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*Education Center...
Continued from page 1*

specific messages to help people understand the world outside their doorstep. A \$10,000 grant, awarded to the District by the Department of Environmental Protection in April, will be used to develop the first year of what is expected to be a three-year curriculum development program.

Lesson plans on two topics - Westmoreland County watersheds and sustainable communities - will be developed by District staff and a team of area educators this fall. The lesson plans will be provided free-of-charge to local teachers next spring and will form the basis of the Center's public education programs when it opens next summer.

Successful fundraising efforts

The District's very aggressive fundraising campaign has successfully raised nearly \$200,000 for the Center during the past year from a number of

foundations and several private donors, including:

- Allegheny Power: \$25,000;
- The Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation: \$50,000;
- The Richard King Mellon Foundation: \$100,000;
- And several private individuals: \$2,200.

The District also has allocated \$10,000 to the project from "consent agreements" collected from those who have violated conservation laws. And most recently, the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation offered us an additional \$15,000 if we can raise \$15,000 to match it. Several additional grant requests have been submitted and are now under review.

The District's goal is to raise the entire capital costs of the Center — currently estimated at \$250,000 — from private sources.

Can You Find the Hidden Magnifying Glass?

ONCE AGAIN, in keeping with the theme of our Annual Report, we have hidden a magnifying glass somewhere in this issue of *Landmarks*. The 10th, 12th, and 17th callers to the Westmoreland Conservation District at 837-5271 correctly



identifying the location of the magnifying glass will win a game of Clue®, and a WCD Envirothon tee-shirt. Previous lucky winners were Edna Tosh (Ligonier), Robin Topper (Greensburg), and Doug Hauser (Mt. Pleasant). Good luck and may the best detective win!

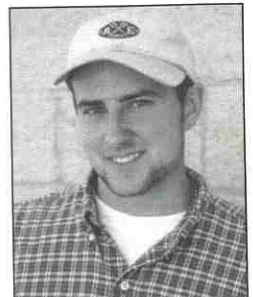
Christopher Droste Joins District Staff

By Kathy Fritz

Chris Droste of Monroeville recently joined the District in July as Erosion Control Technician. Chris is a recent graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg with a B.S. in Environmental Science and several certifications from EPA in environmental remediation, wastewater monitoring, soil and groundwater sampling, etc. His new duties will focus on erosion control plan reviews and field inspections throughout the county.

Chris is a member of the Western PA Conservancy, Sewickley Creek Watershed Association and the Sierra Club. His other interests include hiking, fishing, extreme mountain biking, snowboarding, surfing, and running, and he is a member of the Sports Car Club of America.

His future goal is to learn more about the condition of our local watersheds and help preserve and maintain a healthy ecosystem in the community.



The Clean Streams Law:

How it relates to the Nutrient Management Act

By Dan Griffith

The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law, originally passed in 1937, (and amended in the 1960s as a result of this District's efforts), is intended to "preserve and improve the purity of the waters of the Commonwealth..." Under that authority, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) developed regulations to address water pollution, including pollution from animal manure and from field runoff. The local Conservation District is charged with helping people understand how they can prevent

pollution; also, to provide the technical services and perhaps try to secure funding to help landowners care for their land and water.

People who own production livestock should be aware of the following:

- Animal manure storage facilities must be designed and operated properly. Land application of animal manure must be done properly, also.
- If a person stores or uses a potentially polluting substance such as

manure, they need a plan that shows how they will prevent the manure from reaching streams, lakes, ponds, underground aquifers, etc.

- If a pollution problem occurs, the Nutrient Management Act (NMA) allows DEP to require the farmer to submit a plan that meets the requirements of the Act.

For more information about the Clean Streams Law or Nutrient Management plans, contact Dan Griffith at 837-5271.

IN THE FIELD

By Mark Jackson and Lorrie Stouffer



STREAMS NEED YOUR HELPING HANDS

By Wes Gordon

The quality of water in our streams has always been of interest to soil and water conservationists. But more recently the entire stream corridor is receiving attention.

Interest in improving stream water quality is now looking at the entire riparian corridor. The land situated along the bank of a stream is gaining importance in the water quality improvement battle. Both streamside vegetative buffers and stable streambanks are now viewed as important parts of the overall stream health.

Streamside buffers slow water runoff, trap sediment, enhance water infiltration, trap excess fertilizers, bacteria, and heavy metals and generally minimize the chances of pollutants reaching surface waters. Properly installed and maintained riparian buffers containing a mixture of grasses, shrubs and trees can also add natural beauty to the landscape.

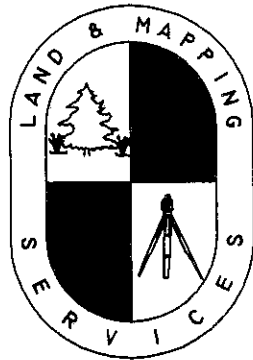
Stabilizing streambanks to reduce in-stream erosion has traditionally been accomplished with rock rip-rap. Now many options for treatment exist as "bio-engineering" is gaining popularity. This

is a method of combining sound engineering structural systems with suitable vegetative plantings used together to stabilize streambanks.

If you have a special interest in this exciting new direction of resource conservation, you should make contact with us. Among both the WCD and NRCS staff we have some very good new handbooks and manuals on stream corridor restoration, streamside buffers and bio-engineering streambank protection. In addition, there will be training opportunities for you to learn more about these topics.

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Family Picnic Celebrates Proud Past, Promising Future

By Lorrie Stouffer

Fun, games, delicious food and great weather contributed to a successful Family picnic on September 10 as part of our year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration. The informal afternoon began with a welcome by Chairman J. Roy Houston and an overview and update on the *Center for Conservation Education* by district manager Greg Phillips. Greg invited attendees to view displays, tour antique farm equipment, join in games and enjoy music by local musician Don Burkey and friends.

District directors took a few minutes to recognize this moment in time as they lowered a time capsule containing memorabilia from 1999 into a vault. Friends, family, cooperators and agency personnel looked on as the board of directors gathered in front of Donohoe Center and recognized the efforts of those that have contributed to the past fifty years of the Westmoreland Conservation District. Vice-president Ron Rohall noted, "those who founded the organization put so much time and effort into conservation... yet faced a much larger challenge because they needed to convince the public that there were real erosion problems that needed to be addressed." He closed by challenging the youth in attendance to follow careers in conservation or to volunteer in community activities and serve as future board members, perhaps participating in opening the time

capsule in another 50 years.

Mike DeSavage, Wes Gordon and our own Jim Pillsbury had a difficult time as judges in our first ever Pie Judging Contest, but finally recognized the entrants in some new categories (see sidebar). Many thanks and congratulations go to the entrants for making this such a success! Children attending the picnic participated in a number of games and contests. Big winners of the day are also listed.

The day would not have been possible without the assistance of our valuable contributors and we would like to thank the following companies and individuals: Adam Eidemiller, Inc.; Stone & Co.; Mountain View Inn; Pepsi Cola Co.; Ft. Allen Antique Farm Equipment Association; Turner Dairy Farms; Bruster's Ice Cream; Swank's Steel City Shows; J. Roy Houston; P. Roy Kemerer; Keith Walters; Dorothy Stoner; LeNature Beverages; Natural Resources Conservation Service; and especially the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

The final event scheduled as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration will be the Annual Awards Banquet. Featuring Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor Keith McGough, the November 17 event is sure to be a fun-filled and interesting evening. Call Joanne at 837-5271 for further information or to make your reservation.

CONTEST WINNERS

Pie Winners

Best Decorated – Erv Droste
 Best Meringue – Thelma Kemerer
 Best Crust – Peg & Steve Pilipovich
 Most Unique Pie – Kathy Gordon
 Best Non-Native Fruit Pie – Erv Droste
 Best Filling – Dorothy Kotsenas
 Best Berry Pie – Glenda Paxton

Sack Race

1-5 yr. olds – Joanna Fliss
 6-12 yr. old – John Cotchen
 13 & over – Bruce Anthony

Balloon Toss

1-5 yr. olds – Jessie Fritz & Joanna Fliss
 6-12 yr. olds – Tied
 Jeremiah Fritz & Bobby Keefe
 Sam & Chris Griffith
 13 & over – Jeff Fliss & Mary Ann Rinaldi

Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest

1-5 yr. olds – Regis Jackson
 6-12 yr. olds – Bobby Keefe
 13 & older – Bruce Anthony

Egg Toss

13 & over – Darlene & Bruce Anthony
 Judge for these events was Dorothy Stoner, WCD Director

Other Participants

Brandon Phillips, Andy Kennedy, Justin Repasky, Mary Jackson, Aaron Quadro, Megan Knight, Katie Knight, Matt McMillen, Stephanie Keefe, Trudy Jackson

TAKING A

A note from the editor...

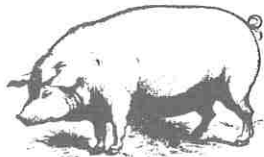
As part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, I had the opportunity to research the "Greensburg Daily Tribune" (the predecessor of the Tribune Review) looking for articles related to conservation and the environment over the past 100 years. It was quite a history lesson for me. I quickly realized that the word "conservation" in its current context didn't really exist 100 years ago, and even 75 years ago its meaning wasn't quite what we use as our mission at the District in 1999. However, I thought you might enjoy a look back at what was "happening" locally. Next issue we'll look back at 50 and 25 years ago with articles from the Greensburg Tribune Review.

— Lorrie



FAMOUS EQUINE DEAD Michael Fritchman of Penn Township Loses His Driving Horse "Billie."

Michael Fritchman of Penn township, a few days ago lost his famous Kentucky driving horse, "Billie," which he had for 22 years. "Billie" only missed one feed in his life and never was sick until he took colic and in spite of the best medical attention, died in a few hours. "Billie" was almost 25 years old and in his day was one of the best drivers in the country.



A MONSTER HOG It was Almost Eight Feet Long and Dressed 753 Pounds

Morewood, Jan. 28 - Thomas Perks of near Morewood, butchered one of the largest

hogs in that vicinity, its weight, when dressed, being 753 pounds. Its length was 7 feet and 11 inches, and 23 inches across its back. It was the largest hog known in that vicinity for its age, it being just 27 months old.



SPLENDID FARMS FOR SALE

\$5,000 - Farm, 10 acres, near Greensburg; 6 roomed dwelling; splendid spring water; choice fruit; rolling land; all underlaid with coal; lime stone quarry open; would exchange for Greensburg property or sell on easy terms.

\$6,000 - Farm, 10 acres near Greensburg; fine fruit farm; large 8-roomed brick dwelling; nice rolling land; splendid water; barn and carriage house; easy terms.

\$3,000 - Farm, 22 acres; 6-roomed dwelling; good barn; good water; rolling land, near Jeannette. Easy terms.

\$3,500 - Farm - 63 acres, near Elderton, Armstrong county; 9 acres timber; underlaid with coal; rolling land; 5-roomed dwelling; barn, 40 X 50; splendid water; will exchange for Greensburg property.

\$4,000 - Farm, 97 acres near Greensburg; 6-roomed dwelling; good barn; choice fruit; limestone quarry open; good soil; would exchange for Greensburg property.

\$5,000 - Farm, 20 acres; choice garden and fruit farm; near Greensburg; fine location; large 7-roomed dwelling; barn, 40 x 50; splendid water; two fine springs; would exchange in part for Greensburg or East Liberty property.

\$20,000 - Fine farm, 120 acres; 40 acres underlaid with coal along P. R. R.; near Greensburg; choice fruit; limestone; large brick dwelling and 4 roomed frame tenant house; large barn; fine stock farm; splendid water. Easy terms.

\$7,500 - Farm, 60 acres near Greensburg; nice rolling land; about 500 trees; about 1,000 ft. frontage along P. R. R.; large 10-roomed dwelling and 4-roomed tenant house; good water; splendid soil; all in fine condition. Terms, \$3,500 cash and balance 5 years or longer.

YOUGH IMPROVEMENT Congressman Robbins Asks for \$300,000 - To Pay Funeral Expenses

Washington, Jan. 19. - Representative E.K. Robbins of Greensburg, appeared before the rivers and harbors committee yesterday and argued for the improvement of the Youghiogheny river. He urged them to insert a clause for \$300,000 for improving the river by the construction of three locks and dams between McKeesport and West Newton under the continuous contract system.

Representative Robbins introduced a resolution yesterday to pay \$250 for the funeral expenses and transportation of the body of John W. Stewart of Home, Indiana county, a doorkeeper of the house of representatives, who died here on Monday. The resolution also provides for the payments to the widow of Stewart of six months pay.

FURNISHES CITY WATER Richard Thomas Tries to Prevent the Use of Impure Water

Richard Thomas who has charge of the skating at Athletic park, furnishes city water for all of his patrons who visit the place. He says there is no necessity for the boys, or any one else, to drink the impure water that runs into the trough near by. Mr. Thomas has placed a sign at the trough notifying all persons not to use the water. He has, as far as possible, also closed it so that persons cannot drink there without some difficulty.

A notice was served by the board of health, and every precaution is being taken by both Mr. Thomas and the board to prevent persons from hereafter drinking the impure water which is supposed to have caused the three recent cases of typhoid fever.

FAIR OFFICERS ELECTED The Westmoreland Agricultural Society Holds Its Annual Meeting

The Westmoreland county agricultural society held its annual meeting in Glunt's hall today at 10 o'clock a.m., and this afternoon elected the following named officers for the ensuing year:

President, Jno. Allahouse; vice president, Joseph Jamison; directors, J. P. Shoemaker, John Blank, Francis Waugaman, J. R. Truxal, C. D. Eisaman, R. K. Hissem, F. D. Barnhart, Albert Harrold, E. M. Bair; auditors, Robert Ellis, S. A. Kline, Est., A. Bushyeager.

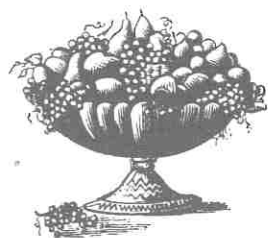
LOOK BACK...

FARMERS' INSTITUTE

Farmers Meet in Convention in Glunt's Hall - Topics Discussed

The farmers institute convened this morning at Glunt's hall and it was attended by a number of farmers from all over the county. Subjects bearing directly on farm work are being discussed by practical men who have spent their years in tilling the soil.

Hon. N. Critchfield of Somerset county spoke at length on the subject of "vegetables and small fruits." The senator gave his



experience in the cultivation of berries and other garden truck. His ideas were all good. Other farmers gave their views and experiences.

Daniel Pershing of Stauffer, read a paper on "Country Homes." In this paper he told of the material and construction of country buildings so that they would be convenient, beautiful and suited to the many wants of the farm.

The afternoon's session was opened by Prof. Wm. Frear, of State College, Pa., who discussed the subject of sugar beet raising in this state.

"Swine Raising on the Farm for Profit" was the subject handled by T. J. Wagner of Harrison City. He said the greatest profit is gained by the farmers when he can develop a 200 pound hog in 10 months or less time. Others spoke on the same subject.

The principles of "Stock Feeding," were discussed by Prof. Frear, who used a charge in his explanations. Other farmers then spoke.



COUNTY FARMERS TO CELEBRATE 'LIMESTONE DAY'

100 Cars To Be Received In This City

Reception For Train Is Now Being Planned With Day Being Given Over to Agriculturists.

Will Be Big Aid

A limestone day for Westmoreland county is the next gigantic venture of the farmers, in cooperation with the farm bureau and the people of Greensburg.

One hundred cars of pulverized Michigan limestone for distribution on the land of Westmoreland county is to be given a monster reception on its arrival in Greensburg on September 4, when it is expected that about 10,000 people from every nook and corner of this county, will dispel work for a day and be at home in Greensburg.

The limestone will be redistributed from Greensburg to the farmers throughout the county. The 100 cars will come direct from the factories and it is intended to make the receiving day a real farmers day in this city. The limestone will cost the farmers about \$18,000 and they confidently expect that it will be worth about \$100,000 to the farming industry of the county.

RAILROADS AIDING IN CONSERVATION

by United Press



HARRISBURG, July 16 - The railroads are taking an active hand in the forest conservation movement, according to reports received by the State Department of Forests and Waters.

In 1923 the railroads purchased 15 percent of all the forest products of the country for which \$232,511,000 was paid, thus showing their interest in saving the forests is based on sound principles of economy, according to the forestry department.

The largest portion of this expenditure was for cross ties, more than one-half the expense having been involved in this necessity.

Heretofore, it was been supposed that locomotives casting sparks, cause many of the forest fires started along the right of way of railroads. Several companies, having investigated, find that carelessness of passengers in

smoking compartments has been responsible for a number of bad fires. They have, therefore, placed wire screening over the windows of smoking cars to prevent throwing of lighted matches and burning tobacco from the trains.

FOREST FIRES



The wooded districts of the west are disastrously being wiped out at the present time with the worst forest fires in the history of this thickly timbered land, the land of giant trees and of the great lumber interests of this country. The fires which rage seem not to be confined to a single district but have spread throughout several states. Loss of life and great property destruction, entailing a monetary loss that cannot be estimated, is the result.

We, of this section, who are called to fight forest fires have little conception of the disaster that befalls those giant trees and the lands in the west when the cruelest of demons breaks out. The timberland becomes roaring, seething furnaces, the flames licking their way at a rapidity which astounds. Likenesses of such fires have been given to us on the moving picture screen.

Forest fires in this mountainous region have been lacking during the past spring. Not in the past two years have so few been reported through the forest warden's office at Ligonier and for this we should be thankful. The unusually wet spring probably accounts for the absence of fire. The summer and fall months are also dangerous. Travelers in the woods during the summer and hunters in the fall are wont to be careless at times. With so many conservation moves on foot and with the natural beauty of wooded land to remind us, there should be little thought of carelessness.

Let us keep our forests.



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 - ▽ Wetland Mitigation Plans
- ◁ Environmental Sampling
- ▽ Streambank Stabilization

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Regional Watershed Support Initiative Hits Home

By Mark Killar

Westmoreland County's watershed associations took full advantage of the available funding from the Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection and newly developed Regional Watershed Support Initiative (RWSI). Administered by the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, RWSI was created to help address Pennsylvania's abandoned mine problems. Specifically, its intention was to develop new watershed groups in areas affected by mine drainage problems and assist existing groups in their efforts to restore their degraded watersheds.

The Jacobs Creek Watershed Association was formally organized using \$3,500 in RWSI funding. The grant provided the organization an opportunity to develop a community outreach effort through the creation of an informational brochure. The addition of the Jacobs Creek group now brings the number of watershed

groups presently operating within the county to five. Few other counties in Pennsylvania are so well represented.

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association used their \$2,000 RWSI grant to perform a biologic study of the stream, successfully stocking the Turtle Creek with trout in order to access their ability to survive in its polluted waters. The success of the study has led to the distinct possibility of the stream being added to the stocking list by Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in the near future. It also shows that with a little help the stream could become an important recreational asset within both Westmoreland and Allegheny counties.

\$1,750 in RWSI funding was used by the Mountain Watershed Association to develop a brochure urging the residents of the Indian Creek area to care for their local water resources. Information regarding the toxic effects of mine drainage and common household and

workshop materials hopes to get people to think before they act.

The Loyalhanna Watershed Association was able to enhance an existing mine drainage treatment system in the headwaters of Loyalhanna Creek using \$3,000 in RWSI monies. The "passive" treatment system, which uses limestone, ponds and wetlands to remove acid, iron, and aluminum from an abandoned mine discharge located at Powdermill Nature Reserve, was tweaked to improve efficiency and provide for the possible extraction of the aluminum from system.

A \$1,500 RWSI grant helped Sewickley Creek Watershed Association develop a full page ad which ran in several local newspapers and encouraged membership and active involvement within the group. The group is actively working with local educational institutions, foundations, local businesses, and state and federal agencies to develop more cleanup projects within the watershed.

AND ON YOUR SUNDAY DRIVE...



Be sure to check out a few of our Trees of Distinction. The biggest **White Oak** in the county is located at the intersection of School Road and Route 22 in Murrysville. This spectacular tree is 66 inches in diameter, 75 feet in height, and has a crown spread of over 175 feet. If you enjoy getting off the main roads and sight-seeing, take a ride near Myers Road in Unity Township. There you will find a **Honey Locust** with a diameter of 55^{1/2} inches, standing 90 feet tall with a crown spread of 78 feet.

Standing at the entrance to Unity Cemetery near St. Vincent College is a **Black Gum** tree, which measures in at 30.7" in diameter, 62 feet in height, and sporting a crown of 54 feet. Seton Hill College boasts four different Trees of Distinction. The biggest is an **Overcup Oak**, remarkable for its 93 foot height, 44 inch diameter, and 95.6 foot crown spread.

For further information on where these trees are located, or to nominate a tree for this unique "distinction," contact district forester Tony Quadro at 837-5271.

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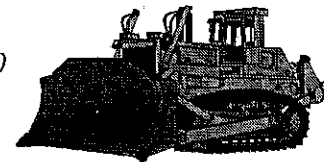
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Dirt & Gravel Roadwork Rolling Along

By Craig Barras

The Dirt & Gravel Roads Program continues to make an impact in Westmoreland County. The first round of funding has been applied to three different road projects thus far. Improvements have been made to Tunnel Road in Donegal Township, Crooked Run Road in Salem Township and Firetower Road in Fairfield Township. These improvements eliminated some significant erosion and sediment pollution problems to several high quality streams.

Crooked Run Road crosses three unnamed tributaries to Beaver Run. The Salem Township road crew replaced the old culverts at these three crossings with new 48-inch diameter pipes, concrete headwalls and rip-rap rock protection. Other improvements included turnouts, seeding of disturbed banks and the addition of new gravel base material. The township spent extra time and money in addition to what their grant provided in order to make the project one to be proud of.

Firetower Road climbs up the eastern side of Chestnut Ridge crossing a few unnamed tributaries to Coalpit Run which runs down to Loyalhanna Creek. The

Fairfield Township Supervisors replaced one major stream crossing culvert with a new 36-inch pipe, built headwalls with native stone, and placed rock rip-rap at both ends of the pipe. Other improvements included installing two new cross-drains, repairing existing pipes, adding new and maintaining existing turnouts, adding gravel road base material and stabilizing disturbed areas with seed and mulch. This project came in a little under budget and township used the money to install another cross-drain and stabilize additional disturbed areas along the road. Fairfield spent more time than initially allotted by the grant in order to do a quality job.

The District will be notifying municipalities regarding additional upcoming funding opportunities later this year. For additional information on the projects that were completed or the program itself contact Merle Harr at Salem Township (668-7500), Vaughn Tantlinger at Fairfield Township (235-2140) and/or Craig Barras at the Conservation District (837-5271).



NATURALLY

Delicious

by Karen Barnhart

Sausage Skillet Supper

Cut 1 lb. Smoked sausage into chunks.

Combine $\frac{3}{4}$ cup converted rice, 1 can cream of celery soup, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water.

Cover and bring to a boil in a large skillet on medium heat.

Reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes.

Stir in 1 10 oz. package of frozen peas.

Sprinkle with 1 cup grated cheddar cheese.

Simmer covered for 20 minutes.



KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

By Kathy Fritz

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

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

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Backyard | 9. Family Picnic |
| 2. Chris Droste | 10. Fifty Years |
| 3. Clean Streams | 11. Grants |
| 4. Conservation | 12. Looking Back |
| 5. Dirt Roads | 13. Magnify Glass |
| 6. Education | 14. Stream Corridor |
| 7. Encroachments | 15. Time Capsule |
| 8. FPP Picnic | |

Postal Service Pictorial Cancellation Announcement

The Westmoreland Conservation District is pleased to announce that October 21, 1999 has been designated as the date the U.S. Postal Service will offer a pictorial cancellation commemorating our 50th Anniversary. As a community service, pictorial cancellations are offered to recognize local events celebrated in communities throughout the nation. People attending these local events may obtain the cancellation in person at the temporary post office station established. Those who cannot attend the event, but who wish to obtain the cancellation, may submit a mail order request. The requests must be postmarked no later than 30 days following the requested pictorial cancellation date.

This special commemoration will be featured in an October issue of the Tribune Review. For information on how to submit your request for a cancellation, please contact Joanne at the district office, 837-5271.

Natural Resource Programs Improve Quality of Life

By John Lohr

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers landowners financial, technical, and educational assistance to implement conservation practices on farms. Using this help, farmers and forest landowners apply practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance cropland, forestland, wetlands, grazing lands and wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices. A sign-up period is expected before the end of the year.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides financial

assistance to farmers for the restoration of farmlands on which normal operations have been impeded by natural disasters. ECP also helps with funds for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. ECP is also available for removing debris and restoring permanent fences, terraces, diversions, and other conservation installations.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) works primarily in locally identified priority areas where there are significant natural resource concerns, such as soil erosion, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and forest and grazing lands. Activities must be carried out according to a conservation plan as part of a 5 to 10 year contract. Cost sharing may pay up to 75% of the costs for certain practices.

Contact the Westmoreland USDA Service Center at (724) 853-5555 for more information.

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 22

DEP SW Regional Roundtable Meeting
Donohoe Center - Greensburg, PA
Contact Kathy Fritz for further information 837-5271

Wednesday, November 17

Annual Awards Banquet
Four Points Hotel by Sheraton - Greensburg, PA
5:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Reservations required
\$25.00 per person
Featured Speaker is Teddy Roosevelt
Re-enactor Keith McGough
Contact Joanne for more information 837-5271

LANDMARKS

The Official Newsletter of the
Westmoreland Conservation District

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Winner, National Association of Conservation
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LANDMARKS

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