

19 HONORED AT ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



printing of the most extensive and professional long-range plan document in its history.

Our 1997 Awards Banquet, held on November 13 at the Four Points Hotel in Greensburg, paid tribute to some of the many people who have been instrumental in promoting the cause of conservation in Westmoreland County.

**Outstanding Conservation Partner:
Adam Eidemiller, Inc.**

When there is a conservation need, more often than not, Adam Eidemiller, Inc. has been there to help — from donating the equipment, manpower, and material to pave the new Nature Park parking area, to helping stabilize the badly eroded Jack's Run stream bank at Lynch Field.

Most recently, Adam Eidemiller provided the major underwriting support that allowed the District to move forward with the

**Outstanding Conservation Volunteers:
Harold Grey & Carol Pollock**

This husband and wife team has generously given their time, talents, and resources to a variety of important conservation projects over the years.

Most recently, they were key players in the effort to revitalize Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park. They continue to serve on the Nature Park Committee and, in their role as Penn State master gardeners, also helped to design and care for Ann's memorial.

Carol conceived and donated the collage honoring Ann that hangs in Donohoe Center and Harold is advising the District on the design for a resource center to be located near the park's entrance.

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Long-range Plan Unveiled

After dinner, Associate Director Mark Jackson pulled back a velvet drape as District Manager Greg Phillips announced the official unveiling of the District's just-off-the-press Long-range Plan.

"I am very pleased to share this moment with you," Greg told the audience of 118. "This is only the third Long-range Plan ever produced in the entire 49-year history of the Westmoreland Conservation District, and you are the very first people in Westmoreland County to see it in its finished, printed form."

But even though many in the audience hadn't seen the document before, they, as well as many Landmarks readers, have had a hand in its creation. The District has taken the input, suggestions, and advice so many of you have given us and used it as the fertile ground from which this document has grown.

The 40-page Long-range Plan is a master plan for how we are going to care for the natural resources that county businesses run on ... that produce the food and drink for our tables ... and



that provide recreation and quality of life. This is the plan for how Westmoreland County is going to care for its soils, forests, streams, productive farms, and sustainable communities over the next three to five years — years that will be an extremely critical period for our region, because we are in a period of explosive development.

The Long-range Plan is a blueprint for how we

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

WESLEY M. GORDON, *District Conservationist*
LARRY STOKUM, *Soil Technician*
ROB KNIGHT, *Soil Scientist*

Long-range Plan continued from page 1

can strike the delicate balance between our need to consume our natural resources to produce goods and services . . . and our need to conserve our natural resources to retain heritage, quality of life, and a legacy for the future.

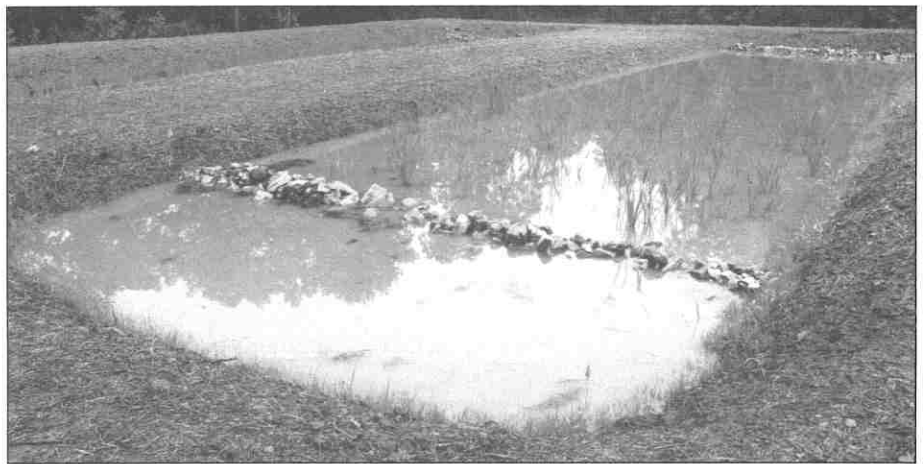
It includes plans to strengthen our existing conservation programs, such as controlling erosion and sediment pollution of county streams . . . and new, related initiatives, such as integrated planning of our urban corridors.

In each and every area, old and new, it features the recurring goal of conservation education. Greg explained why this emphasis is critical: "More than anything else we do, education is our best investment. It will insure a bountiful harvest of good conservation practices today . . . and an ethic that becomes a legacy for tomorrow."

The Long-range Plan will be used as an education and outreach document to build alliances, create more synergies, and solicit funding support and volunteer support for District activities.

Mine Water Cleaned — Believe It or Not!

by Wes Gordon, *District Conservationist*
Natural Resources Conservation Service



One of the mesocosm cells that is part of the new wetland treatment area where students will be able to study the effects of iron oxide pollution and this treatment approach.

Something STRANGE happened this summer behind St. Vincent College. YES – STRANGE!

- * Water ran uphill !! (and still is)
- * Orange water turned clear (and continues)
- * Clear water flowed into an orange stream (and still does).

The Monastery Run Project to improve the water quality in Loyalhanna Creek is underway. This summer's excitement was the "capture" of the artesian mine water flow called the "Bubbler." Using the head pressure of the artesian flow, water was piped UPSTREAM some 1600 feet to a location where treatment could occur. The treatment is a passive treatment wetland system which through a series of wetland cells, water is aerated and allowed time for the orange iron oxide to collect in the cells. Summer construction and manipulation of existing wetland areas behind the St. Vincent historic Grist Mill provided these cells. The result is a natural system of mine water remediation, visually striking as

orange water turns to clear water. The receiving stream, Nine Mile Run, remains orange because of upstream discharges yet to be treated. So the result at this time is CLEAR WATER flowing into an ORANGE stream. STRANGE, but true.

The Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition officially (and very proudly) relocated the Bubbler water and initiated Wetland #3 on August 15. The passive treatment wetland system is reducing the iron loading from this artesian discharge by 95%. Based upon the flow rate and chemical analysis, St. Vincent College Chemistry Department estimates that 200 pounds of iron oxide is contained EACH DAY in the system. That's 200 pounds per day that do not enter and pollute the streams.

But this is only a start. A positive start to a long road of water treatment to accomplish the Vision: "A beautiful clean stream running through Latrobe nurturing wildlife and beneficial to the community."

First-ever Conservation TOUR BY RAIL A Success

A near-capacity crowd of more than 120 people braved a chilly fall rain to attend the first-ever Conservation Tour on the Laurel Highlands Railroad on October 24.

This was an opportunity for people to get to know the District better and to get a unique, first-hand look at a variety of landmark conservation projects in the southwestern part of our county, including:

- major regional flood control measures that, just this past May, tamed the fury of a 25-year rain storm with no damage to property or threats to life,
- the scars from abandoned coal mines, and the variety of projects underway to revitalize those damaged lands and waterways,
- an exciting new regional recreation initiative, the Five Star Trail.

Representatives from the Westmoreland Conservation District, Pennsylvania CleanWays, the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association, the Farmland Preservation Program, the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and

the Five Star Regional Trail Association were on board to explain these and other projects.

During the 1-1/2-hour journey, participants were treated to refreshments that reflected the conservation projects they were seeing. Each received a "Taste of Conservation" snack bag that included: bottled water, courtesy of LeNature's, Latrobe, representing Clean Streams; a bag of walnuts, representing Healthy Forests; an Oreo and pudding cup called "dirt" and a gummy worm, representing Stable Soils; a Golden Delicious apple, courtesy of Hillside Orchards, Mt. Pleasant, representing Productive Farms; and a gingerbread cookie shaped like a house, representing Sustainable Communities.

The Train Museum in Youngwood stayed open so participants could stop in to see its extensive collection of railroad memorabilia after the tour.

The event was such a great success that the District is tentatively planning to hold it again – featuring a route through a different area of the county – in the spring.

Watch future issues of *Landmarks* for details.



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KATHY'S KIDS KORNER - Sheep

By Kathy Fritz

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

Can you find the following words in the puzzle to the left?

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Baa | 14. Hay | 27. Sire |
| 2. Barn | 15. Hoof | 28. Skein |
| 3. Chores | 16. Horns | 29. Spin |
| 4. Corn | 17. Knit | 30. Spindle |
| 5. Crochet | 18. Lamb | 31. Spool |
| 6. Dye | 19. Loom | 32. Twist |
| 7. Ewe | 20. Mill | 33. Warp |
| 8. Farm | 21. Oats | 34. Water |
| 9. Feed | 22. Ply | 35. Weave |
| 10. Felt | 23. Ram | 36. Weft |
| 11. Fence | 24. Salt | 37. Wheel |
| 12. Fleece | 25. Shear | 38. Wool |
| 13. Grain | 26. Sheep | 39. Yarn |

Awards Banquet
continued from page 1

Outstanding Conservation Organization: The Westmoreland Conservancy

A grassroots community organization created by concerned area residents, the Westmoreland Conservancy is dedicated to bringing balance to development in our communities.

In just a few short years, the conservancy has purchased the 55-acre Lillian Kellman property in Murrysville, which now is a municipal park; received a gift of 28 acres (the Walter Nature Reserve); and negotiated the purchase of a 96-acre tract of woodland known as the King Nature Reserve.

The group also works to keep the public informed on conservation issues within the community, and sponsors school and community activities with environmental themes.

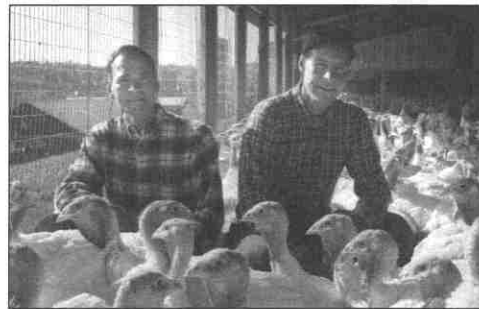
Outstanding Farm Cooperator: Pounds' Turkey Farm

Since 1935, the Pounds family has been growing and processing turkeys on their farm in Allegheny Township. Second-generation brothers Rick and Tim Pounds now run the business that was started by their father Harry. They also carry on his successful conservation practices.

Harry became a cooperator with the Conservation District in 1950, and established contour strip-cropping, grass waterways, and subsurface drains on his 195-acre property. He also built an innovative trench silo and was the first farmer in the area to plant alfalfa.

Rick and Tim continue to practice conservation on their property and have

extended these good practices — including minimum tillage techniques — to the cropland they rent as well. During a recent update of their processing facility, Tim and Rick worked with NRCS to plan and install



Tim and Rick Pounds, Outstanding Farm Cooperators, 1997

an environmentally sound method of wastewater disposal.

Outstanding Service Award: Harry Meyer

For 32 years in his official position with the State Conservation Commission, Harry offered valued advice and guidance on conservation projects in a nine-county area of western Pennsylvania.

In his professional area of specialty, mine reclamation, Harry helped restore many damaged lands in the region, including the Harr Farm in Pleasant Unity, which was the very first Landowner Reclamation Program project in the state.

In his recent retirement, Harry has agreed to become the District's newest associate director (see News 'n Notes).

Additionally at the banquet, certificates of appreciation also were presented to the following individuals.

Bill Paxton

For helping to encourage respect for our county's forests through unparalleled contributions to the Westmoreland County Trees of Distinction Program and an inventory of the natural resources of Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

Penn State Extension Master Gardeners

For making our county more beautiful and for fostering an appreciation of plants through the free public herb and flower gardens at Donohoe Center, various Highway Beautification efforts, and regular public education workshops.

City of Greensburg/Lynch Field Volunteers

For pro-actively addressing the conservation concerns of erosion and sediment pollution through a pioneering streambank stabilization effort that creatively combined a coconut fiber "bio log," hundreds of plant seedlings, and rock riprap along Jack's Run in Lynch Field, Greensburg.

Beverly Sullenberger

On the occasion of her retirement, after a total of 19 years of loyal service as a program assistant with the Farm Service Agency.

Imogene Fink

On the occasion of her 10-year service anniversary as a program assistant with the Farm Service Agency.

Shirley Tosh

For 29 years of service as program assistant and administrative assistant with the Farm Service Agency.

Christine Youngbauer

For providing excellent support for both the wetland #3 project at Monastery Run and the field office computing system in her service as a student intern this past summer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Jim Pillsbury

For passing — with flying colors — the very challenging Pennsylvania state exam to obtain his professional engineer's license, and for the added credibility this distinction gives to his work as the District's hydraulic engineer.

Also at the banquet, the Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board recognized retiring Board Members William Buttermore and Lysle Sherwin. Mark Killar of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation also was recognized for his outstanding service to the effort to clean up and restore mine-damaged lands and water.

News 'n Notes...

AWARDS AND KUDOS



DISTRICT VISIBILITY reached new heights this fall with both the Farmland Preservation Program's **Farm Market Map** (see summer *Landmarks*) and the District's **Trees of Distinction** program each capturing the lion's share of the front page of the Tribune Review's Local Section. Both extensive articles were accompanied by color photographs, and both were prompted by news releases issued by the District.

For a free copy of the Market Map, send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to: Farm Market Map, Westmoreland Conservation District, Donohoe Center, R.D. #12 Box 202-B, Greensburg, PA 15601. Offer good while supplies last.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

NEARLY 30 timber-harvesting contractors, employees, and foresters attended a **special environmental logging workshop**, sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania on August 25 at Nimick Nature Center, Rector. Topics included how to develop a timber-harvest plan, considerations during and after the harvest (such as how to control erosion), and regulatory requirements.

THE DISTRICT'S display at the **Westmoreland County Fair** in August featured an original 14' x 5' mural by Latrobe artist Greg Kuhar. The mural, which continued the District's 1997 theme of "Conservation Through the Seasons," featured a single farm scene on four panels. The portion of the scene on each panel was drawn to reflect a single season – the first, early spring planting; the second, the growing crops of summer; the third, the autumn harvest; and the fourth, the stillness of winter.

Action Hardware and Home Center in the Latrobe 30 Shopping Plaza generously donated some of the paint used for the mural.

Visitors to the exhibit were invited to register for a daily drawing. Winners of a CD featuring Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" were: Mark Gaffney, Ruffsedale; Robert Coppola, Manor; Robert Bowell, Irwin;

Norm McWhinney, Greensburg; Sherry Barber, Cranberry; Angela Ritenour, Southwest; Sharon Gewecke, Pleasant Unity; Richard Steele, Greensburg; and Virgil Wilford, Blairsville.

LARRY LARESE, director of the Westmoreland County Planning Department, was the featured speaker at a **special District workshop for area developers** on November 20, at Mt. View Inn, Greensburg. Mr. Larese shared his vision for development in the county.

Also speaking were Dan Painter of Adam Eidemiller, Inc., and Darryl Granata, director of planning and zoning for North Huntingdon Township, who discussed how planning can simplify the municipal process. Landscape architect Harold Grey spoke on ways to develop sites to fit the landscape.

The workshop offered insight into the more technical aspects of development as well, including erosion and sediment pollution control, viable alternatives for stormwater management, and how the new Geographic Information System and soil survey can be useful tools in planning and development.

Some 30 people attended the event.

THE DISTRICT received a thank you letter from the co-chairs of the 1997 **National Envirothon** for the support we provided during this six-day educational event for high school students, which was held in Johnstown this summer.

PROGRAMS

MARK KILLAR, WPCAMR regional coordinator, was one of several people presenting **testimony at a hearing before the State House Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy** on June 24 in Harrisburg. Mark spoke on his organization and its 16 projects to clean up damage from abandoned coal mines.

Although he felt that the meeting was a good one, Mark added that "it was apparent that many of the committee members from areas of the state that do not have abandoned mine problems are not aware of the extent of our problems."

In the future, Mark hopes to use a slide show as a dramatic way to make the message memorable to the House Committee.

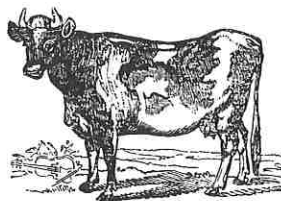
Pennsylvania leads the nation in miles of polluted streams and rivers. More than 2,400 miles of our waterways are not up to standard, and the main contributing factor is acid mine drainage.

PROJECT GRASS – a grassroots organization that promotes rotational grazing in 15 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania – recently released its **1996 report on the environmental and economic benefits** these systems provide. A few highlights of the report follow.

- Each farm saved an average of 143.2 gallons of fuel by using animals instead of tractors to harvest the hay. Also associated with the liquid fuel savings were reduced amounts of nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.

- Because operating pastures costs less than hauling feed, the average yearly savings per beef animal was \$64.20 . . . per sheep, \$23.01 . . . and per dairy animal, \$65.56.

For more details on the report, call *Holly Dugan at the District at 837-5271.*

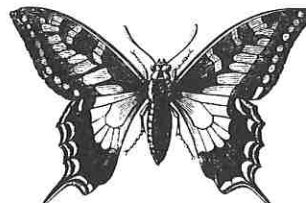


DISTRICT SOIL SCIENTIST Alex Dado and Conservation Volunteer Paul Heyworth have been representing the District on a project to draft a **conservation plan for the 43 miles of the Youghiogheny River** that flow through Westmoreland, Fayette, and Allegheny counties.

The draft of the plan will be ready for public viewing in December. It will include recommendations on water quality and quantity, land-use planning and control, anti-trash work, and economic development.

PUBLICATIONS

EVEN THOUGH the weather has turned colder, don't let it keep you cooped up indoors. Why not pull on your boots and take advantage of a sunny winter day with a hike through **Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park** (the entrance is right beside the District headquarters, Donohoe Center, on Donohoe Road in Greensburg).



You can even have a companion if you'd like. Take along one of the **brand new brochures** you'll find in a holder on the bulletin board. Produced by the Nature Park Committee, the brochure gives an overview of the grounds of Donohoe Center, the attractions of Nature Park, and background on Ann Rudd Saxman.

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

ALLEGHENY POWER has agreed to partner with the District on the **arboretum project**. Beginning next spring, the electric utility will provide two to three new trees per year for planting in the arboretum, which is located on the grounds of Donohoe Center. Allegheny Power, which has an interest in educating the public on low-growing trees suitable for planting under power lines, also will provide wood chips for use at the arboretum.

DISTRICT BOARD AND STAFF NEWS



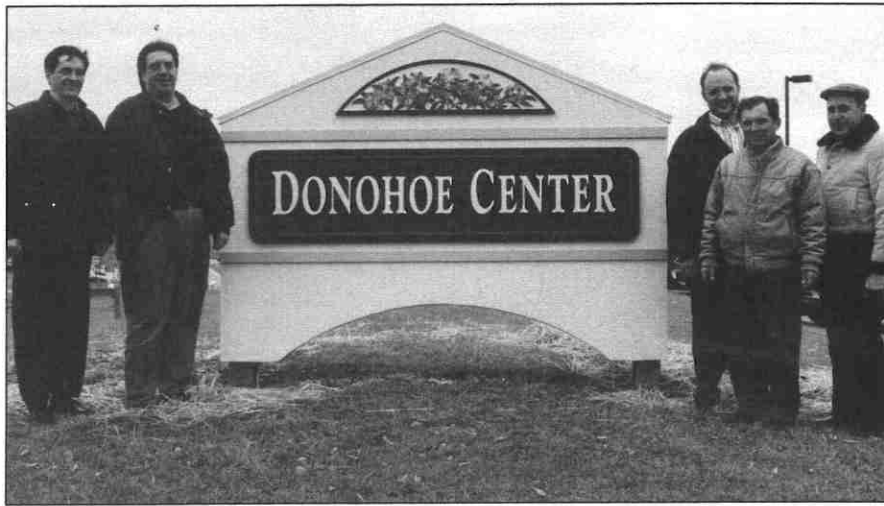
WE'RE PLEASED to announce that **Harry Meyer**, recently retired program specialist with the State Conservation Commission, has agreed to be our newest associate director.

Harry also serves as an associate director for the Beaver, Lawrence, and Washington conservation districts, and is a contributing member of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

Although he retired from general farming some time ago, Harry continues to grow fruit on his farm in South Fayette Township, Allegheny County, and he also is developing a woodlot to manage.

BOARD TREASURER Ron Rohall was elected secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' Executive Board.

His appointment will help raise the state's awareness of the specialized needs of conservation districts here in western Pennsylvania.



Pictured with the new sign are representatives of the agencies housed inside Donohoe Center — (l-r) Larry Frey, USDA Rural Development; Greg Phillips, Westmoreland Conservation District; John Lohr, Farm Service Agency; Eric Oesterling, Penn State Cooperative Extension; and Nevin Ulery, Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area. Donohoe Center also houses the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Westmoreland County Farmland Preservation Program, and the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

NOW IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO FIND US —

Just Look For The Sign

In late October, the finishing touches were put on a brand new, permanent "Donohoe Center" sign at the vehicle entrance to our building. The gray stucco and wood sign is designed to coordinate in both color and style with Donohoe Center itself.

A coordinating sign, listing the specific agencies located inside Donohoe Center, is located near the front door of the building. Also, as part of the new design and signage program, the building mail boxes were relocated to the west corner of the building.

The new signs and enhancements were made possible through the generous donation of the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation.

FIND THE FIDDLE

Thanks to everyone who participated in last issue's "Find the Fiddle" Contest.

Our winners were: Joseph Davis of Ligonier; Chris Wagner of Leechburg; and Roger Stormer of Indiana, PA. Each correctly identified the location of the fiddle (it was hidden in hand of the chef pictured with the *Naturally Delicious* recipe). Each winner received a CD of Vivaldi's



"The Four Seasons."

To wrap up our year of "fiddle finding," we've hidden the picture of the violin again somewhere in this issue. The 7th, 11th, and 13th callers to 837-5271, with the correct location of the much smaller version of the violin seen here will each win a Vivaldi "The Four Seasons" CD.

Past winners are not eligible to win again.

Concentrated Animal Operations, Please Note

Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act (NMA) regulations became effective on October 1, 1997. The act was originally passed in May of 1993 to improve farm efficiency and prevent nonpoint source pollution.

If you are a Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) then you must submit a nutrient management plan to your local conservation district. A CAO is an agricultural operation where there is more than 2,000 pounds of live-weight of livestock or poultry animals per acre on a yearly basis.

If you need help in determining if your operation is a CAO, or if you are interested in creating a voluntary nutrient management plan, please call Holly Dugan at the Westmoreland Conservation District at 837-5271.

Tired of having the same old thing for dinner?

Searching for a great new recipe? Look for the return of Naturally Delicious in the next issue of Landmarks!

LANDMARKS

The Official Newsletter of the Westmoreland Conservation District

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