

# Happy Days

of Conservation





## Westmoreland Conservation District Staff

(l-r) Dan Griffith, *Nutrient Management/Ag Conservation Technician*; Leanne Griffith, *Growing Greener Program Assistant*; Craig Barras, *Watershed Specialist*; Karen Barnhart, *Administrative Secretary*; Chris Droste, *Erosion Control Specialist*; Mike Barrick, *Erosion Control Specialist*; Kathy Fritz, *Program Secretary*; Jim Pillsbury, P.E., *Hydraulic Engineer*; Joanne Kitsko, *Receptionist*; Sandy Dzendzel, *Secretary*; Nicole Foremsky, *Water Quality Agent*; Greg Phillips, *District Manager*; Lorrie Stouffer, *Assistant District Manager*; Tony Quadro, *Program Specialist/Forester*.

## Mission

The Westmoreland Conservation District is dedicated to the conservation, restoration, and proper use of our natural resources. Functioning as a unit of government, the directors, associates, and staff commit themselves to the leadership and service required in pursuing activities beneficial to the environment.

## Special Thanks

The Westmoreland Conservation District extends a special thanks to the Westmoreland County Commissioners Scott Conner, Tom Ceraso and Tom Balya, for their generous financial support which demonstrates a strong determination in maintaining and advancing the conservation movement.

# Remembering when...

**MANY OF US CAN REMEMBER** when major roads were lined with farms instead of restaurants and car dealers, when growing food was profitable and when people read books and talked over the back fence. Everybody's dream car was the '57 Chevy – just right for cruisin', peelin' out and layin' rubber.

Today, we can find solace and strength by looking back to those "happy days," when the only terror was facing our parents with bad report cards and other misdeeds. We needed stability and security coming out of the trauma of World War II and now we're looking for the same factors after the 9/11 tragedy and the start of another kind of world war.

So we've returned to the binding glue that is patriotism, that sense of national purpose that launched the conservation movement. Many long-lasting projects were launched in the 50s and 60s. They were indeed happy days filled with accomplishments.

Westmoreland County's soil inventory, hundreds of farm plans, the District's professional staff, and flood control and

prevention projects were initiated. Back in the 'good old days', the District helped start watershed groups, worked on many educational projects, and generally helped landowners and communities cope with the urbanization of Westmoreland County.

Yesteryear had many environmental challenges and with a great deal of help from the county commissioners and our partners, the District met them head on. We're still working on some of those old problems like erosion and sedimentation, but new challenges lie before us. The District has to adapt to the growing and changing public needs. If the "Happy Days of Conservation" are to continue we must intensify our work in many areas: Education, water quality and quantity, land use planning, forest and stormwater management and the application of new technologies, to name a few.

We can enter this new era with confidence built upon our history of achievement. This annual report clearly shows we have what it takes to face the challenges during troubled times.



J. Roy Houston  
Chairman

# Center for Conservation Education



**AFTER LONG YEARS ENGAGED IN** an overseas conflict and, before that, an economic depression, Americans of the 1950s got their first real chance to focus on making life better in their own backyards.

With new prosperity and without the distraction of war, Westmoreland County residents, like their counterparts across the nation, spent the “Happy Days” of this era investing in their community — paving miles of roads, building recreation areas, expanding schools, and turning land into neighborhoods, industrial complexes, and retail shopping centers.

This idea of making life better by focusing on our own backyards surfaced again in conservation circles in the late 1990s. With private individuals owning the vast majority

of land, it seemed that the most effective way to make further strides in the wise use of our natural resources was to help these landowners be better stewards of the lawns, streams, tree stands, and fields that made up their own backyards.

And so, a few years ago, the Westmoreland Conservation District launched its most ambitious outreach ever, setting out to bring the conservation message, step-by-step, to the majority of the region’s 370,000 citizens.

The cornerstone of this effort, much like the efforts of the 1950s, was a building project — a new conservation education center that, in 2001, was finished enough for the first District staff to move into and to host its first public education program, a workshop introducing the District’s new curriculum on Westmoreland County’s watersheds and sustainable communities to area secondary teachers.

Under the supervision of master builder Kim Miller, work on the second of the Center’s three construction phases was completed in 2001, thanks to the generosity of donors who contributed more than \$880,000 to the project.

In November, District Manager Greg

Phillips announced a plan to publicly recognize the foundations, corporations, individuals, and community and government agencies that supported the Center with both in-kind and financial gifts. The names of all those who have given at the Partner (\$500) level and above will be etched into the glass that forms the south wall of the Center’s foyer.

This large wall of glass is a prominent feature of the education center — the first

## Special Thanks To Our Many Donors

The Center for Conservation Education is estimated to cost \$1.1 million. Of that amount, some \$882,000 has been raised in cash, in-kind donations, and pledges. A review of these donations shows that:

- 10 foundations contributed a total of \$299,000
- 49 businesses contributed a total of \$297,000
- 56 individuals contributed a total of \$38,000
- 4 grassroots conservation/civic organizations contributed a total of \$2,500
- 2 municipal authorities contributed a total of \$2,800
- 7 state/county government grants contributed a total of \$214,000, and
- The Westmoreland Conservation District contributed a total of \$29,000.

thing visitors see when they step inside, and the last thing they see when they leave. And, because the wall is an integral part of the Center's structure, it reflects the fundamental role these major donors have played in making the Center a reality.

Other progress made at the Center in 2001 included the development of a landscape plan, initial landscape work in the front of

the building and grass-planting, and the addition of a new 10-car parking lot featuring a variety of permeable materials, including paving blocks made of concrete and recycled plastic. In addition to their practical uses, the Center's landscaping and new parking lot will serve as a demonstration area for how to conserve water and reduce stormwater runoff.



The Center's sunlit and airy meeting room provides a pleasant place for our County's many conservation groups to assemble.



Kim Miller — farmer, developer, contractor, conservationist, and barn expert!



Nestled into the hillside, our Bank Barn shelters office space, meeting rooms, work areas, and even a few field mice!



## Is backyard conservation really effective?

### Consider this:

A single acre of residential land – if not properly managed – can pollute nearby streams and lakes with 490 pounds of sediment, 1.20 pounds of phosphorus, and 7.48 pounds of nitrogen each year.\*

So the aggregate effect of ultimately influencing some 370,000 Westmoreland County citizens to adopt good conservation practices on their own properties has the potential to bring about a tremendous improvement in stream quality alone.

\* Figures provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Watershed Conservation.

# Conservation Education



**IN THE 1950'S CHILDREN WERE** educated in local schoolhouses where in some townships, they were home to grades 1 through 12. In the year 2001, our very own Center for Conservation Education, has become our schoolhouse for community residents, young and old.

## Teacher's workshop

- Watersheds and Sustainable Communities workshops were presented to teachers of Westmoreland County schools. Teachers were able to earn much-needed Act 48 credits while experiencing our "barn schoolhouse" with its natural building materials and hands-on demonstration area — Nature Park.
- As opposed to the 3-D movies of the fifties, PowerPoint slide shows were given to present some of the current land use activities that are affecting our streams.

- Conservation projects like the infiltration parking lot were showcased. Teachers in the workshop were able to see first hand how concrete and plastic paving blocks, filled with pea gravel were laid to help promote ground-water infiltration, which does not happen with asphalt-paved parking lots.

## Children's activities

- Many schools participated in enrichment programs in their classrooms taught by Nicki Foremsky that focused on water, specifically non-point source pollution problems; water quality assessments using dissolved oxygen tests, pH meters, and macroinvertebrate cumulative indices; and watershed basics, tying together the water cycle and land forms.



- Groups of third grade students from Nicely Elementary and Metzger Elementary toured Nature Park as a field trip with Jim Pillsbury and Tony Quadro teaching about the water cycle and tree identification.

- Additionally, many of the District staff members participated in educational camps, sharing our knowledge of trees, wetlands, water, and agricultural conservation practices to students throughout the county.

## Youth Programs

- Tony Quadro once again did a fantastic job organizing the Westmoreland County Envirothon. With the help of all the staff, the countywide contest, which included teams from 9 area high schools, was held at Twin Lakes Park. Also assisting with this contest was Wes Gordon of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Theresa Rohall of Powdermill Nature Reserve, Nicole Foremsky of Penn State Cooperative Extension, Gary Toward, Tom Fazi, and Rod Ansell of the PA Game Commission, and Tom Fitzgerald of the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry.

First place in this event went to Franklin Regional High School whose coach is Tom Pearson. Second place went to Yough High School whose coach is Dan Buric, and third place went to Burrell High School whose coach is Bob Campbell. Other schools participating include Belle Vernon High School, Greensburg Central Catholic High School, Greensburg Salem High School, Hempfield High School, Kiski Area High School, and Norwin High School. The Franklin Regional team of Ryan Harster, Stephanie Bragg, Dan Graper, Jason Zsak, and Rosemary Pike went on to the State

Envirothon contest held at Bald Eagle State Park and placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the state.

- In addition to the cooperating agencies, our corporate partners also played a major role in generously providing financial and in-kind support. The major corporate sponsor for the Envirothon was Allegheny Energy Co.



Additional support was provided by Shop 'n Save, Beckwith Machinery Co., SONY Corporation, Westmoreland County Parks Department, and Jackson Graphics. Congratulations to all our teams!

### Youth Involvement

- We were helped greatly by several Boy Scout groups in the past year. As his Eagle Scout project, Matt Addis of Troop 419 led a group of 20 Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in installing an infiltration parking lot by the Center for Conservation Education.

Mike Deibert of Troop 405 led his group of 25 Boy Scouts in building a new bridge in Nature Park as did Josh Gress of Troop 465 with his group. Travis Johnson of Troop 405 cleaned out under a broken bridge and rebuilt it with the help of friends from

several troops. Dave McMullen of Troop 411 and Steve Regola of Troop 465 planted 30 large trees in Nature Park. Two young men, Ben Hawk and Andy Johnson have joined in helping with several of these projects.

### Looking Ahead

- Efforts are being made to fund a full-time Conservation Education Coordinator. Presently, Leanne Griffith is working part-time to organize and arrange workshops to be held at the Center for Conservation Education starting later this spring. It is an exciting time for the Conservation District – to prepare to launch a successful education program in our new, beautiful facilities located on the edge of the 60-acre Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Center.

- The Center for Conservation Education will soon be hosting various workshops which emphasize conservation projects that involve various staff members doing what they do best. Tony Quadro, District Forester, will continue his work with Sustainable Forestry and Riparian Buffer Zones. Craig Barras, Watershed Specialist, will be involved with Watershed groups and their activities. Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer, will work with storm water management along with Nicki Foremsky, Water Quality Agent, who will continue her outreach for teaching about safe drinking water, water cycles and water quality. Chris Droste and Mike Barrick, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Specialists, will inform the public of conservation

methods used to control sediment to keep it from eroding into streams because this is still the largest source of non-point pollution in Westmoreland County. Dan Griffith, the Nutrient Management/Ag Specialist will present workshops involving local farms that have implemented Agricultural Best Management Practices.

- Although our primary emphasis will be on adult education to begin with, we will also continue to work with scout and school groups. In particular, we hope to soon offer additional training for high school students participating in the county Envirothon in May. We also plan to offer several days a year of activities that include the whole family.

If you have suggestions for workshops that you would like to see at the Center for Conservation Education, please contact Leanne Griffith.

50 years ago, little if any, Conservation Education took place in this county except for farmers learning to be good stewards of their fields. Today, we start our efforts to improve our stewardship and educate others so they can also join in. Who knows what our little corner of world will be like fifty years in the future?



# In the '50's and Today, Trees are Still the Answer



This sturdy old oak growing near Camp Jo-Ann has been witness to many changes over the past 50 years.

**LOOKING BACK TO THE EARLY** days of the conservation movement, one thinks about the dustbowl era of the late thirties and early forties when trees were planted for windbreaks and soil conservation. Then in the fifties following Aldo Leopold's book "A Sand County Almanac", one thinks of the beginning of a new era of the conservation movement in which there was a growing concern for the earth and the development of a "conservation ethic". Many lands were planted with trees to provide wood for the future, clean air, and for the protection of soils and watersheds.

Some of the trees which were planted in those simpler times are being harvested

today for all kinds of products such as wood for our homes and paper for our computer printers and fax machines which weren't even around back then. It seems now that there is a renewed interest in conservation. In today's world, all one has to do is get on the internet and learn about global warming, carbon sequestration, ecosystem management, and landscape ecology.

And as we wade through the myriad of cyber-info, one message still rings clear: "plant trees". Trees are still the answer. Trees are being planted not only in fields, but also around homes and along streams. The District's forester

Tony Quadro saw an increase in tree planting in 2001, especially along streamsides, or riparian buffer areas.

The District was involved with the planning and implementation of the planting of nearly a mile of streambank plantings in 2001. This translates into about 1000 trees planted along riparian buffer zones through farm fields and other private lands. This trend shows no signs of slowing down and should increase over the next several years. In fact, several programs are set up to provide funding for both planting and protecting riparian buffers.

An example of such a project is in the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park located

directly behind the District office. Trees and shrubs were planted along portions of the streambank for both cover and protection from erosion. The trees were paid for with Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water Funds (Section 319) funding.

There are several concerns about survival when planting trees. In areas where the deer population is high, overbrowsing can decimate a stand of seedlings in a matter of hours. Competition from invasive plants can also ruin a planting. One way to protect the newly planted seedlings from both of these problems is to use tree shelters when planting. The District sold several thousand tree shelters to protect seedlings in 2001. As a distributor for the Treessentials company, the District sells the tubes and makes a slight profit which is used to fund a portion of the conservation education program.

The District helped to promote the Forest Legacy program in 2001. This program is one way to ensure that the important forestland will be protected from development. Under this program, a conservation easement can be placed on the land which lasts in perpetuity. The land can be managed according to a Stewardship plan, and trees harvested, but it can never be developed.

Tony also completed two PA Forest Stewardship plans during the year.



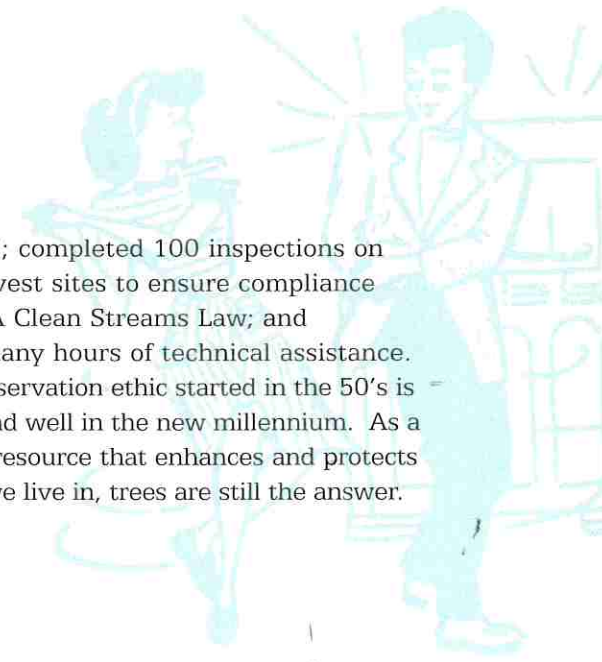


These plans detailing forest management practices on private lands for 10 year periods were completed for the Thomas Nimick property, and the Marc Levine property. Over 400 acres of woodland were covered under these plans. Both landowners were interested in protecting their lands with conservation easements.

Other accomplishments of note in 2001 were: 10 forest management plans completed; one loggers environmental logging workshop organized; assisted the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association to establish a new slate of officers and board, and served as agency advisor; measured 5 new "trees of

distinction"; completed 100 inspections on timber harvest sites to ensure compliance with the PA Clean Streams Law; and provided many hours of technical assistance.

The conservation ethic started in the 50's is still alive and well in the new millennium. As a renewable resource that enhances and protects the world we live in, trees are still the answer.



## Dirt and Gravel Roads

**IN THE LATE 1950's, DRIVING** down a dirt road was perhaps a little more common than today. Streamlined concrete pavement has gradually replaced the dirt roads of yesterday, but in an effort to protect waterways affected by the runoff from existing roads in high quality watersheds, the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program was born.

The Dirt and Gravel Roads program continued to roll along in 2001. Although only one project was completed during the year, contracts for four other large projects were finalized and will be completed 2002. Loyalhanna Township completed work on Robinson Road in the fall. The supervisors and their crew stabilized 46,200 square feet of road driving surface, repaired 3,000 feet of eroded ditches, and installed 80 feet of 15-inch drainage pipe and 150 feet of 4-inch underdrain. All of this work was completed for a total project cost of \$3,849.62 with

some in-kind contributions from the township. This project greatly reduced sediment impacts to an unnamed tributary to the Conemaugh River.

In 2002, Derry Township will conduct

work on Green Thumb and Frye Roads for a total of \$24,893. Mount Pleasant Township will improve Sawmill Road for \$20,475, and Cook Township will reduce sediment pollution from Peters Road for \$17,781.



## Remembering when...

Director Al Barnett of Greensburg, who has long been active among the region's sportsmen, said the movement has shifted towards problems "such as the negative impact of ATVs and motorbikes in the gamelands." He remembers when the sportsmen and conservationists "carried considerable weight in the political sector"... in the creation of laws and regulations.

# Erosion and Sedimentation Control

## AH, REMEMBER THE GOOD OLE' DAYS

when you could sip on a cold glass of lemonade and listen to the soothing sound of rain pelting off the tin roof and not have to worry if the stream in the backyard was going to overflow its banks? Or maybe you can recall looking out the kitchen window to observe your kids standing in the creek with their metal pails and rolled up pants, looking for crawfish under the large stones? In the late 50's and early 60's, many of the streams that the kids fished in were being polluted by sediment from ever-increasing residential and commercial development.

Controlling erosion was not a priority at that time until the damage became severe enough. Flooding was a result of increased sediment loading to streams from uncontrolled earthmoving activities. That was until '72, when the "Clean Streams Law" was introduced that changed the way we thought of erosion control. The District's dedication to an ongoing problem became top priority. Today, that dedication continues with our committed staff. Chris Droste, Mike Barrick, and Kathy Fritz have continued the efforts that were started over 50 years ago. The past year has been busy for the staff. Chris and Mike reviewed a total of 240 plans. These plans soon turned into earthmoving activities that resulted in 642 inspections. Both specialists encouraged pre-construction meetings and results were favorable, but work still needs done. The key to encouraging voluntary compliance is education.

Last year, the staff facilitated two workshops that focused on installation of Best Management Practices. The target group was the utility companies, specifically natural gas companies, and maintenance crews from PennDOT. The utility company workshop agenda contained information on erosion control during utility line installation, while the PennDOT workshop focused on channel and culvert cleaning procedures. The staff felt these workshops were successful due to better controls that were installed in 2001 on job sites. Chris and Mike improved themselves by attending a utility workshop to gain ideas about their own workshops. Mike also assisted on an Agricultural Best Management

Practice (BMP) workshop in which he discussed general permits and design. Chris prepared a presentation to a high school teachers' workshop focusing on the basics of soil science and erosion in the county.

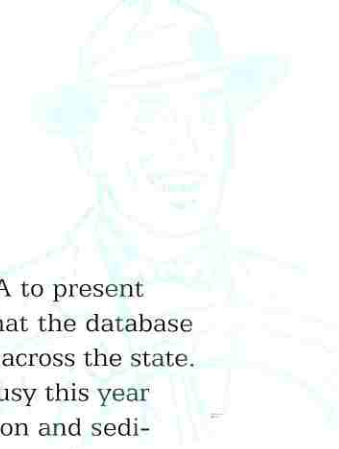
The staff also focused on better relations with municipal officials. Mike secured a Conservation Partnership Agreement (CPA) with Unity Township. Together, Chris and Mike have increased technical support to municipal officials, engineers, and contractors by 56%! This demonstrates that the working relationship between officials and the staff is stronger than ever before.

Chris and Mike have used their technical knowledge and expertise to become technical



During the 50s there was a "building boom" in Westmoreland County. Thousands of young families moved to the suburbs to build their dream houses.

Here one of the first ten houses takes shape in a new development called West Point City, east of Greensburg. Many people chose to become "owner builders"...doing as much of the work themselves as possible and hiring contractors to do specialty work such as wiring and brick laying. The snappy 50s convertible in this photo was worn out hauling supplies to build this dream house. Can you identify the year and make of this car? (See answer on page 29)



advisors for two new recreational trails that the County Parks Department is proposing. Chris is on the feasibility study committee for the Trafford to Saltsburg trail and Mike is on the committee to bring the Coal and Coke Trail to reality. Chris serves on the board for Turtle Creek Watershed and Mike serves on the board of Jacobs Creek Watershed Association. Their technical support will be valuable for those organizations in the future.

Through this year, Kathy Fritz, our program secretary was busy with setting up meetings, providing valuable technical assistance on permits, and entering all the data that Chris and Mike provide to her into the database. In fact, the very database that contains all of the data we have on inspections, engineers, plan reviews and technical assistance was commended by the PACD. Kathy was asked to attend the annual staff

conference in Williamsport, PA to present and discuss the capabilities that the database provides to the other Districts across the state.

In all, the staff was very busy this year with great success. The erosion and sediment control program continues to improve and as a result, the streams are starting to regenerate back to the way we used to see them, clean and full of fish!

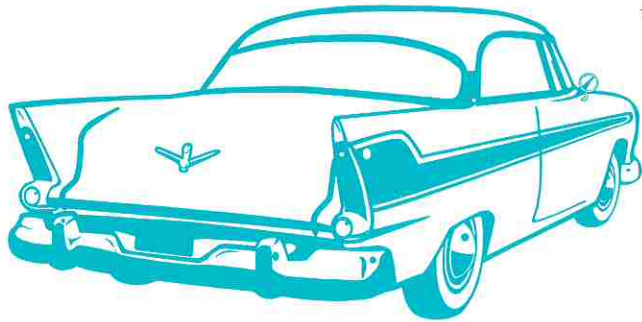
## Remembering when...

District Chairman J. Roy Houston of Murrysville remembers driving around in a late 50s Oldsmobile with Francis Licisko of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) trying to get the word out about the district. "Very few had ever heard of us. Most of the time we worked with farms, with the SCS crew helping with drainage and other conservation practices. Elwood Leslie put us on the map and Greg Phillips has taken us full tilt in the 21<sup>st</sup> century," Houston explained. One of the big differences has been created by the increased support of the county commissioners. "In the 1950s and '60s our budget was in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 bracket and the projects were not as clearly defined as they are today. And now we have the budget to make a strong impact on the quality of life in Westmoreland County," he reported. "Oh yes, in those days we were called the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District. Perhaps shortening that name helped a great deal," he quipped.

### 2001 Delegated Program Activities

	2000	2001
<b>Education Events</b> .....	14	20
Number of Participants.....	922	1103
<b>Technical Assistance</b> to the public.....	493	1083
(Erosion Control and Stormwater Mgmt. Progs.)		
<b>Conservation Partnership Agreements</b> .....	19	23
with Municipalities (new and retained)		
<b>Plan Reviews</b> (total number).....	233	240
Plan Review Project Acres.....	4397	4518
Plan Review Disturbed Acres.....	1460	1472
Plan Review Fees Collected.....	\$27,000	\$35,800
Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control		
Site <b>Inspections</b> (under 5 acres).....	344	352
General NPDES Permits Issued.....	26	33
Individual NPDES Permits Issued.....	0	5
NPDES Permit Application Fees Collected.....	\$6,500	\$10,750
NPDES Permitted Site <b>Inspections</b> (over 5 acres).....	246	290
<b>Total Fees Collected</b> .....	\$33,500	\$46,550
<b>Total Site Inspections</b> .....	590	642
<b>Stream Encroachment Permits</b> Issued.....	163	128

# Waving Good-Bye To Pointy Tailfins



**THE 1950's WERE HEADY DAYS** for new innovations everywhere — televisions in every home, high-powered V-8 engines in ever-larger and shinier cars, drive-in restaurants and theatres, and 'tract homes' in the new 'suburbs'.

The newest feature on Westmoreland County's stormwater horizon, completed in 1952, was the Conemaugh Dam near Blairsville. Lacking chrome, wrap-around glass, and sharp pointed tailfins, this monster monolith of concrete nonetheless was state of the art for its time, the era of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Built by the Army Corps of Engineers, the dam featured 355,500 cubic yards of concrete, stretched 1265 feet across the Conemaugh River, and towered 137 feet above its orange-stained bed. This monument to civil engineering might was built to protect Pittsburgh industry from high runoff. During its next half-century of service, the dam saved millions of dollars in flood damages, as well as many lives.

By 2002, Conemaugh Dam was still functioning well (concrete lasts forever). But

times have changed, and the newest methods of controlling excess runoff are far different. During the past year, the Conservation District focused on two demonstration projects to manage runoff in a new way. Huge dams, like pointy chrome-laden tailfins, are out of favor. They can disrupt habitats, flood vast tracts of land, and reduce water quality. Today's theories of stormwater management involve controlling water near its source with more natural methods.

Holding back water in local detention ponds improves its quality, provides habitat for creatures, and reduces stream damage. Our Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park Stream Improvement Project, funded by an Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water Funds (Section 319) Grant, modified two detention ponds in the park to provide a longer retention time for both, a permanent pool of water in one, and a future wetland in the other. With assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the District controlled outflow from the ponds with two new risers. The use of bio-engineering to stabilize the streambanks in the park began with the placement of Bio-Logs, or, rolls of coconut fibre, along the eroded areas. Boy Scouts and volunteers planted trees and shrubs to help control erosion and provide habitat.

The Stormwater Management Demonstration project, funded by a Growing Greener Grant, began in 2001 with the

construction of a parking lot for our new Center for Conservation Education. This ten-space area is 'paved' with special infiltration paving blocks and crushed stone. Resting on an eight-inch thick layer of clean crushed stone, six different types of concrete and plastic blocks hold the pea gravel driving surface in place and distribute the weight of vehicles, while allowing rainfall to naturally recharge the groundwater. A sidewalk made to infiltrate runoff, using bricks with plastic spacers, connects the Education Center to the Donohoe Center. This special demonstration is the first of its kind in the southwestern PA region. Future measures to complete the project include a rainwater cistern, an interpretive trail with brochures, and teaching materials to introduce these new stormwater concepts.

Although many people would no doubt like to see the return of 'land yachts' with shiny chrome and sharp tailfins, the Conservation

District is confident that the future of Stormwater Management is here to stay. With

small, localized, nature-friendly runoff controls we can achieve flood protection and benefit the environment too!



# Nutrient Management

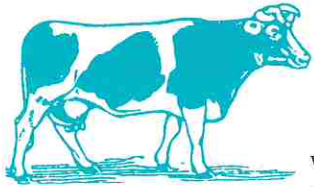
## 3,000,000,000 POUNDS OF MANURE.

That's how much manure was produced in Westmoreland County last year from ag production animals! Keep in mind that the numbers of animals in this county are only half of the number they were back in 1951, according to the PA Ag Statistic Service. That adds up to a lot of manure to handle every year. And more importantly to most county residents, is it used properly?

Nutrient Management is the field of

accurately

applying manure on a farm in such a manner that it does not get washed off into the waters of the



Commonwealth. The Environmental Protection Agency claims that agriculture is responsible for 68% of the phosphorous in the nation's waters. Nitrates and phosphates are especially harmful in the water supply. High nitrate levels in water affect people's health. Children are much more susceptible to nitrates than adults are. Phosphates lead to algae blooms in streams and lakes. That in itself is not very harmful but when the algae dies, it sinks to the bottom and the decaying process sucks most of the oxygen out of the water, which causes the fish and macroinvertebrates to die.

Farmers develop Nutrient Management Plans to deal with the manure produced on their farms. 20 farms now have certified

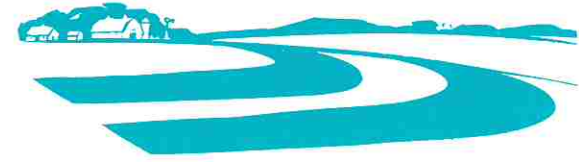
plans in the county. Other farmers are currently working to have Plans prepared for them. Cost share funding is available to help pay for the plan preparation. \$8,100 was reimbursed to farmers last year for those purposes.

\$415,500 was reimbursed to county farmers last year through the Act 6 grant program that helps pay for manure storage structures. Five structures were built with the cost share funds helping pay part of the bills.

\$360,000 is being disbursed to county farmers to help pay for other Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as streambank fencing, stream crossings, and stabilized alleyways. Those dollars are limited to farms in the Kiski-Conemaugh River Watershed (about half of the county). The other half of the county will have cost share funds available for ag BMPs if our new Growing Greener grant application is approved.

14,000 feet of fencing, 2,000 feet of stabilized alleyways, and 3 stream crossings were installed with cost share money last year. We expect much more to be installed this year. Project Grass cost shared \$5,500 worth of stabilized alleyways to assist several farmers improve their rotational grazing systems.

All around the county improvements are being made on farms to improve their conservation stewardship. Voluntary cooperation is the method of choice for the

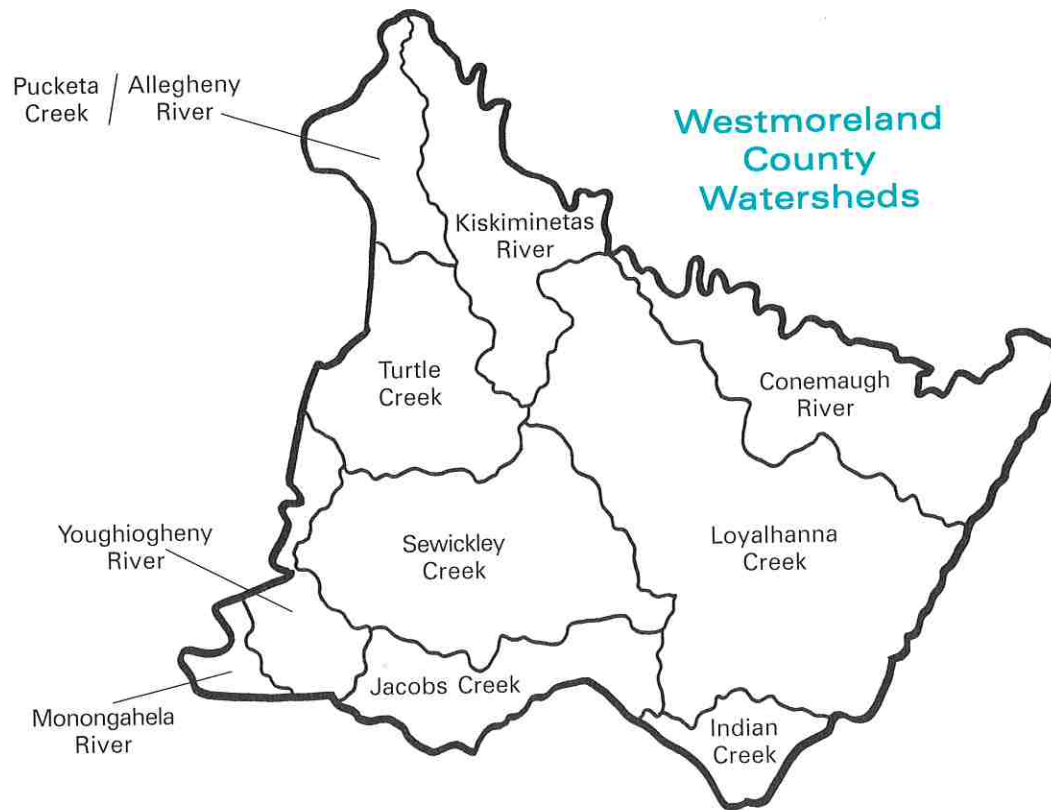


Conservation District. Between public pressure and cost share fund availability, farmers are more and more persuaded to fence livestock out of streams and improve the stream's riparian buffer area to a more natural setting. Are farmers doing a perfect job? No, but they are improving measurably. This is part of an ongoing effort to continue to assure the public that the food and fiber from American farms is still the safest and best in the world!

## Remembering when...

Wes Gordon, District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service with more than 20 years service in our area, said the biggest shift has been from direct individual service to programs that require broader responses. "During the 50s and 60s we would go out into the field and work very closely with farmers and other land owners," he said. "Today we focus on a variety of programs covering quite a range of conservation issues."

# These are the Happy Days of Watersheds



**WATERSHEDS WERE AROUND IN THE 1950s**, and even a few eons before that.

Long before people divided the landscape into townships and cities, the contours of the land formed natural communities called watersheds. A watershed is the area of land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake.

Although everyone in the 1950s lived

in a watershed, most probably didn't realize it.

Today, that's changing. More and more people can tell you not just the name of their town, but also the name of the watershed they live in – citizens of Greensburg, Hunker, and Herminie know that they all share a Sewickley Creek Watershed address... Latrobeans, New Alexandrians, and those from Slickville and Ligonier are united as

part of the Loyalhanna Watershed... residents of Murrysville, Manor, Irwin, and Jeannette are linked by the streams that form the Turtle Creek Watershed.

Hundreds of citizens throughout Westmoreland County have joined watershed associations because they see it as a way to make a positive difference in this larger geographic community in which they live. And what a difference they're making! They're bringing life back to polluted streams like Monastery Run in Latrobe and Sewickley Creek in Lowber. They're preventing flooding along Jacobs Creek in Scottdale and Mount Pleasant. They're restoring habitat along the Kiski River, protecting wild and scenic values, and encouraging more opportunities for recreation.

Watershed associations are powered by the energy and the dues of their members, the support of area businesses and foundations, and grants from programs such as the Pennsylvania Growing Greener program, which has invested over **\$1.3 Million** in the work of watershed groups throughout Westmoreland County.

The following gives a brief look at some of the accomplishments of area watershed groups during the past year, and how they have used funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program to advance their work.

## Jacobs Creek Watershed Association

This watershed group, reestablished several years ago, is busy planning and implementing projects in the southern portions of the county.

For example: They used \$21,000 of Growing Greener funds to reduce pollution from soil and animals on a farm along the main stem of Jacobs Creek. They did this by installing fencing along the stream that limited the places where the cattle could cross, and planted trees and installed other measures to slow down erosion from the earthen banks of the stream.

Because sediment is Westmoreland County's number one water pollutant by volume, the group also is working to stabilize streambanks at three other sites in the watershed – in Laurelville near the Mennonite Church Camp, in East Huntingdon Township, and in Upper Tyrone in Fayette County. Work in the Laurelville area in particular should help not only reduce flooding but also create new habitat area for wildlife and fish. Jacob's Creek is classified as a Cold Water Fishery in the Laurelville area and is stocked with trout each year. All of these streambank stabilization projects are funded by Growing Greener and should be completed by the fall of 2002.

Early in 2001, the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association also received a grant to look at the entire watershed and to come up with a plan of how to best fix its problems. Graduate students asked local residents for their

thoughts, and hope to have the plan finished in May of 2002. Funding for this work came from the Center for Watershed Stewardship at the Pennsylvania State University.

**JACOBS CREEK** covers an area of 97 square miles in Westmoreland and Fayette counties. Municipalities in Westmoreland County in this watershed include Scottsdale and Mount Pleasant Boroughs; and the Townships of East Huntingdon, South Huntingdon, and Mount Pleasant.  
**CONTACT:** Michael Barrick, President, at 724-837-5271 or [jcwa@juno.com](mailto:jcwa@juno.com).



## Kiskiminetas Watershed Association

This group celebrated its first full year of existence in 2001 by laying some solid foundations for the future: it formed a strong board of directors, wrote by-laws, and established working committees to address important topics such as water quality, land acquisition, education, and membership. The Roaring Run Watershed Association from Apollo has been the sponsor and mentor for the new group, which was formed with the help of a \$5,000 start-up grant from Growing Greener.

Even though they were just getting off the ground last year, the Kiski Watershed Association accomplished some significant first steps. The group's water-quality committee began taking samples from sites around the watershed to establish a baseline

for monitoring the condition of the area's streams. They're getting support for this work from the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement, the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, and the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County. The group also acquired 12 acres of land along an unnamed tributary to the Kiski River in West Leechburg Borough, called "Buttermilk Falls," and will be conducting a plant inventory of the property with the assistance of the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County in the spring of 2002.

The watershed also is benefiting from a \$206,000 Growing Greener grant being administered by the Westmoreland Conservation District to develop a comprehensive program of agricultural Best Management Practices that will reduce the amount of non-point source pollution entering streams throughout the watershed...and from a \$62,000 Growing Greener grant being used to study and control invasive plant species in the watershed.

**THE KISKIMINETAS WATERSHED** covers an area in northwestern Westmoreland county, and southern portions of Armstrong and Indiana counties. Municipalities in the county in the watershed include Bell, Washington, Salem, Loyalhanna, and Allegheny townships; and West Leechburg, Vandergrift, Hyde Park, Avonmore, East Vandergrift, and Oklahoma Boroughs.  
**CONTACT:** Bob Kossack, President, at 724-568-3655 or [bkossak@kvwpca.com](mailto:bkossak@kvwpca.com).



## Loyalhanna Watershed Association

The Loyalhanna Watershed is benefiting from six different Growing Greener grants. A \$209,000 grant is being used in the Whitethorn Creek sub-watershed, between Routes 22, 819, and 119 in Salem Township, to install measures on farms that will reduce the amount of nutrient and sediment pollution going into that stream, and the Loyalhanna Reservoir.

Saint Vincent College is using a \$77,700 grant to re-locate the "bubbler," an old borehole that discharged some 500 gallons of polluted mine water each minute near Four Mile Run in Latrobe. The casing on the original bubbler had deteriorated and some of the polluted water was leaking directly into the stream. To fix the problem, a new borehole will be drilled, cased, and its water directed into nearby wetlands where most of the pollution settles out before the water enters the stream. This bubbler project, along with another Growing Greener funded project to stabilize the streambank along Monastery Run in Latrobe, is a cooperative effort between the Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition and Saint Vincent College. The streambank work has already been completed.

The Loyalhanna Watershed Association is using a portion of another \$14,000 of Growing Greener funds to do water sampling at various locations across the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin, including at a site in the Loyalhanna Creek near Latrobe, where

one of the largest mine-water discharges in the watershed occurs.

The watershed organization also made gains last year in its ongoing effort to improve St. Clair Park in Ligonier Borough by planting trees, adding trails, and installing benches.

The group also secured a \$70,000 grant to refurbish the mine water treatment system at Friedline Mine near Powdermill Nature Reserve.

This watershed group is partnering with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Program to educate landowners in their area about the benefits of conservation easements.

**THE LOYALHANNA WATERSHED** is Westmoreland County's largest watershed, covering 300 square miles in the east central portion of the county.

Municipalities in the watershed include Loyalhanna, Derry, Ligonier, Cook, Unity, Hempfield, Salem, and Donegal townships; Ligonier, Laurel Mountain and New Alexandria boroughs; and the City of Latrobe. CONTACT: Drew Banas, Executive Director, or Program Manager, Carole Paterson at 724-238-7560 or lwa@laurelweb.net

## Mountain Watershed Association

Last year, the group completed construction on the Sagamore Project, which is one of the most innovative acid-mine-drainage cleanup projects in Pennsylvania because it uses aeration windmills as part of the treatment process.

The group also nearly completed work on another mine-cleanup project, the Gallentine Project, last year, and has five other mine-reclamation sites in the works. They recently completed a Rivers Conservation Plan, which is a comprehensive examination of all the resources within the watershed. This plan benefits the watershed in a number of ways, including opening the door to new funding sources. The group has also received a Growing Greener grant for a project to study Mill Run in the Fayette County portion of the watershed.

## THE MOUNTAIN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

cares for the area around Indian Creek, which begins in Westmoreland County just south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike near Jones Mills, and flows south along state route 381/711 into Fayette County.

Some of the major tributaries in the Westmoreland portion of the watershed include Camp, Pike, Roaring, and Minnow Runs; and Indian and Champion Creeks. CONTACT: Executive Director Beverly Braverman at 724-455-4200 or bevb@helicon.net



## Pucketa and Chartiers Watershed Association

This is another of Westmoreland County's newly formed watershed associations, established with help from a \$5,000 Growing Greener grant, to address issues in the northwestern part of the county around Little Pucketa and Pucketa Creeks, Chartiers Run, and their tributaries.

After forming a board of directors, by-



laws and working committees, the group completed a draft of a Long-range Plan last year, which is currently being used as a guide to develop a water-monitoring plan for the entire watershed.

They also began sampling the number and type of small insects living in sections of Pucketa and Little Pucketa creeks with help from students at Penn State New Kensington.

**THE PUCKETA AND CHARTIERS WATERSHED** is located mainly in the cities of Lower Burrell and New Kensington; Upper Burrell Township in Westmoreland County; portions of Plum Borough, Murrysville, Washington and Allegheny townships; and the City of Arnold.  
**CONTACT:** Tony Farina, President, at 724-335-1975 or colb@nb.net.



## Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

This busy group received Growing Greener funding last year for an innovative project that will not only treat the largest abandoned-mine-discharge in the lower watershed, but will turn the polluting iron oxide it removes from the stream into a marketable product. In Phase I of this project near Lowber, the group used \$50,000 to build a channel and holding pond.

The watershed association also received \$400,000 in Growing Greener funds to construct a system to treat acid mine drainage at the abandoned Brinkerton mine in Mount Pleasant Township, and is working on a

Rivers Conservation Plan with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Residents of the watershed also will benefit from a new \$15,000 Growing Greener grant to develop Westmoreland County's first, integrated, watershed-wide protection/restoration plan. The plan will focus on a 138-acre sub-watershed of Sewickley Creek near Westmoreland Mall that includes the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

**THE SEWICKLEY CREEK WATERSHED** drains a large portion of central and southwestern Westmoreland County, including portions or all of Hempfield, Sewickley, Mount Pleasant, East Huntingdon, South Huntingdon, North Huntingdon and Unity townships; the City of Greensburg; and the Boroughs of Arona, Hunker, Madison, New Stanton, South Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, and Youngwood.  
**CONTACT:** Tom Keller, Executive Director, at 724-925-9190 or tkeller@westol.com.



## Turtle Creek Watershed Association

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association, one of the oldest watershed associations in the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, celebrated its 30th anniversary in November with a dinner at the George Westinghouse Museum in Wilmerding.

The group had many good things to celebrate. For instance, last year they received a grant of nearly \$570,000 from

the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for an abandoned-mine-drainage cleanup project on Borland Farm Road Murrysville. Phase I of this project will remove a coal gob pile, and Phase II will construct an Anoxic Limestone Drain (ALD) and a settling pond. It is estimated that these measures will remove 80% of the metals from the discharge.

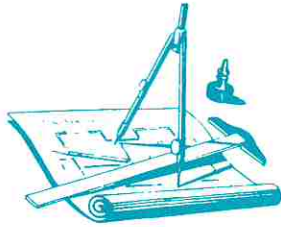
The group also continued gathering data from streams throughout the watershed and is assessing a large discharge in Export, with help from two other Growing Greener grants. They completed a streambank stabilization project at Bear Hollow Park in Murrysville on Haymaker Run, using a portion of a \$10,000 Growing Greener grant.

**THE TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED** encompasses portions or all of North Huntingdon, Penn, and Hempfield Townships; Adamsburg, Delmont, Export, Irwin, Manor, Murrysville, North Irwin, Penn, and Trafford Boroughs; and the City of Jeannette in Westmoreland County. The other half of the watershed is in Allegheny County, following Turtle Creek down to the Monongahela River at Braddock.

**CONTACT:** Ed Fisher, Board Director/Office Manager at 412-829-2817 or goodfish@helicon.net.



# Westmoreland County Soil Survey Update



**IN 1955, A COUPLE OF SOIL SCIENTISTS BEGAN** the laborious task of mapping every acre of land in Westmoreland

County. With a spade and auger, they examined the soil to determine its type. Then using an aerial photograph, soil lines were drawn to show the soil's extent on the landscape. The field work for the soil survey was completed in 1962.

Now in the last stages of its most recent update, the final edits of the soil survey information data base and maps were accomplished during 2001. This included the laborious task of exact joins with the counties surrounding Westmoreland.

In the works for public release are the various publication formats including printed hard copy, CD-rom and on-line versions. The digital versions should be available to the general public in the fall of 2002. The Digital survey material proves to be very flexible in that it can be easily used with many other geographic maps including property boundaries, topographic, photographic, and geology to name a few.

We began work on a permanent display featuring a number of farm land soils for the county. Soil cross sections about 4 feet in length mounted on boards will be displayed in the county's center for conservation education.



This 1949 aerial photo shows a rural area just east of Greensburg along U.S. Route 30, which has become highly developed over the years with houses, restaurants, stores and industries. This development began in the 50's, a time of simple values and big ideas.

# WCD Awards

**RICHARD AND DOROTHY STONER WERE NAMED** "Conservation Farmers of the Year" during the districts 2001 Annual Awards Banquet. The "hoe-down" event began with a special reception at the Center for Conservation Education featuring entertainment by square dancers and a special visual presentation highlighting construction of the Center. Additional awards presented at the Four Points by Sheraton included: Five Year Service Award to director Connie Donovan, Eagle Scout Project Recognition to Matt Addis of Troop 419 and Mike Diebert of Troop 405, and Special Donor Recognition for those

who have contributed to making the Center for Conservation Education a reality. Attendees were entertained by the WCD "Players" who put on a special song and dance skit, and local musicians Keith Largent and Lorrie Stouffer. The evening concluded with a videotape of district director Bill Doney's WQED interview honoring his sons who are both serving in the current military cause, and everyone joining in the singing of "God Bless America."



The Stoner Family (l-r) Richard Jr., Dorothy, Richard Sr., Sam, Brett, Mary

# Board and Staff News

**ALTHOUGH STAFF HAS GROWN**, and technology has changed, the groundwork that our former staff and directors laid in the 1950's is still in place. Their vision and foresight has placed us among the leading conservation districts throughout the state, and our current board and staff appreciate and have benefited from hard work that came before us.

- Westmoreland Conservation District vice-chairman Ron Rohall was named President of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) during the Joint Annual Conference meeting in July. This major

appointment was featured in the district's Fall 2001 issue of Landmarks and appeared in local newspapers.



- In May, erosion control technician Chris Droste attended a five day "Basic Wetland

## Remembering when...

Today's manager Greg Phillips of Youngwood says he draws a lot of inspiration from the comprehensive planning effort led by former director Gib Hutter of Mt. Pleasant Township back in the 60s. "The district has had one major constant factor resulting in consistent success over the years... great leadership."



Delineation and Identification" course in Meadville, PA. Fellow technician Mike Barrick was elected president of the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association in March. Mike is also an active member of the Coal and Coke Trail, a board serving under the Regional Trail Corporation. He was the featured speaker during the summer months at a Scottsdale Rotary Club weekly meeting.

- Mark Killar resigned as WPCAMR regional coordinator in late July to join the Western PA Conservancy. After an extensive search, Bruce Golden of Fayette County was hired to continue on the important work of abandoned mine reclamation work throughout the 23-county region.
- District manager Greg Phillips attended the first-ever "District Managers Summit" in State College. The three-day event addressed such issues as board-staff relations,

organizational growth, and policy development. Locally, Greg's ties to our many partners include service as Regional Trail Corporation President, Sewickley Creek Watershed Association board member, WCD delegate for Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Ohio River Basin participant, Project Gob Pile advisor, Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition steering committee member, Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County Office of Chair member, and Five Star Trail treasurer.

- Tony Quadro, the district's program specialist/forester, attended a Forestry Issues Conference in March at Penn State University.
- Craig Barras, WCD watershed specialist, served on the Penn State New Kensington Advisory Board to the CEO of the campus. The Advisory Board is assisting in the current strategic plan for the campus. Craig also attended the two-day Watershed Specialist annual training in State College during the fall.
- Lorrie Stouffer, assistant manager, was named to the E-commerce workgroup, a joint effort with members representing the Department of Environmental Protection, State Conservation Commission and conservation districts. The group will work to streamline and computerize reporting and funding methods for districts.
- Jim Pillsbury, district hydraulic engineer, served as a member of Sewickley Creek

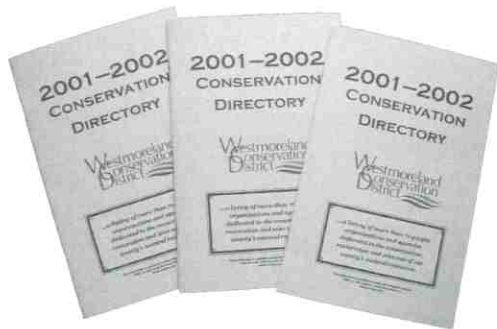
Watershed Association board of directors. He coordinated the association annual banquet and picnic which had a combined attendance of 400 people.

- Dan Griffith, the district's nutrient management specialist and agricultural conservation technician, attended "Boot Camp II" for basic engineering training for NRCS projects in the spring. Dan also attended a week-long "Customer Service Toolkit" training session in Harrisburg. "Toolkit" is a software package that will help him assist farmers in their conservation and nutrient management plans. He has also served as a liaison between the district and local boy scout troops. Dan is a troop leader and cub scout den leader.
- Leanne Griffith was hired as the district's Growing Greener program assistant in late August. Part of Leanne's duties include administration of the agriculture grants for the Kiski-Conemaugh and Whitethorn Creek Watersheds. She coordinates the cost-share funding of these grants with monies from other agencies, such as Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service.



# Publications and Outreach

• Lorrie Stouffer accepted the Special Publications Outreach national award at the National Association of Conservation District's annual meeting in February. The award was for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-themed issue of the district's annual report. This is the second time in three years that the District has captured a first-place award in this competition.



• Secretary Sandy Dzendzel organized and published a newly formatted "Conservation Directory". The publication, which is available to the general public, is a compilation of federal, state and local conservation and environmental organizations. Sandy also coordinated the Donohoe Center Directory, printing later during the year, which features employees and agencies through our office facility.

## Partners and Clientele Interactions

	2000	2001
Individuals from Outside Agencies'		
Visiting Donohoe Center/Education Center*.....	969	1,244*
Visitors to WCD office.....	715	779
Individuals Involved in Special Events.....	933	1,984
Individuals Attending WCD, WPCAMR Meetings.....	2,178	1,979
	<b>4,795</b>	<b>5,986</b>

*Note: \*This figure represents a breakdown of:  
860 Donohoe Center Meetings and 384 Education Center Meetings = 1,244*

## Events

• WCD hosted a Nominating Organization Barbecue in conjunction with its August monthly meeting. Special presentations were given by County Clerk Jennifer Kemerer and DEP Field Representative Chuck Kubasik on the special role nomination organizations play in forming conservation district boards, directors roles, and members terms.

• Tony Quadro hosted an Environmental Logging Workshop in August in cooperation with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania. Twenty attended the one-day session which focused on erosion and sedimentation control for loggers.

• PA CleanWays and WCD hosted a Dominion Peoples Gas employee work day in October. Thirty-two volunteers built a new compost demonstration facility, and painted and stained much woodwork in the Center for Conservation Education.



## Remembering when...

Director and Secretary Roy Kemerer of Unity Township is proud of the district's long service to farmers, but noted how farming has changed since the 50s from a financial and technical standpoint. "Today, the district has a much larger staff handling a greater variety of work," he added.

# Agency Reports

## Natural Resources Conservation Service



**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance to landusers on the planning and application of conservation systems. Similar services were offered to landusers through the previous Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to Westmoreland County farm operators in the 1950's. As farming technology has changed, so has the range of conservation practices broadened. Although some of the basic soil and water conservation practices remain important, such as contour stripcropping, grass waterways and spring developments, newer practices of no-till farming with residue management, rotational grazing systems, and stable barnyards are now part of the conservationists "toolkit." NRCS provides assistance to both farm and non-farm land users to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion.

In 2001 we provided planning and application assistance, in cooperation with WCD, on several stream corridor restoration projects. Utilizing funding from both USDA Continuous Conservation Reserve Program and Growing Greener grants, we planned stream bank stabilization, stream crossings, stable alleyways, spring developments, fencing, and development of riparian buffers. By limiting or preventing livestock access to the stream, water quality improvements and stream corridors improve. To maintain viable pastures off stream watering sources, stream crossings, fencing and rotational grazing practices are usually needed.

NRCS continues to offer one on one on-site planning and application assistance to establish traditional conservation practices like contour strip cropping, grass waterways, diversions and spring developments.

We cooperate with the Westmoreland County Agricultural Lands Preservation Program to provide soils information and soil and water conservation planning assistance on applicant farms and participant farms.



Water quality improvement remains an important goal as we partner with other groups and agencies to address abandoned mine water discharges. Specifically we have worked with both the Loyalhanna Watershed Association and the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association planning remediation projects.

The NRCS is converting the planning phase of assistance to a computer geographic information system called "Customer Service Toolkit." Once fully operation this will serve as a common computing platform for most USDA programs. The year 2001 was a learning process for that change.

## Farm Service Agency



**THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM** has its roots in the Soil Bank Act of 1956. At that time, with memories of the Dust Bowl devastation of the 1930s still fresh, the nation sought to prevent repeating the mistakes that helped cause that great disaster.

In the 1980's the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) emphasized reducing soil erosion. In the 1990's Congress broadened the program's focus to include improving water quality, turning marginal pastureland into riparian areas, increasing wildlife habitat, and other environmental goals. Recently USDA implemented efforts to enroll high-priority conservation practices through a continuous signup process by providing additional financial incentives. These high-priority practices include filter strips, riparian buffers, grass waterways, and shallow water areas for wildlife.

In Westmoreland county dozens of individuals applied to enroll riparian buffer areas in the 2001 CRP. All these areas were pastures adjacent to streams that have been planted to trees and shrubs. The areas filter out pollutants from runoff as well as provide shade for fish and wildlife. The riparian area's vegetation also supplies food and shelter valuable for wildlife. Livestock is excluded

from the buffer areas and the streams with fencing. Water quality will be improved with the installation of crossings to allow livestock to move between pastures with little negative impact on the stream or buffer.

Most of the funding needed to establish these buffers is being provided from USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. Additionally some participants are also qualifying for cost sharing and incentives from the Westmoreland Conservation District's Growing Greener projects.

New for 2001, USDA approved a biomass pilot project for CRP land in Pennsylvania. Only four states have these special projects approved. Our state's project, the Pennsylvania Switchgrass Energy and Conservation Project, will allow harvesting of switchgrass from CRP land for sale to a coal-fired fluid-bed combustor to be burned for electricity generation. One county CRP participant has been approved to participate in the Pennsylvania biomass project. The first authorized switchgrass harvest will probably be in 2002.

Persons interested in the Conservation Reserve Program should contact the Farm Service Agency office in the Donohoe Center. Administrative assistance for CRP is provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, and the Westmoreland Conservation District.

## Department of Environmental Protection



**WHILE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)** was not formed until the 1970's, they have always been an important partner of the

Westmoreland Conservation District and continue to provide support and assistance in many program areas. And as programs and needs have changed during the years, this past year the Bureau of Water Quality Protection was reorganized and renamed the Bureau of Watershed Management. Staff of the Division of Conservation Districts and Nutrient Management continued to work with the State Conservation Commission and other partnership agencies. The Westmoreland Conservation District specifically received support in the following areas:

**Communications** – DEP has continued to improve and enhance communications between districts and other agencies, due in part to the conservation districts access to the Department's e-mail/intranet system. Conservation districts now have the ability to access all of the Department's electronic resources from their offices. The first phase of the E-commerce project was also completed, and a workgroup was established to oversee the project which will develop an online tracking, reporting, and invoicing system to allow for more timely reimbursement payments to district for delegated and contracted programs. Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) assistant manager Lorrie Stouffer was named to the workgroup during December and will serve throughout 2002.

**Conservation District Fund Allocation Program** – Under the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP), \$3,225,000 was provided for the cost sharing of salaries of 177 conservation district staff in FY 2000-2001. Included in that budget was \$125,000 allocated by the PA Department of Agriculture to further support conservation district manager salaries. This budget allowed for a 50% cost share of district managers and technicians, up to the maximum limits established by the State Conservation Commission. WCD received nearly \$57,000 through this program in funding for FY 2001.

**Dirt and Gravel Roads Program** – During 2001, sixty-five conservation districts had contracts with the state to administer the Dirt and Gravel Roads Pollution Prevention Program. During the year DEP facilitated the release of advance working capital for counties receiving over \$25,000 per year, and processed requests for replenishment of advance working capital. They also provided administrative support and oversight for the program. Overseeing this program locally is WCD Watershed Specialist Craig Barras.

**Envirothon** – In 2001, 65 Pennsylvania counties held local Envirothon competitions for high school students. The State Envirothon was held at Bald Eagle State Park in Centre County, with the conservation partnership providing assistance. The 2001 National Envirothon was held in Mississippi, with Pennsylvania's Erie County team taking top honors. In Westmoreland County, the

Envirothon is organized by Forester/Program Specialist Tony Quadro.

**Floodplain Monitoring Project/Repetitive Loss Project.** – In 2001, 25 conservation districts administered the Floodplain Monitoring Project, where they enter into a contract with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to educate municipalities about their responsibility to implement and regulate local floodplain ordinances. In addition, 54 districts continued to administer the Repetitive Loss Project by updating the Federal Emergency Management Agencies (FEMA) database of properties that have suffered flood damage more than once in recent years. During 2001, WCD hydraulic engineer Jim Pillsbury investigated 40 properties in county municipalities that had repeated flooding damage.

**Leadership Development Committee** – The “Building for Tomorrow” Leadership Development Program is a partnership effort of DEP, the State Conservation Commission, the PA Association of Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Pennsylvania’s conservation districts. WCD Board member and PACD President Ron Rohall served on this committee, which in 2001 provided peer visits and consultation to eight conservation districts.

Additional products, tools, and training efforts offered by the Committee in 2001 included four “local-motion” strategic planning training sessions coordinated with the National Association of Conservation Districts – Ron Rohall and Lorrie Stouffer attended a one-day facilitated session; the first ever District Manager Summit attended by Greg Phillips; and a two-day conservation district staff conference in which WCD program secretary Kathy Fritz presented a workshop on database management.

**Monitoring of Programs** – Staff from the Bureau’s Division of Waterways, Wetlands, and Erosion Control conducted 9 evaluations of conservation districts administration of the Chapter 102 Program, the Chapter 105 Program, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program. WCD’s evaluation was conducted in December, and the follow-up summary indicated that our technical staff is following all the rules and regulations required

by DEP with a few minor recommendations. The technical database which has been in place for the last four years made the necessary information easily accessible by DEP’s evaluation team and WCD staff.

**Nutrient Management Program** – The State Conservation Commission’s Nutrient Management Act Program is implemented as a partnership between the Commission, DEP, conservation districts, the PA Department of Agriculture, private sector planners, and the farm operators. Westmoreland County’s program is overseen by Dan Griffith, nutrient management and conservation technician.

**Technical Training Provided** – Annual administrative training for the Chapter 102 and 105 delegated programs was held in State College in September 2001, with six staff members from the Westmoreland Conservation District attending the three day session.

## PA CleanWays



**GENERAL MCARTHUR OPINED THAT,** “Old soldiers never die, they just fade away.” But one soldier didn’t fade away. He was embraced by the American people as they proclaimed, “I like Ike” and elected him president. As the country emerged from World War II and the Korean Conflict, the economy sputtered, slowed, then kicked in as we became enamored with gadgets, new cars, and television. Sputnik circled the globe, beep beeping the beginning of the space age while earthlings saw the USA in their Chevrolets and got their kicks on Route 66 while eating a McDonald’s hamburger.

Consumerism flourished and we became a disposable society as technology insured obsolescence practically as soon as new products hit the shelves. The by-products of this “modern way of life” were trash, garbage, and mountains of old appliances. Two car families became the norm and as we became more mobile, litter soon lined the highways, rural areas became clandestine dumping grounds, wrecking yards sprouted like weeds, and service stations were inundated with worn tires, old batteries and broken auto parts.

In 1990, PA CleanWays was formed to help residents in



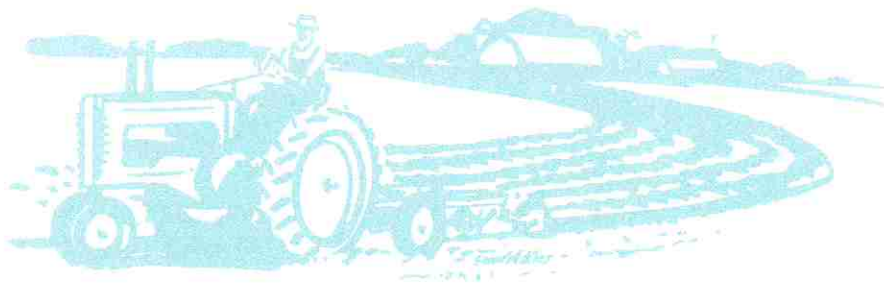
Westmoreland County deal with the trash, litter, and unwanted items. People were taught how to clean up unsightly illegal dumps and littered roads. PA CleanWays assisted with volunteer recruitment, provided supplies and equipment, and coordinated the proper disposal of trash with local municipalities.

During the past eleven years over 50 illegal dumpsites have been removed and 84 roads adopted by caring neighbors. More than 1,000 residents of Westmoreland County have proclaimed their concern for the environment by becoming members of PA CleanWays.

To supplement our continuing clean up efforts, PA CleanWays Westmoreland County has developed education programs to spread the word on environmental stewardship. Schools have invited staff to show the students how they can help protect the environment. Organizations ask us to speak at their meetings and show their members what PA CleanWays has accomplished for our county. We have initiated beautification programs, compost education, youth programs, and recycling programs.

County and municipal officials support our efforts and we support their communities by establishing and/or improving recycling opportunities in their jurisdictions. We hold an annual collection of household hazardous waste to assist residents in the proper disposal of this potentially harmful material. We held the first electronics-recycling event in southwestern PA this past December and collected 47,590 pounds of computers, stereos, TVs and other electronic equipment.

PA CleanWays has become a true team effort as our family of directors, staff, members, and volunteers work to make Westmoreland County a cleaner, safer place to live, work, and visit.



## The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



**BACK IN THE 50's AND 60's** very few folks gave much thought to the impact of drainage coming from abandoned coal mines on the streams in their backyards. Kids would play in them. Some people even used the water for various purposes.

Of course, fishermen and biologists knew some of the streams were "dead" and/or dying. Others felt "something was wrong" with those yellow/orange waterways. But very few knew the nature and magnitude of abandoned mine drainage.

Awareness began to dawn during the great surge of concern over strip mining impact and eventually grew into clean stream legislation driven by the late State Rep. John Laudadio of Jeannette. This environmental consciousness expanded to encompass pollution caused by active and abandoned mine drainage.

The Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District worked shoulder to shoulder with Laudadio, area sportsmen and others to "clean up the mess." But we never fully realized the size and shape of that mess. As the demand for clean water grew, studies revealed there were thousands of miles of "dead and dying" streams. "Mine acid" became a political buzzword and a trust fund for abandoned mine reclamation was formed using fees placed on mined coal. But western Pennsylvania conservation districts realized that very little money was coming out of the Abandoned Mine Lands Trust. This concern resulted in the formation of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR). The Westmoreland Conservation District was a major partner in the creation of the Coalition and has helped sustain its work.

Today 23 conservation districts in the bituminous coal region form the backbone of this regional coalition. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has expressed its confidence in the coalition by providing its major funding through the Bureau of Watershed Management's Section 319 program. The coalition now helps over 80 watershed groups and others evaluate streams and set up reclamation projects. By July 2002, it will be a completely

separate operation, organizationally independent of the district.

"We are grateful for the foresight of the district and its nurturing support," said Bruce Golden, the Coalition's regional coordinator. "The directors and staff saw the problems back in the 1950s and 60s and now we're doing something constructive to reverse the damage to our streams."

## Five Star Trail



**IT WAS A GORGEOUS,** beautiful summer day in 1954 – made even more wonderful by the arrival of the circus train on the Southwest Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The steaming train slowly puffed to a stop, its air-brakes hissing and the cars banging together. Word spread like wildfire through

Greensburg, and soon the train was surrounded by shouting and waving children of all ages. The elephants waved their long grey trunks back as the crew began to prepare for the big show.

Today, only a few slow freights rumble along the Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad. But the waving children are still there — sharing the right-of-way with walkers, runners, cyclists, and cross-country skiers.

The Five Star Trail is operated and managed by the Five Star Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation and was initially a cooperative effort of five municipalities: Greensburg, Hempfield Township, Southwest and South Greensburg, and Youngwood. Recently the trail chapter was expanded to include New Stanton and Hunker Boroughs as plans are being made to extend the trail southward from Youngwood, through New Stanton, Hunker, and East Huntington Township, to Scottdale.

Construction is also underway to develop a 1.8 mile extension east from Youngwood through the campus of the Westmoreland County Community College and on into the town of Armbrust. This extension will be the first leg of the planned Sewickley Creek Trail which may eventually extend to Mammoth County Park in Mount Pleasant Township.

Improvements made to the trail in 2001 included the installation of mile markers every 1/4 mile by future Eagle Scout Lee Terrill. Walkers and riders have been asking for detailed trail markers since the first segment of trail was constructed in 1997. Bulletin Boards were constructed by the Mon Valley Vo-Tech Center and were installed along the trail at each trailhead. ABB Power T&D Company, located in South Greensburg, adopted approximately one mile of trail near its plant and conducts regular volunteer work parties throughout the year to maintain "their trail section".

The Five Star Trail is a cooperative effort involving Westmoreland County Parks, Westmoreland Conservation District, Penn's Corner RC&D, the seven municipalities mentioned earlier, the Westmoreland Industrial Development Corporation, and a 200 member volunteer force. Serving on the Chapter's Board of Directors during 2001 were: Chris Zundel, Dave Fait, Greg Phillips, Duane Wolley, Malcolm Sias, Sam Testa, Frank Lehman, James Roman, Dale Hassinger, William Brandt, Graham Davis, Jackie Timko, George Church, Cheryl Kemerer, Ed Hutchinson, Nevin Ulery, and Jeff Parobeck.

## Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation



**IN THE 1950's** the County was parkless and empty. No fishermen disturbed the surface of the deep, cool lakes. No spirited children ran through the forested glades. Created by coal companies for water supply, the lakes and the dry land surrounding them were inhabited by four footed beasts, and beasts that crawl, and birds.

What a difference a half-century makes! In 2001, the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation's four regional parks, four special activity parks, national historic site, and two trails received nearly 3.5 million visits.

The County's four regional Parks include Twin Lakes, Cedar Creek, Northmoreland, and Mammoth. These large multi-use parks

are spread geographically throughout the County and have a wide variety of facilities to serve residents in each area. Old Hanna's Town, the County's national historic site, is operated in conjunction with the Westmoreland County Historical Society. The County's two trails are operated in conjunction with the Regional Trail Corporation.

The Citizens Advisory Board for Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation, appointed by the County Commissioners in June of 2000, made major steps toward organizing support and assistance for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation in 2001. The Citizens Advisory Board created a Parks and Recreation fund within the Westmoreland County Community Foundation to facilitate private funding and community contributions in support of land acquisition, facility and program development. The Citizens Advisory Board's main mission and purpose is to assist the parks staff in implementing Parks Horizons: A Comprehensive Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Westmoreland County. In 2001 CAB members included John Framel, James Okonak, Win Beidler, Dr. Edward Lewis, Linda Boxx, Robert Michaud, and Paul Heyworth.

In the year 2001 major events in the County Parks system included:

- A new on-site experimental sewage system was installed at Twin Lakes Park to serve the eastern half of the park. This project was developed, funded, and designed in cooperation with Penn's Corner RC&D, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Army Corp of Engineers.
- Major walkway expansions occurred at both Northmoreland and Mammoth Parks. The Park Department's goal of completing walkways around each of its major lakes took a giant step forward when the handicapped accessible walks at Northmoreland Lake were completed and over 1300 feet of brick walkway and a new bridge spanning the spillway were installed at Mammoth Park. The Northmoreland Lake walkways, now complete, total approximately 1.2 miles. The Mammoth Lake walkways will be completed in 2002 and will total approximately 1.6 miles.
- A federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant was received to install two new pavilions, one at Mammoth Park, which includes

a kitchen, and another at Cedar Creek Park. The pavilion at Cedar Creek replaces a smaller pavilion that was moved to the parks group camping area along the Yough River Trail for the use and enjoyment of groups that camp at the park while traveling the hiking and biking trail.

- Major work was accomplished to move forward on the County Park's Trails and Greenways Master Plan. A task force of local municipal and organization leaders was formed, and Mackin Engineering was hired, to study the feasibility of constructing a trail from Trafford through Murrysville, Export, and Delmont to connect to Saltsburg, and the West Penn Trail being built by the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy. The study is approximately 50% completed and is scheduled to be finalized by June of 2002.
- The Coal and Coke Trail Chapter has completed trail alignment between Mount Pleasant and Scottdale and is currently having a surveyor lay out and define the proposed acquisitions that need to be made to construct this trail. Property acquisition will occur in 2002 and will be followed by construction in 2003.
- Park tabloids detailing programs and facilities were printed and distributed to 73,000 homes throughout Westmoreland County in both April and July of 2001. The tabloids were initiated in response to resident's input seeking additional information about our park programs and facilities. These tabloids will be continued and expanded in 2002.
- The residents of Westmoreland County are using their County Parks in ever increasing numbers. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation is adapting and expanding its facilities and programs based upon the input received from a survey of residents conducted during the formation of the County's Comprehensive Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space adopted by the County Commissioners in 2000. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation will continue to focus on providing a dynamic series of programs and facilities for the use of all County residents.

## The Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development Area



**ALTHOUGH PENN'S CORNER** Resource Conservation & Development Program was not yet an entity in the 1950's, they are proud of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration that is in the planning stages for later in 2002. The first Steering Committee meeting held to organize Penn's Corner was held in the fall of 1971. It was not until December 12, 1975 that operational status was granted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Through September 2000, the Penn's Corner Executive Council has adopted 640 projects. In 2001, three projects were coordinated in Westmoreland County:

- **Alternative Wastewater Treatment Demonstration**

After over three years of investigating alternative wastewater treatment systems, seeking funding sources and developing partnerships, Penn's Corner has successfully coordinated the installation of a demonstration project in Twin Lakes Park. The cooperative effort involved three federal agencies, one state agency, two county agencies, one local municipality, two non-profit organizations, a design consultant, a commercial supplier and a construction contractor in addition to Penn's Corner.

The recently installed system utilizes a flow equalization tank, natural peat filters and an at-grade filter to treat wastes from the activities center, the nature center and the concessions building. The entire system, which cost over \$200,000, is now available for public use by all residents of southwestern Pennsylvania. Successful operation of this demonstration system will provide additional data which will permit the PA Department of Environmental Protection to recommend this technology for use where conventional systems have failed at private residences and other applications.

- **Sewickley Creek and Remediation Projects**

Penn's Corner continues to support the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association (SCWA), in its efforts to treat abandoned mine drainage discharges, throughout the watershed. These include discharges at

Lowber, Brinkerton and Wilson Run. Penn's Corner is managing several grants from various funding sources on behalf of the SCWA. Penn's Corner has also supported several grant applications, coordinated agency technical assistance and provided overall coordination of project activities at these sites.

- **Other RC&D Assistance**

Penn's Corner supported several other projects and programs in Westmoreland County during the past year. These include rails-to-trails projects, U.S. Department of Energy Remote Sensing Technologies Program, the Center for Conservation Education, Borland Farm Road Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Project and several other projects in the early stages of development.

### Remembering when...

The post-World War II conservation movement rode high on the wave of patriotism and determination to make life better. The wartime teamwork carried over into battles against pollution and the effort to save soil and water. It is fitting and proper to remember those "Happy Days"...post 9/11.

As we look to the future we are reminded that the values of truth, responsibility, pride and hard work are timeless. Applying these values along with planning and persistence will help allow new "Happy Days" to shine for generations to come.



# Westmoreland Conservation District Financial Statements

## Concise Statement of Financial Position — Combined Funds December 31, 2001

Assets	
Cash.....	\$159,779
General Fixed Assets.....	12,106
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$172,885</b>
Liabilities and Fund Balance	
Current Liabilities.....	\$170,110
Long-Term Debt.....	13,106
Net Assets.....	(10,331)
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$172,885</b>

## Concise Statement of Activities — Combined Funds Year Ended December 31, 2001

### Unrestricted Net Assets

Support	
Westmoreland County.....	\$585,000
State Grants.....	134,675
Other Revenue.....	222,233
Fees.....	43,655
Farmland Preservation.....	2,478
WPCAMR.....	97,715
Interest Income.....	4,956
Special Projects.....	135,781
	<b>\$1,226,493</b>
Expenditures	
Program Services.....	991,842
Education Building Expended.....	201,730
Management and General.....	256,470
Fundraising.....	1,910
	<b>\$1,451,952</b>
Excess (Deficiency)-Current.....	(225,459)
Net Assets - Beginning Balance.....	215,128
Net Assets - End of Year.....	<b>\$(10,331)</b>



# Conservation Team – Year 2002



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Roy Houston, *Chairman*  
Ron Rohall, *Vice-Chairman*  
Conrad Donovan, *Treasurer*  
P. Roy Kemerer, *Secretary*  
Albert Barnett, *Director*  
William Doney, *Director*  
P. Graydon Long, *Director*  
Dorothy Stoner, *Director*  
Scott Conner,  
*County Commissioner, Director*  
Frank E. Skacel, Sr., *Director Emeritus*

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Robert Ackerman  
Jack Driscoll  
Paul Heyworth  
Mark Jackson  
Tom Keller  
William Kotsenas  
Harry Meyer  
Kim Miller  
Theresa Rohall  
Dr. William Shea  
Elmer Slezak  
Keith Walters  
Rob Zelmore

## STAFF

Gregory M. Phillips,  
*District Manager*  
Lorrie L. Stouffer,  
*Assistant District Manager*  
Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.,  
*Program Specialist/Forester*  
Craig J. Barras,  
*Watershed Specialist*  
Christopher E. Droste,  
*Erosion Control Specialist*  
James W. Pillsbury, P.E.,  
*Hydraulic Engineer*  
Daniel E. Griffith,  
*Nutrient Mgmt./*  
*Ag Conservation Technician*  
Michael T. Barrick,  
*Erosion Control Specialist*  
Kathleen A. Fritz,  
*Program Secretary*  
Karen Barnhart,  
*Administrative Secretary*  
Joanne Kitsko,  
*Receptionist*  
Sandra Dzendzel,  
*Secretary*  
Nicole Foremsky,  
*Water Quality Agent*  
Leanne Griffith,  
*Growing Greener Program Assistant*

## PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Darl Rosenquest,  
*Regional Soils Engineer*  
Charles Kubasik, *Field Representative*

## USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Wesley M. Gordon,  
*District Conservationist*  
Larry Stokum,  
*Soil Technician*  
Rob Knight,  
*Soil Scientist*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Westmoreland County Commissioners

## COUNTY PARTNERS

Department of Public Works  
Department of Planning  
Penn State Cooperative  
Extension Service  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

## STATE PARTNERS

Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Department of Agriculture  
Pennsylvania Fish and  
Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
State Conservation Commission  
Pennsylvania Association  
of Conservation Districts

## FEDERAL PARTNERS

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
Farm Service Agency  
Rural Economic and Community  
Development Service  
Penn's Corner Resource  
Conservation and Development

## LOCAL PARTNERS

Jacobs Creek  
Watershed Association  
Sewickley Creek  
Watershed Association  
Loyalhanna  
Watershed Association  
Mountain  
Watershed Association  
Turtle Creek  
Watershed Association  
Westmoreland Woodlands  
Improvement Association  
PA CleanWays  
Penn's Corner Charitable Trust  
Westmoreland Conservancy  
Saint Vincent College  
Powdermill Nature Reserve  
Five Star Trail Chapter –  
Regional Trail Corporation

**SUPPORTERS OF:**

*The Agricultural Land Preservation Program and  
the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.  
Both organizations are guided by volunteer boards.*



**DIRECTORS**

Blaine E. Hutter, *Chairman*  
Dairy and Crop Farmer  
Mt. Pleasant Twp.

Alquin Heinnickel, *Treasurer*  
Beef and Crop Farmer, Hempfield

Robert Ambrose, *Vice-Chairman*  
Ridgeview Acres Farm, Cook Twp.

Ivan Campbell  
Building Contractor, Cook Twp.

Richard Comp  
Vegetable Farmer, Mt. Pleasant Twp.

William Ebert  
Dairy and Crop Farmer, Unity Twp.

Thomas Kerber, Sr.  
Township Commissioner  
North Huntingdon Twp.

Fr. Warren Murrman, O.S.B.  
Educator  
Saint Vincent, Unity Twp.

Craig Lash  
Dairy and Crop Farmer,  
Sewickley Twp.

Betty J. Reefer,  
*Secretary/Administrator*



**DIRECTORS**

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Indiana County

Hank Webster, *Vice-President*  
Clearfield County

William Gresock, *Secretary*  
Jefferson County

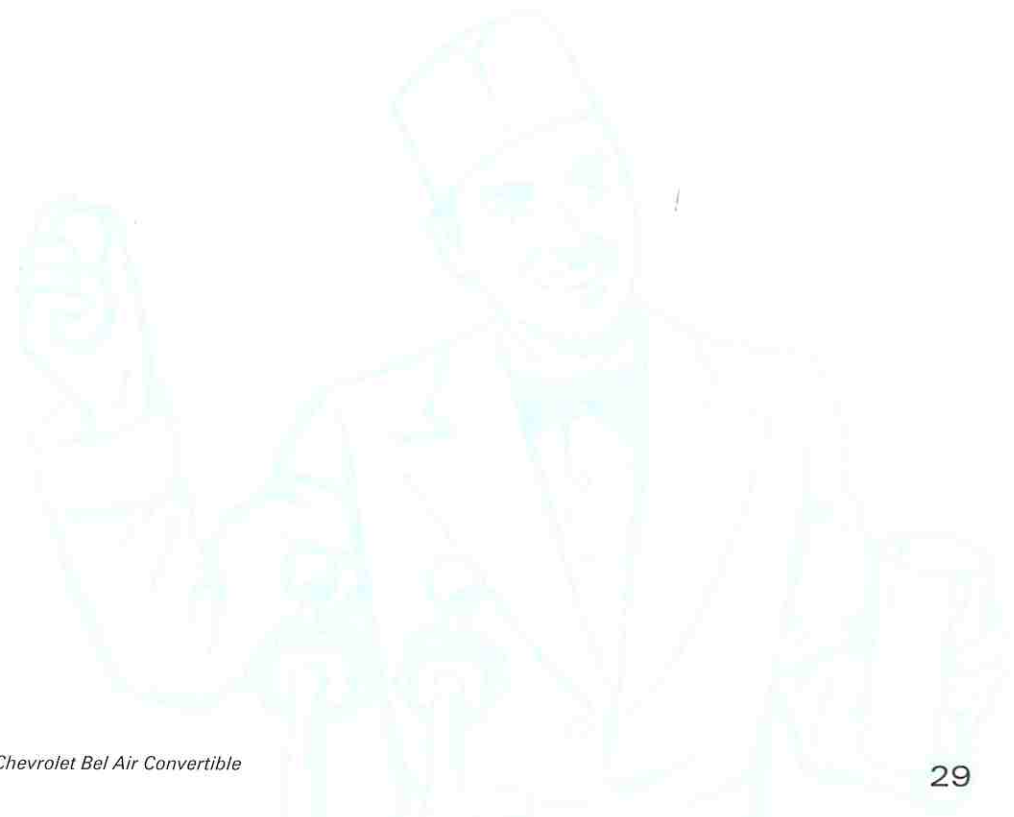
Greg Phillips, *Treasurer*  
Westmoreland County

Bruce Golden, *Regional Coordinator*

Debra Simko, *Watershed Coordinator*

## Remembering when...

Associate Director Paul Heyworth of Greensburg reports "We went heavily into flood control and prevention, signing up cooperators, conducting plowing and poster contests, selling tree seedlings and trying to win Goodyear awards. We were so proud when Alex Smith became president of the state association in the 1980's, and now Ron Rohall is leading the way. We are far more professional now and, of course, us old timers take credit for it all."



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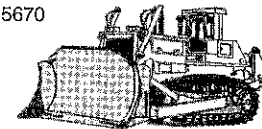
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- Wetland Construction
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- Streambank Stabilization
- Stream Restoration/Relocation
- Passive Wastewater Treatment
- Specialty Environmental Construction Contracting



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Export, PA 15632  
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Field Office: (412) 849-7946

Nursery:  
311 Crooks Road  
Apollo, PA 15613  
Phone: (724) 334-3780  
Fax: (724) 334-3781

# Westmoreland Conservation District

## Programs

District programs range from science-based conservation efforts to serving as a clearing house for public information and education.

- Agricultural Conservation
- Arboretum
- Backyard Composting
- Education
- Energy Conservation
- Envirothon
- Farmland Preservation
- Flood Control Projects
- Forest Management
- Geographic Information System
- Land Reclamation
- Loyalhanna Gorge Forestry Demonstration Area
- Monastery Run Clean-up
- Natural Resource Inventories
- Nutrient Management
- Rails to Trails
- Recreation
- Recycling
- Resource Conservation and Development
- Rural Abandoned Mine Program
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Soil Survey
- Stormwater Management
- Stream Encroachments
- "Waste-to-wealth" Beneficial Use Development
- Water Conservation
- Watershed Restoration/ Planning
- Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Wetlands

We will work with many other like-minded agencies, organizations and individuals...some of whom are mentioned in this report...to advance the conservation ethic. If you are interested in a conservation subject not included here, we can help by referring you to the appropriate agency for more information.



### Special Thanks...

Ellis and Ruth Miller of Ligonier are the owners of the 1958 Chevy Impala shown on the front cover. They recently purchased their '58 Impala, but have been enjoying antique cars for the last 23 years. They enjoy "crusin" with their friends every weekend during the summer months.

See ya later alligator...



Westmoreland Conservation District  
Donohoe Center • RD #12, Box 202-B  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

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email: [wcd202b@aol.com](mailto:wcd202b@aol.com) • [www.wcdpa.com](http://www.wcdpa.com)