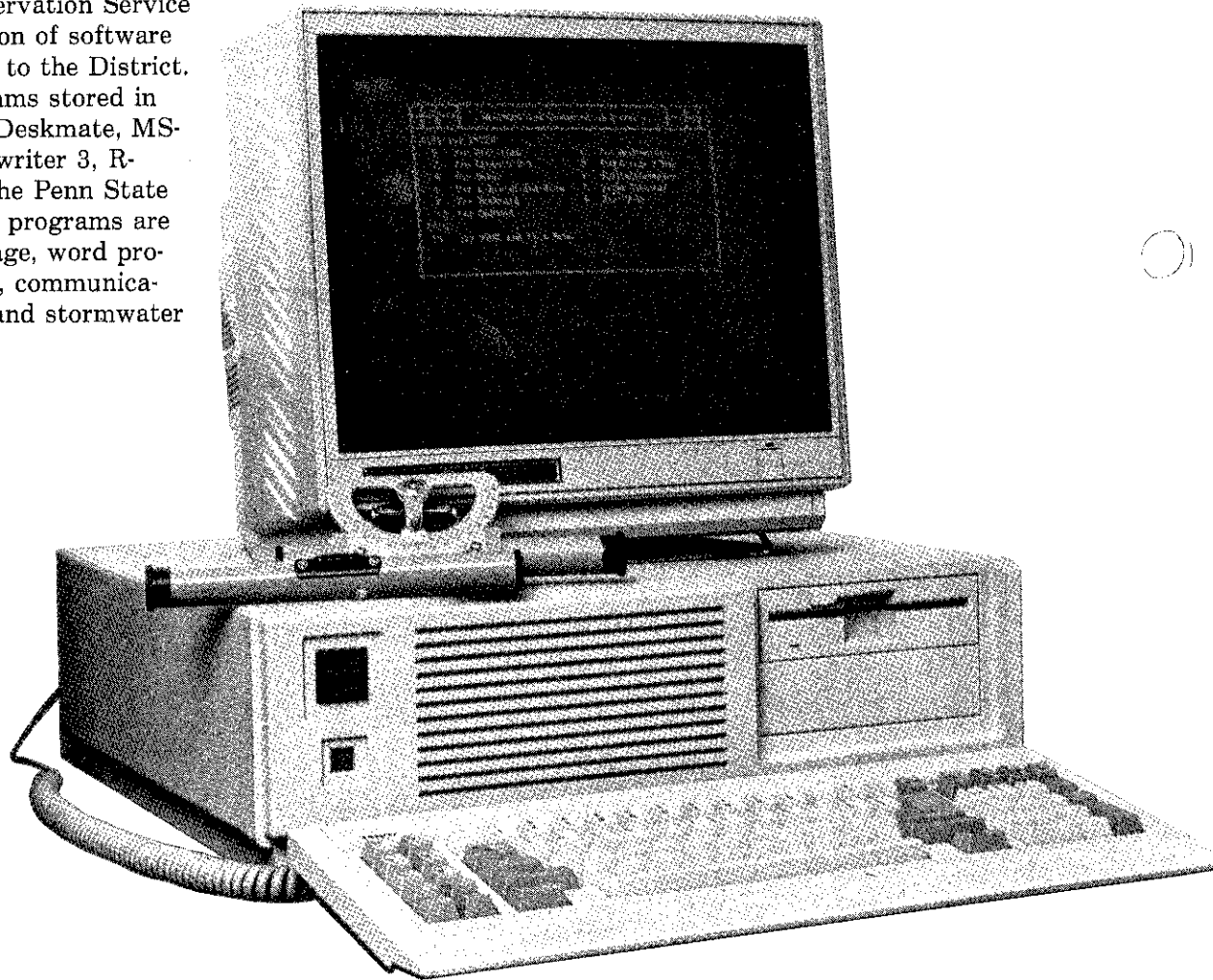
As outlined in our Annual Plan of Work, the District began the process of computerizing the office in 1986.

In January, the District purchased a Tandy 3000 HD personal computer. The computer is equipped with a 512K working memory and a 20 megabyte hard disk drive capable of storing 20,000,000 bytes of information. A letter quality printer and a modem for telecommunications were included with the system. An agreement with the Soil Conservation Service made the installation of software possible at no cost to the District. Some of the programs stored in the computer are: Deskmate, MS-DOS, Basic, Volkswriter 3, R-Base, Lotus, and the Penn State Runoff Model. The programs are used for data storage, word processing, accounting, communications, and survey and stormwater calculations.

In October, the District received a special project allocation of \$1,750 from the State Conservation Commission. The grant will be used to purchase a Tandy 102 portable computer and a Tandy 1000 SX personal computer.

The addition of the Tandy 3000 computer has enabled the staff to increase productivity over the last year and we are looking forward to an even more productive new year.

A special thanks to **Rich Shockey**, Soil Conservation Service, Harrisburg; **Carl Beabes**, Soil Conservation Service, Greensburg; and **Scott Churbock**, Associate Director, for their help in programming the computer and tutoring the staff!

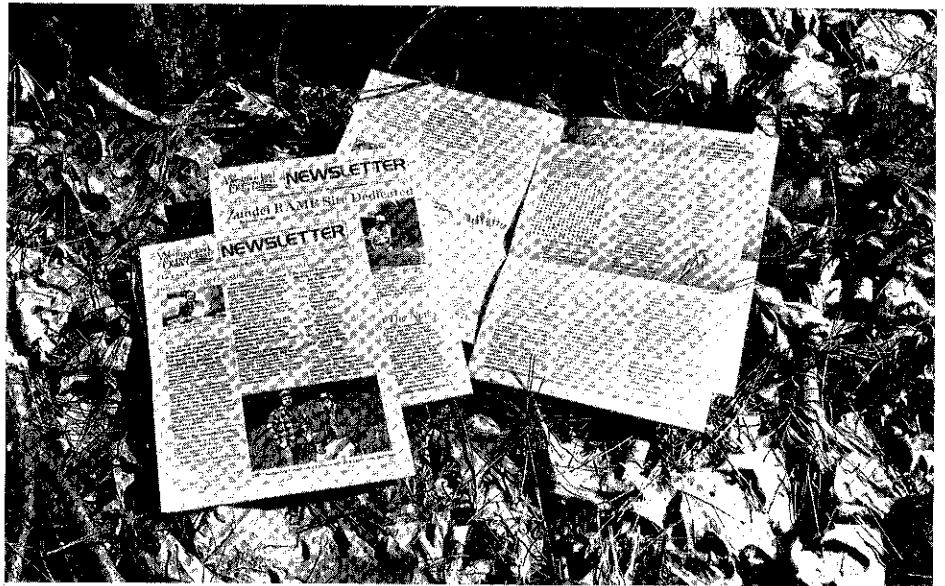


Newsletter Circulated To County Residents

Because of the complexity of agencies and organizations working to improve the environment, the District's profile needs to be sharp and clear. The District Directors discussed the possibility of a newsletter at a regular monthly board meeting. It was felt that a timely distribution of a newsletter would help to keep our image clear, as well as serve to inform readers of District policies and programs.

We began the publication and distribution of a quarterly newsletter in August of 1986. The District newsletter, recently entitled *Landmarks*, is mailed free of charge to approximately 1,800 people.

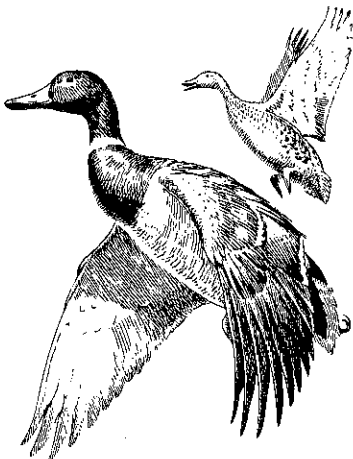
The purpose of *Landmarks* is to establish contact with individuals interested in the conservation movement. It is designed to stimulate the interest of current and potential cooperators, clubs, businessmen, teachers, sportsmen, civic and political leaders, and every resident of the county who has an interest in the environment.



The District newsletter, *Landmarks*, would not be possible without the help of many individuals. Articles are written by the District staff. Wes Gordon, Soil Conservation Service, keeps the readers informed of new developments in conservation. Mrs. Ann Saxman, Associate Director and Landscape Designer, contributes a series of articles on conservation landscaping. Expert

graphics and design work are done by Mark Jackson, Associate Director. Emil Kuhar is responsible for the fine photography that appears in each issue. Paul Heyworth, Greensburg Tribune-Review and Associate Director, provided the inspiration for the overall development of a District newsletter.

Derry Sweeps Envir-Olympics Competition



At Westmoreland Conservation District's first annual Envir-Olympics the team from Derry Area High School outscored all others to win the event. The competition was held on May 5, at Twin Lakes County Park.

The Envir-Olympics provided the students with a chance to prove their knowledge of forestry, soils, aquatic environments, wildlife, and 1986's current environmental issue - solid waste management.

County Conservation Districts throughout the State held local competitions early in the spring. On June 21, the State Envir-Olympics was held at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center in Stone Valley, Huntingdon County. The Derry team competed against teams from 29 other counties and captured first place!

The Pennsylvania Envir-Olympics is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors,

the Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, the Soil Conservation Service, the Bureau of Forestry and others, with support from the State Department of Education.

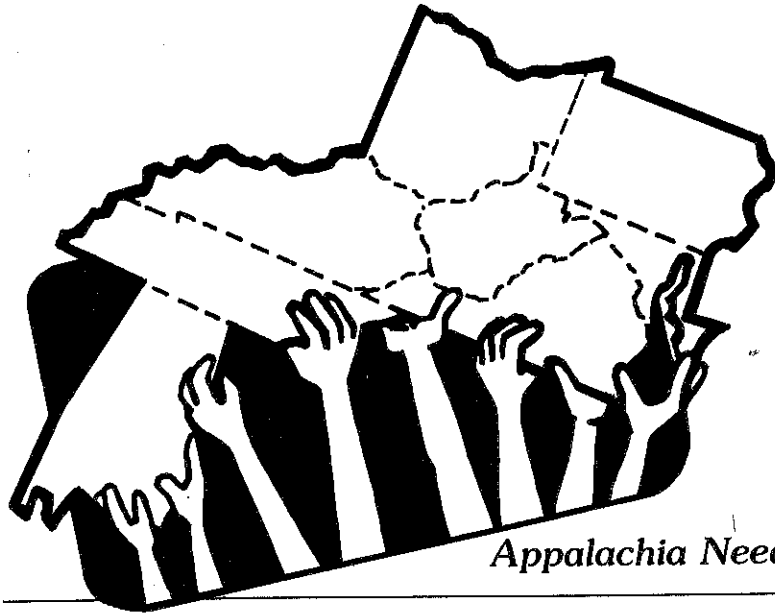
The Westmoreland Conservation District, in cooperation with the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation, will continue to hold the event with hopes of yearly growth and program improvement.

Pa Coalition Organizes Appalachian States

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) met with representatives of eight states to discuss the formation of a regional coalition. The meeting resulted in the formal organization of the Appalachian Coalition for Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation. The organization is attempting to secure additional funding for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands. The Appalachian Coalition is made up of representatives from the states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and Alabama. **Dave Mankamyner**, Somerset Conservation District, was elected Chairman of the Appalachian Coalition.

Individual state coalitions were formed to provide local leadership for encouraging the reclamation, development, and wise use of abandoned mine lands in the bituminous coal area of Appalachia. This includes: reducing the hazards to health and safety, minimizing soil erosion, and improving the local economy of the Appalachia.

The WPCAMR Publicity Committee designed and printed Appalachia's Challenge. The brochures were distributed throughout Pennsylvania and forwarded to the various states in the Appalachian Coalition. Each individual state distributed the brochures to selected Conservation Districts and U.S. Senators and Representatives.



Appalachia Needs a Lift!

Other WPCAMR Highlights

- Traveled to Ohio to discuss the formation of an Ohio Coalition for Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation.
- Prepared and presented testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.
- Held four regional business meetings in Western Pennsylvania.
- Maintained association with various national conservation groups such as Environmental Policy Institute and the Sierra Club.

1986 WPCAMR Officials

Chairman.....	Dave Mankamyner.....	Somerset County
Vice Chairman.....	Gary Lee Krause.....	Elk County
Treasurer.....	Roby Grose.....	Jefferson County
Secretary.....	Bob Sweitzer.....	Somerset County



Photo - Emil Kuhar

District Minimizes Soil Loss

The Westmoreland Conservation District continued to emphasize the administration of our Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program in 1986. District personnel reviewed erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control plans, responded to E&S complaints, assessed problems in the field, and worked with landowners, contractors, and engineers to obtain compliance.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly, by way of the Department of Environmental Resources, made available \$800,000 to Districts in the 1985-1986 fiscal year. The Westmoreland Conservation District utilized \$20,750 of these funds. Of this total, \$10,000 was provided as cost sharing for the employment of a District Manager, \$8,000 for the Technician, \$1,000 in administrative assistance, and \$1,750 for special projects.

With the help of the USDA, Soil Conservation Service the District reviewed 199 E&S control plans for adequacy. To ensure plan implementation, a total of 160 on-site inspections were conducted at 57 different sites across the county. District personnel responded to 28 E&S complaints, only three of which were referred to other agencies. Earth disturbance permits were required on seven of the sites that were in excess of 25 acres. Inspection on these sites were high priority, and were conducted at frequent intervals.

The goal in conducting these inspections is to minimize the accelerated soil erosion that is intensified by man's activities. Achieving this goal will help to save our soil resources, protect water quality and fish life, and reduce the flooding damages caused by sediment choked streams and culverts.

Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Benefits Landowners

The Westmoreland Conservation District promotes the application of sound soil and water conservation management practices. Technical assistance is provided to the District by the United States Department of Agriculture, SCS.

As a result of this interagency cooperation, the conservation needs of landowners, farmers and developers are served.

The following presents a brief summary of the major services and conservation practices established with SCS assistance in 1985.

- Individual land users provided assistance.....353
- Landusers applying one or more conservation practices.....226
- Acreage of conservation plans prepared and/or revised.....4,003
- Acreage of stripcropping established.....650
- Spring developments installed.....24
- Grass and rock lined waterway acreage constructed.....9
- Linear feet of diversion constructed.....11,400
- Soil erosion and sedimentation control plans reviewed.....200
- Agricultural Conservation Program referrals serviced.....137
- Pond requests serviced.....20
- Assistance provided to governmental units.....30
- Acreage of planned grazing systems installed.....225

In addition, SCS.....

- Provided technical assistance, as requested, for erosion and sedimentation control and surface water disposal on active surface mine reclamation sites.
- Assisted the Westmoreland Conservation District with on-site investigation of soil erosion and stormwater related problems.
- Supplied soil survey information upon request.
- Provided technical assistance to landusers that resulted in various applications of agronomic practices to reduce soil erosion. These included: conservation cropping systems, conservation tillage, pasture and hayland management, and planned grazing systems.
- Assisted farmers with planning of manure management systems.

1986 District Retrospect



Zundel Dedication - sponsored a ceremony and site showing at the David Zundel Rural Abandoned Mine Project, a 31 acre reclaimed abandoned mine site located in Baggaley. The event was attended by local officials, including Congressman John P. Murtha, who participated in an airplane inspection of the site. Dedication ceremonies were held shortly thereafter and concluded with a hayride tour that explained the reclamation procedures used at the site.

Pasture Management Field Day - cooperated with the Soil Conservation Service to introduce farmers to the intensive rotational grazing system. A field day was held at Burt Mulhollem's N&M Dairy near Donegal. Farmers who attended the event were able to see the system in operation.

Conservation Planning Display - exhibited at the Westmoreland County Fair, Greenawalt's Egg Festival, the Outdoor Sportsmen Show, the Energy Conservation Fair, and several farm meetings. The display was designed to improve public awareness of conservation and initiate cooperator sign-ups.

Educational Meetings - conducted workshops on the Gypsy Moth, Timber Harvesting Operations, and Road Stabilization.

Information Luncheon - held to familiarize the District's nominating organizations with our programs and policies. The District's roster of approved State Conservation Commission nominating organizations was increased from ten to fifteen.

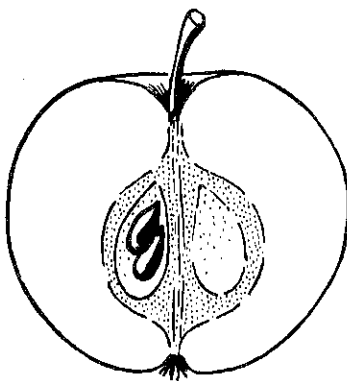
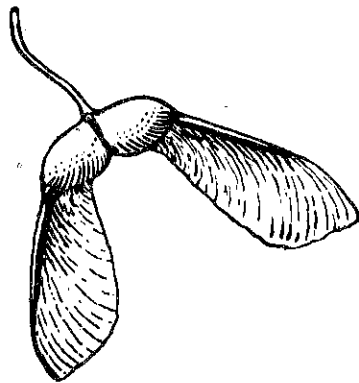
Youth Forestry Camp - awarded a scholarship to an eligible student based on the results of a contest. Renee Baum, of Ligonier, attended the 1986 session at Penn State's Mckeever Camp. The four-day program introduced students to the basic principles of forest management.

Forestry - worked cooperatively with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. Assistance was provided to the State Service Forester in woodland management planning and the Tree Farm inspection program. Several county landowners were given advice on tree planning, pest management, and timber harvesting.

Forage Testing - funded a project to gather and analyze forage data from pastures where the Voison grazing system is applied. The results of the test were made available to other interested farmers in order to promote the conservation practice.

Waterways Assistance - continued to assist landowners with stream encroachment permits in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Dams and Waterways Management. Information was provided on permits for: streambank stabilization, bridges, fords, culverts, fills, channel changes, and fish enhancement structures.

Stormwater - provided assistance on stormwater management and continued to participate with the County in the Flash Flood Warning Program. Stormwater management plans were analyzed and evaluated. Post-flood damages were assessed and advice was provided for repair and stabilization.



District Priorities for 1987

Every November the District holds a planning meeting to review the year's accomplishments and to set priorities for the upcoming year. The meeting also serves as an opportunity for everyone to provide the District Board with their thoughts concerning conservation in Westmoreland County.

The following priorities are on the District's agenda for 1987:

Public Relations - effectively distribute the Newsletter and the Annual Report to promote District programs and to stimulate the interest of individuals and organizations interested in the conservation movement.

Long Range Plan - update two more sections of the plan.

Computer - begin to utilize the computer for storage of cooperators and Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program information. Work with Associate Director Scott Churbock to program and utilize the computer for stormwater management analysis. Purchase a second work station.

Soil Erosion And Sedimentation Control Program - continue to place a strong emphasis on the program. Allocate time for the District Technician to use the computer for storage of pertinent information.

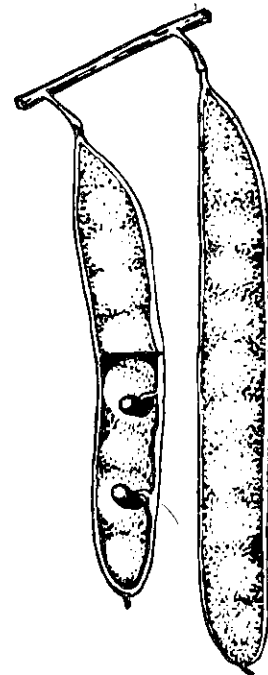
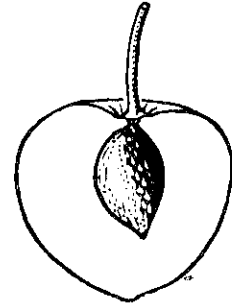
Conservation Planning - explain the conservation compliance provisions of 1985 Farm Bill to county farmers. Prioritize conservation planning.

Landowner Reclamation Program - complete the Harr Landowner Reclamation agreement. Sign-up an additional landowner. Expand the search for potential projects. Publicize the program where appropriate.

Jacobs Creek Flood Control Project - communicate with the appropriate legislators the need to appropriate funding for the project.

Rural Abandoned Mine Program/Resource Conservation Development - pursue increased funding for abandoned mine reclamation through the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Support efforts to increase funding for Penn's Corner RC&D.

Project Wild - cooperate with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to hold a Project Wild Workshop.





The Purpose of The Westmoreland Conservation District is to Serve

The Westmoreland Conservation District is a legal subdivision of state government responsible under state law for coordinating conservation activities within County boundaries. The State Conservation Commission provides administrative, advisory, and financial assistance to Conservation Districts.

The purpose of districts are: to focus attention on land, water, and related resource problems; to develop programs to solve them; to enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the district goals; and to make all citizens aware of the interrelationship between human activities and the natural environment.

We recognize that three of our basic purposes are to help assure Westmoreland County of adequate water supplies, the land capability to produce adequate supplies of food and fiber, and the continued protection of our streams and rivers against pollution.

Call us at 837-5271 for information on:

- Conservation Planning
- Application of Conservation Practices
- Watershed Management
- County Flash Flood Warning System
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Stormwater Management
- Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP)
- Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)
- Soil Survey
- Developers and Municipal Planning Assistance
- Agricultural Land Preservation
- Landowner Reclamation
- Conservation Education

Associate Directors Help With District Programs

The Board of Directors of the Westmoreland Conservation District appoint individuals to serve as Associate Directors. Although they are not a voting member of the Board, they are important to the overall success of District Programs.

An Associate Directors qualifications are an interest in natural resource conservation and time to devote to District activities.

Areas of involvement are:

- Promoting District activities
- Making legislative contact as requested
- Working on special committees or assisting with special projects
- Providing liaison to potential District cooperators
- Providing citizen input at District Meetings
- Assisting with Youth and Education Programs
- Attending conservation agency meetings
- Manning District displays

Our Associate Directors include:

Mrs. Ann Rudd Saxman, Latrobe	Mr. Keith Walters, Slickville
Mrs. Robert Shupe, Scottdale	Mr. Ed Czarnecki, Greensburg
Mr. Roy Kemerer, Pleasant Unity	Mr. Paul Heyworth, Greensburg
Dr. Wm. Shea, Greensburg	

New Associate Directors are:

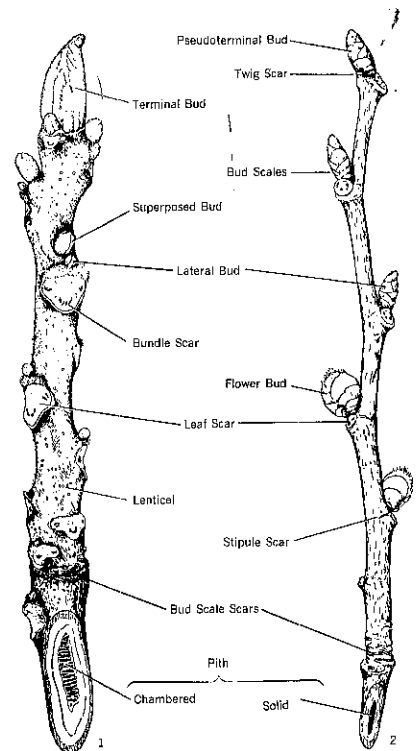
Mr. Scott Churbock, Greensburg
 Mr. Mark Jackson, Greensburg
 Ms. Bonnie Wenk, New Stanton

District Board Meets Monthly

The Westmoreland Conservation District is administered by a duly appointed Board of Directors. The Board is composed of four farmer directors, two urban directors, and one County Commissioner. The Board convenes at least once a month to plan, prioritize, and supervise the implementation of district programs.

Regular monthly district meetings are scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month (Watch the newspaper meeting notices). They are held at the Peoples Natural Gas Company which is located one mile north of the Westmoreland Mall on Donohoe Road near Greensburg.

The general public is encouraged to attend and participate in our meetings.



Twig features, Bitternut (1); slippery elm (2).

**Westmoreland's
Conservation Team**

**Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania**

**Department of
Environmental Resources**

Bureau of
Soil and Water Conservation

Bureau of
Community Environmental Control

Bureau of Forestry

Bureau of
Surface Mine Reclamation

Bureau of
Oil and Gas Management

State Conservation Commission

**Department
Of Transportation**

PA. Fish Commission

PA. Game Commission

Federal

Department of Agricultural

Agricultural Stabilization
and Conservation Service

Farmer's Home Administration

Soil Conservation Service

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineer

Department of the Interior

Westmoreland County

Cooperative Extension Service

Department of
Emergency Management

Department of
Parks and Recreation

Department of Planning

Vocational and
Agricultural Schools

Loyalhanna
Watershed Association

Turtle Creek
Watershed Association

Jacobs Creek
Watershed Association

Thank You

Westmoreland County Commissioners



Photo - Emil Kuhar

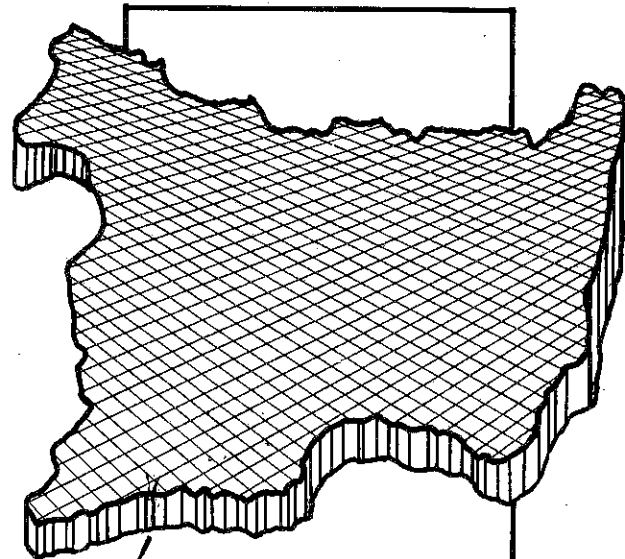
Westmoreland County Commissioners - left to right: Terry Marolt, Ted Simon, Richard Vidmer.

We express our appreciation of the Westmoreland County Commissioners who contributed greatly to the District's progress, not only through financial support, but through sincere interest and encouragement.



Design, Layout - Jackson Graphics

Westmoreland Conservation District



1040 SQUARE MILES
OF OPPORTUNITY

1986 PLANNING MEETING

AGENDA
SHERATON INN
NOVEMBER 14, 1985

DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

BOARD
STAFF
GUESTS

LUNCH

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

WELCOME	•	J. ROY HOUSTON <i>CHAIRMAN</i>
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	•	GREG PHILLIPS <i>DISTRICT MANAGER</i> <i>WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION</i> <i>DISTRICT</i>
REVIEW OF 1985 OBJECTIVES	•	AGENCIES
PROPOSED 1986 PRIORITIES	•	GREG PHILLIPS
COMMENTS	•	GUESTS
ADJOURNMENT	•	J. ROY HOUSTON

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. ROY HOUSTON, *Chairman*
GILBERT HUTTER, *Vice Chairman*
FRANK E. SKACEL, *Treasurer*
BOYD E. WOLFF, *Secretary*
WILLIAM BUTTERMORE, *Director*
ALEX J. SMITH, *Director*
TED SIMON, COMMISSIONER, *Director*

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

PAUL HEYWORTH
MRS. HARRY S. SAXMAN
ROY KEMERER

MRS. GEORGE SHUPE
DR. WILLIAM SHEA
ED CZARNECKI

STAFF

GREGORY M. PHILLIPS, *District Manager*
LINCOLN ARMBRUST, *Administrative Secretary*
ANTHONY P. QUADRO, JR.,
Environmental Control Officer
KATHLEEN A. ALLISON, *Secretary*

1985 OBJECTIVES

CONSERVATION PLANNING

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM

RURAL ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

FLASH FLOOD PROGRAM

1986 PRIORITIES

COMPUTER

LONG RANGE PLAN

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

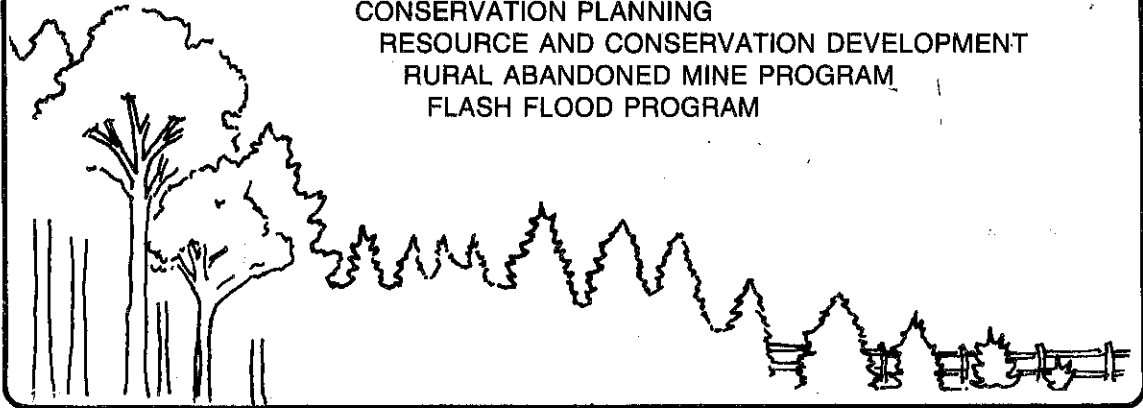
SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM

CONSERVATION PLANNING

RESOURCE AND CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT

RURAL ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM

FLASH FLOOD PROGRAM



ASSISTED BY:

WESTMORELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT H. MILLER, RICHARD VIDMER, TED SIMON

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

BUREAU OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

HARRY T. MEYER, *Field Representative*

SAMUEL LIVINGSTON, *Soils Engineer*

U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

WESLEY M. GORDON, *District Conservationist*

**WORKING TO CONSERVE
OUR NATURAL RESOURCES**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation

Bureau of Community Environmental Control

Bureau of Forestry

Bureau of Surface Mine Reclamation

Bureau of Oil & Gas Management

Bureau of Water Quality Management

State Conservation Commission

PA. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PA. FISH COMMISSION

PA. GAME COMMISSION

FEDERAL

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation Service

Farmer's Home Administration

Soil Conservation Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Corps of Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

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Department of Emergency Management

Department of Parks & Recreation

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Jacobs Creek Watershed Association

