

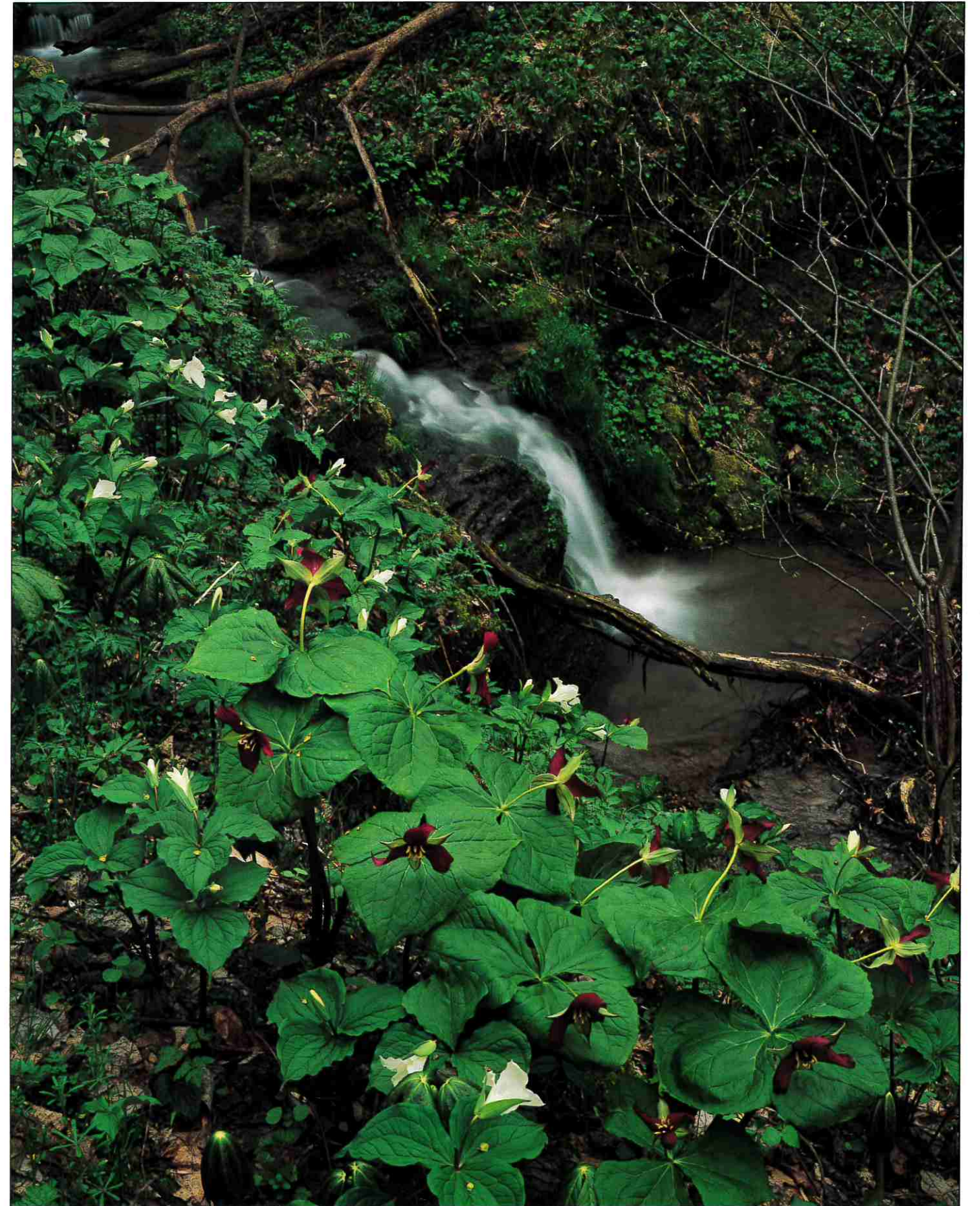
*Welcome to the Show!*



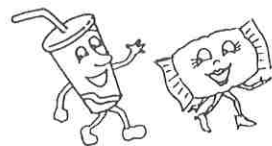
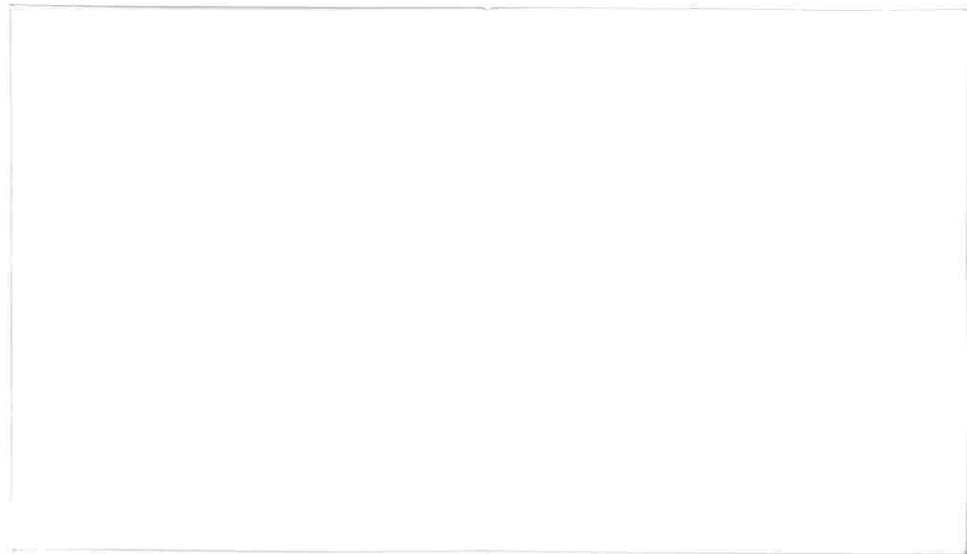
Westmoreland  
Conservation  
District 

ANNUAL REPORT 1995

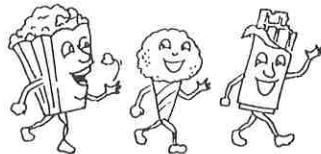
*Relax and Enjoy...*



Puketa Creek, Westmoreland County - Photo by Stephen Simpson



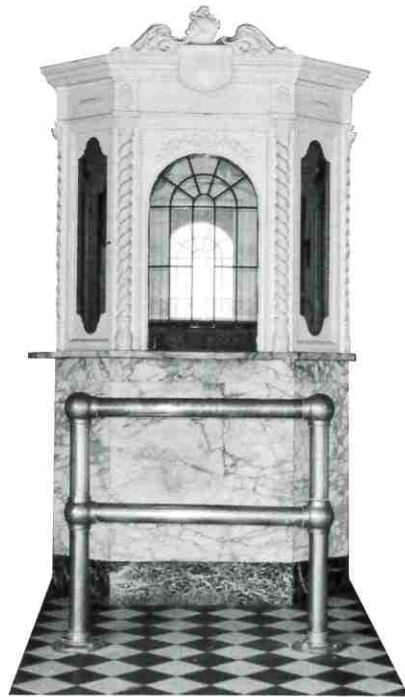
## Visit Our Concession Stand



The following are just some of the many programs the Westmoreland Conservation District advances with the support of individuals, organizations, and agencies equally committed to the wise use of our natural resources.

- Agricultural Conservation Planning and Application
- Arboretum
- Backyard Composting
- Conservation Education
- Corridor Planning
- Stream Encroachments
- Envirothon
- Farmland Preservation
- Geographic Information System
- Land Reclamation

- Natural Resource Inventories
- Nutrient Management
- Recreation Enhancements
- Recycling
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Soil Survey
- Stormwater Management
- "Waste-to-wealth" Beneficial Use Development
- Water Conservation
- Woodlot Management



## We Now Present Our Feature Film

The time is 1995. The setting is Westmoreland County. The plot is conservation. The cast of characters are the volunteers, professionals, cooperators, supporters and customers of the Westmoreland Conservation District - the only local unit of government responsible for coordinating the conservation of natural resources.

The producers of this, our 46th Annual Report, have used paper instead of film to capture our accomplishments in movie version. We think it's a style you will enjoy reading. And although we're very serious about conservation, we believe it should also be fun and exciting.

We are confident in our mission - the conservation, restoration, and proper use of our natural resources and in our philosophy - that the best way to advance the cause of conservation is to help local citizens become better environmental stewards.

This report places great emphasis on our original "pilots" - like *"Productive Farms"* - 1949, *"Clean Streams/Stable Soils"* - 1971, *"Healthy Woodlands"* - 1986. These original programs continue to get high ratings, but we're working on some brand new sequels. The script has been generated by our grassroots involvement and is outlined in our Long Range Plan. These new sequels are *"Water Resources," "Sustainable Communities"* and *"A Shared Vision."* Look for these attractions coming to a neighborhood near you.

We hope you enjoy our movie version of 1995. Sit back, relax, get yourself a bag of popcorn. If you like what you see and read, we know where there's an agent who can get you an audition with a conservation organization that needs your help. The pay might not be great - but the rewards are tremendous. We predict stardom for you and the rich rewards of thoughtful natural resource conservation for all of us.

-- Westmoreland Conservation District Staff



Greg Phillips, District Manager



"Gort, klatu, barota, nikto!"  
The words that saved Earth from destruction.  
Movie:  
"The Day The Earth Stood Still"

### GOOD MOVIE



#### Star Wars

Young Luke Skywalker masters "the force" and fights evil Darth Vader. Starring Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher. Directed by George Lucas.

## District Leaps Into 21st Century

by Tony Quadro, Program Specialist/Forester

Our Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computerized, high-tech inventory of natural resources. Having computer access to resource information will help municipal planners, water authorities, developers, and private citizens make sound land use decisions.

We hired a part-time computer scientist, Tom Okonak, Latrobe, to work on GIS data for the Monastery Run Project. Tom entered and organized additional map files.

The purchase of a *"Star Wars"* technology, top-of-the-line Hewlett Packard inkjet plotter will enable us to produce high quality maps of the county's roads, streams, geology, soils, topography, and other features. By the year *"2001"* we should have land use and property line data for the entire county.

We were successful in coordinating a GIS users group meeting. Representatives from Penn State University, county Farmland Preservation, Department of Planning, Somerset Conservation District, and Saint Vincent College discussed water resources on the Laurel Ridge, farmland preservation efforts, and the mine water cleanup at Monastery Run.

Much work was completed on the Laurel Ridge GIS project in '95. Data added to the system included structural contours, geologic formations, stream designations and subwatershed management units. We will continue to work with the Land Analysis Lab at Penn State University to ensure that the system is user-friendly.

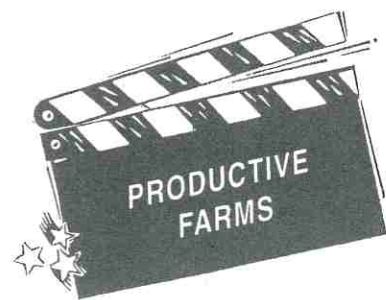
In 1996, Alex Dado, Soil Scientist, will be working to update and modernize a valuable but dated resource, the county Soil Survey. This includes digitizing the maps and revising the field data for at least two United States Geologic Survey topographic maps. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing technical assistance and many other valuable resources to assist with this project.

### GOOD MOVIE



#### 2001

Futuristic look at computer intelligence run amok in outer space. Directed by Stanley Kubrick.



### GOOD MOVIE



#### Field Of Dreams

1989

Iowa farmer Costner hears a "voice" telling him if he builds a baseball field, it will bring the immortal Shoeless Joe Jackson and other baseball legends back from the dead. Warmhearted glimpse of Americana for children of all ages. Starring Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, Ray Liotta, James Earl Jones, Burt Lancaster. Directed by Phil Alden Robinson.

## No Technical Difficulties Here — Providing Assistance to District Programs

by Rich Binns, Technical Assistant

"Build it and they will come," was the message in *Field of Dreams*, but the message to Westmoreland County from the Farmland Preservation Program is "preserve it and they will stay." Recent efforts by the district's Technical Assistant to assess which areas should stay have resulted in the Important Agricultural Areas map. Through aerial photography provided by the Farm Service Agency, large areas of farming activity were identified by open fields, pastures, and the occasional *Animal House*, these areas were, in turn, plotted and displayed on a large-scale topographic map. Future use of this map in the ranking system of the Farmland Preservation Program, in conjunction with the recently completed comprehensive planning map of Westmoreland County's preserved farms and open space, will help determine which regions of the county are most important for the preservation of the county's agricultural industry.

Another direction technical assistance has been provided is *North by Northwest* of Greensburg, the location of the Beaver Run Watershed. In cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection, a database and series of maps of the Beaver Run area were created, depicting nine mine discharge sites, and the property owners impacted by those discharges. Due to the fact water does not flow *Every Which Way But Loose*, no monkey business was involved in identifying the parcels affected by the discharge, which are all along Thorn Run, and include adjacent parcels and landowners down slope from the discharges. With this information, conservation-minded groups can work toward improving the water quality of this important watershed.

*"It's the land, Katie Scarlett.  
It's the only thing that matters.  
It's the only thing that lasts!"*

Scarlett O'Hara's father's advice  
Movie:  
David O. Selznick's "Gone With The Wind"

## Preservation Efforts Move Forward

by Betty Reefer, Farmland Preservation Specialist

During 1995, the Westmoreland County Commissioners boosted easement purchase funds ten percent for the Farmland Preservation Program. The total county funds available reached \$110,000 with an additional \$18,620 in private contributions. State funds for Westmoreland reached an all-time high of \$833,486.

Four farms were selected for easement purchase with the 1995 allocation. To date, 1,608.5 acres are protected countywide, with an additional 228 acres awaiting approval by the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

In March of 1995, county farmland preservation administrators from across the state formed the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association. The non-profit organization is dedicated to promoting and enhancing the interests of agricultural land preservation in Pennsylvania. The organization will work to develop and strengthen the skills and resources of the organization's members.

Changes took place in the PA Bureau of Farmland Protection office, with Ray Pickering being appointed director for the state program. Pickering is the former Chester County Farmland Preservation administrator. Pennsylvania has earned the status of the second most successful land preservation program in the nation. Under Pickering's direction, we hope to see Pennsylvania become number one!

At the county level, we welcomed James Matthews, Donegal Township, as a new director of the Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Matthews replaced Rapheala Stoner who completed her term of three years with the Board.

A long-term project moved forward with the help of Richard Binns, technical assistant to the County Program, with his work on mapping the Agricultural Security Areas and protected lands throughout Westmoreland County. This information will become data for our Geographic Information System, as well as being an important planning tool for the identification of our county's important agricultural areas.

### GOOD MOVIE



#### North By Northwest

1959

Case of mistaken identity has Madison Avenue ad executive Cary Grant on the lam, fleeing evil spies and police in a cross-country odyssey to clear himself. One of Alfred Hitchcock's greatest. Starring Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Madison. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock.



## What About Bob?

Screenplay by Bob Ventorini  
Directed by Mark Killar, Western Pennsylvania Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR)  
Starring the WPCAMR Traveling Thespians

**ACT 1, SCENE 1:** *(Bob's first psychotherapy session with the distinguished Dr. Mark Killar).*

**Bob:** *(Nervous - lying on a large black leather sofa)* I have this problem, Doctor. It's been troubling me since I was born near the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. My first encounter was truly traumatic. I'll never forget that beautiful summer day my father and I fished from the rocky Maryland shoreline. I felt a tug. I thought I had my first fish. I reeled in frantically - only to pull in a clump of seaweed!

**Dr. Killar:** *(Writing notes furiously)* Hmmmmmm... very interesting. Please continue, Bob.

**Bob:** Trying to console me, Dad promised that things would be better when we moved to western Pennsylvania. He spoke of clean rivers and clear running streams. My heart was set on brook trout and smallmouth bass. However, nothing prepared me for the anguish I felt as I looked down into the rusty orange waters of the Kiskiminetas River. Will these anxieties plague me for the rest of my life, Doctor. Am I deranged? What's wrong with me? Doctor? Can you help me?

**Dr. Killar:** *(Analyzing)* Bob, my expert diagnosis is that you suffer from a severe case of Chronic Cerebral Nonpoint Source Pollution Syndrome. In fact, your condition is so serious that I have no choice but to institutionalize you. Alex - bring the straight jacket!

**ACT 2, SCENE 1:** *After spending many years in treatment at Penn State University and receiving mega doses of aquatic ecology and wetland treatment research, a more sedated Bob returns to Dr. Killar for a follow-up session.*

**Dr. Killar:** *(With notepad ready)* Bob, please inform me. How are you feeling these days? *(Snickers)*

**Bob:** Well Doctor, I am now out in the real world ready to conquer abandoned mine drainage discharges. As the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation's new Watershed Coordinator, I can help clean up the streams that were polluted decades ago.

**Dr. Killar:** *(Writing notes furiously)* Hmmmmmm... very interesting. Please continue, Bob.

**Bob:** Doctor, I am ready to work with individuals and local organizations to remediate these water quality problems. I can identify and respond to their mine reclamation needs. I can oversee mine drainage remediation projects to include design feasibility, project budgets, implementation and construction schedules, and monitoring activities.



Left to right:  
Bob Ventorini, WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator  
Mark Killar, WPCAMR Regional Coordinator

**Dr. Killar:** *(Smiling)* Bob, I am convinced that your new position is the best therapy for you. Please continue this peculiar treatment and see me in eight weeks.

**Bob:** Anything you say, Doctor!

**ACT 3, SCENE 1:** *Eight weeks later, more psychotherapy with Dr. Killar.*

**Dr. Killar:** *(Concerned)* Bob, several watershed associations located within Westmoreland County are continuing their efforts to clean up local streams. Members of the Loyalhanna Creek, Sewickley Creek, Turtle Creek, and Mountain watershed associations, in cooperation with the District, WPCAMR, colleges and universities, industries, and numerous other concerned groups and citizens are in full swing with their reclamation efforts. Are you familiar with any of their efforts?

**Bob:** Why do you ask, Doctor?

**Dr. Killar:** I believe that they may improve your condition.

**Bob:** Actually, Doctor, the Monastery Run project in the Loyalhanna Watershed received word that their grant application for EPA funds was approved. Construction of several created wetlands will begin in 1996.

**Dr. Killar:** *(Writing notes furiously)* Hmmmm... very interesting. Please continue, Bob.

**Bob:** The Sewickley Creek Watershed Association is also moving ahead with their plans to install two separate semi-passive treatment systems. These systems will address large flow discharges from abandoned deep mines. A successful project like this could result in economic treatment of mine discharges usually considered too large to treat, while greatly reducing the area required for treatment!

**Dr. Killar:** *(Writing notes even more furiously)* Hmmmm... very interesting. Please continue, Bob. *(Pencil breaks).*

**Bob:** The Turtle Creek and Mountain watershed associations are also both working diligently to develop treatment plans within their watersheds. Tributaries of these streams are being studied for discharge sites to target for remediation which will provide the biggest 'bang for their buck'!

**Dr. Killar:** *(Enraged)* That reminds me, Bob. You still haven't paid your bill! Do you have any medical insurance? What about it, Bob?

**Bob:** I'm sailing!!

**THE END**

### GOOD MOVIE

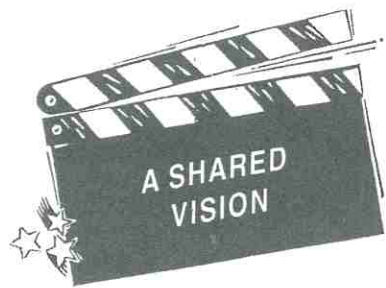
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#### What About Bob?

1991

Hyperactive patient (Bill Murray) can't live without his psychiatrist (Richard Dreyfuss). He crashes the shrink's vacation home and becomes a member of the family.

A manic comedy of ill-manners.  
Directed by Frank Oz.



Nevin Ulery, Penn's Corner RC&D Coordinator

## Directing Dynamo Does Documentary

by Nevin Ulery, Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development

It's time to run *"Barefoot in the Park,"* according to famed producer/director Nevin Ulery.

The dynamo reminds moviegoers that a long-standing goal of the Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, otherwise known as the movie mecca of southwestern Pennsylvania, has been to increase the amount and availability of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the nine-county area.

The current joint effort by Penn's Corner in cooperation with the Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) and Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation is proof that this commitment is still quite strong.

Over the past several months a small group of dedicated actors and their agency agents have been developing plots and subplots surrounding a dramatic rebirth of Westmoreland County's 50-acre Nature Park, two miles east of Greensburg.

So far, the scene includes approval by the Westmoreland County Commissioners to rename the park as Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park in honor of the former WCD associate director; survey of a new trail access from the Donohoe Center by AmeriCorps members; and contact with Ann's heirs regarding the acquisition of adjacent property to expand the park. Also, more than \$24,000 has been raised for these improvements from "theater angels" -- private, corporate and foundation sources -- and is being held by the Penn's Corner Conservancy.

### GOOD MOVIE



#### Barefoot In The Park

1967

Light comedy about newlyweds

(Jane Fonda and

Robert Redford) and their adjustments to married life.

Directed by Gene Saks.

## Forester Oversees "The Big Trees"

by Tony Quadro, Program Specialist/Forester

By far the biggest accomplishment in the forestry program in 1995 was the creation of an "urban forest" at Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters located in Donohoe Center. The newly planted 140-tree arboretum serves to demonstrate various uses of shade and flowering tree cultivars. These uses include a windbreak and screen, wildlife benefits, shade, beautification, and energy conservation. There are 76 different varieties of trees including Kentucky coffeetree, dawn redwood, tree lilac, pagodatree, and bald cypress.

Two grants were obtained to finance the project. The first grant was an "America the Beautiful" grant from the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council in the amount of \$2,000. It was used to purchase the first 20 trees. These trees were planted by a volunteer crew late in 1994.

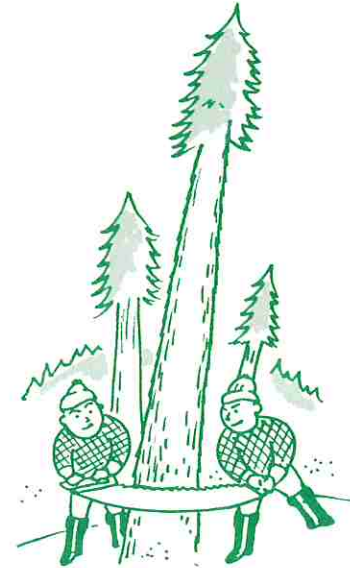
The bulk of the trees (120) were purchased and planted in the spring of 1995, with the help of a second grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration in the amount of \$12,350. The trees were purchased from and planted by Wilkinsons', Kings and Kim's Nurseries and planted by Graham Treescapes.

The hot, dry summer of '95 put a lot of stress on the newly planted trees. But the volunteer tree-care team was up to the task of helping them survive. Several times during the summer months, the trees had to be mulched and watered. A team effort saved all but two trees.

With the help of a student intern from St. Vincent College, Maurizio Bellucci, a database of landowners owning more than 25 acres has been compiled. The 3,000-name database has already been used to mail out Westmoreland Woodlands Association (WWA) membership brochures (also designed by Bellucci). As a direct result of this mailing, the WWA membership has doubled. The District plans to work with the WWA and other agencies such as the PA Bureau of Forestry and Penn State Cooperative Extension to use the list for direct mailings of forestry literature and workshop notices.

More than 30 loggers were in attendance at the Forestry And Conservation Together (FACT) workshop to learn about best management practices for erosion control during timber harvesting operations. Loggers learned how to prepare erosion-control plans and how to apply for stream crossing permits. They prepared a plan for an actual site to be harvested on Western Pennsylvania Conservancy property. The timber harvesters also visited and reviewed stabilization measures on a retired logging site.

Other accomplishments include one PA Stewardship Plan completed, 4,000 seedlings distributed, 2,500 "supertubes" sold, and 5 tree farms inspected.



### GOOD MOVIE



#### The Big Trees

1952

In turn-of-century California,

lumbermen (led by

Kirk Douglas) battle

homesteaders for possession

of the redwood forests.

Also starring

Patrice Wymore,

Edgar Buchanan.

Directed by Felix Feist.

**GOOD MOVIE**



**The Untouchables**

1987

Exciting tale of g-man Eliot Ness, his deputies, and their struggle to bring Al Capone to justice. Starring Kevin Costner, Sean Connery (Oscar winner), and Robert DeNiro.

**GOOD MOVIE**



**The Good Earth**

1937

A Chinese farming family is devastated by greed in this faithful adaptation of Pearl S. Buck's classic novel. Locust attack scene features excellent special effects. Starring Paul Muni, Luise Rainer, Walter Connolly, Jessie Ralph, Keye Luke. Directed by Sidney Franklin.



From left to right: Wes Gordon, District Conservationist; Larry Stokum, Soil Technician

### Untouchables Conserve Resources

Directed by Wes Gordon, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), otherwise known as "the feds," provides technical assistance to landusers who conserve the nation's soil and water resources. Our tradition has been to deliver services to the public in partnership with local conservation districts.

Westmoreland County landusers benefit from the conservation operations programs which provide technical assistance to farmers, rural landusers and other noble tillers and lovers of "The Good Earth" who install a variety of conservation practices. In 1995, we assisted individual landusers with the planning and installation of spring developments, grassed waterways, fencing for intensive grazing systems, contour strip cropping, water control structures and other soil and water conserving projects. This assistance is usually on-site, one-on-one technical help according to the needs of the customer. Management practices which conserve and better use natural systems like rotational grazing systems, and reduced tillage farming are being utilized as a result of technical assistance. Conservation plans were prepared and/or revised for farm operators participating in USDA programs.

NRCS has maintained an active presence in the Monastery Run Water Quality Improvement Project at St. Vincent College near Latrobe. We have been seeking technical and financial assistance for this project, which will remediate mine water in a passive treatment wetland system. A resource plan and environmental assessment was prepared and presented at the annual symposium in November.

During the recent meltdown, the towns of Everson and Scottdale were spared from major flooding. The hero and star? The Jacobs Creek Watershed Project which is nearing completion! During the last two years Scottdale and Everson have witnessed construction activity as channel modifications to Stauffer Run and Jacobs Creek occur. This final phase of Jacobs Creek Watershed Project is now close to completion. Both technical and financial assistance is being provided to local government sponsors through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

## CONSERVATION EDUCATION

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

by Tony Quadro, Program Specialist/Forester

The District (cast) is about to launch into a comprehensive environmental education initiative. The Envirothon, our main educational effort, has been before the cameras for ten years. But over that same period, we have heard loud and clear the clamor for the District to get more involved with environmental education. Environmental education is the key to better resource conservation and management.

This year for the first time in the history of the District, we will hire a part-time communication and development specialist. This position will be responsible for the development of a public outreach program, working with curriculum coordinators at county schools to integrate more environmental education into their objectives, and coordinating workshops for both students and the general public.

Grant writing for various projects and workshops will also be a priority. To get things started, the District has applied for a \$10,000 grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection to take an environmental education assessment of Westmoreland County and publish the findings in a county environmental education resource directory. This funding would also be used to hold a workshop for teachers on how best to use the directory. The District hopes to determine how best to focus its energies in education and avoid duplication of effort. We seek to facilitate a collaborative effort to provide a holistic, interdisciplinary, lifelong learning approach to environmental education. The idea is to create an education chain reaction, where the recipients become educators, creating a meaningful impact on community values and the quality of life.



## Pennsylvania's Environmental Drama Rolling

by Terry Kromel, Environmental Education Specialist, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks Westmoreland Conservation District Environmental Education Task Force.

Environmental Education (EE) carries top ratings among Pennsylvania's state agencies because they realize an informed citizenry is critical to fostering stewardship and the protection of our natural resources. Each of the state's natural resource agencies are committed to this task, and the Department of Education is an important member of the production team, helping teachers and administrators develop

effective "scripts" - (curriculum), as the environmental drama unfolds.

The Bureau of State Parks, now part of the new Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, recently added eight positions to its environmental education staff. In addition to adding these positions, the Bureau is writing environmental education and interpretative plans for

Continued on page 2

# Westmoreland Conservation District

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BILL KOTSENAS

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BOB VENTORINI, *WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator*

HOLLY DUGAN, *Technician/Conservation Planner*

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RICH BINNS, *Technical Assistant*

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## PA Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land and Water Conservation:

HARRY MEYER, *Field Representative*

DARL ROSENQUEST, *Regional Soils Engineer*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

WESLEY M. GORDON, *District Conservationist*

LARRY STOKUM, *Soil Technician*

## Pennsylvania's Environmental... Continued from page 1

every state park and environmental education center. These plans outline the direction the program will take, prioritize the program focus and list steps to developing the site's interpretive facilities, i.e., wayside exhibits, publications, teaching facilities, etc. This project is a statewide, phased implementation plan with costs and priorities.

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is telling resource users how to take advantage of the additional opportunities available to them. They are encouraging non-participants to become aware of the diversity and quality of these resources and become more involved and use the commission to facilitate action.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission offers Project Wild workshops for teachers. It is designed for grades K-12, offering a series of hands-on, interdisciplinary activities that encourage students to grow from awareness through knowledge to responsible, decision-making about people, wildlife and the environment. The commission coordinates the Wild Action Grants Program which offers money to improve habitat on school grounds and incorporates the project into the curriculum. In addition, the six regional offices house a Wildlife Education Supervisor/Specialist who presents programs in the schools.

The Department of Education continues to work with school districts to integrate environmental education into the curriculum. Department officials would like to see high quality state assessment tests that deal with science technology, the environment, and ecology.

This plot is simple. Education lies at the base of the attitudes and values that shape our quality of life. The actors, today's parents, teachers, administrators and their supporters, will determine the shape of Pennsylvania's environmental future.

## CRITICS' CORNER

Dear WCD Staff, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for lending us your services for our first Westmoreland County Intermediate Unit Student Forum meeting. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated, and the Forum members felt welcomed by your pleasant demeanor and they were inspired by your knowledge of the land surrounding us.  
*Christine Johns, Student Forum Chairperson*

Dear Greg, I just want to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for all their assistance and guidance. Kathleen A. Fritz, Kelly M. Sofaly and James Pillsbury responded to any and all of our questions promptly and in a professional manner. Would you please extend my personal thanks to them for their exceptional service.  
*Robert W. Amore*



## WCD Honors Frank Skacel, Sr.

by Kathy Fritz, E&S Administrator

Frank Skacel, Sr. retired in 1995 after serving as a District Director for 26 years. He served as Board Treasurer since 1975. Frank and his son Frank Jr., a veterinarian, own and operate a 130-acre grain and beef farm outside of Derry. They have installed a number of conservation practices on their farm over the years including stripcropping systems, subsurface drains, drop boxes, grassed waterways and a farm pond. Even though Frank has retired from the Board, he still attends District meetings as an Associate Director. We wish Frank well and thank him for his many years of service!

## LANDMARKS

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MARK JACKSON  
STEPHANIE PATRICK  
*Graphic Design*

## The Powdermill Saga

by Theresa Gay Rohall, Education Coordinator, Powdermill Nature Reserve

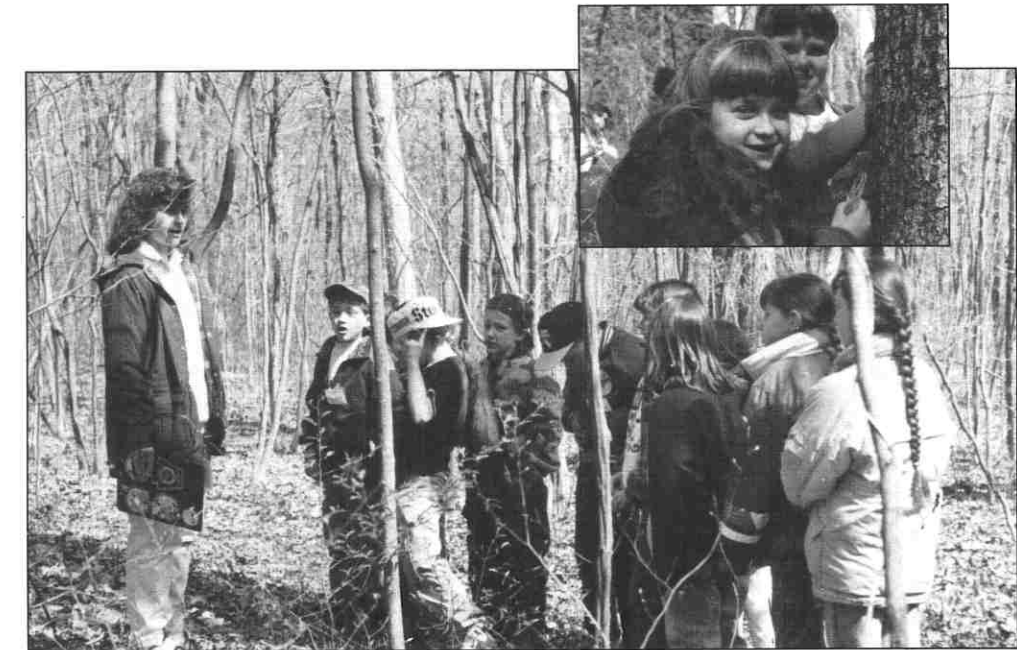
The film saga scene is set: Nestled in the heart of the Ligonier Valley, only a half-hour's scenic drive from Greensburg, Powdermill Nature Reserve offers more than 2,200 acres of woodlands, streams, open fields, ponds, and thickets. For forty years, the reserve has served as a research and environmental education center for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

The leading man appears: In the early 1950s, Dr. M. Graham Netting, museum director, had the vision to establish a field station for long-term studies of natural populations - their life histories, behaviors, and ecological relationships.

The original cast: With the generous support of General and Mrs. Richard K. Mellon and Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Scaife, the reserve is named for Powdermill Run which traverses the property, opened in 1956. Research and education activities began almost immediately.

The director and producers take charge: Today major research programs in mammalian ecology and physiology are conducted by resident director, Dr. Joseph F. Merritt. Bird-banders, Robert C. Leberman and Robert Mulvihill, take advantage of Powdermill's wide variety of habitats to study longevity and migratory behavior of wild bird populations.

The script: Education programs have



Students enjoy one of the many guided nature hikes available at Powdermill Nature Reserve.

always been an important part of Powdermill. With the generous support of the Thomas H. Nimick Jr. family, construction of the Florence Lockhart Nimick Nature Center was completed in 1983. A 100-seat classroom was added in 1993, and Powdermill's educational vista expanded. Education coordinator Theresa Gay Rohall, and teacher/naturalists Mary Staley, Kathy Penrod, Jerry Ashman, and Terri Springer are creative stage hands working with a cast of hundreds of area students and adults seeking to enrich their lives.

Available productions: All-day or half-

day field trips are staged for a minimal fee. These "environmental movies" run from 90 minutes to two hours, with audiences up to 30 students. Free nature matinees are offered January through October on Sunday afternoons.

Summer theater: For children ages 5-12 summer day camp at Powdermill means finding bugs, tramping through the woods and sniffing the forest smells ... exploring, learning and having fun in the bargain. Call Powdermill Nature Reserve at (412) 593-6105 for a summary of special programs.

## Representatives Attend 50th Anniversary Meeting

by Lorrie Stouffer, Assistant District Manager

A distinguished and talented cast representing the Westmoreland Conservation District played a role in "Viva Las Vegas," otherwise known as the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting held February 4-7, 1996 at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Highlights of the meeting were a conservation expo, town hall meetings, workshops, an awards luncheon and a concluding banquet. The Westmoreland contingent consisted of Roy Houston, Greg Phillips, Lorrie and Dave Stouffer, and Ron and Theresa Rohall. The group also toured Hoover Dam, Red Rocks Canyon, and Valley of Fire State Park.

## GOOD MOVIE

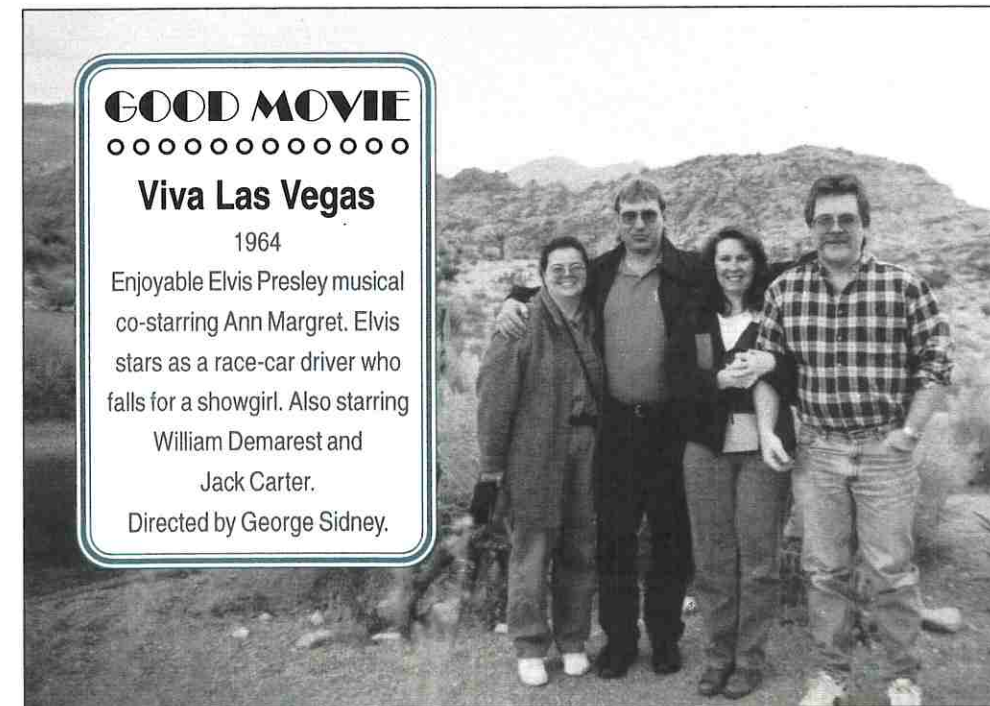
oooooooooooo

### Viva Las Vegas

1964

Enjoyable Elvis Presley musical co-starring Ann Margret. Elvis stars as a race-car driver who falls for a showgirl. Also starring William Demarest and Jack Carter.

Directed by George Sidney.



Left to right: Theresa and Ron Rohall and Lorrie and Dave Stouffer enjoy a tour of Red Rocks Canyon near Las Vegas, Nevada



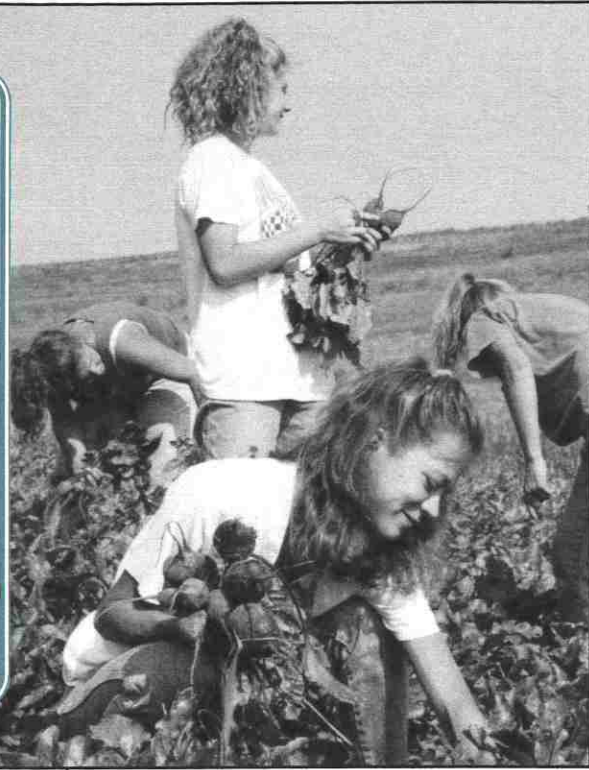
**GOOD MOVIE**



**Places In The Heart**

1984

Inspiring drama about a Depression-era Texas woman (Sally Field), who must learn to fend for herself on her cotton farm when her husband is killed. Featuring strong support from John Malkovich and Danny Glover. Oscars for Best Actress and Screenplay. Directed by Robert Benton.



Picking beets at Schramm Farms, Harrison City.

## Salute To Our Farmers

by Betty Reefer, Farmland Preservation Specialist

*"Cultivators of the Earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country...by the most lasting bonds."*

-Thomas Jefferson

As we enter another year of growth and change for our communities and towns, I want to ask our readers to step back and consider the importance of our hard-working citizens who maintain our "Places in the Heart" - the county's productive farmlands. Too many people don't understand where their bread and butter is coming from, or how much work went into bringing it to market.

The average farmer works seven days a week, with no holidays off. Many times, the work day is twelve hours long. He must be a farmer, a laborer, a maintenance man, a machinist, a bookkeeper, and a salesman, among many other things. He does it, in part, out of his love for the land. In Westmoreland County, 169,200 acres are farmland, but it is the smallest percentage of the population that works the land. Westmoreland continues to produce 2.3% of Pennsylvania's agriculture products.

Our county farmers supply a variety of products, offered directly or indirectly. Dairy products are distributed through Turner's Dairy farms, United Dairy, Hutter's Family Dairy, Milk Marketing, Inc., and others. PA ranks #1 in mushroom production, with two large mushroom producers located in Derry Township: Agostinone's Mushrooms and Blue Ridge Mushrooms. They both are sold under their names and through warehouse distributors.

Twenty years ago, Westmoreland County had several hundred egg producers, according to Paul Ecker of Ecker Farms. Today, Ecker's (home to 20,000+ chickens) and Greenawalt Farms are the only large egg producers in the county. Ecker's eggs are sold "as eggs," and some are processed and sold in liquid or frozen form to bakeries and noodle makers. Schramm's Produce in Penn Township, and Hillside Orchards and Sand Hill Berry Farms, in Mt. Pleasant, provide seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables. Most seasonal products such as fresh sweet corn, tomatoes, apples, pumpkins, just to name a few, are products of many local farmers. Distant supplies cannot match the freshness of local farm produce.

Pound's Turkey Farm in Allegheny

Township produces and processes fresh turkeys and a variety of turkey products. Turkey jerky is worth a trip to their market, as is the selection of marinated turkey steaks and ground turkey.

McBroom's turkey from the Latrobe area is also available at local markets, and at their store located on Rt. 30 east. A number of beef cattle producers throughout the county provide a portion of the red meat found in your local market.

Grain producers distribute their corn, wheat, and oats to other local farmers, and many sell their wheat and corn to distributors like Buttermore Farms in East Huntingdon Twp. From there, the grain is sold to Archer Daniels Midland or Con Agra near Highspire, PA, wholesale distributors of grain products.

On your next trip to the grocers, check the label of the products you buy. Look for products produced here and within the Commonwealth. Take pride in purchasing these products. Not only will you be helping strengthen the economy of the Commonwealth, you will be helping your neighbors, and continuing to keep Agriculture the number one industry in Westmoreland County and Pennsylvania.

### PENNSYLVANIA FARM STATISTICS -NATIONAL STANDINGS-

- #1 Mushroom Production
- #3 Production of Corn Silage
- #4 Grapes and Tart Cherries,
- #4 Milk Production
- #4 Number of Milk Cows
- #4 Production of Sheep & Lambs
- #5 Apple & Pear production
- #5 Tomatoes for processing
- #6 Snap beans for processing
- #7 Tomato production for fresh market
- #8 Production of cattle for meat
- #9 Strawberries
- #10 Hog production

Agriculture exports from Pennsylvania during FY Oct. 1993-Sept. 1994 valued at \$430.6 million.

#### Number of Farms\* in Pennsylvania

1965-85,000 1994-51,000

#### Total Acres of Land in Farms

1965-11,300,000 1994-7,800,000

\*Farm definition - any place where \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold during the year.

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 Cosmos ♦ Cinema Paradiso ♦ Das Boot ♦ The General  
 Man of Aran ♦ Brothers' ♦ A Festival of Claymation  
 Juno & The Paycock ♦ Beyond the Mind's Eye  
 Meteorites ♦ Lust in ♦ The Tune ♦ Nova  
 The Hidden Fortress ♦ Babylon ♦ Matewan  
 Belle de Jour ♦ Sa ♦ Weird Amsterdam  
 The Plow That Broke ♦ Tam Hakim, Hoppit  
 Vernon Florida ♦ Nanook of the North  
 Cousteau Odyssey ♦ s ♦ Ciao! Manhattan  
 Raise the Red Lantern ♦ arhol's Bad ♦ College  
 Sky Above Mud Below ♦ Louisiana Story ♦ Picture  
 Bride ♦ Fantasia ♦ Native La ♦ Atomic Café ♦ Diva ♦ Our  
 Daily Bread ♦ Gallipoli ♦ The Silk Road ♦ Power and the Land ♦ Incredible  
 Manitoba Animation ♦ Amarcord ♦ The Day After Trinity ♦ The River ♦ Battleship  
 Potempkin ♦ A Death in the West ♦ Civilization ♦ Like Water For Chocolate  
 Swimming to Cambodia ♦ Foreign Correspondent ♦ Steamboat Bill, Jr. ♦ Brazil  
 Broadway Danny Rose ♦ Jason and the Argonauts ♦ Silent Running ♦ El Mariachi



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**GOOD MOVIE**



**A Star Is Born**

1976

Dynamic remake of Hollywood couple - her career on the rise and his falling apart. Starring Barbara Streisand and Kris Kristofferson.



**A Star Is Born**

by Holly Dugan, Technician / Conservation Planner

Holly Dugan is one of the conservation district's rising stars, although her title doesn't have great dramatic appeal or ticket office draw -- Technician/Conservation Planner.

Her stage involves Westmoreland County and a portion of Fayette, within the Middle Youghiogheny River Watershed. Her funding angels want her to set up demonstration projects on farms within this stage. In her leading role, she is also available to assist with conservation plans, and to provide information about Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act.

Off-stage, rumor has it that the Nittany Lions are Holly's favorite football team, which goes hand-in-hand with attending Penn State University. In the College of Agricultural Sciences, she majored in Environmental Resource Management, with an emphasis in soils. This rookie starlet has had a lot of dirt in her life -- at Penn State she was on the Soil Judging Team. Outside of work she likes to go biking, horseback riding, and participate in other outdoor activities. Her favorite movie is a tie between "Toy Story" and "The Last of the Mohicans."

**Director Appointments And Elections**

by Lori Whalen, Secretary / Receptionist

Westmoreland County Commissioners recently appointed Dorothy Stoner and Conrad Donovan to the Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors. They will each serve a four-year term. Dorothy operates a 120-acre dairy farm in Latrobe, and has served on the Board since early 1995. Connie was appointed in January of this year and is a beef farmer from Derry. He also serves as staff accountant for Sarp & Company, an accounting firm in Greensburg.

Officers were elected at the January District meeting with the following positions being held for 1996: J. Roy Houston, Chairman; P. Graydon Long, Vice Chairman; Ron Rohall, Treasurer; and P. Roy Kemerer, Secretary.



**KATHY'S KIDS KORNER- Environmental Movies**

by Kathy Fritz

G N I R P S T X E N E M O C G  
R G N I C N O D T S O H G Z O  
A Y V O U T A F I R E L A N D  
P S F I E L D O F D R E A M S  
E B E T A G S N E V A E H J L  
S T S E V R A H R E T T I B I  
O W H T R O N R A F L O O D T  
F L Y W I T H T H E H A W K T  
W W T H A I G O B H G U H C L  
R T O C D L E I F E H T P J E  
A S E V A W R E B M A S D R A  
T G T H E G O O D E A R T H C  
H E A R T L A N D V H K F C R  
Y B V J R E V I R E H T G T E

- a. Amber Waves
- b. Bitter Harvest
- c. Bog
- d. Come Next Spring
- e. Far North
- f. Field of Dreams
- g. Flood
- h. Fly With The Hawk
- i. Ghostdancing
- j. Giant
- k. Gods Little Acre
- l. Grapes of Wrath
- m. Heartland
- n. Heavens Gate
- o. Out Of Ireland
- p. The Big Trees
- q. The Field
- r. The Good Earth
- s. The River

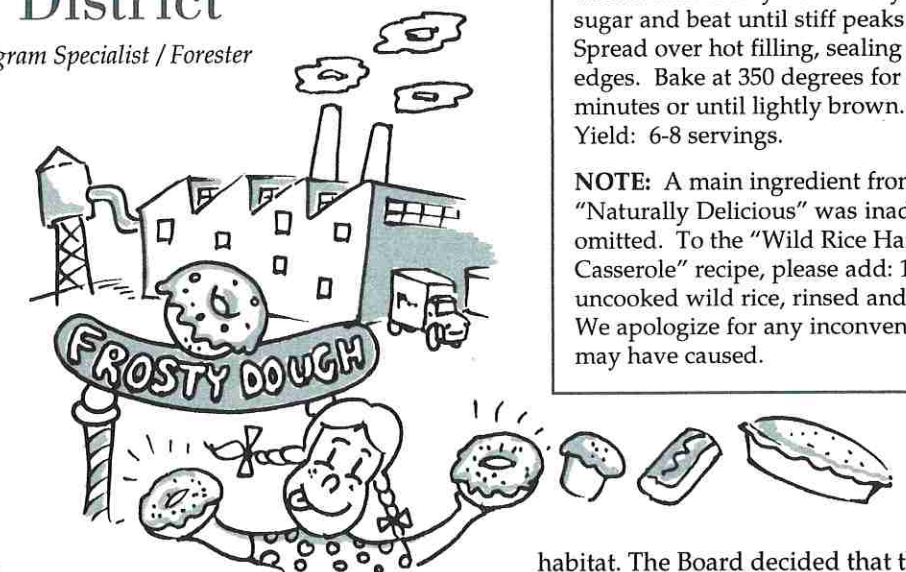
**Student Board Of Directors "Steer" District**

by Tony Quadro, Program Specialist / Forester

Recently, a group of more than 60 Westmoreland County high school students met to make a decision as to whether to allow a large new industrial complex, the Frosty Dough Corporation, to build on a site which is now a large farm. The farm is located in an area deemed as an agricultural security area, and has prime farmland soil as well as valuable wetland habitat.

This scenario is a fictitious one, but certainly not out of the realm of possibilities for this county. The Westmoreland County Student Forum, a group composed of members of student governments of county high schools, held a mock "District Meeting." They elected a ten-member board of directors, along with ten associate board members. The other students formed groups representing agriculture, jobs, government/industrial development, and environmental protection.

After hearing presentations from Mr. James Pillsbury, an engineer representing Frosty Dough (in reality the District's



Hydraulic Engineer), and the various interest groups, the "District Board" voted the project down. However, it was the general consensus of the group that Mr. Pillsbury should come back to a future meeting to present a more comprehensive environmental protection package. Frosty Dough should also investigate locating in an existing abandoned industrial site to save the prime farmland and wetland



NATURALLY  
**Delicious**

By Lori Whalen

**Shamrock Pie**

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 3 egg yolks, lightly beaten
- 1/4 c. lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 and 1/2 tsp. grated lemon peel
- 5-6 drops green food coloring
- 1 pastry shell (9-inch), baked

**MERINGUE:**

- 3 egg whites
- 1/3 c. sugar

Combine sugar, cornstarch and water in a saucepan; stir until smooth. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir a small amount into egg yolks; return all to the pan. Cook and stir 1 minute. Remove from heat; stir in lemon juice, butter, lemon peel and food coloring until smooth. Pour into crust. For meringue, beat egg whites until foamy. Gradually add sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Spread over hot filling, sealing to the edges. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes or until lightly brown. Cool. Yield: 6-8 servings.

**NOTE:** A main ingredient from the last "Naturally Delicious" was inadvertently omitted. To the "Wild Rice Harvest Casserole" recipe, please add: 1 cup uncooked wild rice, rinsed and drained. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

habitat. The Board decided that the jobs Frosty Dough would provide the county are much needed, and an effort should be made to help them find a suitable location.

After the meeting, the students discussed the complex nature of such decisions. They were glad that agencies such as the District, Farmland Preservation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service were around to provide information and support to local officials making important landuse decisions.

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# Reel-To-Real News 'n Notes



## Theater Party

A Donohoe Center Open House, held in August, sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District and Sportsman Specialties, was a great success. Approximately 250 people stopped by to learn about District and agency programs and received tours of the building and grounds.

## Audience Grows

The number of people the District serves continues to increase. In 1995, 604 individuals visited our office. Donohoe Center meeting rooms continued to see a rise in usage - in the past year, almost 2,000 meetings were held.

## Breakfast Served

The annual legislative breakfast, held in October, was well attended. The focus was to show legislators how we put state funding to use, and to get to know each other. Discussions were held on District activities and programs. Representative Tom Tangretti led a discussion on the state budget process. The meeting concluded with a walk around Donohoe Center grounds to show how we use outdoor space for education purposes.

## Meetings Abound

To provide a local perspective from area farmers and to fairly distribute funds from a grant, the Nutrient Management Advisory Board has met twice. Production agriculture representatives are Adam Derr, *Dawson*; Terry Marry, *West Newton*; and John Wigle, *Latrobe*. Their input helps to ensure that the project will be practical for farmers.

## Display Unveiled

The new Nutrient Management/conservation display was unveiled at the 1995 Crop Fair, sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension. Stop by to see this eye-catching display currently playing at Donohoe Center!

You can advertise your business in **LANDMARKS**, the official newsletter of the Westmoreland Conservation District with a distribution of more than 4,000 per issue! Call Lorrie Stouffer at 837-5271 today!



## Old Home Manor Update

by Kathleen Fritz, E&S Administrator

The Old Home Manor abandoned mine reclamation project in Ligonier and Fairfield Townships is moving right along. The design for the project has been completed and the next step is securing easement agreements with each of the property owners. The project will then go out for bid. Soon landowners will hear the hum of construction vehicles reclaiming a site that has been a thorn in their side for a very long time.

## GOOD MOVIE



### The Asphalt Jungle

1950

Starring Sterling Hayden, James Whitmore, and Marilyn Monroe. A gang of jewel thieves plans a detailed heist that goes very wrong. Directed by John Huston.

## The State's Asphalt Jungle

By: Lorrie Stouffer, Assistant District Manager

Subtitle: *The old gang will never be the same*  
Credits: *The state's legislature*  
Regional gang leader: *Harry Meyer*



Listen up guys. Let's get serious: 1995 was a year filled with changes for the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the Bureau of Land and Water Conservation (BLWC). James Seif was confirmed as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), and assumed the role of SCC chairman. House Bill 1400 split DER, forming the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. A provision of this Bill located SCC between the DEP and the Department of Agriculture.

Full utilization of the \$2.225 million for the limited cost share employment of 153 conservation district staff was accomplished. District managers and technicians were cost shared at the 50% rate, in addition to providing administrative financial support. The Westmoreland Conservation District provided support to the Conservation District Funding Task Force in an effort to increase this allocation.

## Washington Goes To Mr. Smith

by Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer

Making regulations relevant to county residents and ensuring that the benefits of stormwater management plans are realized requires our Hydraulic Engineer to conduct field work. One hundred ten erosion control inspections and 129 other site visits helped to ensure the proper construction of facilities, and helped to resolve problems such as flooding and stream erosion for residents of our county. Whether it is an industrial giant or a five-unit apartment building, the design of a stormwater control system requires careful calculations by engineers. In 1995, our hydraulic engineer gave technical advice to engineers nearly 100 times, either by phone or in person, often with calculator and pen in hand. The engineer also helped 99 individuals with permit applications to work in or near a stream. This hands-on, in-the-field approach ensures that what takes place in the office on paper will take place in the field as well, demonstrating tangible results to taxpayers.



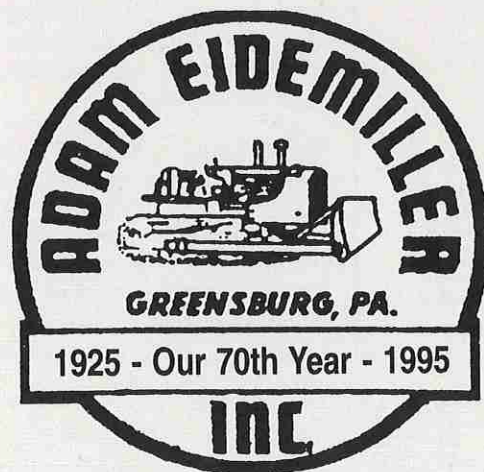
## GOOD MOVIE



### Mr. Smith Goes To Washington

1939

Jimmy Stewart delivers an extraordinary performance as an idealistic young man appointed U.S. Senator who, with help of savvy assistant (Jean Arthur), exposes corruption in his home state. Oscar for best original story. Directed by Frank Capra.



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## Erosion And Sedimentation Personnel Apply "True Grit" To Program

by Kelly Sofaly, Compliance Officer

People are becoming more aware of land use activities around them. In 1995, the District received many inquiries about proposed developments. Most people who call are opposed to a proposed development. Others want the development to have as little impact as possible. We can't stop development, and we don't want to. We do work with developers and their engineers to make sure that the sites comply with erosion control laws and stormwater management requirements.

In 1995, we started to pay more attention to trends in development. As in previous years, the western part of the county saw the most activity. We had fewer plans for Murrysville last year. More plans than usual were submitted for Hempfield and Unity Townships, while Penn Township and North Huntingdon maintained the same level of activity. Inspections in Washington and Donegal Townships increased, but we did not get many plans for these two municipalities.

Jim Pillsbury, Kelly Sofaly, Tony Quadro and Kathy Fritz took advantage of training; we attended sessions on erosion control, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting, stormwater management, landuse issues, and the stream crossing program that we now administer. We also offered training sessions - a dirt road maintenance workshop for municipal road departments and a permit workshop for engineers and developers. All that we learn and teach goes toward compliance in the field.

### GOOD MOVIE

#### True Grit

1969

A one-eyed, drunken old federal marshal (John Wayne-Oscar winner), is hired by an outspoken girl to track and capture her father's murderer. A Texas Ranger tags along to collect the reward. Also starring Glen Campbell, Kim Darby, Robert Duvall, Dennis Hopper. Directed by Henry Hathaway.

Erosion Control Plan Reviews 1995		Earth Disturbance Inspections 1995	
Allegheny Township.....	4 %	Derry Township.....	5 %
Derry Township.....	4 %	Donegal Township.....	3 %
Greensburg.....	4 %	Hempfield Township.....	13 %
Hempfield Township.....	21 %	Ligonier Bourough.....	2 %
Mount Pleasant Twp.....	4 %	Ligonier Township.....	8 %
Murrysville.....	5 %	Murrysville.....	7 %
North Huntingdon.....	8 %	North Huntingdon.....	15 %
Penn Township.....	9 %	Penn Township.....	14 %
Unity Township.....	11 %	Rostraver Township.....	3 %
Rostraver Township.....	4 %	Scottdale.....	3 %
Salem Township.....	2 %	Sewickley Township.....	5 %
Sewickley Township.....	2 %	South Huntingdon.....	2 %
All Others.....	21 %	Unity Township.....	6 %
		All Others.....	14 %



#### Technical Activity Totals 1995

Earth Disturbance Inspections.....	346
Stormwater Plan Reviews.....	84
Erosion & Sedimentation Plan Reviews.....	227
<hr/>	
Total Plan Review Fees.....	\$14,750
Total NPDES Application Fees.....	\$11,400
( 18 individual permits: \$500 fee )	
( 24 general permits: \$100 fee )	

# KIDS FOR CONSERVATION

Volume 2 Issue 1

Spring 1996

## Celebrate Arbor Day

APRIL 26, 1996

One of my favorite holidays will be celebrated on April 26th. Arbor Day was founded by J. Sterling Morton, a Nebraska pioneer. Mr. Morton proposed to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture that an annual planting day be established. The result was that on April 10, 1872, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska. We now observe Arbor Day in every state. In Pennsylvania, Arbor Day is the last Friday of April each year. You can celebrate this holiday by planting a special tree in your backyard. Here are a few recommended trees for your home.

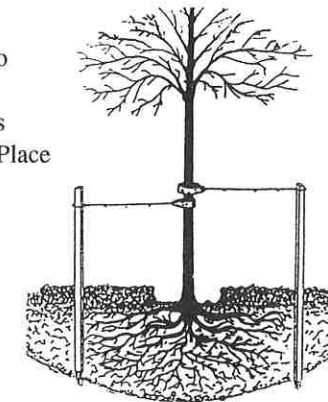
Small Trees	Medium Trees	Large Trees
Sugar Tyme Crabapple	Sawtooth Oak	Scholar Tree
Tree Lilac	Mountain Ash	Schumard Oak

## Plant Correctly

PREPARE A PLANTING SITE, NOT A HOLE IN THE GROUND!

1. Measure the diameter of the tree's root ball with the handle of your shovel. Remove a ring of sod from the area where you want to plant the tree at least twice the circumference of the root ball.

2. Dig a hole deep enough so that when you position the tree, the top of the root ball is even with the ground level. (Place the soil on a tarp to minimize mess.) Peel back the burlap from the top of the root ball and cut twine away from the trunk. Refill the hole with soil.



3. Avoid packing down the soil with your feet. To eliminate air pockets, soak the soil thoroughly with a small trickle from the hose.

### DO'S & DON'TS OF TREE PLANTING

#### DO:

- Plant tree at correct depth.
- Add mulch 3 inches deep & away from trunk.
- Prune correctly.
- Be sure to remove "plastic" burlap from root ball before planting.

#### DON'T:

- Plant tall growing trees under power lines.
- Add soil to top of root ball.
- Wrap the tree trunk.
- Plant too close to the house, driveway, or sidewalk.

## MAKING SOIL

Nature takes hundreds of years to produce soil. This experiment will help you to understand what soil is made of.



### YOU WILL NEED:

- Rocks
- Sand
- Dried Leaves
- A Soil Sample From The Garden
- A Plastic Pan
- Magnifying Glass

Use the magnifying glass to examine the rocks and sand. Draw a picture of what you see. Place a thin layer of sand in the bottom of the pan.

Break the dried leaves into tiny pieces. (Use the rocks to grind the leaves.) Mix the ground-up leaves with the sand.

With the magnifying glass, compare the soil mixture you just made with the sample from your garden.

- How do they compare?
- Do you see pieces of plant material in the garden soil?
- How could you make your soil more like the garden sample?

### NOW LET'S PLANT SEEDS IN EACH OF THE SOILS & SEE HOW THEY GROW!

You will need two paper cups or flower pots. Fill one with soil from your garden, and the other with the soil you have made. Plant seeds of the same variety in each container and water. Give both containers the same growing conditions:

*Water every 2 - 3 days  
Keep in a sunny window*

- What did you observe as they grew?
- Which plant grew best? Why?
- Keep a record of the plant's growth. If you send me a photo or results of your plant's growth, I'll send you a prize!

#### TO RECEIVE A FREE PACKET OF SEEDS FOR THIS EXPERIMENT,

SEND A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:  
Kids For Conservation, Betty Reefer  
Westmoreland Conservation District  
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Greensburg, PA 15601

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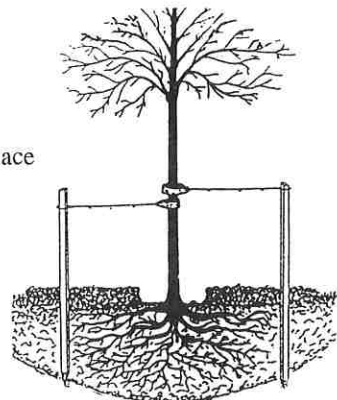
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- A Plastic Pan
- Magnifying Glass

Use the magnifying glass to examine the rocks and sand. Draw a picture of what you see. Place a thin layer of sand in the bottom of the pan.

Break the dried leaves into tiny pieces. (Use the rocks to grind the leaves.) Mix the ground-up leaves with the sand.

With the magnifying glass, compare the soil mixture you just made with the sample from your garden.

- How do they compare?
- Do you see pieces of plant material in the garden soil?
- How could you make your soil more like the garden sample?

### NOW LET'S PLANT SEEDS IN EACH OF THE SOILS & SEE HOW THEY GROW!

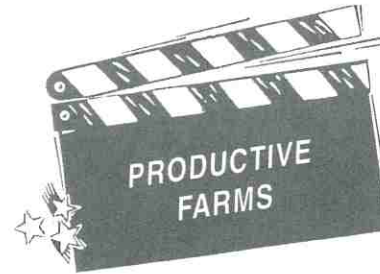
You will need two paper cups or flower pots. Fill one with soil from your garden, and the other with the soil you have made. Plant seeds of the same variety in each container and water. Give both containers the same growing conditions:

*Water every 2 - 3 days  
Keep in a sunny window*

- What did you observe as they grew?
- Which plant grew best? Why?
- Keep a record of the plant's growth. If you send me a photo or results of your plant's growth, I'll send you a prize!

### TO RECEIVE A FREE PACKET OF SEEDS FOR THIS EXPERIMENT,

SEND A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:  
Kids For Conservation, Betty Reefer  
Westmoreland Conservation District  
RR 12 Box 202-B  
Greensburg, PA 15601



### GOOD MOVIE



### The King And I

Wonderful musical starring Yul Brynner as the King of Siam who hires a widowed English schoolteacher, Deborah Kerr, to teach his many children. Directed by Walter Lang.

## The King (John Lohr) and I

by His Majesty John Lohr, Executive Director, Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, (known as the Kingdom) administers farm commodity, crop insurance, and conservation programs for farmers, and makes farm ownership and operating loans. FSA programs are primarily directed at agricultural producers. FSA was formed in 1994 from the merging of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration, and Federal Crop Insurance.

FSA administers the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that help preserve and improve America's farmland. Farmer-elected county committees identify local conservation problems and determine which practices should be offered to farmers to solve them. As part of these conservation programs, farmers can receive free technical assistance from USDA to develop conservation and nutrient management plans for their land.

ACP is designed to solve soil, water and related resource problems through cost-sharing. ACP is available to help install soil-saving practices, such as grass cover, sod waterways, diversions, and other measures to control erosion.

CRP targets fragile farmland by encouraging farmers to stop growing crops on lands designated as "highly erodible" or environmentally sensitive by USDA. CRP aims to reduce soil erosion, protect the ability to produce food and fiber, reduce sedimentation in streams and lakes, improve water quality, enhance wetland areas, and foster wildlife habitat. Farmers plant these lands in grass or trees and receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract.

Why is John the King? Stop by and find out. The local FSA office (throne room) is located in the Donohoe Center.



John Lohr, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director



## A River Runs Through It (Without Damaging It!)

by Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer

*News announcer steps forward with right hand over his ear and says into the big microphone:*

**D**ominating the news in our state earlier this year was the severe flooding which turned much of Pennsylvania into a disaster area. The reports were all bad news - several feet of water in houses, roads and bridges swept away, ice jams choking rivers, barges running away, and the lives of millions of people disrupted.

From southern Westmoreland County, however, the line was "No News is Good News." For the first time in many years, a major flood hit the Jacobs Creek Watershed and passed through, under control and causing no damage to property and no interruptions for the residents of the watershed. That achievement can be attributed to a project which consists of three flood control dams (Acme, Bridgeport, and Greenlick), and the Scottdale flood control channel. This project began over thirty years ago, under sponsorship of the USDA Soil Conservation Service, the Westmoreland and Fayette Conservation Districts, Westmoreland and Fayette counties, and local municipalities including the boroughs of Scottdale and Everson. The final element of the system, the Scottdale channel, was well over 80% complete at the time of the flood and functioned perfectly, conveying the high water of Jacobs Creek safely through the town with no damage. The channel is expected to be completed later this year.

### GOOD MOVIE



#### A River Runs Through It

1992

Graceful story of two very different brothers growing up in pre-WWI Montana, bonded by their love of fly fishing. Beautifully photographed. Starring Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt, Tom Skerritt. Directed by Robert Redford.

## On Golden (Detention) Pond

by Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer

**M**ention 'detention' to a group of school students, and their first thought is of sitting in a room, waiting until they are allowed to leave. This is akin to the function of a detention pond - to hold water until it is allowed to leave, in order to prevent flooding and stream damage downstream. Detention ponds are only one aspect of stormwater management, but to many folks they are the most visible element of the entire process of collecting, conveying, and controlling runoff from rainstorms. The Conservation District's Hydraulic Engineer, however, must be aware of the entire process as he reviews stormwater management plans and visits sites. In the past year, the engineer reviewed 122 stormwater plans and 175 erosion control plans, including revisions, and most of these plans called for the construction of detention ponds. The hundreds of detention ponds already in place around our county are certainly 'golden' to those whom they protect from flooding, and to the wildlife which enjoys their shelter.

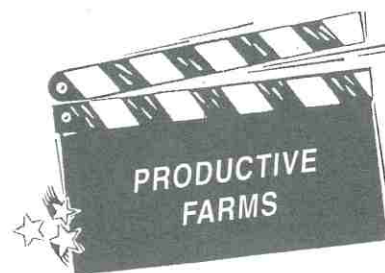
### GOOD MOVIE



#### On Golden Pond

1981

Charming account of a daughter's coming to terms with her emotionally cold, 80-year-old father. Henry Fonda (Oscar-winner) stars with daughter, Jane, Katherine Hepburn, Dabney Coleman, Doug McKeon. Directed by Mark Rydell.



Holly Dugan, Technician/Conservation Planner

## Showcasing The Nutrient Management Story

by Holly Dugan, Technician/Conservation Planner

**I**magine one of the opening scenes from "Far And Away" where an Irish farmer is toiling away with handmade tools on a lush green hillside near the ocean in the late 1800's. All this work to prepare his small garden to grow the food and fiber needed to survive. Contrast that to modern agriculture - the farmer still toils - but the picture has changed. Back then, conservation was not as routinely practiced as it is today.

The benefits of conservation are more clearly understood today and utilized more comprehensively. For example, conservation and nutrient management are merging. In the Middle Youghiogeny River Watershed this is especially true. A cast of talented farmers are showcasing management practices such as rotational grazing or streambank fencing. These functional demonstration projects seek to balance production agriculture with conservation for a sustainable food supply. Watch for a special "documentary" in a future issue of Landmarks.

### GOOD MOVIE



#### Far And Away

1992

Irish immigrants come to America in the late 1800's and struggle to make a new life. They ultimately participate in the Oklahoma Land Rush. Starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. Directed by Ron Howard



Jim Pillsbury, District Hydraulic Engineer



## Charlton Heston Unable To Attend Meeting

by Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer

All the films about God's natural powers, from Noah's Ark to the parting of the Red Sea, did not prepare us for the impact of the recent snowmelt, heavy rains, and flooding. They added a sense of timeliness to a meeting held January 22, at Donohoe Center for individuals concerned with the Turtle Creek Watershed Stormwater Management Plan. Although Noah and Moses were not present, representatives from the major municipalities of the Westmoreland County portion of the watershed, the planning departments of Allegheny and Westmoreland counties, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and District staff members were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to examine the plan and its functions in the five years since it was enacted; to discuss progress in each municipality in the area of stormwater management; to identify problem areas and to determine the need, if any, to modify the Turtle Creek Plan.

Meeting participants heard WCD producer/director and engineer Jim Pillsbury give a brief summary of the plan, including basic principles of stormwater management and the requirements of the model stormwater ordinance contained in the plan. Durla Lathia, DEP's chief of stormwater management, outlined the state's stormwater law and discussed the responsibilities of municipalities in the watershed. He and Ed Ritzer, Pennvest Specialist, also discussed the issue of funding for plan related activities.

Following the "dramatic" presentations was the central portion of the meeting, a round table discussion of many issues of concern to the towns involved. Each municipality shared its experience with ordinances, plan development, inspections, and handling complaints. Other topics of discussion were liability, aesthetics, recreational uses of detention areas, and municipal acceptance of detention ponds. Some additional items of note raised in the discussion were the rapid rate of residential construction in the watershed - since 1991 there have been about 600 new homes built in Penn Township alone. Another point of interest is the problem of localized erosion below many detention basin outlets. A surprising fact was the large number of stormwater detention facilities - more than 150 - in Hempfield Township.

The meeting adjourned with a new and greater understanding and confidence among all participants. The information learned and contacts made will certainly strengthen the cause of stormwater management in the Turtle Creek Watershed in the future.

### GOOD MOVIE



#### The Ten Commandments

1956

Oscar-winning special effects highlight this movie about the Jews being led by Moses out of bondage in Egypt. Starring Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner. Directed by Cecil B. DeMille.



AND THE WINNER IS...

## Method Actor Lydick Is A Winner

by Wes Gordon, District Conservationist, National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Derry dramatist Bob Lydick was selected by the Westmoreland Conservation District to receive the 1995 Conservation Farmer Award. He won the agricultural award because he has practiced what he preached for years about conservation on the farming stage.

A few of us "movie critics" sat down with Bob and his family one cold wintry day on the Pennsylvania country side and enjoyed some of his many award-winning stories about farming, changes over the years, and about life itself. Bob is quick to tell you about the importance of his family. He

applauded his two sons, Robert and Donald, for playing major roles in milking 35 head of mostly Jersey and Guernsey cows, raising crops on the 228 acres of land and the growing and marketing of many types of vegetables. Bob's wife of nearly 50 years, Faye, grows a variety of plants in her greenhouse for sale at local farmers markets -- shades of "How Green was My Valley."

Bob and Faye told us how they, along with other vegetable growers, started a farmers market in downtown Greensburg. The Lydicks sold fresh produce there for 15 years before moving sales to Ligonier Country Market some 7 years ago. Bob says the vegetable business has helped supplement the family income over the years. The Lydick Farm was at one time well known as the Hollywood of sweet corn, cucumbers, and melons.

In 1968, Faye started a small greenhouse to supply vegetable plants for the farm. Her on-the-road show has grown to include not only vegetable and bedding plants for sale, but also annual and perennial flowers which add a special backdrop to the Westmoreland scenery.

One of World War II's "Sergeant York"s, Bob purchased the original farm of 67 acres in Derry Township in 1948. Two additional tracts have been added to the farm. As those additional acres were added, so were soil and water conservation practices. Bob recalls his first contact with the Soil Conservation Service in the mid-1950s when (recently retired) technician Joe Obenski, a federal actor of considerable fame, designed a pond for Bob. The rest came naturally to a "method actor" of Bob's caliber --- contour stripcropping systems, diversions, grassed waterways, and spring developments. A portion of the farm was surface mined for coal in the late 1970s-early 80s. Bob went to extra efforts (with the assistance of the WCD/SCS) to get the land reclaimed for continued agriculture production.

Throughout his farming career, our award-winning star has been active in conservation and farm organizations. He served for 15 years as a county committeeman on the Westmoreland County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Committee. He has been active in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and Guernsey Breed Association.



The Lydick Family from left to right: (bottom): Faye, Bob (top): Donald, Robert

### GOOD MOVIE



#### Sergeant York

1941

True-life story of the unassuming, straightforward Tennessee farmer (Gary Cooper, Oscar-winner), struggling for a piece of land, who became a hero in WWI France. Heartwarming Americana, extraordinarily well told. Also starring Walter Brennan, Directed by Howard Hawks.

## Annual Planning Meeting/Awards

by Lorrie Stouffer, Assistant District Manager



AND THE WINNER IS...

The Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors and staff took time from their busy schedules last November to plan for the future and honor selected individuals and groups for their contributions to natural resource conservation.

The meeting got underway with staff reports on program areas, followed by roundtable discussions geared to elicit opinions on district programs and direction.

After this group discussion, awards were presented. In the category of best supporting actress, the winner was Karen Jurkovic, Greensburg, for her role in helping to write our 1994 Annual Report and our Long Range Plan (to be completed in August of '96). Karen continues to make cameo appearances on our Environmental Education Task Force and Nature Park Committee which is responsible for reviving county Nature Park, acquiring additional park land, and trail development.



Karen Jurkovic is honored by Greg Phillips, District Manager



Taking a conservation quiz left to right: Mark Killar, WPCAMR Director, Fred Lau, Westmoreland Woodlands Association, Theresa Rohall, Powdermill Nature Reserve



Richard Binns, Student Intern, receives a Certificate of Recognition from Betty Reefer, Farmland Preservation Specialist

In the category of special effects, the winner was Powdermill Nature Center for Terri Kromel's and Theresa Rohall's role on our Environmental Education Task Force and in our production of the state Annual Conference. Terri also helped with an interpretive trail and brochure at Sewickley Creek Wetlands while Theresa facilitated a planning retreat for our directors, staff and friends.

In the category of best director, the winner was St. Vincent College for their production of the Monastery Run Project; Brother Norman Hipps and Father Earl Henry received the award on the behalf of the college.

Saint Vincent College was also recognized for the Bridges Project, a school-college-industry partnership in mathematics and science education. School district partners are Derry Area, Hempfield, Latrobe and Ligonier Valley. Industry partners are Kennametal Inc., Latrobe Area Hospital, Latrobe Brewing Company, Latrobe Steel Company, Westinghouse Specialty Metals Plant and Westmoreland Conservation District. Bridges stands for Building Relationships with Industry for Delivering and Generating Education Support. In addition, the college was honored for the Environmental and Safety Awareness Series of seminars. The seminars featured prominent environmental issues of vital importance to small businesses. Sponsors include the Saint Vincent College Career Development Center, Small Business

Development Center and Center for Global Competitiveness, and eight area chambers of commerce including Central Westmoreland, East Suburban, Latrobe Area, Ligonier Valley, Mount Pleasant Area, New Kensington, Area, Norwin and Strong Land.



Retiring District Director, Frank Skacel, left, is honored by J. Roy Houston, District Chairman, right



Left to right: Tony Quadro, Program Specialist/Forester presents the award for best special effects to the Powdermill Nature Reserve with Theresa Rohall accepting for Powdermill



Lori Kronenwetter, Student Intern, receives a Certificate of Recognition from Lorrie Stouffer, District Assistant Manager

Frank Skacel, Sr., Westmoreland Conservation District Director for 26 years, was presented an award for best actor. Frank's retirement is featured in the Landmarks section of this annual report.

All honorees were presented with framed Stephen Simpson prints. Steve is a local photographer who was recently featured in a Saint Vincent College special art show.



And the best director award goes to St. Vincent College. Left to right: Wes Gordon, District Conservationist, Paul Heyworth, presenter and Father Earl Henry of St. Vincent College

1994 National Association of Conservation Districts/Goodyear Award plaques were presented by Bill Slosky, Regional Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Representative, and Harry Meyer, State Conservation Commission, to the District's Board of Directors.

Certificates of Recognition were given to the following student interns: from Saint Vincent College, Steve Komazec, Maurizio Bellucci, and Lori Kronenwetter; from Bucknell University, Tom Okanak; from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens-Point, Chuck Perino; and from the University of California-Pennsylvania, Richard Binns.

*"Strange isn't it? How one man's life touches so many others. When he's not around he leaves an awful hole."*

Clarence, the Guardian Angel, to a discouraged George Baily.  
Movie:  
Frank Capra's "It's A Wonderful Life"





## Westmoreland Involved And Recognized At National Level (WCD wins award for best program)

by Lorrie Stouffer, Assistant District Manager

As the Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) continues to grow and expand, it seems only natural that our involvement in activities and programs should increase and attract attention. In 1995, we worked with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to a greater degree on many fronts.



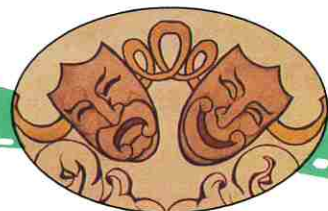
left to right:  
J. Roy Houston, District Chairman  
Lorrie Stouffer, Assistant District Manager  
Kathleen Fritz, E & S Administrator

Early in the year, the Monastery Run Improvement Project was featured in the NACD's quarterly newsletter. The project, a cooperative effort striving to alleviate mine drainage in the Loyalhanna Creek, is slated to begin in the spring of 1996.

Seven Springs Resort in Champion was the site of the NACD's North-east Regional Meeting held in August. WCD, with the assistance of Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel and other partners, organized a tour highlighting mine drainage projects

in western PA. We also provided a speaker for the District Employees Professional Development Program, and volunteers for registration, hospitality room and public relations.

We were surprised (and proud), to be notified in September that the District was the Grand Award winner in the 48th Annual Goodyear/NACD Conservation Awards Program. The awards program emphasizes the concepts of planning for, organizing, and evaluating district services. The presentation of the plaque was held at the Annual Conference in Erie, with several directors and staff in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kemerer attended the Grand Award Tour in Scottsdale, Arizona, as a result of this achievement. The Kemerers participated in meetings and tours highlighting farming and conservation practices.



*The End*

## The Players

Just like an epic MGM production, we're part of a cast of character actors who have undertaken a major action drama. Our production is conservation and the plot is filled with many, complex issues. Fortunately, our quality leading players and members of the cast consist of many talented groups and individuals. Our stage ranges over the rolling, green hills of Westmoreland County - a massive vista spanning 1,042 square miles.

### COUNTY PRODUCERS

Westmoreland County Commissioners

### COUNTY CO-PRODUCERS

Department of Public Works  
Department of Planning  
Agricultural Land Preservation Board  
Penn State Cooperative Extension Service  
Intermediate Unit  
County Parks

### STATE DIRECTORS

Department of Environmental Resources  
Department of Agriculture  
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
State Conservation Commission  
Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

### FEDERAL CAST

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm Service Agency  
Rural Economic & Community Development Service  
Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development  
United States Department of the Interior

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Sewickley, Loyalhanna, Mountain, and Turtle Creek watershed associations  
Westmoreland Woodlands Association  
Pennsylvania CleanWays  
Penn's Corner Charitable Trust  
Westmoreland Conservancy  
Saint Vincent College  
Powdermill Nature Center  
Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

### SPECIAL THANKS

Nature Park Contributors  
Landmarks & Envirothon Sponsors  
Stephen Simpson, Nature Photographer, for use of color photograph on page 1  
Sarah McFarland and our friends at the Palace Theatre, Greensburg

*Look for the sequels to come!*

## District Photo Contest Winners

by Lori Kronenwetter,  
WCD Student Intern

Cameras, action...Three area residents were chosen as winners for the first annual "Best of Westmoreland" County Photography Contest. Sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District, the contest was open to any photographer, and entries were received from all over the county. "I am proud to say that these three photographs will appear in our upcoming slide show," said Greg Phillips, district manager. He continued, "The beauty of nature has truly been captured on film, and I couldn't be more impressed with the talent of these individuals."

The district judges also recognized two honorable mentions: Chelsea Blakes and Megan Yanos, ages 7 and 5 respectively, were acknowledged for their exceptional photographs. "It was great to see that even children got involved in our contest. These two young ladies took great pictures!" said Phillips.



FIRST PLACE - Frank Monteparte, Latrobe, PA Location: Donohoe Road



SECOND PLACE - Delilah Glanzer, Greensburg, PA Location: Twin Lakes Park



THIRD PLACE - Kathryn H. Zavadak, Greensburg, PA Location: Twin Lakes Park