

CONSERVATIONIST'S LEGACY HONORED

County Park Revitalized

by Karen Jurkovic



The July 24 dedication featured comments from the Westmoreland County Commissioners; Ann's daughter, Eleanore Pearson (first row, center), and Ann's granddaughter, Amy Emili (left). Ann's daughter, Alice Meadow, (right) accepted the proclamation and unveiled the park's new sign (shown). Also pictured (second row, l-r) are Eleanore's husband, Richard Pearson, and Greg Phillips, WCD Manager.

NATURE PARK

Nature Park originally was established in 1960, upon a resolution of the Westmoreland County Commissioners, who set aside some 47 contiguous acres of county-owned land known as the "George Station" property to be used for recreation purposes. Ann Rudd Saxman was instrumental in the formation of Nature Park and, in fact, had been its neighbor since the early 1940s, when she married and moved to an adjacent 95-acre property she called Twin Run Farm.

In 1977, when the county was establishing an industrial park on the Donohoe Road not far from the park site, Ann worked to ensure that Nature Park would not succumb to development pressures, but remain open, natural space. She wrote these words in a letter to one of the then county commissioners: "With the tremendous increase in industrial activity, and probably in population, Westmoreland County needs desperately to preserve open land before the opportunity is lost forever."

Two miles east of Greensburg, tucked between the commerce of Route 30 and a quickly developing Donohoe Road, is one of Westmoreland County's best-kept secrets: a small undeveloped valley of meadow and mature forest, with ambling paths and park benches, where the public is invited to observe, contemplate, and study nature.

This almost-forgotten 36-year-old county Nature Park recently got an infusion of new life when it was expanded

by 10 acres and rededicated in honor of pioneer conservationist, botanist, and landscape designer Ann Rudd Saxman.

The July 24 dedication ceremony was the culmination of nearly a year of work by a public-private partnership that set out to revitalize the park and increase its use. The partnership -- consisting of the Westmoreland Conservation District, the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation, local foundations, other government agencies, and concerned area

citizens -- developed a plan and conducted a fundraising campaign which raised nearly \$33,500 from 46 separate donors, most of whom are from Westmoreland County and many of whom knew Ann Saxman personally.

The funds were used to acquire an adjacent 10 wooded acres belonging to Ann's daughter and originally part of the family farm, add a new entrance to the

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What Is A Watershed?

A watershed is all of the land drained by a particular stream and its tributaries.

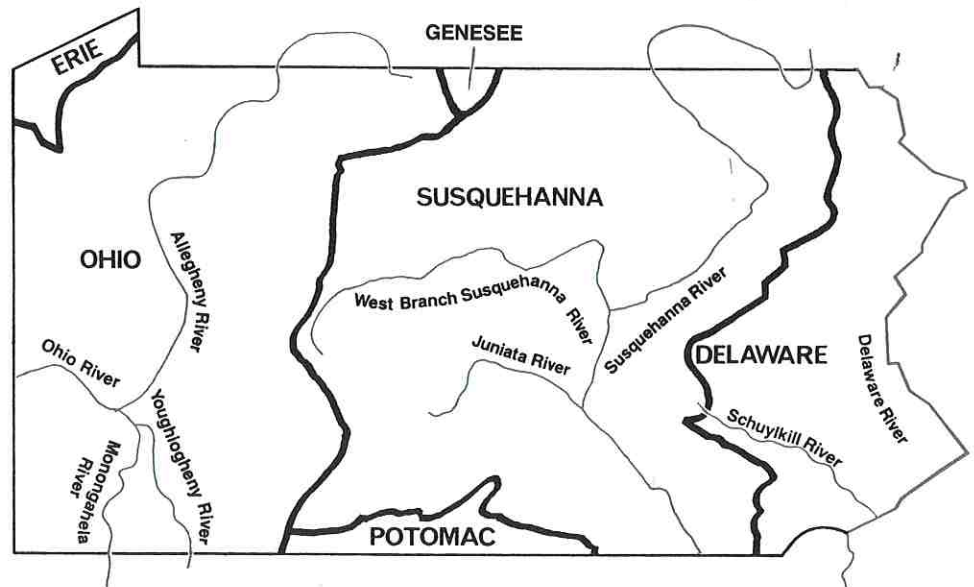
To get a feel for what that means, imagine standing with one foot on either side of a small ditch. Look upstream. All of the land that slopes toward your ditch is in the ditch's watershed.

Pennsylvania has six watersheds: the Lake Erie, Ohio River, Genesee River, Potomac River,

Susquehanna River, and Delaware River watersheds.

Our area and most of western Pennsylvania is in the Ohio River watershed, which includes the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Youghiogheny rivers. The Ohio River watershed is the state's second largest (Susquehanna is first), and it drains 34% of Pennsylvania's land mass.

PENNSYLVANIA WATERSHEDS



PA Resources Magazine, Vol. 7, No. 1

Watershed News

Sewickley Creek Introduces Mine Drainage Treatment

The Sewickley Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) recently held a dedication ceremony for its Wilson Run Mine Water Discharge Project.

The objective of this project is to demonstrate a low-cost, low-maintenance way to treat mine drainage pollution. A device consisting of static mixers and a two-horsepower motor powering a blower aerates the water as it is discharged (at a rate of about 60,000 gallons per hour) from an abandoned mine shaft where Route 819 and the turnpike intersect in Mount Pleasant Township.

The water then flows into a two-acre pond where the iron hydroxide particles settle out before the water reaches the Wilson Run stream, about a hundred yards away.

A retaining wall, funded by the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, will also

be built to increase the amount of time the water stays in the pond.

The Westmoreland Conservation District is one of the partners in the Wilson Run Project.

National Conference Held in Pittsburgh

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) hosted the annual meeting of the National Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (NCAMR) in Pittsburgh in early September.

Representatives from 20 states attended, including those from county, state and federal agencies, industry, academia, foundations, conservation groups, and watershed organizations.

The meeting focused on mine drainage remediation in Pennsylvania. Attendees heard success stories, funding alternatives, and toured a state-of-the-art mine drainage treatment plant and a passive wetland treatment system.

THE RULES OF THE GAME

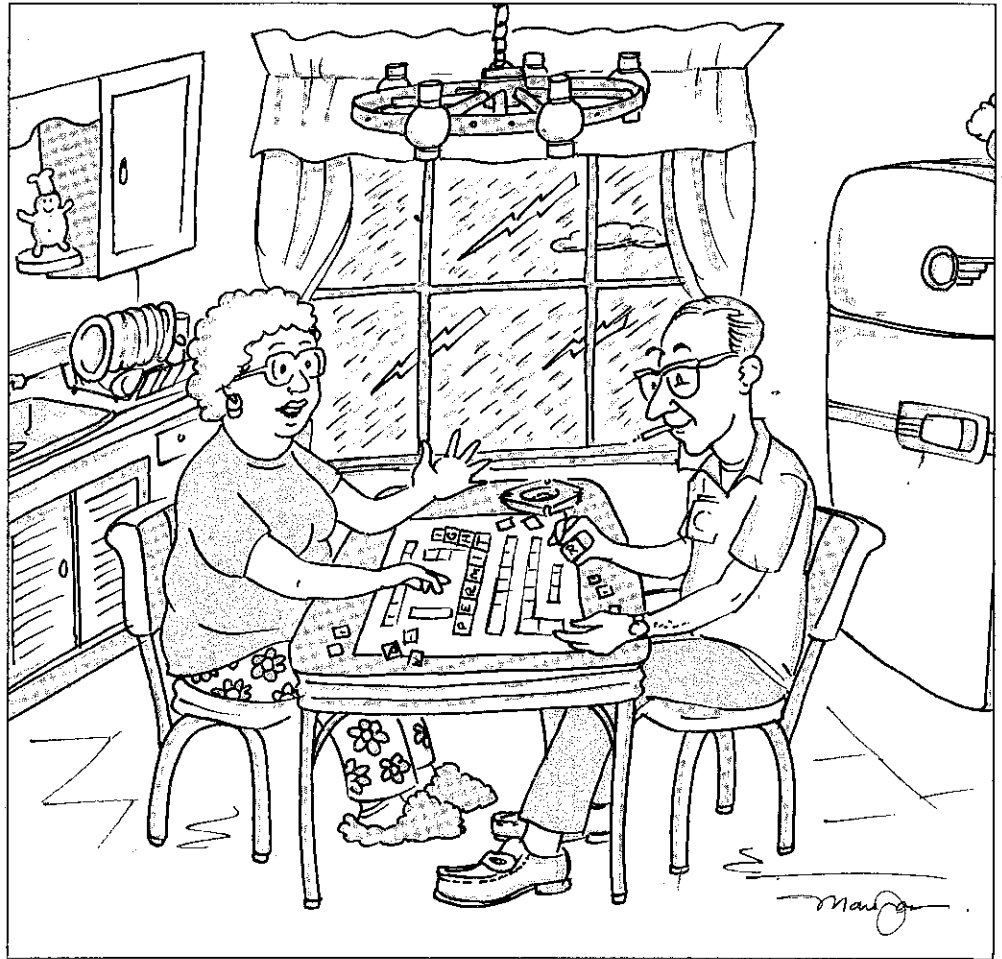
by Jim Pillsbury

It was a dark and stormy night. Rain lashed at the window panes and drummed on the roof. Inside the cozy little bungalow, Wendell and Edna Westmoreland sat at Scrabble, blissfully unaware of the damage the storm was causing beyond the cheery boundaries of the warm kitchen.

Edna had just formed the word PERMITS when the lights flickered, then went out. The woman gave a startled gasp. For a second, the only light in the room was the glowing tip of her husband's Lucky Strike (LS/MFT). She gave a sigh of relief a moment later as the lights came back on and the Frigidaire hummed to life. Glancing down at the board, she saw that in the darkness, Wendell had arranged the word RIGHTS, intersecting with her T.

For the second time in as many minutes, the lights were extinguished, this time accompanied by the sound of breaking glass. Edna screamed as Wendell jumped up, his chair falling backward with a sharp bang. Below them, they could hear the roar of a miniature Niagara, filling their basement through the broken window. "That does it!" shouted the man through clenched teeth, angrily puffing on the Lucky, its glow illuminating his fierce visage. "Tomorrow I'm going to take the tractor and move that creek, and to heck with the DEP!"

Hopefully, before they do anything rash, Wendell and Edna Westmoreland will call their Conservation District for assistance. They will find that, in most cases, the property owner (not the government) has the right and the responsibility for doing corrective work to a stream, yet, governmental permits are needed. The rules governing stream work, called Chapter 105, are administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), and apply to any stream or body of water. Of primary importance is the fact that, for work in all kinds of water, proper erosion and sedimentation control must be used. This



will prevent mud or muddy water from going down the stream (and entering someone's basement).

Wendell and Edna will discover that permit requirements for certain activities in streams and bodies of water are subject to a **Waiver**. For example, work in a drainageway with less than 100 acres of watershed does not require a permit, unless there is a wetland involved. In all, there are 16 waivers of permits — instances where no permission is needed from PA DEP.

Next to a waiver, a **General Permit (GP)** is the easiest to obtain. General Permits (there are 11) are for minor work in or near a stream, usually not involving wetlands. General Permits are issued by the Conservation District, and are free.

For projects larger than allowed by a GP, a **Small Projects Permit (SPP)** must be obtained. Issued by PA DEP, the SPP costs \$100, may require an engineer's design, and cannot be used for work which impacts wetlands. The SPP requires an Environmental Assessment of the proposed activity. If the work to be done will affect wetlands, or, is of a large scale, a **Joint Permit or Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit (WOEP)** will be

necessary. The PA DEP issues WOEPs. This process takes a few months and there is an application fee. Usually, WOEPs require design by a Registered Professional Engineer. An Environmental Assessment must be completed to assure that no harm is done to natural resources, and hydraulic calculations are needed as well to verify that the proposed work will not cause flooding or damage.

Wendell and Edna certainly have the **RIGHT** to protect and use their property as they see fit. The primary purpose of the **PERMIT** is to ensure that their exercise of rights does not harm their neighbors or the environment. Perhaps, in fact, the Westmoreland's bungalow would not have flooded if other people on the stream above and below them had been more careful about getting permits before they worked in the water.

As Wendell began to light some candles, Edna arranged her last word on the board, building the word **RESPONSIBLE** from the R of Wendell's **RIGHTS**. The man sighed as he looked at the board. "Maybe I'll call that engineer from the Conservation District and see if he can help us," he said.



Photo - Mark Jackson

Jacks Run at Lynch Field, Greensburg

Our Stream Scene

by Holly Dugan

Have you ever wondered just how important those tiny streams are that trickle through Westmoreland County? Well, just as a banana split is only as good as the ingredients put into it, the same can be said about rivers and large streams. The sum equals the total of the parts. The quality of our larger streams is determined by their numerous tributary streams. And there are more linear feet of small tributaries combined than there are linear feet of rivers the size of the Youghiogheny.

Just as all the small streams contribute to the bigger streams and rivers, each positive action taken by individuals adds up into big improvement -- improvements that benefit our whole community through better drinking water supplies, recreational activities, and an improved quality of life in Westmoreland County.

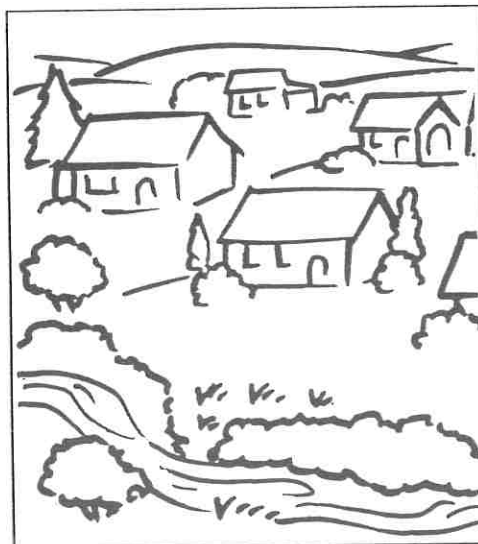
The following are some specific tips to improve your own stream scene.

Homeowners

There are many things that a homeowner with a stream running through his or her property can do. Leaving a filter strip along the edge of the stream bank is a highly beneficial, yet low-cost improvement. A filter strip is a strip or area of vegetation such as grass, trees, or shrubs which removes sediment, organic matter, and other nonpoint source pollutants from runoff water.

How does a filter benefit a stream? Primarily by removing sediment, which is the biggest pollutant by volume, before it reaches the stream. Too much sediment coating the rocks on the bottom of a stream reduces the habitat where macroinvertebrates such as mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies live. This in turn reduces the food available for fish to feed on.

Excess sediment in a stream can also magnify flooding. After entering the



stream, the sediment is suspended in it, and flows with the stream for a while. But then eventually it settles out, usually in the portion of a stream called a pool. Too

much sediment in a pool acts as a dam and causes flooding to be more common in these areas.

Another nonpoint source pollutant is excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus (found in lawn fertilizers), and pesticides from lawn treatments which enter into streams through several pathways. One is through runoff water flowing into a stream, and the other is by water that percolates through the soil and seeps into the stream from the sides or underneath the stream bed.

How can you make a filter area to prevent nonpoint source pollution? Leave a grassy area at least 25 feet wide on both sides of the stream. These areas are usually wet spots to mow anyway. Also, let other vegetation -- such as trees and shrubs -- grow in this corridor. The trees and shrubs provide a scenic landscape as well as food for stream macroinvertebrates

when leaves drop in the fall. They also yield shade for streams, which will increase oxygen in the water by lowering the water temperature. (Also see "Streamside Forest, the Essential Resource.")

Farmers

Many paintings depicting the idyllic American farmstead include a babbling brook or springhouse by the barn. The practical reason for this is that they provided a clean source of water for the livestock and the farm. Today, the need to water livestock still exists, but the stream is not always clean. Streambank fencing and stream crossings are one way to improve water quality at a low cost (also see "Livestock Watering Facilities"). This improved water quality will benefit the owner's livestock herds as well as those of downstream neighbors.

HERD HEALTH -- Herd health is one of the primary reasons to install streambank fencing. In many streams, there is poor water quality due to high bacteria counts or high nitrate concentrations. Problems that can stem from contact with waterborne bacteria are environmental mastitis, black leg, and foot rot. According to Gary Sheppard, Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension agent, one case of mastitis can cost \$200-\$250 in dumped milk and treatment of the infection. In many cases, the cost of streambank fencing can be recouped if it prevents one or two cases of environmental mastitis.

PROVIDING A FILTER AREA -- One objection to streambank fencing is plant growth between the stream and the fence. Oftentimes, brush or trees near a streambank is thought of as messy, or a sign of laziness. But think again!! Streambank vegetation functions as an effective, low-cost filter.

A filter strip helps to trap sediment from feedlots, cultivated fields, and pastures. The sediment can have phosphorus and pesticide residues adhered to the soil particles. Also, vegetation will uptake excess nutrients such as nitrates that are in runoff water.

Another benefit is that erosion is reduced. Some banks are so trampled by livestock that vegetation cannot grow. This increases the amount of soil eroded and deposited as sediment downstream. If too much sediment accumulates, damming of water could occur, preventing normal water flow.

ECONOMICS -- Another reason to leave a filter area is economics. Oftentimes, the land beside a stream is

marginally productive, and could be put to an alternative use. One option is planting trees that will grow well in streamside soils and have a market or farm value. An example is black locust trees which can supply farm needs as fence posts and firewood.

STREAM CROSSINGS -- If you fence off the stream, where can livestock cross? New construction methods for stream crossings which utilize geotextile fabrics

are being installed across the state. The geotextile fabric improves the durability of the crossing and it helps to keep the rock lining in place.

LEADERSHIP-- Among the benefits of being a leader in this trend is the good public relations that result from local folk noting your farm's concern with water quality. As added incentive, cost-sharing

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LIVESTOCK WATERING FACILITIES

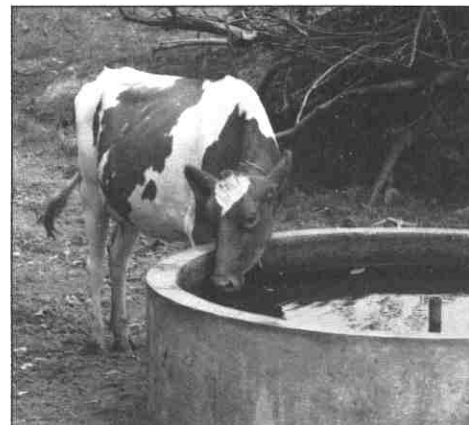
by Wes Gordon

Most farmers report that the cows know where the best water is! Given the choice, most cattle will drink from a spring water trough, rather than a stream or pond.

Many farmers have provided livestock watering troughs which are gravity-fed from a spring source. These "spring developments" intercept the waterflow just before it surfaces, and pipe it underground directly into the trough.

Inlet and outlet pipes are located inside the trough so livestock do not walk through (and potentially contaminate) any water. A dry, stable area exists around the trough for livestock access because excess water flow from the outlet, again underground, flows to a stable outlet away from the trough.

This is a win-win solution that provides not only



good livestock water, but cleaner water as it flows from the farm.

For more information and "how to" fact sheets, contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Donohoe Center, RD #12 Box 202-C, Greensburg, PA 15601, Phone: 834-3970.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WAYS TO WATER LIVESTOCK IN PASTURES?

There are many options available, but deciding which will work for you is the tough part. Actually trying a watering system out is the ideal way to know for sure.

Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development Area has five alternative livestock watering systems available for on-farm use, for a 30-day trial period. The systems available are:

- Rife-Port-A-Trough (a portable, 30-35 gallon trough with a quick disconnecting system)
- Rife-Davey Ram (a pump that moves water uphill, using only the force of the water)

- Rife-Pasture Pump (a pump activated by the animal)
- Rife-Sling Pump (pumps water from flowing streams, creeks or rivers using hydraulic force)
- Fleming-Solar Pump & Panel (a submersible pump powered by solar energy)

Call Nevin Ulery at 834-9063 to reserve a pump, or for more information.

Our Stream Scene
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may be available from the Farm Service Agency. For more information, contact Holly Dugan at the Westmoreland Conservation District at 837-5271. (Also see "Streamside Forest, the Essential Resource.")

A CASE STUDY IN STREAMBANK FENCING

by Holly Dugan

Soon, discriminating cattle here in Westmoreland County may prefer stepping stones when crossing a creek. Terry Matty, who owns land near Smithton and raises replacement heifers for dairy production, is providing his cattle with a stable stream bed to cross over.

Terry has practical reasons for installing a stream crossing. The cows need to cross the stream to reach other pastures, and the crossing will prevent the channel from washing out and getting too deep. It will also reduce streambank erosion that contributes to sediment buildup downstream. Also, although it is not the best water source, the water will be less muddy if cows need to drink from it.

What convinced Terry to install a crossing? Larry Stokum, soil conservation technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) proposed it as a way to keep the cows from having to travel down a road. It also lowered the number of gates needed to manage cattle movement.

The particulars of Terry's stream crossing include a permeable filter fabric with two layers of different sized stone spread on top. It will be a maximum of 18 feet wide to allow not only the cattle to cross, but also for occasional use by farm equipment. If this stream crossing works well, Terry has other locations where he may install crossings.

The stream crossing at Terry Matty's property is just one of the demonstration projects within the Middle Youghiogheny Watershed that is receiving federal cost share funds for best management practices. To find out how a stream crossing can benefit you, contact the NRCS at 834-3970, or the Westmoreland Conservation District at 837-5271.



Welty Run near Lycopius

—STREAMSIDE FOREST— *The Essential Resource*

by Tony Quadro

Streamside forest areas provide a vital ecological tie between land and water resources. It has been documented that, as forested buffer strips are reduced, water quality, wildlife, and aquatic life decline. We must protect, maintain, and even create new forested corridors along streams to protect the vitality of these natural resources.

The riparian forest prevents excess nutrients and sediment from being washed into streams. This protects aquatic life, and minimizes flood damage.

Trees and shrubs along streams provide areas for nesting, food and shelter for a variety of wildlife. Also, the shaded temporary wet spots which form in depressions on the forest floor provide breeding sites for frogs, toads, and salamanders.

Streamside vegetation is essential for aquatic life. Tree roots and branches provide shelter for fish and aquatic invertebrates and also help to stabilize banks. Organic matter from decaying leaves provides food for many aquatic insects. This vegetation also regulates stream temperature which is very important to maintaining healthy fish populations.

Finally, the streamside forest is an important area for recreation. Beautiful shaded trails can be created in urban and suburban areas where people can hike, bike, fish, and observe wildlife.

Intensive agriculture and forestry practices coupled with development pressures have reduced riparian forest areas. We need to reverse this trend to preserve and protect this resource. Here are some things you can do.

* **Plant trees and shrubs at least 50 feet** along streams. The District can help you make appropriate choices.

* **Limit access to streams** by livestock and equipment. (See "Our Stream Scene" and "A Case Study in Streambank Fencing.")

* **Reduce timber harvesting intensity** along stream channels.

* **Limit amounts of debris** left in stream channels after harvesting.

* **Utilize stable road crossings** (bridges, fords, etc.). The District can help with necessary permits.

* **Don't plow right up to the stream.**

* **Plan for streamside parks** in developments.

* **Preserve and manage** existing riparian forest areas.

If you have land along a stream and want to create a streamside forest, call the District office at 837-5271.

We will be glad to provide planning assistance.

Ann Rudd Saxman

Ann was a pioneer conservationist, botanist, landscape designer and master gardener. Before the establishment of government programs, Ann was an advocate of the benefits of soil and water conservation, composting, and recycling.

In 1969, she was the first woman ever appointed to the position of associate director of the Westmoreland Conservation District, and she served until her death in June of 1990. She envisioned and edited a precedent-setting, nationally acclaimed resource guide called the *Directory of Environmental Information* in 1972. The 40-page guide examined the state of the environment from both moral and technical perspectives -- foresightedly covering issues such as land-use planning and noise pollution -- and gave readers a wealth of places to get more information as well as ideas on how to become involved in environmental solutions.

As the first directory of its kind in Westmoreland County, and one of the first in the state and nation, Ann's directory became a model for similar projects across the United States. It also helped to steer the conservation movement to embrace the concerns of urban areas along with those of the more traditionally served agricultural lands, and to form important partnerships between state agencies and private organizations as a way to further the conservation ethic.



She was a leading force in establishing municipal composting in Westmoreland County, and her vision also led to the establishment of the county's composting demonstration area just off of the Donohoe Road.

For more than 50 years, Ann designed landscapes for residential, commercial and industrial sites throughout the region, including the Latrobe Area Hospital and the Greater Latrobe Area High School and Junior High School. A hands-on gardener, Ann was active with the Latrobe Garden Club and was a driving force in the development of the Greensburg Garden and Civic Center, where she later planned and planted the arboretum. She was an instructor of home landscape design at Westmoreland County Community College, and the coordinator of landscaping at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, where she founded the Landscape Intern Program.

As a tribute to Ann and as a way to continue to encourage the conservation ethic she so embodied, a statewide award was created in 1990 to annually recognize outstanding and long-term volunteer service in the field of conservation. The Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation Volunteer Award is given by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., through the generosity of the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation of Latrobe. The first award was presented in 1991.

Conservationist's Legacy Honored continued from page 1

park on the Donohoe Road between Donohoe Center and the Westmoreland Public Works building, make the park amenable for people with disabilities, and improve the existing trail system.

The newly renamed Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park is a fitting tribute to a woman who gave so much of her talent and energies to the cause of conservation, the preservation of open space, and the beautification of the landscape. It also is a "natural classroom" that will complement the work of the Westmoreland Conservation District. "We're into up-front education when it comes to conservation," said District Manager Greg Phillips. "Having this park in our backyard gives us a natural environment where we can teach conservation -- including forestry, water quality, and wildlife issues."

The park's new entrance was made even more inviting in late August



when a new 20-car parking area was paved, thanks to the generosity of Adam Eidemiller, Inc. Eidemiller donated all the materials and labor.

In addition to parking, the lot will be used as a demonstration of the advantages of combining permeable and impermeable surfaces.

NATURE PARK COMMITTEE

The Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation, the Westmoreland Conservation District, The Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension, Harold Grey, Paul Heyworth, Karen Jurkovic, Carol Pollock, Theresa Rohall, Ron Rohall, Dr. Tim Savisky, and Kelly Sofaly.

News 'n Notes...

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



Some 30 people attended a District-sponsored satellite downlink video conference from Cornell University this summer, entitled "Land Application of Biosolids." The conference goal was to increase understanding of the practice, which applies sewage sludges and products made from sludges to agricultural lands. Both benefits and concerns of this practice were addressed.

This handmade thank you (below) came to the District's hydraulic engineer from first- through third-grade students at Greensburg-Salem's Nicely Elementary School after he led them on a tour of a wetland behind their school building.

Once again, Franklin Regional High School ran away with first place at the 1996 Westmoreland County Envirothon, making this the ninth consecutive year Franklin Regional students won the conservation event. Second and third places went to Kiski Area and Derry Area, respectively. Hempfield, Mt. Pleasant, Yough, Greensburg-Salem, Burrell, and Belle Vernon also participated in the event in which professional foresters, aquatic biologists, soil scientists, and wildlife experts test the students' knowledge of the environment.

Franklin Regional then went on to compete against 56 other county winners for the state championship, and came away with second place!

Nine local teachers visited Donohoe Center this summer to learn about our activities and the environmental education opportunities we can provide for their students. The visit was part of BRIDGES, a program founded by Saint Vincent College which pairs teachers with professionals

BRIDGES

Schools • College • Industry

in industry as a way to help them develop classroom lessons that have real-life importance. The Westmoreland Conservation District is a BRIDGES partner.



Fifteen college students and two pre-college teachers participated in a Summer Institute in Watershed Restoration at St. Vincent College. The District helped support this effort in which students used the Loyalhanna Watershed as an outdoor classroom to research the economics of watershed restoration, Geographic Information Systems, stream ecology, and watershed hydrology and hydrogeology. Their results were presented to the technical committee of the Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition, a group working to clean up abandoned mine drainage problems in Monastery Run and Four Mile Run, which are part of the Loyalhanna watershed.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

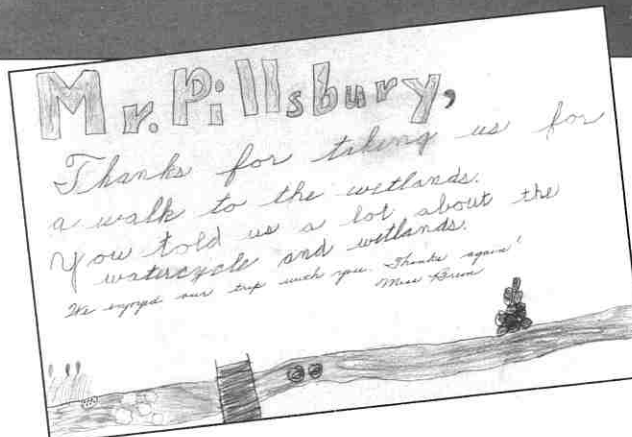


John Lohr announces a new conservation program. The Conservation Title in the 1996 Farm Bill provides for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its local partners to implement the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This new program replaces the long-time Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) with 5- to 10-year contracts to provide technical assistance and pay up to 75 percent of the costs of conservation practices such as manure management systems, pest management, and erosion control. EQIP not only includes the traditional soil and water conservation practices but also targets half the funding to livestock-related conservation practices.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be responsible for establishing policies, priorities, and guidelines for the EQIP. Conservation districts and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee will



Elementary students from the Nicely School, Greensburg Salem School District, show their appreciation for a wetland field trip.



News 'n Notes...

each have a role in the local implementation of the program. NRCS, FSA, and the Westmoreland Conservation District will partner on a local work group to assess natural resource conditions and needs, identify program priorities and resources available, develop proposals for priority areas, and make program policy recommendations.

Final EQIP regulations were published in early July. Next, all the involved agencies will be trained so the new program can be implemented as soon as possible. Persons interested in applying for EQIP cost-sharing will be able to apply at Donohoe Center with any of the three agencies involved.



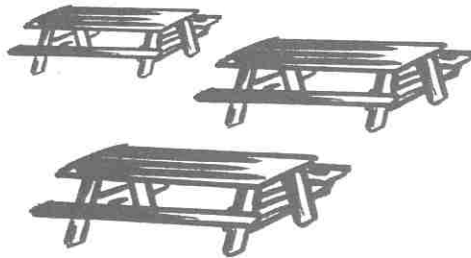
Inner cities and other urban areas are the targets of a new environmental effort called the Urban Resources Partnership.

This national initiative encourages conservation organizations to pool their talents and resources in projects which rehabilitate urban environments--streambank restoration, community garden projects, open space preservation, etc.

Locally, an Urban Resources Partnership was launched this summer at a workshop hosted by the Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development Area. Thirty-three people from a variety of agencies and organizations attended the workshop and heard Patrice Carroll, coordinator of the Philadelphia Urban Resource Project, and Karen Hobbs, national coordinator, USDA, Urban Resources, share their experiences with the program.

In breakout sessions, participants identified a number of ideas to make the effort successful, including developing a local environmental directory as a way to encourage interaction.

If you would like to become part of the Urban Resources Partnership, contact Nevin Ulery at Penn's Corner RC&D, at 834-9063.



SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to Rich Naugle at Champion Lumber for the donation of materials for picnic tables. The tables were assembled by Westmoreland County Parks employees and are located on the Donohoe Center grounds.

AWARDS AND KUDOS



From a field of more than 100 nominations, the Westmoreland Conservation District was chosen as one of the top three finalists in the government category of the prestigious 1996 **Three Rivers Environmental Awards**, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Duquesne Light Company.

The other finalists in the government category were the Erie City Water Authority (which won in the category) and Mr. Charles J. Goetz, who earned a national reputation for his work in controlling coke oven emissions in Allegheny County.

The Loyalhanna Watershed Association won in the community environmental organization category, and was cited for its coalition-building to promote conservation in eastern Westmoreland County.

Winners were announced at a dinner in late May at the Pittsburgh Hilton, with Governor Tom Ridge making the keynote address.



Our annual report was very well-received, and garnered numerous kudos for its innovative style from a variety of sources, including Chester Engineers, the National Association of

Conservation Districts, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

WCD STAFF NEWS

Craig Barras is the District's new erosion control specialist.



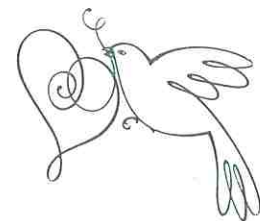
An earth science graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, Craig brings previous experience as an environmental technician to his new position.

He lives in Plum Borough with his family that includes twin, college-age sisters, and his interests include hunting, backpacking, golf, mountain biking and hiking.

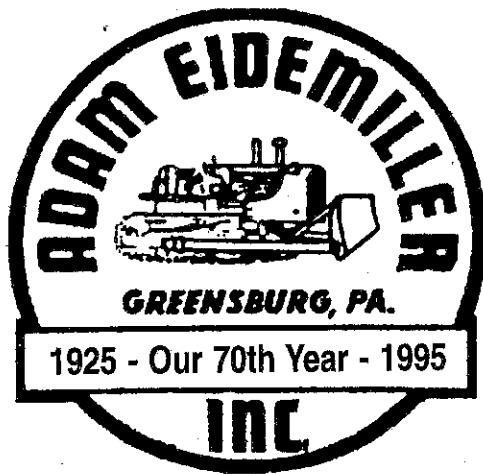
Lorrie Stouffer, WCD assistant district manager, recently received both state- and national-level professional appointments.

Lorrie was named to the Total Quality Management Steering Team for the Pennsylvania Conservation Partnership, as well as to the editorial board of the *Tuesday Letter*, a publication of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

District staff members were invited in July to tour the corporate headquarters of **Michael Baker Corporation**, an engineering, construction operations and technical services company that serves local, regional, and global markets.



Wedding bells rang on the same day for two District staffers -- **Bob Vantorini**, watershed coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and **Alex Dado**, WCD soil scientist. Bob and Rosie and Alex and Diane married in separate ceremonies on May 25, 1996 -- and we wish them the best.



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KATHY'S KIDS KORNER- Streams In Westmoreland

by Kathy Fritz

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

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| a. Beaver Run | k. Mill Creek |
| b. Boatyard Run | l. Pine Run |
| c. Cedar Creek | m. Sawmill Run |
| d. Chartiers Run | n. Saxman Run |
| e. Coalpit Run | o. Sewickley Cr |
| f. Furnace Run | p. Spruce Run |
| g. Jacobs Creek | q. Trout Run |
| h. Loyalhanna Cr | r. Turtle Creek |
| i. Macks Run | s. Unity Run |
| j. McMullen Run | t. Zimmerman Run |



NATURALLY Delicious

By Lori Whalen

Potluck Spareribs

- 6 pounds pork spareribs
- 1-1/2 cups ketchup
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Cut ribs into serving-size pieces; place with the meaty side up on racks in two greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. baking pans. Cover tightly with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 1-1/4 hours or until meat is tender. Drain; remove racks and return ribs to pans. Combine remaining ingredients; pour over ribs. Return to the oven, uncovered, for 35 minutes or until sauce coats ribs, basting occasionally. Ribs can also be grilled over medium-hot coals for the last 35 minutes instead of baking.

Yield: 12 servings.



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CALLING ALL COOKS

Are you known for your apple pie? Is your spaghetti sauce a family tradition? We'd love to include your favorite recipe(s) in a new, District-sponsored cookbook titled "Naturally Delicious."

Simply complete the form below, attach it to your favorite recipe(s) (limit 3), and mail by November 8 to: "Naturally Delicious," c/o Lori Whalen, Westmoreland Conservation District, Donohoe Center, RD #12 Box 202B, Greensburg, PA 15601. Submitting your recipe(s) also automatically enters you in a drawing to receive a free copy of the finished cookbook!

Watch future issues of "Landmarks" for more details on the "Naturally Delicious" cookbook.

Recipe name: _____
 Category (circle one): Appetizer -- Main Dish --
 Casserole -- Vegetable -- Soups and Salads --
 Desserts -- Jams, Jellies, Pickles & Relishes --
 Miscellaneous -- Recipes by Kids
 Number recipe serves: _____
 Your name: _____
 Telephone number: _____

Upcoming Events

OCT. 6-9

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts **Joint Annual Conference**, Lancaster

OCT. 10

Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association Meeting, Union County, Lewisburg
For County Administrators

OCT. 15

Westmoreland Conservation District **Monthly Meeting** - 8 p.m. *Four Points-Sheraton Inn*

OCT. 16

1996 World Food Day Telecourse People Power: A Harvest of Hope
Donohoe Center Conference Room

NOV. 8

Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Workshop for engineers and developers.
Call 837-5271 for details.

NOV. 13

Westmoreland Conservation District **Annual Planning Meeting** - 5:30 p.m.
Four Points-Sheraton Inn, Greensburg
**Reservations necessary; seating limited*
Call 837-5271

A Tribute To Dr. Netting

The conservation community lost a great friend and champion when Dr. M. Graham Netting died on August 26, at age 91. Netting was the former director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and founder of Powdermill Nature Reserve in Rector.

He was a passionate defender of conservation efforts. He was a founder of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and one of the earliest members of The Nature Conservancy. He was an active member and director of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, and LWA Executive Director Lysle Sherwin recalled him as "a giant in the field of conservation" who had the wisdom to see the overall picture and help steer LWA, especially in its formative years.

"Dr. Netting was constantly helping us and teaching us in his quiet, nurturing way," said Theresa Rohall, coordinator of education at Powdermill and WCD associate director. "He inspired all of us -- staff and volunteers -- who worked here. I respected him immensely and know that the successes I've achieved as an educator

are because he was in my life."

Dr. Netting's legacy lives on in the hearts of the many individuals who he touched and in their work for the environment. Perhaps his greatest gift to people of Westmoreland County is the fact that he located Powdermill in Rector. This unique, 2,000-plus-acre research and education field station offers scholars as well as the general public a very special place to enjoy forests and butterfly meadows, planted herb and fern gardens, dioramas of local mammals, and Sunday afternoon programs on natural history.

LANDMARKS

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