

Menu



Food for thought...



Board of Directors



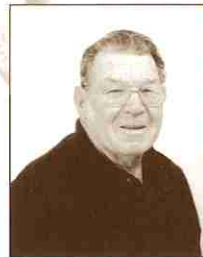
J. Roy Houston
Chairman



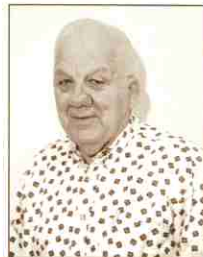
Ronald Rohall
Vice-Chairman



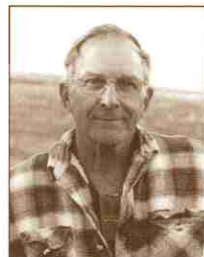
Conrad Donovan
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P. Roy Kemerer
Secretary



Albert Barnett



William Doney



Kim E. Miller



Dorothy Stoner



Tom Balya
County Commissioner

Mission

The District promotes, educates, and implements conservation principles through examples and programs. We encourage best management practices and voluntary compliance of laws. Our Board of Directors, professionals and volunteers are committed to the leadership and service required in pursuing a better environment. We use our skills, talents and partners in building a culture of responsible stewardship and sustainability.

Special Thanks

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

A background image for the 'Appetizers' section showing various food items like bread, cheese, and vegetables on a table with a checkered tablecloth. A white circular graphic is overlaid on the image.

Appetizers

Welcome

Many local farmers gather at the “District Diner” on Donohoe Road just outside of Greensburg. This favorite “eatery” looks like an old barn and they have a great menu. This year, the professionals and volunteers who run the place had a lot on their plate. Besides their regular dishes like erosion and sediment control, stormwater management and nutrient management, they cooked up a full blown conservation education program, and a wide range of “Growing Greener” dishes.

Helping food producers remains high on our work list. Westmoreland’s contoured fields of golden grain and hay still lie at the base of our economy. We assisted dairymen and beef producers on a wide front, from nutrient management to pasture improvements. We continued our efforts to get the public to see the connection between the viability of farms and the quantity and quality of food supplies.

The District has also been able to generate considerable food for thought. We have worked to make sure the county’s new comprehensive plan encompassed agriculture, open space, water quality and other environmental concerns. Our educational menu included workshops for developers, contractors, landowners and members of the forestry industry. During the first full year of its operation, the Center for Conservation Education has become a major meeting place and a focal point for conservationists in Southwest Pennsylvania.

We are now in the process of establishing a five-year plan to assure future harvests. We believe we can do a better job of marketing our wide variety of “service crops” if we plant our seeds more effectively. We are looking at such possibilities as urban forestry, intensifying our assistance in stormwater management, increasing private sector investment in conservation and expanding our work with partners on a broad front, from land use to conservation land acquisition.

As we study future directions, the Westmoreland Conservation District will remain a one-stop supermarket, an inspirational garden center of ideas and programs for those who share our hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow.

Bon Appetit

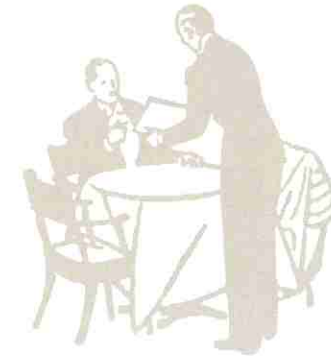


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Ala Carte

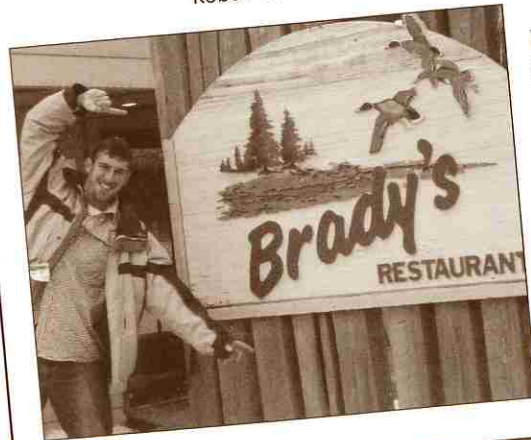
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Food for Thought

Robert Cronauer, Erosion Control Specialist

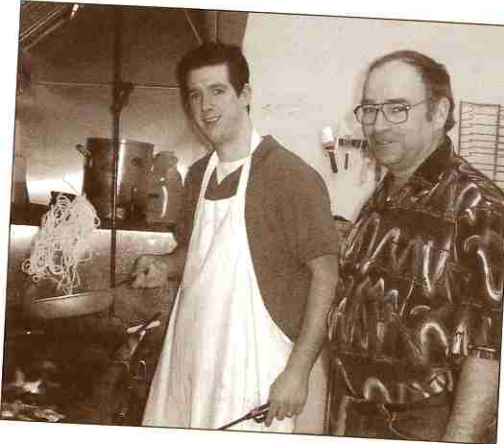


Brady's Restaurant Donegal, PA

Brady's Restaurant has some of the finest home style cooking around. The pot-roast is especially delightful, just like mom used to make! Their scrumptious food and rural setting make you feel like you're back at home.

Food for Thought

Dan Griffith, Nutrient Management Specialist

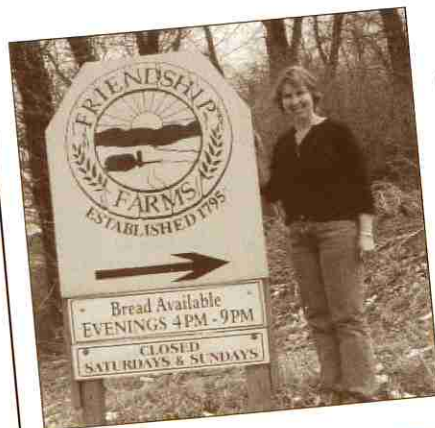


Icon's Restaurant Greensburg, PA

Icon's Restaurant is located in the strip mall immediately west of Denny's Restaurant on Rt. 30 west of Greensburg. Dominick Domasky is celebrating his first year of business of serving patrons from the area. The décor in the restaurant is sports memorabilia – pictures, flyers, pieces of seats from Three Rivers Stadium, autographed photos, etc. More than generous portions fill the plates that come out of the kitchen. Dom does most of the cooking and also likes to come out and interact with the customers. The whole ambiance of the restaurant is one of down home cookin' – a very enjoyable experience.

Food for Thought

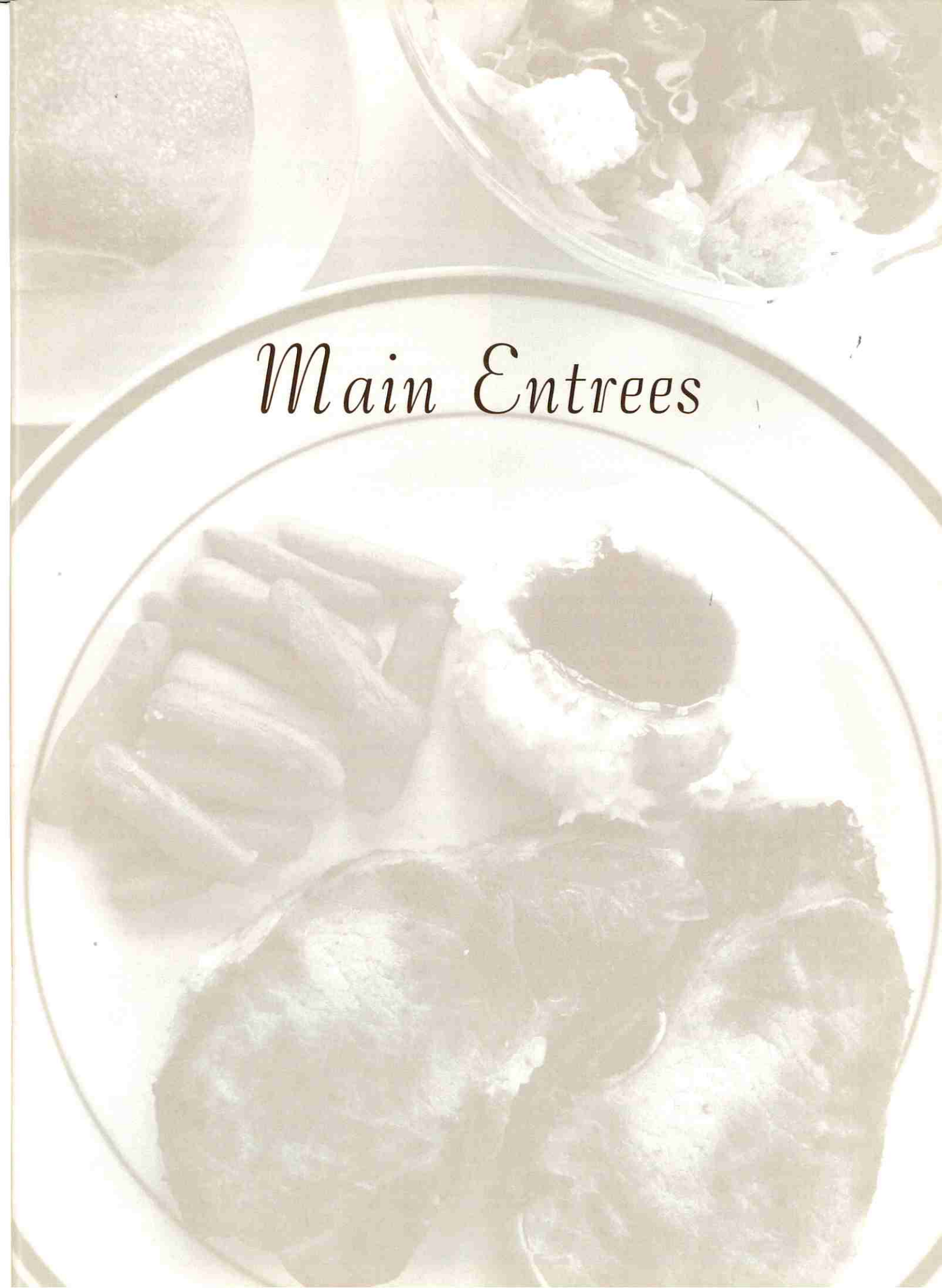
Lorrie Quadro, Assistant District Manager



Friendship Farms Lycippus, PA

Maybe not a restaurant, but the best bread this side of heaven! Warm and fresh everyday if you stop by on your way home – rolls, breads, every variety you can think of! A great local agriculture partner of the district's!

Main Entrees



Fine Dining at the Erosion Control Program



Properly functioning "Faircloth Skimmer" dewater only the cleanest water from the top. This results in 80% sediment removal.

The Special for today is.... clean streams with a side of aquatic bugs! The fish this year will enjoy a wide variety of meals due to the continued improvement of our streams. Sediment is being controlled this year from earthmoving sites. However, because of the slow economy and wet weather conditions, existing projects slowly simmered in a pot of bad luck. Many projects reviewed the previous year did not start construction. But for Chris Droste and Mike Barrick, the Erosion Control Specialists, the quality and quantity of delicious service did not go to waste. We pulled a few recipes out of our books and continued plan reviews and technical assistance all over the county. Developers hinted that 2004 will be the year development springs back to life. A new stew of projects is anticipated to start then.

When the staff was not reviewing plans, assisting engineers, and developers, they presented various workshops that flavored engineers and municipal officials' palates. This year the items on the menu consisted of rich and soothing aromas of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) phase 2 regulations, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) education, and erosion control issues.

The first series of workshops was known collectively as the NPDES Phase 2 and storm water workshops. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff presented topics on the new NPDES regulations, Jim Pillsbury, district hydraulic engineer, and Ed Ritzer from DEP talked about post-construction storm water regulations, and MS4 issues. The workshop was delicious!

The next appetizing event involved a series of rolling workshops. Like the Good Humor truck, we traveled

to different parts of the neighborhood to play our "tune" of conservation. First we traveled to Rostraver Township, then to Ligonier Township, and our last stop was at Penn State New Kensington campus. We rang our bell to various municipalities to visit the closest location to them. Chris discussed road maintenance topics such as culvert cleaning, channel reconstruction and general stabilization. Mike discussed NPDES phase 2 permits and how municipalities can help with individual lot controls and enacting ordinances. Jim Pillsbury presented Phase 2 storm water infiltration methods and how municipalities can implement these best management practices (BMP's) into ordinances. Tony showed a plateful of forestry issues and discussed permits that they need.

Other additions made to the menu included a different side dish never prepared before. PennDOT asked the district staff to speak at a workshop for their employees. Three of our chefs, (Jim, Mike and Chris) drove out to Arnold Palmer Airport for the workshop in February. They served up a dish of erosion control techniques, and stormwater management BMP's. This helped increase cooperation between the agencies and strengthened our ties.

Our staff goes beyond the call of duty at times. Jim and Mike presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern PA Society of Land Surveyors meeting. They discussed the various services we provide. The staff must also train and attend classes to learn about new techniques in their field. Chris attended a class on subdivision review presented by the Smart Growth Partnership at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. He also met with engineers, municipal officials,



Discharge of sediment from a malfunctioning sediment basin. Sediment pollution has occurred at this earthmoving site which will impact the waters of the Commonwealth.

developers, and Smart Growth Partnership on 3 sites, two in North Huntingdon and one in Greensburg. At one North Huntingdon site, Randall Arendt (a planner and book author) met with Chris and Alex Graziani from Smart Growth. They walked the site with the developer and township planning office, sketched out a design and assisted in concepts. Chris also has worked closely with Bob Deglau, an engineer, on a site in North Huntingdon that implements infiltration stormwater swales, no curbs or inlets, and bio-retention areas instead of ponds. The design is state of the art and the township is considering the plan. Chris, Jim and Bob have met several times in the field to work out details. This project will be the first site in the region to incorporate the "Phase 2" ideas.

Recently, Mike Barrick moved to watershed specialist and we hired another "baker of fine goods" for the erosion control program. Rob Cronauer was

hired in November as an erosion control specialist. He previously worked with Franklin County Conservation District as a Watershed Specialist. He is a welcome addition to the chefs in the office.

Kathy Fritz and new part-time secretary Christie Rhoades, keep all of the data and plans entered into the database oven. They were very busy this year sending out comment letters, permits, and preparing documents for the chef's program activities.

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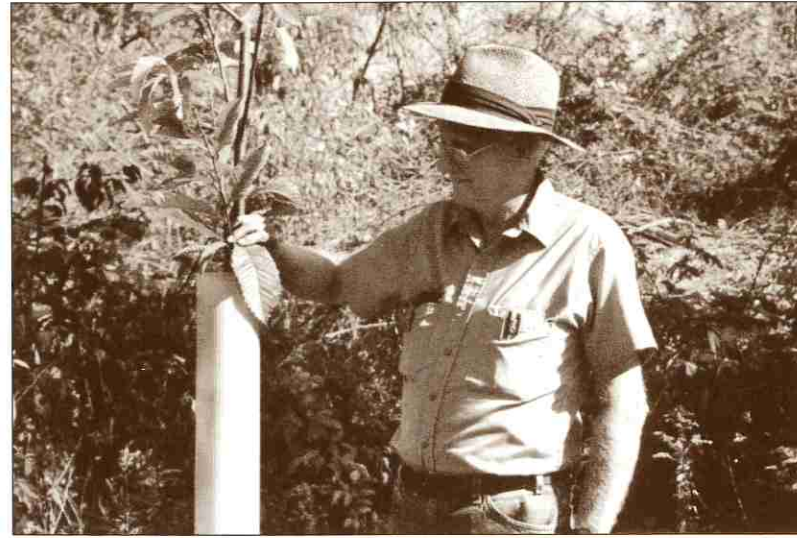
Robert Cronauer, Erosion Control Specialist
robcronauer@yahoo.com

2003 Delegated Program Activities

Education Events	7
Number of participants.....	538
Technical Assistance to the public (Erosion Control and Stormwater Mgmt).....	1,001
Conservation Partnership Agreements (New and retained).....	24
Plan Reviews (total number).....	220
Plan review project acres.....	4,882
Plan review disturbed acres.....	1,229
Plan review fees collected.....	\$31,350
Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Inspections (under 5 acres).....	188
NPDES (general permit) issued.....	49
NPDES (individual permit) issued.....	5
NPDES Permit Application Fees Collected.....	\$14,750
NPDES permitted Site Inspections (over 5 acres).....	195
Total Fees Collected	\$46,100
Total Site Inspections	383
*Chapter 105 Stream Encroachment Permits	10

* No longer a delegated program

Bountiful Forest



Associate Director Bob Ackerman examines growth of this protected chestnut tree.

Nature provides us with a myriad of bounties from the forest. Pennsylvania not only has some of the best quality hardwoods in the world, but we also have one of the largest varieties of species in the temperate forest. These species provide so much more than wood for lumber, paper, and fuel; we also get a variety of foods from the forest. The fruit trees provide us with cherries, apples, pears, peaches, and plums. Nut trees provide walnuts, hickory nuts, pecans, and chestnuts. We get maple syrup from sugar maple, and honey from a variety of flowering trees. Sassafras roots can be boiled to make tea, and birch roots can flavor birch beer. Several types of mushrooms grow in the forest, along with various herbs and medicinal plants. And trees and shrubs provide a host of edible berries.

A healthy forest will provide us with all of these products and more if we manage it properly. The District's forester, Tony Quadro, spent much of 2003 helping woodland owners to develop management plans to properly care for their forests. Over a dozen management plans were prepared, and two PA Forest Stewardship Plans were initiated.

In April, the District along with the Westmoreland Woodlands Association co-sponsored an evening with PA Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry State Forester Dr. James Grace. Dr. Grace spoke on the condition of our state forests, forest regeneration, deer, invasive species, and answered many questions on a variety of forestry issues. Over 50 were in attendance at the Conservation Education Center.

Nearly 100 site inspections were done on timber harvest sites. Two of the sites were very large sites.

The Ditmar site in Ligonier Township is over 700 acres, and the A&R site also in Ligonier Township is about 1,200 acres. Sites are inspected bimonthly to ensure compliance with the PA Clean Streams Law.

Talks on forestry were presented to students from: Dunbar Elementary School (6th grade), Metzger Elementary School (3rd and 4th grade), Harrold Middle School (6th grade) and Maxwell Elementary School (6th grade). Over 300 students were instructed. The talks focused on forest stewardship and conservation, and on riparian (stream-side) forests.

Other accomplishments during the year include: 1000 "Tubex" tree shelters distributed, technical assistance provided to 50 clients, 41 erosion control plans reviewed for timber harvest sites, and 2 Tree Farm inspections.

The District's forest management program strives to ensure that the forests of Westmoreland County stay healthy and productive. In 2003, we did much to show our commitment to the sustainability of our forests, in hopes that the bounty we receive from them is provided indefinitely.

For more information contact:

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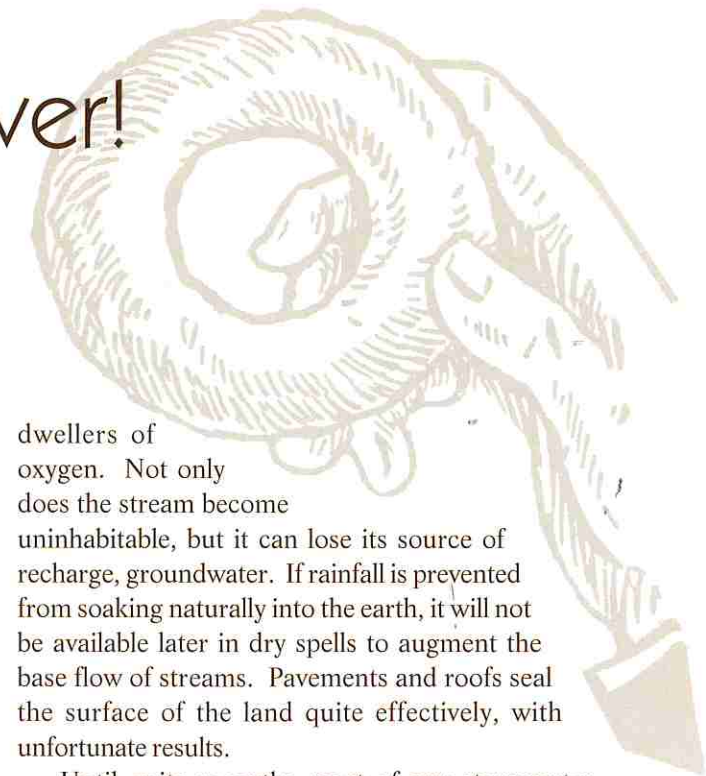


The Best Drink Ever!

A well-known beverage produced in Latrobe advertises that it is brewed with mountain spring water. A teetotaler, the Conservation District's hydraulic engineer has never guzzled from the green bottles. But his favorite beverage is also a product of Westmoreland County's pure water: Milk! Produced in green pastures from one end of the county to the other, this nutritious drink is truly food for good health. Some of the friendly bovine milk-producers are black and white, but the best color for milk is chocolate brown, and the best chocolate milk our County has to offer is made in Kecksburg at the Hutter Farm Dairy.

The production of milk requires much water — both for the cow to drink, and for processing. But our County's continual growth and development produces lots of water which is not used for milk at all! The average new home, for example, might produce an increase in stormwater runoff of thirty thousand gallons over the course of a year. A larger impervious surface, such as a store's roof or a parking lot, might yield an extra million gallons of runoff — or much more — in that same time. Not only does this extra runoff cause flooding and stream damage, but it has hidden side effects: pollution, loss of stream habitat, and loss of groundwater.

Chocolate milk is made by suspending chocolate particles in milk...the more, the better! And if it's whole milk, there's lots of creamy milkfat suspended in each glass. Suspended solids can indeed be quite good-tasting. In a stream, however, suspended solids (sediment, debris), and dissolved solids (salt, chemicals) and other pollutants give aquatic life a bitter pill to swallow. Runoff from an urban area will carry a heavy load of road dirt, organic debris, litter, and oils and automotive substances. Parking lot runoff in particular may also have a high temperature, depriving the stream-



dwellers of oxygen. Not only does the stream become uninhabitable, but it can lose its source of recharge, groundwater. If rainfall is prevented from soaking naturally into the earth, it will not be available later in dry spells to augment the base flow of streams. Pavements and roofs seal the surface of the land quite effectively, with unfortunate results.

Until quite recently, most of our stormwater management programs focused on the peak rate of runoff; that is, the number of cubic feet of water per second, that would run from a site. Ordinary detention ponds capture runoff and release it over time, thus lowering the rate of flow. But holding water for only a few hours has little or no beneficial effect on pollution, and in our area's silty clay soils, does not promote infiltration. Chocolate milk is best enjoyed when sipped slowly and thoughtfully, when the drinker can savour each mouthful. In the same way, if stormwater is held over time in an extended retention pond, or in a wetland, or if it is allowed to flow gently into an undisturbed area, the benefits multiply. Sediments settle out, natural processes capture pollutants, and water will infiltrate into the soil. The valuable natural resource of rainfall can be retained for the benefit of our environment.

During 2003, the hydraulic engineer participated in many of the usual activities: site visits, plan reviews, workshops, and giving technical assistance to engineers, officials, and developers. Like drinking ordinary milk, all of these are important to the ongoing mission of the District to best manage our county's natural resources. But the highest and best use of the engineer's time and efforts was devoted to the sweet and satisfying philosophy that we must consider stormwater as a valuable resource, not as a waste that must be disposed of. To this end, the engineer was pleased to see some major water-centered accomplishments in 2003.

Three thousand gallons of chocolate milk would probably satisfy the engineer's yearly thirst. And three thousand gallons of stored rainwater at the Donohoe Center help to satisfy our landscaping — part of the year's most visible stormwater achievement. The long-awaited completion of our Stormwater Management



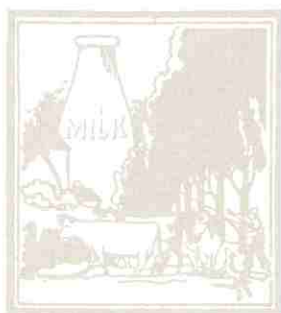
Interpretive signs along the Stormwater Management Demonstration Trail allows visitors to learn more about Best Management Practices for stormwater.

Demonstration Trail, which was funded by a Growing Greener Grant, allows visitors to Donohoe Center to take a self-guided tour of a dozen 'Best Management Practices' (BMP's) for stormwater. A map and brochures explain the BMP's, which include landscaping that needs no irrigation, eight types of infiltration pavement, a rain garden, roof runoff control, a retention swale, stream restoration in Nature Park, and our three thousand gallon rainwater cistern with its solar pump. Truly 'the gift that kept on giving,' this grant when coupled with many generous donations of time, labor, and materials helped to beautify our Barn and its surroundings. Also produced with this grant was a slide presentation which will be used in our educational seminars.

During the year, the hydraulic engineer was appointed to two committees of statewide significance. The State Stormwater Manual Oversight Committee, formed of about thirty stormwater experts, is guiding the production of DEP's new Stormwater Manual. The Manual will give engineers, municipalities, and developers helpful guidance in the design and installation of Stormwater BMP's. The Manual's focus is on innovation, water quality, infiltration, and on natural and


biological processes to handle runoff. Traveling on the Turnpike to Harrisburg for Committee meetings, the engineer gets about one hundred miles per gallon — of chocolate milk! Going even further East, he visits Villanova University, where he is a member of the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership, a leading partnership of education, research, and business interests with a desire to promote the very best in new Stormwater technology. Unfortunately for the engineer, Hutter's Dairy doesn't truck milk to the eastern part of the state!

The results of drinking much chocolate milk may be seen in growth of the engineer's waistline. More importantly, however, the results of properly managing one of our county's most valuable natural resources — our stormwater — will be seen far into the future, in our healthy streams, vibrant wetlands, and diverse ecosystem. These natural features are one important reason why people are attracted to Westmoreland County, and one reason why they might stay. Our county's growth depends largely on wise and careful stewardship of resources. Just as a glass full of chocolate milk is a treat to behold, so is a county full of clean water!



For more information contact:
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Food for Thought
 Jim Pillsbury, P.E., Hydraulic Engineer



Hutter's Dairy
 Kecksburg, PA

Hutter's Dairy was established over 50 years ago by Gilbert (Gib) and Jane Hutter. Today, sons Dale and Blaine run the operation. Over the years, the Hutter family applied many conservation measures to their land near Kecksburg with the assistance of the District and USDA-SCS. Today those conservation practices pay off in the production of the creamiest, chocolatiest chocolate milk this side of the Mississippi!

Conservation Education Program



WCD Director Kim Miller, far right, talks to Education Center visitors from Indiana state.

The full course meal for the formal Conservation Education Program for Westmoreland Conservation District has officially started.

We have a dedicated board and staff that have helped to formulate the original plan and direction for the program.

Our target audience is adult and young adult decision-makers. This audience will include lawmakers, municipal officials, planners, engineers, farmers, teachers, developers, and high school students.

The board and staff also decided that programming would be based on the technical staffs' program areas and that the technical staff would be teaching some of the seminars and workshops with the focus being on Non-Point Source Pollution topics. Non-Point Source Pollution is water pollution caused by rainfall running off urban, suburban and rural land carrying pollutants that degrade and endanger our water quality.

One of the first steps was to hire Leanne Griffith as the first full time Conservation Education Coordinator. Christie Rhoades was hired part-time to assist with secretarial duties.

Another step in the organization of the education program included dedicating funds in the budget for educational materials and personnel cost. Several small grants were received from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture which help to pay for selected educational events.

Leanne and Christie have had a very full plate of activities in 2003.

The appetizer for their work included setting up the basic framework of the mission and goals for the Center for Conservation Education. The main dishes were the various programs and events, grants, displays and PowerPoints that were developed. The dessert on any



given day at the Conservation District is the joy of meeting and working with many different people.

Some of the main dishes on the education platter are included with the number of attendees on our menu:

Meeting Topic/Audience/Attendees

<u>Agriculture</u>	
Growing Greener Grant (Adult).....	8
Beef Producers Meeting (Adult).....	73
Nutrient Management Workshop (Adult).....	7
Dairy Days at Mt. View Inn (Adult).....	105
Indiana County Conservation	
District Banquet (Adult).....	125
Soil Quality Training (Adult).....	9
Ag Work Group (Adult).....	9
Farm Field Day (Adult).....	34
<u>Awards Banquet & Reception (Adult)</u>	
.....	275
<u>Dirt & Gravel Roads</u>	
Conservation Bus Tour (Adult).....	75
<u>Education</u>	
Alliance for Conservation Educators (ACE)	
(Adult).....	68
Abandoned Mine Drainage Education Committee	
(Adult).....	18
Education Grant Meeting (Adult).....	21
Envirothon (9 th – 12 th).....	150
Earth Day Presentations and other school programs	
High School Programs (9 th – 12 th).....	547
Middle School Programs (6 th – 8 th).....	825
Upper Elementary Grade Programs	
(3 rd – 5 th).....	557
Saint Vincent (Family).....	3,100
Latrobe Teachers (7 th –12 th grade teachers).....	9
Jess Stairs Senior Citizen Day (Adult).....	600
4-H Day Camp (5 th – 7 th).....	120
Scouts (3 rd – 5 th).....	92
(Nature/Forestry/World Conservation)	
Scout Roundtable (Adults).....	25
Two Eagle Scout Projects	24

Erosion & Sediment Control

NPDES Phase II (Adult).....	260
Municipality Workshops (Adult)	
Rostraver.....	15
New Kensington.....	24
Ligonier.....	30

Forestry

Camp Soles (6 th).....	180
Woodlands Improvement Association (Adult).....	50
Forestry Meeting (Adult).....	32
Conservation Bus Tour (Adult).....	75

Stormwater Management

NPDES Phase II (Adult).....	260
Water Resource Management Meeting (Adult).....	5
Daughters of the American Revolution Meeting (Adult).....	9
Stormwater Trail (Adult).....	5
PennDOT SW Management (Adult).....	9
Stormwater Committee (Adult).....	19

Water Quality

Satellite Downlink – Ponds/Water Quality (Adult).....	11
Suburbanite Homemakers (Adult).....	17
Fayette County Children's Water Festival (6 th).....	70
Writing About the Natural World.....	11
Ligonier Valley Macro Adaptations.....	160
Camp Soles.....	275
Wonderful World of Water Camp.....	17

Macro Invertebrate Identification (Adults).....	44
On-Lot Septic System (Adults).....	19
Macro Identification.....	26
Act 220 Satellite Downlink (Adult).....	7
Alternate Wastewater Meeting (Adult).....	5
Aquatic Weed Control.....	110

Watersheds

Jacobs Creek Watershed Meeting.....	4
Watershed Specialists Meeting.....	20
Watershed/Staff GIS Training.....	20
Turtle Creek.....	10
Donohoe Creek.....	9
Sewickley Creek.....	9
Know Your Watershed Day.....	160

During the next year we will add several new items to our menu of events. We have received a \$30,000 Growing Greener Education Grant that will allow us to develop several new workshops which will include "Making Rain Barrels", "Forestry Stewardship", the "No-Till Conference" and others.

One of the goals of the Conservation Education Center for the future is to become the clearinghouse of information for Westmoreland County. Another big addition in 2004 will be the construction and opening of the Resource Library in the large loft area.

For more information contact:

Leanne Griffith, Conservation Education Coordinator
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Nutrient Management

Deep in the throes of winter, with snow and ice enveloping our corner of the world, is when a smidgen of hope arrives in the mail – the seed catalogue. With it dawns the realization that spring will surely come again and the world will turn green and our gardens will bloom with delicious, fresh foods. Some people do wonderful jobs of tending their own small home gardens, while others in this county endeavor to bring that wholesome goodness of locally raised produce to local farm markets and share their bounty with others by growing large quantities of certain foods. How we hanker for that first tomato of the summer. And we salivate for the sweet corn that is freshly picked – almost good enough to eat without cooking it.

Anyone who has grown produce for very long learns quickly about using the proper nutrition in the soil to get a good yield. The nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium levels especially need to be balanced correctly. The pH of the soil needs to be close to 7. Also, the microelements must all be there for the plants to grow without defects. Of course a simple soil test can tell us all these things. It can also tell us if there are excessive amounts of certain nutrients in the soil. That situation can be as bad or worse than not enough of a particular nutrient. A plant might absorb more of that nutrient than it should and suffer in its growth.

That is the basic idea behind Nutrient Management Plans (NM Plans) for farmers. They help the farmer plan for what nutrients should be in the soil for certain crops and give the farmer a roadmap for how to get his land into a productive, yet not excessive state of nutrition. Through the wonder of Nature, waste products from the last year's crops are converted into vitally needed nutrients for this year's bounty. A properly designed NM Plan will maximize the farmer's nutrients for crops by attaining a level of nutrients that are not too lean, or



Clean, contented cows.

not wasteful, either. So far we have 10,000 acres of farmland being managed with NM Plans in Westmoreland County and we are constantly working for more.


When summer comes and we start to enjoy the fruits of the harvest, for at least one bite of that fresh food, let us be mindful and thankful for the people who go to the effort of working with nature to produce such a delicious harvest.

For more information contact:

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Food for Thought

Chris Droste, Erosion Control Specialist



Fatz Zackel's
Claridge, PA

Located at 2001 Main Street in Claridge, PA, Zackel's has been around serving the best fish for 50 years. When I am doing job inspections in this area, I always stop in for a fresh cod sandwich called "the zack". This cod is the best I have ever had. Maybe because it's so fresh and comes from the icy cold waters of the Barents Sea. They also have wonderful jumbo sweet onion rings. They are to die for! Go to www.zackels.com for their full menu.



Westmoreland County Nutrient Management Facts

- 10,000 acres placed under NM Plans since May of 2000
- 28 farm operators, ranging from 76 acres to 1,200 acres
- \$17,610 in cost share funds provided from the PDIP program to write the actual NM Plan
- \$690,000 in cost share funds provided from Act 6 to 10 farmers since July 2001 to install Conservation Practices such as waste storage structures, stabilized pads, animal walkways, etc.

Dirt and Gravel Roads

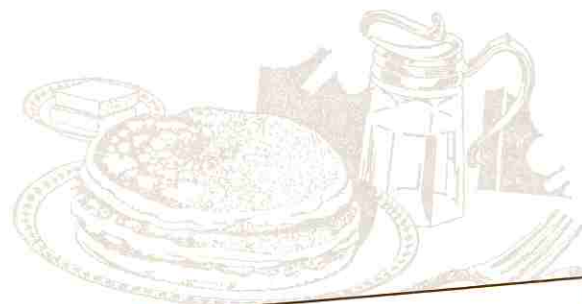


Completed Dirt and Gravel Road in St. Clair Township.

Once again in 2003 a special recipe has led to a productive year for the Dirt and Gravel Road Program. The special ingredients mixed up by Derry, Donegal, East Huntingdon, Fairfield, and Loyalhanna Townships along with the City of Jeannette have combined to serve a special recipe for conservation.

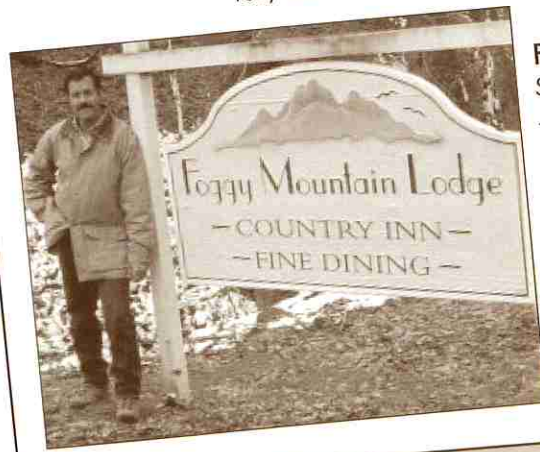
These municipalities were granted \$61,740 from the State Conservation Commission. This money will help local communities prevent roadside ingredients from polluting our streams. At the end of 2003 two of the six communities have finished their recipe. Each has donated portions to the program as in-kind services totaling \$13,342.12. This included local road crews and supervisors' time, equipment, and even purchasing much of the ingredients for the projects. Together, they managed to whip the batter to stabilize 10,400 square feet of roadside ditches, 5,400 square feet of road bank, 320 square feet of outlets, 100 feet of cross pipes, and finally to complete the recipe they stabilized 60,440 square feet of roadway. The commitment by the local municipalities by doing the job right has created a recipe for conservation. It is not only "food for thought" but the recipe for cleaner waters in Westmoreland County.

For more information contact:
Mike Barrick, Watershed Specialist
miketbarrick@yahoo.com



Food for Thought

Tony Quadro, Program Specialist/Forester



Foggy Mountain Lodge

Stahlstown, PA

Tucked away in a rural setting near Stahlstown off of Route 130, is the Foggy Mountain Lodge and Bootleggers' Restaurant. Menu items include nightly specials ranging from seafood to beef to pasta dishes, and the atmosphere is reminiscent of when "moonshine was made in them thar hills."

Watersheds

A drive through Westmoreland County will take you the better part of a day. This trip will take you from the top of the Laurel Mountains across Chestnut Ridge through the foot hills of the ridges to the Kiski Valley. Our trip will begin early in the morning. We start our day with a hearty breakfast at Ruthie's Diner in Ligonier. While there, we sit down with Drew Banas to talk about the projects the Loyalhanna Watershed Association has completed this past year.

Loyalhanna Watershed Association

The Loyalhanna Watershed Association has had another year full of environmental activities. The LWA received two Growing Greener Grants in 2003. The first for \$30,000 was to conduct test drilling to identify a suitable location to treat four AMD discharges in one place. The second grant awarded to the LWA is for \$6,000, which will stabilize banks in the Loyalhanna delayed harvest trout fishing area. Many new improvements occurred along the Loyalhanna nature trail near the Adelphoi Village. The Association continued their partnership with the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation of the PA DEP. They installed a steel slag pond at the Freidline Mine to further improve water quality at the current SAPS system. They also partnered with the Army Corps and BAMR installing weirs at several AMD locations in the watershed. The LWA also partnered with St. Vincent College to experiment with an Active Iron Oxide Sludge Reactor at the Latrobe Sewage Treatment Plant. This project is treating water from the Lower Saxman Run discharge.

As we continue our ride we head south on 711 into the Indian Creek Watershed. We stop at Champion Service Center (Pennzoil Station) and meet Bev Braverman for a cup of coffee and a slice of pie to discuss the activities of the Mountain Watershed Association.

Mountain Watershed Association

The Mountain Watershed Association continued their work on restoring the Indian Creek Valley. In 2003 the MWA completed the final phase of their assessment of the upper reaches of Indian Creek. Their goal with this project is to protect the head waters of Indian Creek minimizing the salt and sediment impacts to the stream. The Association has been working on the completion of the Indian Creek Valley trail from Forbes Forest off 381 to Champion. The MWA has been working on the treatment of the Kalp Discharge. It has been estimated that 40% of all the pollution in Indian Creek comes from the Kalp Discharge. They have also been working on some

stream bank stabilization in Mill Run. A \$152,000 grant was received to study a 1,200 ft section of Mill Run and implement FGM practices to improve the quality of the stream. They also participated in a C-SAW grant to evaluate the Mill Run Reservoir. The MWA received a grant to hire an Organizational Development Consultant to help the Watershed develop an employee hand book and administrative policies. The Association has been named the "River Keeper" for Youghiogheny River.

After our visit in the Indian Creek Valley we drive west on route 31 into the Jacobs Creek Watershed. We stop at Leo's Pub and Grille for lunch in Mt. Pleasant. While there we overhear some of the local residents talking about the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association.

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association

The Jacobs Creek Watershed Association completed their first construction project through Growing Greener in the spring of 2003. They had assistance from the Southmoreland High School Environmentally Aware Students Club (SEAS) and Scottsdale Borough. The students planted a riparian zone on the banks of Jacobs Creek south of Scottsdale. The JCWA continued to sample Stauffer Run and expanded their surveys to Sherrick Run following recommendations of the Keystone Plan.



Southmoreland High School students planting a riparian buffer.

The field surveys of Sherrick Run have indicated to the group that the lower end of this stream is severely impacted by abandoned mine discharges. These field surveys will help the watershed association with an application for a growing greener grant in the future. The JCWA was also awarded two Growing Greener Grants in 2003. The Association received a grant for \$75,000 to stabilize stream banks and restore a riparian zone along Jacobs Creek at the Donegal Highlands Golf Course. They also received a \$25,000 Growing Greener grant to study the abandoned mine discharges in the Stauffer Run watershed. A consultant will be contracted to determine the most effective way to improve the waters of Stauffer Run.

After we finished our lunch at Leo's in the Jacobs

Creek Watershed, we continued our drive north into Greensburg. We stopped at Schaller's Bakery for some baked goods. We were not sure what watershed we were in so we asked the cashier and she told us we were in the Sewickley Creek Watershed.

Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

The Sewickley Creek Watershed Association had a Rivers Conservation Plan recently completed. This will help the Association with long term planning and decision making prioritizing projects. The SCWA has been working on abandoned mine drainage within the watershed for more than ten years. The group is planning on purchasing property in the area of the Lowber Discharge to help with the treatment of AMD problems in Sewickley Creek. The SCWA worked on construction planning for the treatment system in Brinkerton. Once this work is completed the association will restore several of miles of impacted stream from Brinkerton in Mt. Pleasant Township to New Stanton. The group is planning to use plastic sheet piling to separate the treatment cells instead of earthen embankments because of the limited space available on the project site. The group had a meeting at the Wilson Run Discharge treatment pond. They are planning to dredge the existing pond. The removal of the existing iron oxide sludge will increase the capacity of the pond. This will help the system to be more efficient. Finally, the SCWA partnered with the Westmoreland Conservation District to complete a comprehensive study of the Donohoe Creek Watershed. This study provided recommendations to the partners for future work in the sub-watershed.

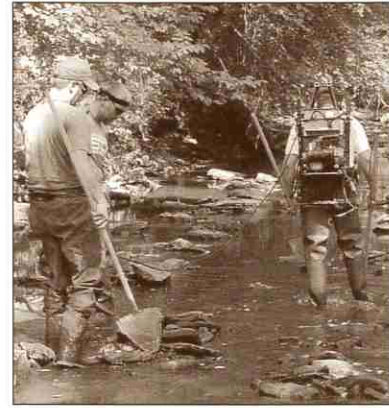


Stabilizing banks of Boyer Run in Sewickley Creek Watershed.

After leaving the bakery we decided to drive west on Route 30. As we drove through Jeannette and Irwin, we decided to stop for dinner at Teddy's. Currently we are in the Turtle Creek Watershed.

Turtle Creek Watershed Association

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association completed a multi-phased series of stream bank stabilization projects. With both professional and volunteer help, eroded sections of Bull Run in Jeannette, Bushy Run in Manor Borough, a tributary of Haymaker Run in Murrysville, and a tributary of Dirty Camp Run in Pitcairn were stabilized. This



Fish survey in Brush Creek which is located in the Turtle Creek Watershed.

work was completed with grants from the Growing Greener Program and the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Protection Program. Further bank stabilization will be completed in Duff Park in Murrysville. Preliminary work to restore a one mile section of Turtle Creek as it flows through Duff Park started last summer. Taking the natural approach to stream bank stabilization to the next level, this work will involve bio-engineering methods as designed by Confluence Ecological. In contrast to the "hard" engineering seen in concrete or rip-rapped channels, the goal is to mimic normal stream features and work with the natural physics, biology, and chemistry of a stream to protect its banks. The strategy will include log sections and root wads installed at an angle into the banks at key locations, protruding into the stream channel. These serve to deflect the force of the current away from the banks, reducing erosion, and to allow cobble and sediments to build up behind them, thus helping to restore the stream banks.

The Borland Farm project has had its ups and downs, 2003 saw definite progress towards the removal of a coal refuse pile that has low BTU value, low sulfur, and low metal levels, making it useful as fill. When removal is completed, the construction of an anoxic limestone drain will begin on that site as well as a primary settling pond. Other ponds and a polishing wetland to complete the passive treatment system are planned on adjacent property.

Finally, the TCWA has baked up a partnership of municipalities to come together to meet their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements. They are planning a meeting to educate other stake holders in the watershed about the separate storm sewer systems.

Time is getting late and we probably should be moving on with our drive through the county visiting different watersheds. After dinner at Teddy's we'll drive on 993 to 66 and continue north through Delmont on up to Kings in the Kiski Valley for some dessert. While enjoying our dessert we met John Linkes, and he told us of the projects the Kiski Watershed Association have started to improve the water quality of the Kiski River.

Kiski Watershed Association

The Kiski watershed received a Growing Greener Grant in 2003 for the Tinsmill project. This grant has developed a partnership between Hedin Environmental and the KWA to study a former treatment system in the Tinsmill area. The existing treatment system is not working properly and the AMD is flowing into the Kiski River untreated. The plans are to determine the best way to treat the discharge and apply for further grants to construct a treatment system to correct this problem. The KWA is active with public relations and outreach. The group had a booth at the Fort Hand Festival at Kunkle Park in Washington Township. They also mailed out information flyers to many of the local residents within the watershed. This mass mailing helped with membership and increased their volunteer base for future projects. John was also telling us the group is proud of its Watershed Awareness Day. They have different groups representing different aspects of the watershed presenting to local students and stake holders of the watershed. The KWA also sold raffle tickets and buttons to stock the Kiski with trout. They managed to raise enough money to stock the Kiski four times in trout season. The KWA adopted two stretches of route 66 along the Kiski River. They volunteer to clean up the area with the Adopt-a-Highway program.

Our long ride through the county is coming to an end. We need to move on west into the Pucketa and Chartiers Watershed. We drive on down into New Kensington and visit Egidio's Italian Restaurant for an evening treat for our ride home.

Pucketa Chartiers Watershed Association

The Pucketa Chartiers Watershed Association received a Growing Greener grant in 2003 for an assessment on the entire watershed. The PACWA and partners Hatch Mott MacDonald and Blazosky Associates will begin work on this project in the spring of 2004. The Association had many small group outings with volunteers accomplishing cleanups, stream surveys and visual assessments in 2003. PACWA partnered with Plum Creek in Allegheny County to develop a plan for membership, outreach and volunteer recruitment.

The watersheds in Westmoreland County are all committed to preserving and improving the waters of our county. Our trip to different restaurants and meeting different folks helped us understand some of the important projects each of the groups are working on. All the watershed groups in Westmoreland County need help from local government and volunteers to accomplish the good work they do.



Stream sampling for macroinvertebrates in the Pucketa Creek Watershed.

For more information contact:
Mike Barrick, Watershed Specialist
miketbarrick@yahoo.com



Water Quality



Nicki assessing a stream, looking for indicators of water quality with students from Penn State New Kensington, members of the Pucketa and Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, and watershed specialists from Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties.

Most people enjoy a clean cool glass of ice water to accompany their meals. This year, more than 90 individuals received personal assistance on drinking water quality concerns. Management of wells, springs and cisterns were topics covered by phone calls, site visits, and personal assistance. Then, to tie in how drinking water can be affected by on-lot septic systems, the first On-lot Septic System Care and Maintenance Workshop was held in Derry Township. The 25 participants learned how caring for their wastewater system can save time and money, which can be spent on other entertainments such as going out to eat.

If you have a favorite restaurant, you pretty much know what's on the menu without having to look inside. The water quality program's menu always has a corner reserved for school programs. Watersheds and Erosion, Land Use and Water Quality, Abandoned Mine Drainage, and Macroinvertebrate Identification programs were served up to 1,572 students throughout the county. Fifth through twelfth grade students who participated increased their knowledge of the different water quality issues and how to address and measure their impacts. Additionally, students from University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg were able to view and write about the natural world by visiting the Nature Park in the spring.

For the second time, the Westmoreland Earth Day Event was a featured special. More than 3,000 children and adults visited booths and attended live shows to learn about the different environmental programs available throughout the county. Children were able to experience non-point source pollution first hand using our Enviroscape models where cocoa is used to show

how dirt can be washed from one area of land and end up in a stream or lake.

We joined forces with the Stroud Water Research Center to provide a Macroinvertebrate Identification Workshop for 43 volunteers and agency personnel working with watershed groups. We were in streams looking for bugs like crayfish and mayfly nymphs to appease our appetites for learning what lives beneath rocks and on the bottom of streams.

Fish seem to already know where to go to catch a nice meal. They were seen swimming in the streams we sampled in the Pucketa Watershed and along Pine Run in Washington Township. Other restaurants of choice for fish are ponds and lakes. This past year, we visited six ponds and helped an additional 200 people increase their knowledge of pond water management and watershed issues.

That feeling of being satisfied after an evening meal is reminiscent of the feeling we had when we finished testing water in the Whitethorn Watershed. We noted seasonal variations in water quality and attribute that to the different practices happening only during the growing season. We feel confident that the best management practices that were installed will improve the water quality over time.

The water quality program was successful in presenting 28 spicy educational programs in 2003 and will continue to partner with Penn State Cooperative Extension, watershed groups, alliances and agencies to promote safe drinking water quality, improved stream and pond water health, and increased awareness of watershed issues in 2004.

For more information contact:

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Center for Conservation Education ...and now for some delicious thoughts



District staff have settled into their new home.

As you digest the articles in this year's annual report, you'll probably notice that most of my conservation colleagues have chosen to focus on the first half of our theme – the *food* part. Initially, I was tempted to do the same, and was even planning how I would put together my article: "The Hungry Man's Guide to Westmoreland County's Best Pizza Places."

But the more I thought about the concept of "*Food for Thought*," the more I realized that food, delicious as it is, is only the means to an end. And that the most important part of our theme is what the food nourishes: *the thought*.

We've seen that to be true for years. When we introduce new ideas...stimulate discussion...present opportunities...encourage and motivate, we are getting people to think – and then act – in new ways. Creating a hunger for conservation promotes individual stewardship, and multiplies our efforts to conserve our community's resources more than a hundredfold.

One of the best examples of this occurred ten years ago, when our 1994 annual report featured the theme "*A new way of thinking*." We chose that theme because that year we had accomplished something truly innovative; something few had been able to do then...or have been able to do since: We opened a one-stop conservation/agricultural service center here in Westmoreland County that housed under one roof the Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development.

In our annual report that year, we said that we were "excited by the prospects of what can be accomplished...with this new Donohoe Center

resource," but at the time, none of us could even imagine how far this new way of thinking would take our conservation efforts. We never dreamed that, in this last decade in our 50-plus-year history, the synergies generated by working together in one building would allow us to:

- garner the support to move beyond our traditional mission and pursue our dream of establishing a Conservation Education Center to reach new audiences with the conservation message;
- be introduced through NRCS to Kim Miller, who offered us a nineteenth-century barn plus his services as general contractor – both free of charge – for the Center;
- raise more than a million dollars — much of it from private sources that believed in our vision — to adapt the barn for its new use;
- move our headquarters to the new Center, and still be able to maintain close, daily ties with our partners in Donohoe Center right next door;
- grow our staff to include a full-time educator and an expanded outreach program that doubled the number of individuals we reached with the conservation message in the past two years alone.

And just as Donohoe Center was the physical symbol of a new way of thinking in 1994, so our new Center for Conservation Education is the symbolic "food" that will stimulate new kinds of creative "thought" in the years to come. Once again, we are excited by the prospects of what can be accomplished with this new resource. And, once again, we realize that its impact will probably be far greater than we can even begin to imagine.

In 2003, ideas of all kinds were regularly served up inside the Center's 120-year-old walls as thousands of people came here to share perspectives, explore ways of working together, and to set a long-range course for our county's resources.

The Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland County; the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association; the Earth Day Planning Committee; the Sewickley Creek, Turtle Creek and Jacobs Creek watershed associations; the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County; and the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County were just some of the groups that held their meetings here.

Individual citizens were drawn to the site as well,

and often casually dropped by to satisfy their curiosity as to what this new barn was all about. As they talked with staff, these individuals often revealed a real hunger for conservation, and affirmed the results of a recent county planning survey in which more than 80% of county residents rated conservation as a high priority for the future.

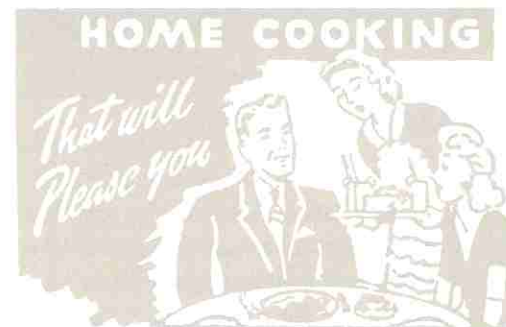
Word of our new Conservation Education Center also spread throughout the region, the state, and even across state lines. Last year, the Center was selected as a finalist in the prestigious Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards for its creative use of practical green technologies...was established as the regular meeting location for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Southwest Regional Roundtable...and drew a contingent of conservation district and extension representatives all the way from the state of Indiana to get our recipe for developing conservation programs.

Just what each of the thousands of individuals who visited the Center last year will do with the things they saw and learned here...how they will take this food for

thought and prepare it into their own dishes...remains to be seen. But if the past is any indication, the next decade should yield an incredibly bountiful harvest for conservation and the regional quality of life.

For more information contact:

Greg Phillips, District Manager
gmphillips2001@yahoo.com



2003 Milestones Achieved at the Center for Conservation Education

- We essentially completed the capital campaign for the Center, and moved to the next major phase of the project: the launching of the educational programs. Gifts from donors now began to be used to install a variety of conservation education demonstrations, to purchase materials and equipment, and to develop curriculum and programming.
- We officially recognized these new "Sustaining Donors" on a dedicated glass panel in the Center's foyer.
- We also completed the design of the glass foyer by installing four retro-style images depicting the District's major program areas: agriculture, forests and streams, planning, and sustainable communities.
- On the grounds around the Center, we served up a new 15-station interpretive trail, designed to get people thinking in new ways about storm-

water. Instead of letting rain water run into the storm sewer system, the trail suggests that people capture it in cisterns and rain barrels, or use it to create a rain garden or wildlife pond, and so turn something that has been treated as a liability into an asset. (See article on page 9.)

- Also around the building, things began to look much more finished after we planted some 25 deciduous and evergreen trees, mulched all the shrub beds, and seeded several lawn and grass areas.
- Inside the Center last year, we created a new, dedicated office for our education staff by finishing and equipping the Center's small loft.
- We also added a new kitchenette near the main meeting room. The new refrigerator, microwave, and sink allowed us to expand our hospitality and so attract both larger groups and more extensive meetings to the Center.

Awards Banquet

A feast is defined as an elaborate meal often accompanied by a ceremony or entertainment, or something that gives unusual or abundant pleasure. The Westmoreland Conservation District served up a little of both during its annual awards presentations for 2003.

For more information contact:

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llquadro@yahoo.com



Directors Bill Doney (far left) and Dorothy Stoner (far right) present the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to Judy and Earl Sadler.

Awards were presented in the following categories:

Conservation Volunteers

Linda Alworth-Arnold

Stormwater water rain garden, native plant landscaping

Michael Jupina

Landscaping near Education Center,

donation of shrubs & trees

Conservation Service Recognition

Tom Fitzgerald

Service to conservation district and PA Bureau of Forestry

Conservation Partner

Friendship Farms

Conservation practices, riparian plantings,

model agricultural partners

Conservation Farmer of the Year

Judy and Earl Sadler

Contributions to agriculture and conservation practices

Conservation Hall of Honor

Gilbert "Gib" Hutter

Honors large and long-term contributions to conservation and quality of life in Westmoreland County

Certificates were presented to the following groups and/or individuals:

Courthouse Plantings

Botanical Society of Westmoreland County, PA CleanWays, and Brush Creek 4-H Club

Westmoreland County

Public Works Maintenance Crew

Roxanne Stefanon, Mike Kootsourdiss and Ed Kohl

Eagle Scout Recognition

Sam Nicholson and Breon Kunkle

Projects in Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park

Staff Service Recognition

Karen Barnhart – 5 years

Jim Pillsbury – 15 years

Associate Director Service Recognition

William Kotsenas – 10 years

Robert Ackerman – 10 years

Jack Driscoll – 5 years

Director Service Recognition

J. Roy Houston – 35 years

Ronald Rohall – 10 years

P. Roy Kemerer – 15 years

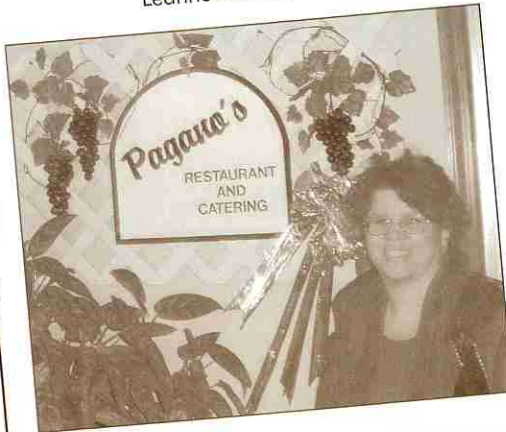
Partners and Clientele Interactions Chart

	2002	2003
Individuals from Outside Agencies'		
Visiting Donohoe Center/Education Center	3,044	3,353
Visitors to WCD office	585	687
Individuals Involved in Special Events	4,618	7,968
Individuals Attending WCD, WPCAMR Meetings	1,813	1,746
	10,060	13,754

Note: Overall increase for 2003 figures ~ 3,694

Food for Thought

Leanne Griffith, Conservation Education Coordinator

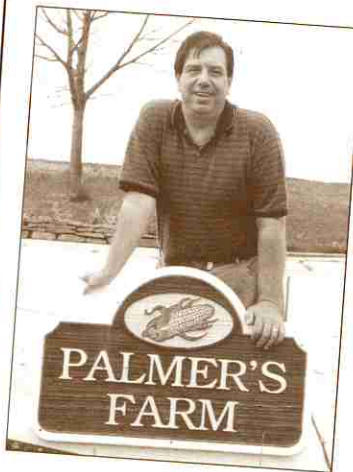


Pagano's Restaurant New Stanton, PA

My family enjoys the quiet, friendly family atmosphere at Pagano's Restaurant in New Stanton. Owners Carol and Lee Pagano have offered good Italian meals since taking over the restaurant from their aunt and uncle in the early 1990's. The food is cooked in a large sparkling, clean kitchen and the service is excellent.

Food for Thought

Greg Phillips, District Manager



Palmer's Farm Unity Township, PA

Palmer's is a multi-generation family farm just off Route 130 in Unity Township.

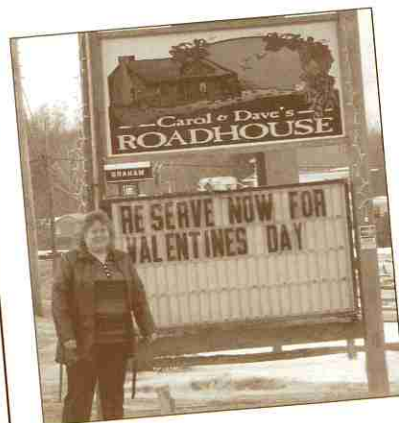
Flanked by deep green rows of growing produce, Palmer's on-farm stand has some of the freshest peppers, squash, and cukes around. Their just-picked flavor can't be beat!

My personal favorite from Palmer's fields is their sweet corn, which comes into harvest around the beginning of July and continues for weeks, thanks to these farmers' skill in choosing and cultivating a number of different, but equally delicious, varieties.

Last year's corn harvest was doubly memorable for me because it occurred during the same time that a lot of milestones were being achieved at the Center for Conservation Education.

Food for Thought

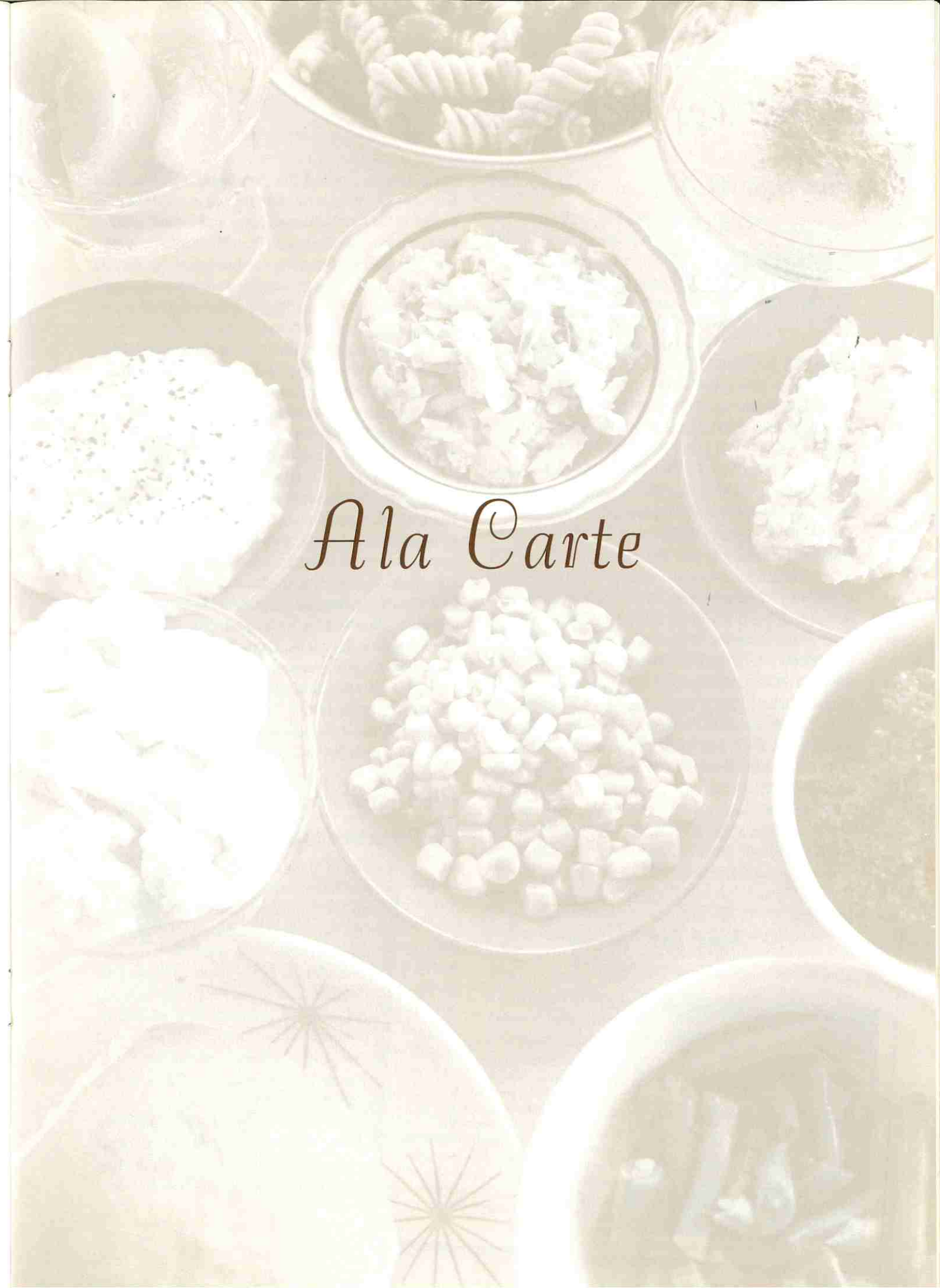
Kathy Fritz, Program Secretary



Carol & Dave's Roadhouse Ligonier, PA

My favorite menu item is Meatlover's Lasagna with a variety of meats and lots of cheeses, which comes with a side salad and homemade bread. Yum, Yum!

Ala Carte



Agency Reports

Five Star Trail



The Five Star Trail expansion, from Westmoreland County Community College to Armbrust, a distance of 1.1 miles, was the highlight of 2003. The new section was constructed by the Hempfield Township Department of Public Works, one of the municipal partners within the Five Star Trail Chapter. With the addition, the Five Star system is now 7.15 miles long, and additional construction is planned over the next several years.

Another focus of the Chapter during 2003 was to assemble the funding needed to complete the trail design and construction from Youngwood to Scottdale, a distance of approximately ten miles. Previously the Chapter understood that the Hempfield Township Municipal Authority would construct about three miles of trail from Youngwood to Hunker as they installed a new sewage trunk line in the fall and winter of 2003-04. After it was determined that the Authority would pay the County's Industrial Development Authority to use the right-of-way, instead of constructing the trail, the Chapter immediately began looking for additional funding to complete the project. Two additional grants were filed in 2003, one for \$80,000 from PA DCNR to construct a major bridge over Sewickley Creek in New Stanton and the other in the amount of \$370,000 to complete trail construction to Scottdale. These grants will add to the \$640,000 already earmarked for the project through the Transportation Enhancements program operated by PennDOT.

In the year ahead the Five Star Trail Board of Directors looks forward to hiring a professional consultant to develop design plans and engineering for the extension of the trail south from Hunker to Scottdale. The Hempfield Township Municipal Authority is currently in the midst of installing a new sewage trunk line from South Greensburg to Hunker. During this process they will tear up and then relay the trail from South Greensburg to Hillis Street in Youngwood. They are also widening the right-of-way from Hillis Street south to Hunker, which will reduce the cost of both trail design and construction.

The Five Star Trail is operated and managed by the Five Star Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation. Seven municipal partners, Greensburg, Hempfield Township, South and Southwest Greensburg, Youngwood, New Stanton, and Westmoreland County combine their resources with those of the 200 chapter members to operate the trail. Other key organizations that assist include the Westmoreland Conservation District and the Penn's Corner RC&D. Serving on the Chapter's Board of Directors during 2003 were: Chris Zundel, President; Dave Fait, Vice President; Greg Phillips, Treasurer; Duane Wolley, Secretary; Malcolm Sias, Sam Testa, Frank Lehman, Ed Hutchinson, James Roman, Dale Hassinger, William Brandt, Graham Davis, Jackie Timko, George Church, Nevin Ulery, and Jeff Parobeck.

PA CleanWays Westmoreland Co.



A smorgasbord of programs filled the year and we kept our plate piled high with interesting projects. It was a record year for presentations as we spoke to more than 8,400 students in schools and youth group gatherings; area residents at social and civic organization meetings; and at special events, such as Representative Jess Stairs' Senior Citizen Expo, Kids Day America, and the Westmoreland Fair.

Cleanups continued to be a main item on the menu as we joined with residents and other organizations in eliminating numerous dumpsites and heavily littered

areas. Our board of directors joined the growing list of road adopters as they took over the care of Mt. Pleasant Road from the Pitt Campus to the Wendover Village turn off. We had the pleasure of working with the DCNR, the staff of PA CleanWays Inc., Cambria County chapter of PA CleanWays, and local volunteers in a return to Laurel Ridge State Park. We also joined with the DEP, Fayette chapter, Westmoreland Municipal Authority employees, and local residents to clean an 8 mile stretch of the mighty Youghiogheny.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection provided an appetizer of backyard compost bins for our compost education program. Every resident attending a compost education program during the summer received a free compost bin.

A steady diet of phone calls requesting information about recycling opportunities convinced us that county residents are very interested in the environment. In January, we volunteered to take on the responsibility of gathering all the recycling information from the municipalities. The municipal officials were great to work with and enthusiastically investigated what recycling was being done in their jurisdictions. As a result, the recycling rate for Westmoreland County was a reported 29% as compared to the previous year's 3.8%.

In April, 13 youth groups participated in the Fugitive Tire Program and scoured the remote areas of the county for abandoned tires. They were hungry for the "reward" money and did a tremendous job, bringing in 3,154 tires for proper disposal. We thank Export Tire Service, Import Export Tire Company, Moore Tire Service, and Spino Tire Service, Inc. for their support of this program.

Our recycling events and paper-recycling program were well received and set some new standards. 2,103 tons of paper was collected and sent to pulp mills for processing into new paper products. Our 7 recycling events for hard to dispose items resulted in the collection of 5,278 tires, 355 lead acid batteries, 354 freon containing appliances, 209 non-freon appliances, and 124 cubic yards of scrap metal. Our thanks go to Dan's Tire and Salandro's Refuse, Inc. for their support at these events.

Dessert was the 7th annual household hazardous waste collection as residents brought in 39,712 pounds of HHW. That made a total of 326,915 pounds collected in those 7 events.

All in all it was a fun and successful year.

Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks & Recreation



The Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation operates and manages nine diversified parks and two trails maintained and pro-

grammed to provide visitors with a wide variety of benefits and experiences. The parks are open year round offering walking and biking trails, picnic and play areas, recreation programs, fishing areas, active sport facilities, as well as plenty of open fields, forests, and streams to discover. More importantly, the parks provide opportunities for living and learning, as well as avenues for pleasure, health and wellness. There are over 2,700 acres of land within easy access for all the residents of the County to enjoy.

The parks system is composed of four regional parks which include Twin Lakes, Mammoth, Northmoreland and Cedar Creek; four special use parks which are Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park, Sewickley Creek Wetlands, Bridgeport Dam, and Chestnut Ridge; and Historic Hannastown, a national historic site. Trails currently operating are the Five Star Trail and the Yough River Trail. The Coal and Coke Trail and the Westmoreland Heritage Trail are currently in the planning and construction phase. Trails are constructed and operated in conjunction with the Regional Trail Corporation and local trail chapters and Historic Hannastown is managed in partnership with the Westmoreland County Historical Society.

The Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) for Parks and Recreation works closely with the parks staff and advises and assists with projects, programs, and public relations. In 2003, CAB members included Dr. Edward Lewis, Chairman, Win Beidler, Dr. Barbara Ferrier, John Framel, Alex Graziani, David Hawk, Paul Heyworth, Nancy Kukovich, and Angela Rose-O'Brien.

Some of the highlights of 2003 that deserve special mention are as follows:

- Handicapped accessible walkways and a new play area were installed to complement Pavilion 14 at Mammoth Park, which was constructed in 2003.
- The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter was formed to acquire, construct, and manage the Trafford to Saltsburg trail corridor. Our municipal partners within the Chapter include

Food for Thought

Joanne Kitsko, Receptionist



Eat 'n Park Latrobe, PA

My favorite eatery is the Eat 'n Park Restaurant in the Mountain Laurel Plaza, Latrobe. Aside from the variety of menu choices, certain to please the palates of the very young to the young at heart, the deliciously prepared food is served in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. After enjoying your meal, you are sure to leave with a smile on your face and perhaps even a Smiley Cookie in hand!

Loyalhanna, Salem, and Penn Townships, Delmont and Trafford Boroughs, and the Municipalities of Murrysville and Monroeville. Also included in the partnership are the Turtle Creek Watershed Association and the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy. A trail brochure and map has been developed and thirty volunteer members have joined the Chapter to assist with the trail. Plans are to open part of the trail on the northern end in 2004.

- Land acquisitions were completed for both the Coal and Coke Trail, which will connect Scottsdale to Mount Pleasant, and the Twin Lakes Park to Crabtree trail corridor. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Coal and Coke Trail was held in October and plans are underway to begin construction in 2004. Our municipal and organization partners on this project include: East Huntingdon and Mount Pleasant Townships, Scottsdale and Mount Pleasant Boroughs, the Jacob's Creek Watershed Association and the Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce. A \$100,000 grant was received for the Coal and Coke Trail project from PA DCNR and an application was filed for \$50,500 in Transportation Enhancement funds from PennDOT.
- The Citizen's Advisory Board and the Parks staff hosted a very successful first annual March for Parks. The slogan was "Keeping Westmoreland County Green One Step at a Time" as funds were raised to support land acquisition for parks and trails and future parks projects. Over 100 marchers, 15 teams, and 70 sponsors combined to raise over \$8,000. Angela Rose-O'Brien, event chairperson, said, "I am overwhelmed with the positive and enthusiastic response that we received from our friends and neighbors in Westmoreland County on behalf of the March for Parks. Thank You!"
- The Gross Family donated 40 acres of land to the County Parks system that is located immediately adjacent to Twin Lakes Park. This gift will add to the green buffer around the park and preserve precious green space for the use and enjoyment of future generations.
- Overall park programs continue to attract very large numbers of County residents. Attendance at all park special events was near event capacities in 2003. Large special events such as Super Fun Day at Mammoth, the Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland, the August Fun Fest at Cedar Creek Park and the Arts and

Heritage festival at Twin Lakes all attracted between 7,500 and 20,000 people per day. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation has concentrated on developing family-oriented, low-cost events that offer a wide range of attractions for various age groups and the residents of the County have responded by attending in ever-increasing numbers.

- The Citizen's Advisory Board received a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from a private foundation to facilitate the acquisition of land for parks and trails.
- A pedestrian bridge was installed across Welty Run at the upper end of Mammoth Lake and a contract was awarded to complete the final phase of bricklaying on the Mammoth Lake walking trail.
- The first ever website for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation opened on In Westmoreland. The site was a joint venture between the Citizen's Advisory Board, the Bureau, and the In Westmoreland publication. The site contained information on all parks and programs. With the initiation of a new Westmoreland County site the Parks information has been upgraded, expanded, and relocated to the County site for 2004. The address for the new site is: www.co.westmoreland.pa.us (keyword "Parks").
- The Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Alliance was formed with the involvement of the CAB and staff. The Alliance is an organization of Recreation and Park professionals from across the County and their goal is to work together to expand Parks and Recreation services, share resources and information, and combine skills and resources to cosponsor facilities and programs where appropriate.

Farm Service Agency

USDA USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long term, resource conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance.

Producers can offer land for CRP general sign-up enrollment only during designated sign-up periods. Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain

conservation practices may be enrolled any time under the CRP continuous sign-up. In Westmoreland County most of the enrollment in the continuous CRP involves land near streams that can be used as a riparian buffer.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is an offshoot of the CRP. Like CRP, CREP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as a partnership among producers, state and federal governments, and private groups. FSA uses CRP funding to pay a percentage of the program's cost, while state or other non-federal sources provide the balance of the funds. CREP provides the participant with a cost-effective way to address environmental problems and meet regulatory requirements while supplementing farm income with significant rental and incentive payments.

Westmoreland County is included in the Ohio River Basin CREP that is expected to be available for enrollment in 2004. For more information on CRP and CREP contact the Westmoreland Farm Service Agency office in the Donohoe Center. Additional information is also available on FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service


USDA To ensure the continuation of the first-class quality food from our local farmers, we at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have provided assistance to individual land users. Our assistance is in the planning and application of conservation practices and systems. Primary customers are farmers and other rural land users desiring to install best management/conservation practices to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion, bettering their crops or livestock.

Just like the locally-grown strawberries you add to your ice cream, the WCD has garnished and accentuated NRCS in planning and implementing best management practices in the Whitethorn Creek, Sewickley Creek and Kiski-Conemaugh River Watersheds. These practices, funded by Growing Greener Grants, included: spring developments; fencing; protection of heavy use areas; animal trails and walkways; diversions; and livestock stream crossings.

The 2002 Farm Bill delegated NRCS to administer

Food for Thought

Sandy Dzendzel, Administrative Secretary



Tastyland Greensburg, PA

I have plenty of favorite restaurants, but I have only one favorite ice cream place, and that's Tastyland on Route 66 in Greensburg owned by Bill and Mary Kuhns for the past 28 years. I've been going there for many years with my husband, Terry and my mom (and with anyone else I can get), enjoying their wide variety of weekly soft serve ice cream flavors along with their french vanilla yogurt, which are all to die for! And for those interested in food, they serve freshly prepared food that is absolutely delicious. It's definitely two "tasty" treats in one!

the Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP), which provides financial assistance to land users for various conservation practices. Riparian buffer zones and grass waterways were established by land users using the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. In several cases, USDA programs and Growing Greener funds were used together to accomplish additional practice installation.

Bobbi Bailey coordinated Pennsylvania's first Youth Grazing Evaluation Contest for 4-H and FFA members. The event, held during the first week of May, attracted 10 competing teams and provided financial nourishment to winning members. Funds were donated by private business, individuals and numerous conservation districts across the state. Like the turkey at Thanksgiving, this event is now annually planned as a statewide event sponsored by Pennsylvania's Grazing Partnership Effort.

Bailey was also selected as President of the Keystone Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society, a professional organization that promotes the science and art of good land use management.

NRCS continues to be actively involved in reducing the adverse environmental impacts of abandoned mine drainage. We have participated in the Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition activities. Technical assistance was provided to the Lower Saxman Run project, which successfully captured the Lower Saxman discharge, conveyed the water under a road and constructed an anoxic limestone drain and wet well. This is in support of a St. Vincent's College Growing Greener project to research and develop alternate mine drainage treatment methods. We also successfully completed a Cultural Resources investigation on a potential treatment site in Latrobe.

We were pleased to have Ben Logan employed as a

Student Trainee during the summer. Ben, a Penn State student concentrating on Agronomy, was especially helpful during the EQIP sign-up and evaluation.

Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area

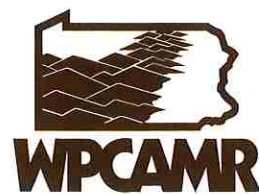


The Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) is a nine-county area in southwestern Pennsylvania which includes Westmoreland County. It is a nonprofit public-private partnership involving local community members working voluntarily on a multi-county basis to resolve issues and develop opportunities for rural development. It is sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and the conservation district in each county. Penn's Corner was authorized for operation by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in December, 1975. Technical and financial assistance for locally led RC&D projects is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies. The NRCS also provides a full-time coordinator, Bobbi Bailey, and a program assistant, Vivian Bernardo, to provide day-to-day assistance. Nevin Ulery retired at the end of 2003 after 42 years of valuable service to the agency.

Some of the most recent Westmoreland County projects assisted by Penn's Corner are the Brinkerton Abandoned Mine Drainage Remediation Project,

Switchgrass for Bioenergy, Project Grass Intensive Grazing Program, and Alternative Wastewater Management Projects. Penn's Corner also completed the process of revitalizing its Area Plan. With the assistance and leadership of Paul Heyworth, council and trust member, Penn's Corner revised the Plan to redefine its mission and to set goals and objectives for the next five to ten years.

Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



The Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) has spent another year on its mission to sweeten the sour brew known as Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) that leaves a bad taste in the streams and rivers throughout Pennsylvania.

We know we shouldn't put all of our eggs in one basket. That's why we've heaped our plate with a variety of projects, all aimed at improving the environment. For instance, we've been busy planning our annual statewide conference on abandoned mine reclamation coming up in June. Its theme... "The Alphabet Soup of AMD" (*really*) emphasizes the power of making partnerships as a recipe for success in reclamation efforts.

We believe in the *Chinese Proverb* "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and he'll eat forever." We continue to assist watershed associations throughout western PA in a variety of ways so they will be able to sustain their organizations and their ongoing conservation and reclamation efforts. We are also an active member of the Abandoned Mine Drainage Education Coalition, a group focused on developing curriculum about abandoned mine reclamation that adheres to new state standards.

Thirty watershed organizations were able to partake in our annual feast, otherwise known as the Regional Watershed Support Initiative, a small grants program helping the groups with projects, activities, and equipment that might otherwise be difficult to fund.

We're hungry to find ways to keep federal funding for abandoned mine reclamation coming to

Pennsylvania. WPCAMR has been working with conservation minded groups and agencies to ensure that the federal legislation responsible for funding mine reclamation projects is reauthorized and modified to better meet Pennsylvania's needs.

AmeriCorps member and environmental educator for WPCAMR, Sara Tumulty, offered a tasty smorgasbord of options in becoming involved with reclamation efforts to local decision makers whose communities have been impacted by AMD. She heads an initiative geared at bringing mid-level decision makers such as township supervisors to the table.

Nothing beats a good glass of water. But WPCAMR's Deb Simko thinks on a bigger scale. She measures her interest in water in the billions of gallons, and she wants it all to be good. Deb has headed efforts to give folks in the headwaters of the Ohio River a bigger voice in water issues. She has recently been named to the Water Resources Planning Committee for the Ohio basin.

Too many things on the menu... that's the problem a statewide group known as the Orphan Mine Task Force has faced. The menu in this case is made up of current and future challenges facing the environment related to mining. The number of items on the menu continues to grow, and the group is trying to figure out who'll pick up the tab.

Cleaning up the mess after the feast is nobody's idea of a good time. Part of the mess is gob piles, the mountains of coal refuse that dot Pennsylvania's landscape that resulted from the feeding frenzy of the coal mining era. Talk about not wanting to come clean! WPCAMR is continuing its work with partners on strategies aimed at cleaning up this challenging mess.

While the old adage of "too many cooks spoil the broth" may ring true in some situations, the opposite is true for abandoned mine reclamation. In this case, the cooks are the partners such as the Westmoreland Conservation District that come together to find the right recipe that ultimately makes lemonade from lemons.

Department of Environmental Protection



Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission

The 11-member State Conservation Commission (SCC) oversees and supports conservation efforts in Pennsylvania through county conservation districts. In addition to oversight of district contracts and agreements with federal and state agencies, the Commission administers two water pollution prevention programs — the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program, and the Dirt & Gravel Road Program. The Commission,

with direct support from the state Departments of Agriculture (PDA) and Environmental Protection (DEP), and other conservation agencies and organizations, also administers and supports administrative enhancement programs, such as the Leadership Development Program, and educational and professional development programs, such as the Agricultural Conservation Technician Boot Camp, to increase the capacity of conservation districts to implement programs locally. The following are brief highlights of programs and services offered by the Commission to conservation districts from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003.

Nutrient Management Program

The Commission's Nutrient Management Program helps assure water pollution prevention from livestock and poultry operations through proper planning and management of stored and applied crop nutrients. The Commission administers the program at the state level and conservation districts manage the program locally. The program relies on the PDA for certification and financial aid program management, the USDA NRCS for best management practice (BMP) design and installation, and Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences Cooperative Extension for educational and research support. DEP provides administrative support. Dan Griffith, Nutrient Management/Agricultural Conservation technician administers this program for the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Dirt & Gravel Road Program

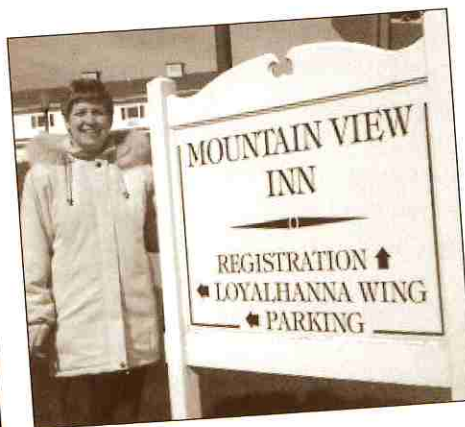
The Dirt & Gravel Road Program is a county level grant program providing funds for pollution prevention projects conducted by municipalities and state agencies owning dirt or gravel roads. The program is administered locally by conservation districts working with a Quality Assurance Board consisting of district representatives and representatives of the PA Fish and Boat Commission and NRCS. The Commission provides statewide oversight and administration of the program, including direct county program support through the Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies. The program is administered locally in Westmoreland County by Mike Barrick, Watershed Specialist.

Leadership Development

The "Building for Tomorrow" Leadership Development Program is a partnership effort of the SCC, DEP, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, NRCS, Penn State Cooperative Extension and Pennsylvania's 66 conservation districts. An 11-member Committee oversees the program and DEP Conservation Program Specialist Joanne Nardone is the program's coordinator. Lorrie Quadro, assistant manager for the Westmoreland Conservation District,

Food for Thought

Karen Barnhart, Financial Secretary



Mountain View Inn Greensburg, PA

When I think of a nice dinner for two I see candlelight, a table by the fireplace or one with a view, soothing piano music playing in the background, and a delicious piece of prime rib or some great seafood. End it all with a piece of chocolate peanut butter pie and a cup of coffee. That is exactly what you get when dining at Mountain View Inn, one of my favorite places to eat in Westmoreland County.

oversees finances for the Strategic Planning Grants which are available to all conservation districts.

Envirothon

The Envirothon Program in Pennsylvania is managed by an Envirothon board of directors, and is supported by the Commission, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, DEP, DCNR, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, USDA NRCS, individual conservation districts, school districts, private companies, and non-profit organizations. Commission support of the state Envirothon Program is through its representatives on the Envirothon board of directors. The Westmoreland County Envirothon is run by Tony Quadro, Program Specialist/Forester.



Conservation Partnership Accomplishments

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 181 conservation district staff in Fiscal-Year 2002-2003. This included \$3.1 million from DEP and \$125,000 allocated by the PDA to further support conservation district manager salaries. The Conservation District Fund Allocation Program allows for a 50% cost share of district managers and technicians, up to the maximum limits established by the State Conservation Commission. A similar budget of \$3,225,000 for fiscal-year 2003-2004 will support the cost sharing of salaries of 185 conservation district staff.

E-Communications

Over the past year, the Department of Environmental Protection has continued to improve and enhance communications between districts and other agencies. The Division of Conservation Districts and Nutrient Management completed the first implementation phase of its E-commerce project to develop an online tracking, reporting, and invoicing system which will save time and money, and result in more timely reimbursements to districts for delegated and contracted programs. The implementation of the E-commerce for the CDFAP, Chapter 102, and Biosolids Programs was completed September 30, 2003 and has been used by 31 districts. We are now starting to work on suggested enhancements to this initial set of programs. Simultaneously we are starting to work on adding the next set of programs, which are scheduled for implementation June 30, 2005. Feedback on the first set of implemented programs has been positive.

Floodplain Monitoring Project

In 2003, three conservation districts implemented the Floodplain Monitoring Program under contracts with the Department of Community & Economic Development. Under this project, districts educated municipalities about their responsibility to maintain floodplain ordinances and regulate development in floodplains. Conservation districts conducted one community assistance visit and 37 community assistance contacts with municipalities.

Joint Annual Conference

The 2003 Joint Annual Conference of the State Conservation Commission and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) was held July 20-22 at the Ramada Inn in Altoona. The theme of the conference was "Come Together Right Now! Promoting Better Working Relationships." The 2004 Joint Annual Conference is scheduled for July 25-28 at the Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport Hotel in Allegheny County.

Leadership Development Committee

In 2003, the Leadership Development Program provided the following efforts and opportunities for conservation districts:

- The Committee was able to continue the District Team Visits special project and provided team visits to another eight conservation districts. To-date, 30 conservation district teams have received visits to assist in recognizing the districts' accomplishments, strengths and development opportunities.
- Seven regional training sessions entitled "Teaming for Tomorrow" were offered in conjunction with the PACD regional meetings. 204 individuals attended the sessions, with 122 of those being district directors or associate directors from 55 conservation districts.
- In order to encourage districts to engage in strategic planning, the Committee offered grants to cover up to \$1,000 in approved expenses related to the development and distribution of a complete strategic business plan. Nine districts took advantage of the grants in 2003, bringing the total number of districts with strategic plans to 22.
- The third annual District Management Summit was held June 11-13, 2003. Forty-four district staff in management positions representing 40 conservation districts attended the three-day session.
- The 2003 Conservation District Staff Conference was held October 11-13, 2003 in State College with 124 district staff from 39 conservation districts in attendance.

- A workshop entitled "Teams – Back to Basics" was presented at the SCC/PACD Joint Annual Conference on July 21, 2003. The workshop touched on subjects such as planning, goals, and communications.
- The Leadership Development Lending Library was maintained and promoted for use by conservation districts and their partners.
- Extensive edits were made to the Directors Handbook. The new handbook was distributed at the beginning of 2004.

Other 2003 Highlights & Accomplishments


This year, the federal/state partnership added \$200 million to expand CREP into 22 northern tier counties,

more than doubling the 20 Lower Susquehanna River and Potomac River basins counties that made up the program. The federal government was also petitioned to include the 16 counties from the Ohio River Basin in the program.

The SCC updated its auditing requirements for districts to include GASB-34. Training on the new audit standards was offered to districts to help them work with their auditors on preparing audits appropriate to meet their needs and at a reasonable cost.

Updated Right to Know procedures and forms were developed and provided to districts. These procedures, or equivalent procedures developed at the county level, are to be followed in responding to public requests for information under the Right to Know Law.

Food for Thought
Christie Rhoades, Secretary



Dairy Land
West Newton, PA

I chose Dairy Land because it was the first place I ever worked. I love to eat there because of the friendly atmosphere and the delicious homemade food.



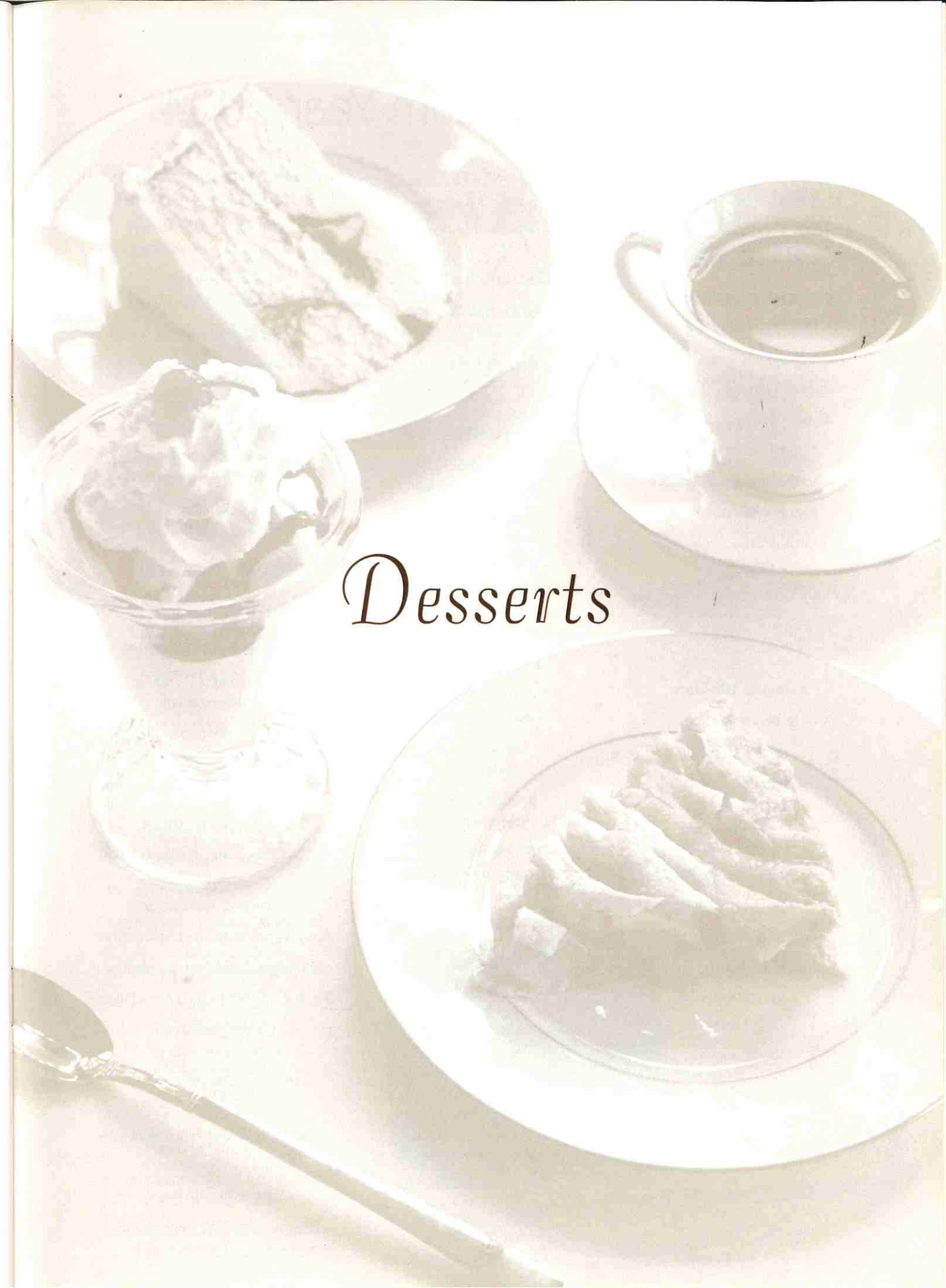
WCD Financial Statement

Concise Statement of Financial Position — Combined Funds
December 31, 2003

Assets	
Cash.....	\$140,320
General Fixed Assets.....	12,262
Total.....	\$152,582
Liabilities and Fund Balance	
Current Liabilities.....	\$13,571
Long-Term Debt.....	-
Net Assets.....	139,011
Total.....	\$152,582

Concise Statement of Activities — Combined Funds
Year Ended December 31, 2003

Unrestricted Net Assets	
Support	
Westmoreland County.....	\$746,329
State Grants.....	151,831
Other Revenue.....	48,154
Fees.....	30,878
Farmland Preservation.....	60
WPCAMR.....	72,963
Interest Income.....	790
Special Projects.....	515,089
	\$1,566,094
Expenditures	
Program Services.....	1,260,380
Management and General.....	269,875
Fundraising.....	1,559
	\$1,531,814
Excess (Deficiency)-Current.....	34,280
Net Assets - Beginning Balance.....	104,731
Net Assets - End of Year.....	\$139,011



Desserts

Conservation Team Year 2004



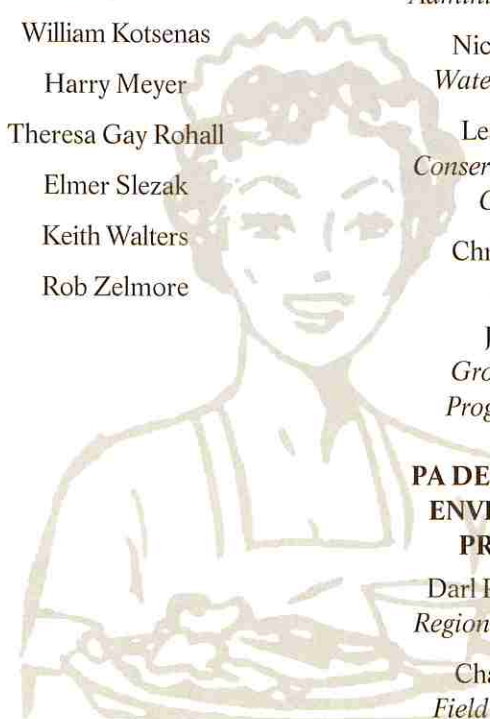
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 Lorrie L. Quadro,
Assistant District Manager
 Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.,
Program Specialist/Forester
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Watershed Specialist
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Erosion Control Specialist
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District Conservationist
 Larry Stokum,
Soil Technician
 Rob Knight,
Soil Scientist
 Bobbi Bailey,
Penn's Corner
RC&D Coordinator
 Laura Agnew,
Soil Conservationist
 Miladys N Irizarry-Rivera,
Soil Scientist

COUNTY PARTNERS

Westmoreland County
 Commissioners
 Department of Public Works
 Department of Planning
 & Development
 Penn State Cooperative
 Extension Service
 Bureau of Parks and Recreation

LOCAL PARTNERS

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association
 Sewickley Creek
 Watershed Association
 Loyalhanna Watershed Association
 Mountain Watershed Association
 Turtle Creek Watershed Association
 Kiski-Conemaugh
 River Basin Alliance
 Pucketa/Chartiers Creek
 Watershed Association
 Kiskiminetas Watershed Association
 Laurel Valley Greenway
 Yough River Council
 Westmoreland PA Conservancy

Westmoreland County
 Farm Bureau
 Westmoreland Woodlands
 Improvement Association
 PA CleanWays
 of Westmoreland County

Penn's Corner Charitable Trust
 Chestnut Ridge Conservancy
 Westmoreland Conservancy
 Saint Vincent College
 Environmental Education Center

Powdermill Nature Reserve
 Five Star Trail Chapter –
 Regional Trail Corporation
 Smart Growth Partnership
 of Westmoreland County

Botanical Society of
 Westmoreland County

STATE PARTNERS

Department of
 Environmental Protection
 Department of Agriculture
 Department of Conservation
 and Natural Resources
 Pennsylvania Fish and
 Boat Commission
 Pennsylvania Game Commission
 State Conservation Commission

Pennsylvania Association
 of Conservation Districts
 Pennsylvania Department
 of Transportation

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 Conservation Service
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 Debra Simko,
Watershed Coordinator
 Sara Tumulty,
Environmental Coordinator

Food for Thought

Mike Barrick, Watershed Specialist



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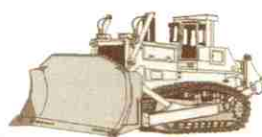
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Special Thanks

We thank the following purveyors of fine foods in Westmoreland County for their cooperation in producing this annual report.



- Brady's Restaurant
- Carol & Dave's Roadhouse
- Dairyland
- Eat 'n Park, Latrobe
- Fatz Zackel's Pasta & Fish House
- Foggy Mountain Lodge
- Friendship Farms
- Hutter's Dairy
- Icon's Restaurant
- King's Family Restaurant
- Leo's Pub & Grille
- Mountain View Inn
- Pagano's Restaurant
- Palmer's Farm
- Sharky's Cafe
- Tastyland



Programs

- 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 & 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 conservation. If you are interested in a conservation subject not included here, we can help by referring you to the appropriate agency for more information.

Food for Thought

Nicki Foremsky, District/Extension Water Quality Agent



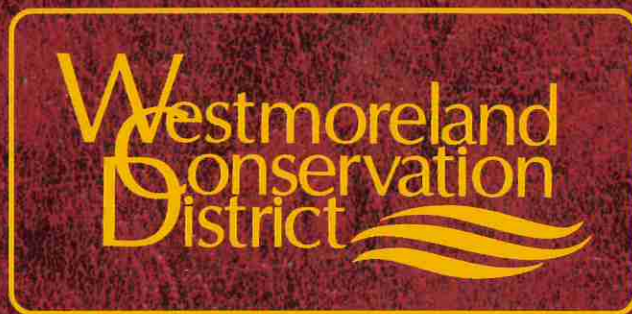
Sharky's Cafe Latrobe, PA

Sharky's is my favorite restaurant because the food is excellent and the atmosphere is friendly. You can relax near the fish tank, shoot a game of pool, or have fun playing air hockey after your meal. Sharky's is a great place to eat, drink, and have a good time!



We're sitting 'round a table,
and talking face to face.
We're sitting 'round a table,
not lost in cyber space.
Conservation people
get much done over food.
Each one of us has favorite spots
to put us in the mood.
Lasagna, pizza, giant fish,
cole slaw and chocolate shakes,
Enjoy and smile,
but don't forget...
"Please waitress, separate checks."

— Mark Jackson



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