



New life for an old barn



(left) Chris Droste at work in the office



(below) Tony Quadro reviewing data



Smiling receptionist Joanne Kitsko



Another view

Welcome!

Westmoreland County Center for Conservation Education New Home to District

Looking for Jim Pillsbury? Need to meet with Chris Droste? You'll find them, along with all the other members of the Westmoreland Conservation District, in their new home – the big red barn that's just a few steps behind their former offices in Donohoe Center.

District Manager Greg Phillips and Secretary Sandy Dzendzel have been operating out of this new location since August 2001. The remaining District staff joined them almost exactly a year later, after a team of carpenters, electricians, and painters finished transforming the lower level of this barn-turned-Conservation-Education-Center into a series of well-lit offices, much-needed storage rooms, and central meeting space.

With about 75% more space than Donohoe Center, the new location relieves the cramped, inefficient conditions that District staff have endured for the past several years. Instead of four staff members squeezed into a single 15' x 10' office, the maximum per-office-occupancy in the new Center is two. The move also eliminated the need for the District to rent off-site storage space to house its displays, files, brochures, and other materials.

But the greatest benefit of the move to the Education Center is that it promises to improve the quality of the District's work because all the technical experts, who will be leading the public outreach programs, are now physically located in the building where they will be working.

"When we moved into Donohoe Center in 1994, we had a total of eight

Continued on page 6



Need To Contact Us?

Please Note Our New Address...

Westmoreland Conservation District
Center for Conservation Education
211 Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Our phone/fax numbers and email address remains the same:

Phone: 724-837-5271

Technical staff fax: 724-837-4127

Administrative fax: 724-522-0143

Email: wcd202B@aol.com

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 BOBBI BAILEY, *Soil Conservationist*

Bobbi Bailey Joins NRCS Staff



Bobbi Bailey

The Natural Resources Conservation Service welcomed a new staff member, Bobbi Bailey, to Donohoe Center on July 1st. Bobbi was hired on full-time as a Soil Conservationist. Her main job responsibilities include

working with landowners in developing conservation plans and providing technical guidance in the planning and application of land treatment measures.

Bobbi grew up on a farm in Princeton, West Virginia where she and her family raised purebred Short-horn cattle. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and a Master's degree in Agriculture Education from Virginia Tech. From there, she worked for the WV Conservation Agency as a Grassland Technician and Environmental Specialist and for the WVU Extension Service as an Agriculture Extension Agent.

Cooperative Extension Hires New Staff

The Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension would like to introduce its newest staff member. Anita Nichols, who began August 1, is the new Community and Economic Development Agent. This position is a co-funded, partnership position with the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County.

The Smart Growth Partnership is a nonprofit organization designed to promote cooperative land-use strategies that will improve the quality of growth in Westmoreland County.

Nichols will be responsible for educational outreach to community members, municipal leaders and students about community development, planning and also about smart growth practices.

Anita is a 1997 graduate of Uniontown Area High School. She graduated from Shippensburg University in December 2001 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography,



Anita Nichols

concentrating in Regional Development and Tourism.

This spring Nichols worked as an intern with the Fayette County Office of Planning, Zoning, and Community Development under the management of Tammy Shell, executive director.

Nichols is currently residing in her hometown of Confluence, but will be relocating to the Greensburg area in the near future.

Contact Anita Nichols at the Cooperative Extension (724) 837-1402; at the Smart Growth Partnership (724) 836-7048; or by email adn3@psu.edu

Smart Growth Workshop

November 15th – University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

The Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County and the Westmoreland Conservation District will sponsor this event which will highlight "Growing Greener" planning concepts. Municipal planners, developers, designers and engineers from the region will be invited to listen to development case studies from Westmoreland County and participate in a design for an actual development. Contact Alex Graziani at 724-836-7048 for more information on this event.



Soil Scientist Rob Knight, of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), takes soil descriptions in the field and sometimes preserves them as soil columns (or monoliths) for educational purposes.

Soil is Making News...

MONOLITH TRIBUTE

A soil monolith display is being prepared as a permanent addition to the Westmoreland County Center for Conservation Education. This project will also include adding a soil guide book for the interpretative trail environmental stations in Nature Park. The project is in memorial to John Millen, a local farmer and conservationist who had an interest in soil. Family members have donated the funds for the project.

A soil monolith represents a vertical slice of soil in its natural position. It is used to display soils and their properties for a variety of educational and demonstration purposes. Soil profiles taken in the field and preserved as soil columns are more realistic than color photographs drawings or paintings.

Monoliths are treated to preserve the natural appearance of the soil profile. Soils monoliths are prepared by taking a soil profile from an excavation and gluing it to a board. The soil is saturated with a fixative that permanently binds the soil.

DIGITAL SURVEY AVAILABLE

And an update on a related topic is of interest to many in Westmoreland County. The digital interim edition of the soil survey for Westmoreland County is now available for \$25.00 from WCD. A nationally certified edition will be issued after a technical review.

The CD contents include the soil layer, soil data viewer (the interpretations and soil database), and aerial photo coverage for Westmoreland County. These products are in ArcView

formats in UTM projection. Future plans are to have other digital formats of the soil survey information as well as hard copies. The WCD is working with NRCS to develop these products.

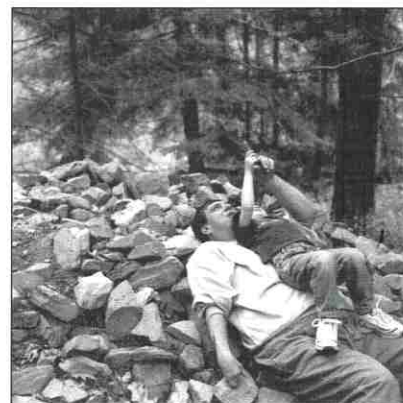
UPDATED INFORMATION

Soil surveys exist to help people make informed decisions on the use of the land. Soil information can determine highly erodible land, existing hydric (wetland) soils, potential wetland sites, prime and important farmland soils, soil capability class and soil suitability for many agricultural, rural, and urban land uses. Soil maps can be used to plan the locations of buildings and roads and to determine hazards and limitations for any area. Soil information is critical for sound land use management.

The soil survey of Westmoreland County has been updated, with major revisions to both the maps and soil information. Major revisions were made to bring the survey up to current standards and improve its usability in addressing current environmental issues and concerns. The increasing demands for soil information make it essential that they be continually improved.

Soil surveys are digitized to provide quick access to soil maps and information and allow soil data to be used with a variety of other data in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Digital soil surveys can provide the answers to: "What is where?" and help answer "What will happen if ...?" when used with the many computer models that currently exist. Soil information provides the basis for all decisions about the land.

New Partnership Results In Photo Exhibit



The Westmoreland Conservation District and Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County will celebrate the opening of "The Green Edge of Westmoreland," a photographic exhibition created by nationally known photographer, Lynn Johnson.

The exhibit will open on Thursday, October 3 at Westmoreland Conservation District at the Center for Conservation Education and will be on display most weekdays till October 26 with hours of 2:00-4:00 PM except October 15 and 22 which will be from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Johnson's thirty-five black and white photographs document in portraits and landscapes many of the conservationists, farmers, stewards and visionaries of Westmoreland County. The exhibit celebrates both Westmoreland's rich natural beauties and vulnerable resources, and is funded by Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County and the Robertshaw Foundation.



ATTENTION!

Due to lack of funding, the WCD will no longer be able to process Chapter 105 General Permits as of November 15, 2002.



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Preserving Open Space in Murrysville

Murrysville Parks and Recreation Department was busy this past spring with a new project to enhance, beautify, and protect its valuable open space by obtaining the Cline Farm located off Wiestertown Road.

The Cline farm is part of a high quality drainage area known as Steels Run. By obtaining this parcel of land, Murrysville has preserved this area for future generations to enjoy and has protected one of the few high quality streams left in western Westmoreland County.

Murrysville's engineer, John Frydrych, P.E., along with their project designer, James Sauer RLA, from Pashek Associates came to the Westmoreland Conservation District

with the project design. Chris Droste and Craig Barras met with them to discuss methods of erosion control and stormwater management. Mr. Sauer did not want to design the typical "bath-tub" detention pond. He wanted to incorporate a retention system using wetlands to treat and retain water from impervious surfaces, not just detain and release it. The design is rather unique. Broad swales will capture the water and direct it to the wetlands slowly. This slow action allows the wetland to absorb the water and infiltrate it back into the groundwater. Another benefit to this system is that contaminants from the roadways will be filtered before the water enters into the high quality stream. Infiltration parking areas and pervious asphalt were also considered.

The design is based on the existing contours to eliminate drastic earthmoving activities that would destroy many of the natural features. With less earth to move, costs decrease dramatically. Infrastructure is also less costly and easier to maintain. The design also includes adding more trees and landscaping to enhance the already beautiful area. A trail system may be considered in the future. Soccer fields and ball fields will be included for recreation purposes.

The Conservation District will continue to partner with Murrysville on this project and provide technical assistance where needed to ensure this project becomes a success.

Townships Continue Dirt and Gravel Roads Improvements



New catch basin on Frye Road, Derry Township, controls runoff.

Several roads in Westmoreland County have had work done to them this spring and summer through the District's Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. Derry Township recently completed work on Green Thumb and Frye Roads. They were granted \$25,713 from the program and contributed another \$33,632 in matching in-kind services through materials, equipment and labor. The township road department installed hundreds of feet of geotextile fabric under the subbase of the road so it will hold for years to come. These projects will reduce sedimentation to Stony Run, a tributary stream of the Conemaugh River.

Mount Pleasant Township is completing work on Sawmill Road with a grant of \$20,475. This road has long been almost impassable. It will be an important route for emergency personnel vehicles to the top of the mountain. The township road crew has regraded portions of the road, installed drainage, and has placed a clean rock subbase to build the road back up. This project will greatly reduce sedimentation to the headwaters of Laurel Run in the Jacobs Creek Watershed.

Cook Township is using a grant of \$17,781 to improve the driving surface and drainage on Peters Road. They are using rock rip-rap, shale subbase, new and improved cross pipes, and underdrain to reduce sediment pollution to Four Mile Run in the Loyalhanna Creek Watershed.

The District will receive an allocation of \$27,438 for fiscal year 2002/03 from the State Conservation Commission. Of these monies, approximately \$24,000 will be available to fund projects. The remainder of the money will be used to fund the training session on October 22nd and 23rd, and for administrative expenses. Contact Craig Barras at 724-837-5271 to submit a grant application for a road project.

Upcoming Dirt and Gravel Roads Program

Training for Municipal Officials will take place October 22nd and 23rd at the Westmoreland County Center for Conservation Education hosted by the Indiana County and Westmoreland Conservation Districts. Trainers from The Pennsylvania State University - Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies will be on hand to educate township supervisors and road crew members on environmentally sound maintenance of dirt and gravel roads. Municipalities must have attended training sessions in order to be eligible for grant monies through this program. The training is free to township supervisors and/or road crew supervisors with costs being covered by an educational stipend in annual program allocation. Call Craig Barras at the Conservation District at 724-837-5271 to register.

District staff members," District Manager Greg Phillips explained. "Today, we number 14, and five of those six new hires are technical experts, brought on to meet increased demands in our county to control erosion, sediment, and stormwater. In addition to their field work, we intend to tap into this technical staff's expertise in forestry, hydrology, and erosion-control to enrich the conservation education programs we offer at the Center for school students and the general public."

Even during the physical move, District staff were holding education programs, such as a series for teachers on sustainable communities and watersheds, and planning for others. Some of the next education offerings scheduled at the Center include: a Department of Environmental Protection state watershed conference, a fall tree-identification walk, and a workshop on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

Donors Keep the Project Moving Forward

Funding for construction of the \$1.1-million Center for Conservation Education has come from more than 80 area businesses, foundations, organizations, and individuals.

Recent contributions have been received from the following:

- Lou Batistella and Dan Painter of Adam Eidemiller, Inc., who donated equipment, materials, and labor for the new Visitors' Parking Area and the driveway that circles the Center. Adam Eidemiller, Inc. has previously supported this project in many other ways, and the company's combined gifts place it at the *Benefactor level* (\$10,000 and above) of giving.
- The Westmoreland County Commissioners, who approved a recent financial allocation that will be used to design and create the Center's donor recognition wall. The Commissioners have provided a variety of support for this project in the past, and their combined gifts put them at the *Benefactor level* (\$10,000 and above) of giving.
- C.R. Greene of the Department of Environmental Protection, who helped the District acquire at no cost some 532 tons of stone base for the paving

work. (Friend-level donor: \$2,500 to \$4,999).

- Tom Stickle, who provided the equipment and materials to transform a one-acre area on the south side of the Center into a meadow of warm season grasses and wildflowers. (Sponsor-level donor: \$1,000 to \$2,499).
- Jim Pillsbury and James Stitt who donated and pledged respectively at the Associate (\$250 to \$499) level.

Like Donohoe Center, the Center for Conservation Education is owned, operated, and maintained by Westmoreland County, and both locations will continue to be accessible to and used by a number of cooperating agencies, including: the Westmoreland Conservation District, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and the Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

Both locations also serve as meeting places for area non-profit and grassroots conservation groups.

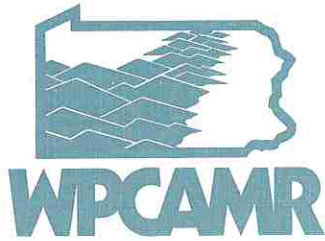
Westmoreland County is Growing Greener!

Westmoreland County continues to benefit from the Growing Greener program. The Growing Greener program gives farmers financial help to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their land to improve water quality in the streams. Water quality can be improved by keeping cattle and machinery out of flowing water, and also by preventing rain water mixing with manure or other pollutants. Common BMPs that farmers can install are: streambank fencing, tree plantings in the buffer areas between the stream and the fence, stream crossings, downspouts on roofs, diversion ditches above farm buildings,

etc. Farmers in the Kiski-Conemaugh area of the county have been receiving cost share funding for a year now, and the Westmoreland Conservation District has just received another \$70,000 to use in that same area for the next year. Another large grant of over \$227,000 has been awarded to the District to be used in the Mid Yough Watershed area of the county. The Mid Yough includes Jacob's Creek, Sewickley, Yough, & Indian Creek Watershed areas of the county. Farmers are asked to call the District (724-837-5271) and speak to Dan or Leanne Griffith to indicate their interest in cost share money for any of the

BMPs mentioned above. Conservation measures such as these can dramatically improve the quality of water flowing in a stream. Water tests are continuing to be taken in the Whitethorn Creek Watershed to track the improvement of water in that stream after 3 farms participated in the Whitethorn Creek cost share grant. They installed streambank fencing, stream crossings, tree plantings, and some of the money went towards a manure pit. Everyone prefers clean water, whether drinking, fishing, or swimming. Stewardship of our resources, like water, also improves the quality of life in a community.

WPCAMR Targets Local Decision Makers for AMD Education



Education is a very important component in the missions of organizations dealing with environmental conservation and reclamation. We tend to target obvious audiences such as students and people who frequent public parks, yet sometimes we overlook important segments in getting our message out. The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) has recognized that local decision makers like township supervisors, city councils, county commissioners, and business leaders are important potential partners in providing solutions to the ravages of abandoned mine drainage. However, for many of these decision makers, the local problems of abandoned mine drainage from old mining practices go largely unnoticed because they have blended into the background and are simply accepted as being "the way it is." Unfortunately, these same people are often left out of the mix of stakeholders targeted in our outreach efforts.

To address this situation, WPCAMR has just been awarded a \$37,000 Growing Greener grant that will allow us to better reach this important segment in our 23 county service area (the bituminous coal fields of western PA). Under development is a "road show" of presentations which we, along with local partners, will deliver throughout the region, with each presentation customized to the local situation. For each presentation, we will involve the local conservation district and watershed association who will make up our presentation team. This team will determine what group of decision makers to target, set up a convenient time and place for the presentation, and

develop a presentation tailored to the decision makers, always putting the "what's in it for them" as the top message. We'll stress the economic and quality of life improvements in reclamation efforts. Our hope is the local decision makers will decide to become partners in improving the environment.

We have used the summer to advantage in getting a jump start on the project. The U.S. Office of Surface Mining had earlier awarded WPCAMR \$2,500 for a summer intern to do the preliminary work. Megan Miller, a Penn State honor student, has ably filled that

role, researching the subject and preparing a variety of presentation materials. With the award of the Growing Greener grant, we will now employ an AmeriCorps intern, sponsored by the PA Mountain Service Corps, who will head up the efforts of delivering the message to decision makers throughout western Pennsylvania over the next two years.

If you know of a group of local decision makers who would benefit from our program, we'd welcome your call. Please contact Bruce Golden at 724-837-5271 for more information.

Need to Contact WPCAMR?



WPCAMR team: (l-r) Bruce Golden, *Regional Coordinator*; Deb Simko, *Watershed Coordinator*

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation is now located in the former District offices in Donohoe Center. WPCAMR's address, phone, fax, and email remain the same. You can continue to reach them at:

R.D. #12, Box 202-B
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: 724-837-5271
Fax: 724-837-4127
Email: wpcamr@westol.com

The remaining space formerly occupied by the District in Donohoe Center will be occupied by Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Riffles and Pools

WATERSHED NEWS FROM ACROSS WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Indian Creek

The Mountain Watershed Association (MWA) was recently awarded a Growing Greener grant to conduct an assessment of the upper Indian Creek in Donegal Township. They also have numerous AMD remediation projects under way in the Fayette County portion of that watershed. Call Bev Braverman at 724-455-4200 for more information on the programs of the MWA.

Jacobs Creek

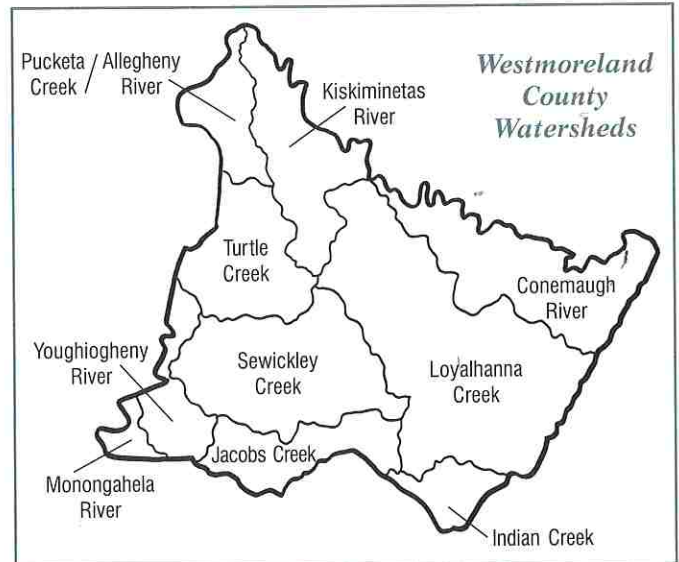
The Jacobs Creek Watershed association (JCWA) recently published its first newsletter in many years, and is excited to be starting a large streambank restoration project at three separate locations in the watershed with funding from Growing Greener. The majority of the excavation work is to be completed this fall with the final restoration and planting of trees and plants to follow in the spring. The group continues to explore funding sources for the treatment of AMD on Stauffer Run in East Huntingdon Township. The group is also completing a Water Quality Monitoring Plan with assistance from Canaan Valley Institute, DEP-Bureau of Watershed Management, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR), and the Westmoreland (WCD) and Fayette Conservation Districts. For more information on the activities of the JCWA call Mike Barrick at 724-837-5271.

Kiskiminetas River

The Kiskiminetas Watershed Association (KWA) has published its first and has another newsletter on the way highlighting some of its first efforts to conserve the natural resources of that river basin. The group recently completed a small restoration project at the Novosel AMD treatment site in Bell Township that redirected untreated mine water back into settling basins before the water makes its way into Wolford Run, a tributary to the Kiski River. This project was possible through funding from WPCAMR and technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Westmoreland and Indiana Conservation Districts. The group is also sampling several AMD discharges in Westmoreland, Indiana, and Armstrong counties. They have also conducted several clean-ups of their newly acquired property in West Leechburg Borough called "Buttermilk Falls". This area has an aesthetic waterfall and several species of wildflowers that have been identified by the Westmoreland County Botanical Society. Call Bob Kossak at 724-568-3655 for more information on the KWA.

Loyalhanna Creek

The Loyalhanna Watershed Association (LWA) recently received Growing Greener funding to conduct a water quality assessment on the entire watershed. They also worked with Saint Vincent College to obtain a Growing Greener grant to



treat the Lower Saxman AMD discharge in Latrobe. Their home base for these projects and others has changed. The group purchased the former Ligonier Township building for their new office space. This facility has expansive storage and office space for the group to use for their annual bird seed sale, staff offices, and watershed meetings. They have also published a brochure for a program called "Sources and Solutions" that is a "series of educational field trips to facilities that present environmental challenges to our land, air, and water. The programs are focusing on the balance that must be created between a source of pollution and its solution." Call Carole Paterson at the LWA office at 724-238-7560 for more information on these events.

Pucketa & Chartiers Watershed

The Pucketa & Chartiers Watershed Association (PACWA) is working on distributing its new membership brochure. They have developed a streamside landowner survey that is going out to all streamside residents in the watershed. Information gathered from the survey will be recorded and used to prioritize reclamation projects, and educate the public. The group also continues to work on developing a Water Quality Monitoring Plan with assistance from the Canaan Valley Institute, and the Allegheny and Westmoreland Conservation Districts. PACWA is also sampling AMD discharges in the watershed for possible future treatment options. Further information about the group can be obtained from Tony Farina at 724-335-1975.

Turtle Creek

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association (TCWA) and WPCAMR hosted DEP Secretary David Hess and other DEP officials on a tour of that watershed in July. The tour highlighted projects of the past, present, and future for the association. It was a chance for the group to show off

projects and tout the importance of the Growing Greener Program to theirs and other watershed groups in the Commonwealth. Some of the tour stops included the streambank stabilization projects in Murrysville and Jeannette (completed in July), and the AMD remediation project at Borland Farm Road in Murrysville. The group recently obtained a grant for

Phase III of the Borland Farm Road project. Call Ed Fischer at the office for more information on TCWA at 412-829-2817.

Westmoreland County organizations received approximately \$2.2 million in Growing Greener Grants in this last round. Check out the DEP website for a full listing of the projects and their descriptions: www.dep.state.pa.us

Exploring the Watersheds and Sustainable Communities of Westmoreland County

This past summer, the District presented their Act 48 approved teacher workshop, which introduces the Westmoreland Conservation District's new conservation education curriculum to teachers of Westmoreland County. Through the use of models, topographic maps and the Nature Park stream, teachers examined the living and nonliving parameters of watersheds and sustainable communities.

Teachers from around the county as well as surrounding counties have taken the course and enjoyed the watershed day with the hands-on classroom activities and a field study of the nature park stream. Teachers are given a chance to test the water and look for macroinvertebrates in the stream—this past group found some nice crayfish, caddisfly larvae, and snails! The second day of the workshop focuses on

Sustainable Communities. The teachers were able to take on the role of developer and site where they would build houses, farms, gas stations, highways, and dry cleaners! The remainder of the day was spent on a field trip to local sites practicing sustainable development and farming. This past session hosted a walking tour of South Greensburg with Alex Graziani and Anita Nichols from the Smart Growth Partnership. One of the topics of the sustainable communities field trip was land use and how things have changed over time. Walking through the area gave us a sense of what could be considered a good use of land and resources and what could be considered not so good a land use in certain areas. The last portion of the trip included a stop at a local dairy farm that took measures to fence out the livestock from the stream.

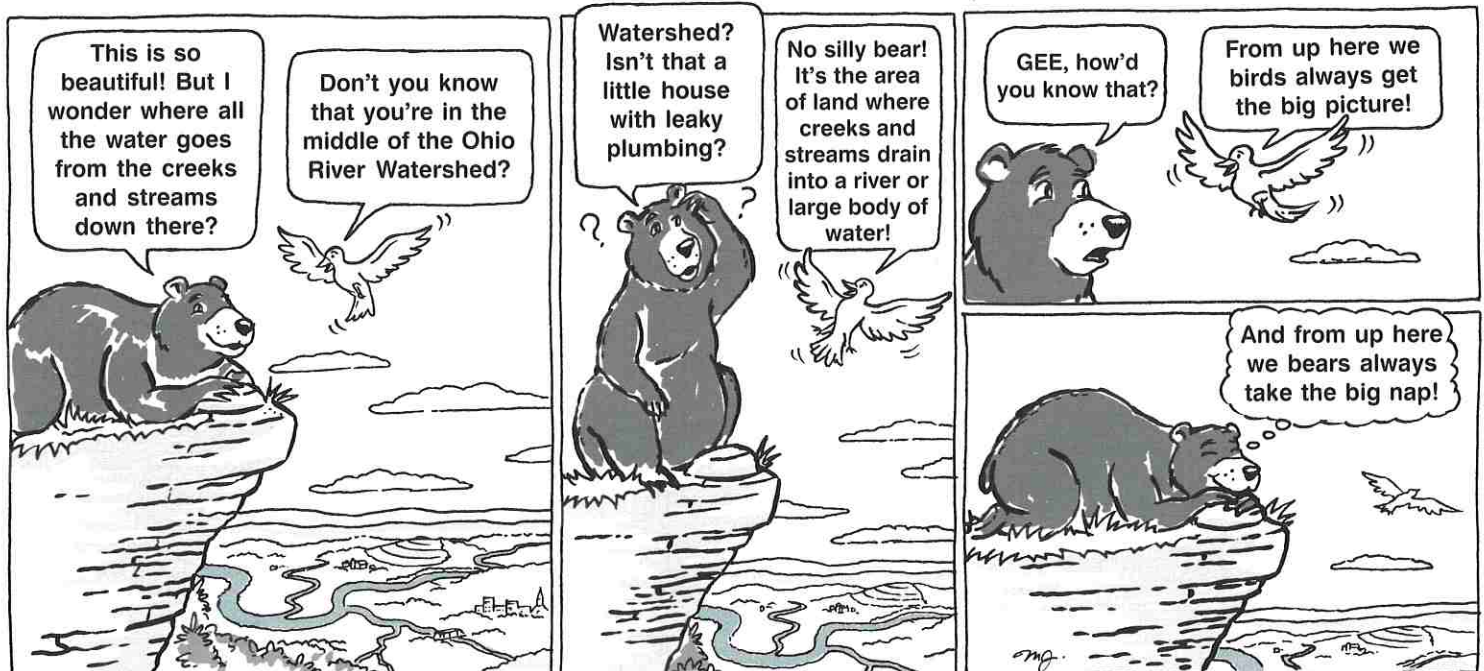
Streambank fencing is a sustainable

practice because it returns the stream to its natural habitat and benefits both wildlife and livestock. By keeping the animals out of the stream, the herd's health and productivity improves.

The District's main goal for the ongoing workshops is to educate both adults and students about watersheds and sustainable communities. We succeed by making teachers more knowledgeable of the Conservation District services and making them more aware of our new education curriculum while offering one Act 48 teacher continuing education credit. In return, the teachers participate in activities during the workshop that are designed to help them integrate this information in their classrooms and prepare their students for a trip to the Center for Conservation Education in the future.

In The Field

by Mark Jackson and Lorrie Stouffer





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2002 Joint Annual Conference Workshop wins "Rave Reviews"



(l-r) Steve Smolenski, Computer Centerline Technician; Greg Phillips, District Manager; Leanne Griffith, District Education Coordinator; Mr. Hardy; Dan Griffith, Nutrient Management Technician; Lorrie Stouffer, Assistant District Manager; Mr. Laurel; Tony Quadro, District Forester; Mark Jackson, Owner, Jackson Graphics

Amidst the hustle and bustle of attending meetings, luncheons, and banquets, the Westmoreland Conservation District led an informative, fact-filled and hands-on session on Public Relations at the July Joint Annual Conference in Harrisburg. The fun-filled afternoon proved to be no disappointment to the packed audience who were treated to a "star-studded" lineup of speakers. Led by moderator (and WCD assistant manager) Lorrie Stouffer, the session began with a "cameo" presentation by district manager Greg Phillips, who outlined the background of how the district has grown and developed their public relations and marketing skills throughout the years.

The workshop began in earnest with "rising starlet" Susan Parry (Watershed Programs Coordinator for PA Organi-

zation for Watersheds and Rivers) setting the tone with "Communicating Your Message: Tools for Building Partnerships and Sharing Your Watershed Success Stories". Her insightful talk was highlighted by a Powerpoint presentation and handouts for all those in attendance.

"Leading lady" and district education coordinator Leanne Griffith followed with ideas and tips on "Marketing Plans and Media Entry." Her presentation included an informal discussion with the audience offering suggestions and ideas on what has worked for their respective agencies.

Mark Jackson, that "debonair leading man" and owner of Jackson Graphics gave an extremely interesting and informative session on "Print Media". Mark's expertise was evident in his presentation, which covered the historical perspective of the print industry, and what is available today. He also coordinated the entertaining intermission, which was a viewing of the famous "Who's on First" with Abbott and Costello.

After the very exciting intermission (which was highlighted by the entire Hilton being emptied by the fire department!), that "famous director" Dan Griffith (WCD nutrient manage-

ment/conservation technician) led us through some "Powerpoint" "tricks of the trade". His hands-on session offered simple how-to's as he walked step-by-step through the making of a visual display.

The last session, led by that "new and upcoming star" Steve Smolenski (Computer Centerline technician) not only gave an overview of "Web Page Design" but utilized an internet line to show various sites and links. He concluded with handouts prepared especially with conservation districts in mind.

As Lorrie concluded the session, she stressed that "the creative process in relation to your vision of what you want to communicate is essential... and the relationship you build with the public and agency partners lets them know you are accessible, knowledgeable, and you are the people that can get things done for them!"

Find the Classic Car



Poodle skirts, bobby-socks, penny loafers, sock hops and car cruises — all signs of those "Nifty-Fifties" days! Once again, you are invited to join our "cruise" in search of the hidden classic car in this issue of Landmarks. The 4th, 12th and 18th callers to Joanne at 724-837-5271

between October 22 and 26 correctly identifying its location, will receive some really "cool" prizes! Previous winners are not eligible; however, comments regarding our publications are welcome and always appreciated. Good luck!

Deb Stanko of Latrobe, Helen Medic of North Huntingdon, and Janet Keller of New Stanton were the lucky winners of our "Find the Classic Car" contest in the Summer 2002 issue. Congratulations!

NATURALLY Delicious

by Karen Barnhart

Broccoli-Rice Casserole

- 2 10 oz. pkgs chopped broccoli
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 16 oz. jar cheddar whiz
- 1 small onion diced
- 2 cups instant rice
- Salt & pepper

Cook broccoli according to package directions and drain well. Combine all ingredients and pour into greased baking dish.

Bake at 350° for 20–30 minutes.

LANDMARKS

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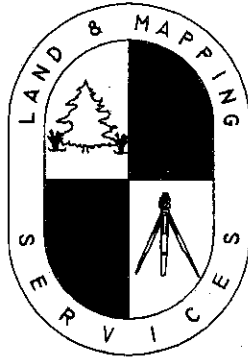
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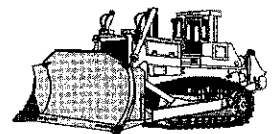
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We enjoyed a wonderful summer at the Center for Conservation Education! We've held a number of educational programs and our staff have attended training sessions and workshops.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

THE WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT sponsored the annual Westmoreland County Envirothon at Mammoth Park. In May, nine area schools sent teams to test their skills at forestry, aquatics, soils, biodiversity, and wildlife. The first place team was from Franklin Regional School District and was coached by Tom Pearson. Over one hundred students, teachers, agency partners, and staff members participated in the day focused on environmental education. As an added bonus, the Pennsylvania Game Commission presented their bear relocation program for the students.

CRAIG BARRAS AND NICKI FOREMSKY PARTICIPATED IN "KNOW YOUR WATERSHED DAY" at Roaring Run Trail. More than 20 organizations helped to make this day a success in spite of high winds that toppled many of the displays. The Roaring Run Trail and the Kiskiminetas Watershed group sponsored this event.



OUR OPEN HOUSE WAS A SUCCESS with more than 200 visitors stopping by the Center for Conservation Education. They were able to learn about the Conservation District from displays and employees while experiencing a Native American blessing from members of the Thunder Mountain Lenape Nation.

STAFF MEMBERS Jim Pillsbury, Tony Quadro, Nicki Foremsky and Leanne Griffith spent the morning with 20

elementary and middle school children for "Youth in Government Day" that focused on the water cycle, conserving resources and forest stewardship. The children experienced, hands-on, what it takes to keep a forest healthy.



IN JULY, 55 MEMBERS OF THE STATE SERVICE FORESTERS visited the Center for Conservation Education and learned about the District's programs from Tony, Leanne, and Dan.

AFTER MONTHS OF PLANNING, a special pilot weeklong day camp was offered to children of Donohoe Center Staff. Titled "500 Years of Conservation", this workshop brought together District staff members (Dan Griffith, Jim Pillsbury, Tony Quadro, Craig Barras, Nicki Foremsky, and Leanne Griffith), members of Thunder Mountain Lenape Nation (Pat and Jim Selinger, Joe and Michele Newhouse, Terry and Shelly Reed, and Butch Laney), and the Wachtschu Ehachping Environmental Educators (Monica Colberg and Alex Cameron). Jill Taylor, in charge of Native American Communities for Rural Development and her fiancée, Anthony Crowe were also great volunteers with this program. Bruce Golden of Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation and summer intern Megan Miller did an excellent presentation on acid mine drainage and then helped the kids tie dye tee shirts using iron oxide powder.

We spent the week comparing conservation practices as they were done hundreds of years ago by the Native Americans to how they are done now in 2002. We pitched a tipi in the meadow of Nature Park for the week. Kids had daily nature hikes, studied tracking, did an archeological dig,

ground corn, and made flatcakes cooked over a campfire on a slate stone. They studied forestry, agriculture, stream quality, and macro-invertebrates along with Native American song and dance.

The camp was visited by a special guest, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection Dave Hess, who visited with the children and received a special blessing from Chief Joe SilentHunter Newhouse and a smudging from Michele Newhouse, Turkey Clan Mother. He danced with the children and listened to several songs they had prepared. The children at camp gave Dave Hess the name "Smoke Seeker" because he had been smudged and later that day he was going on a tour of a mine fire site with the Turtle Creek Watershed.

Friday evening, a final Powwow was held so the campers could demonstrate everything they learned to the 42 parents and visitors whom attended. The campers gave tours of the Native American Village and demonstrated tool making, food preparation, song and dance along with cooking their own food over the campfire.

IN AUGUST, Nicki Foremsky and Leanne Griffith taught a "Watersheds and Sustainable Communities" workshop for 11 teachers from the area who were working on Act 48 credits. The workshop benefited from the expertise of Alex Graziani and Anita Nichols of Smart Growth Partnership and Penn State Extension, and Dan Griffith, Ag Technician.

NICKI FOREMSKY ARRANGED for Lucinda Robbins of Penn State Extension in Fayette County to teach a "Grant Writing" Workshop in early September. Almost 30 attended the day-long session.

ON SEPTEMBER 10, a "Farm Field Day" which featured "Rotational Grazing Practices" was held at the farm





owned by Earl and Judy Sadler located near Stahlstown. The afternoon crowd was composed mainly of members attending Project Grass from a 17 county area. The evening session was designed for local farm producers who had an interest in current grazing practices. This program was jointly planned by National Resources Conservation Service Staff, Wes Gordon, Larry Stokum, and Bobbi Bailey, Project Grass Coordinator, J.B. Harrold, Penn State Cooperative Extension Livestock Agent, Dustin Heeter, and Westmoreland Conservation District staff, Dan and Leanne Griffith.

FALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21

The State Watershed Conference will be held at the 4 Points Sheraton of Greensburg. Many district staff members will be involved with teaching workshops, leading bus tours, and our Center for Conservation Education will be used for several meetings.

SEPTEMBER 24 AND 26

Nicki Foremsky will be leading a group of Penn State and Ohio Extension agents on tours of the Jess Stairs Demonstration Project and Wetlands Three at Monastery Run. Tony Quadro, Dan Griffith, and Leanne Griffith will assist Nicki.



Partnership of Westmoreland County

SEPTEMBER 27

Staff members will be participating in one of two events.

- Alex Graziani of Smart Growth will be holding his second annual "Smart Growth Conference" at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

- The Regional Department of Environmental Protection Meeting will meet in our Center. One important topic of discussion will be the erosion control/stormwater runoff permit regulations that will be changing soon.

OCTOBER 19 AND 26

"Watersheds and Sustainable Communities" Workshop for Act 48 credit will be repeated for teachers. Please contact the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit to register for this class.

NOVEMBER 12

Westmoreland Conservation District's Annual Awards Banquet will be held at the 4 Points Sheraton at 6:30. The theme this year is the 50's. So be looking for your poodle skirt and saddle shoes or getting some of that gel to slick back your hair and put this date on your calendar now.



STAFF TRAINING

CHRIS DROSTE traveled to Raystown for a week to take an Army Corp of Engineers' "Wetland Delineation" Course.

CRAIG BARRAS attended GIS Training at Penn State for the Dirt and Gravel Road program.

CRAIG AND LEANNE attended the Growing Greener training workshop for Round 4 grants in August.

NICKI FOREMSKY received training for "Project Wet" at the AMD Conference, Aquatic Fisheries Science Institute at Penn State, and the PA Land Use Conference at Dickinson University this summer.

AT CAMP HILL, Dan Griffith received five days of training in Construction Inspection.

JIM PILLSBURY traveled to Harrisburg to participate in the NPDES Phase II Work Group. It was a state-wide group discussion of the next phase of regulations for post-construction stormwater runoff.

CRAIG BARRAS AND NICKI FOREMSKY attended the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Drainage State Conference at Penn State Extension along with Bruce Golden and Deb Simko of Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

AT "AG IN THE CLASSROOM"

taught at Penn State for 6 days, Leanne Griffith and 98 other teachers received more curricula materials than they could carry in one load. These materials featuring many hands-on activities for students are available to be photocopied or borrowed covering topics from bee keeping to farm economics. The curricula materials will be on display in the Center for Conservation Education for the month of September.

OVER A DOZEN STAFF MEMBERS from the various agencies located in the Donohoe Center and from the Conservation District attended a special training called "Soil Survey 101". Rob Knight of National Resources Conservation Services taught the group about the use of the new digital soil survey map that has finally been completed. This computer program of the soil types of Westmoreland County allows the soil survey map to be superimposed over ARC view maps that are used by staff members.



DISTRICT STAFF MEMBERS also received training on Developing Riparian Buffer Zones by Greg Holesh of Department of Environmental Protection.



KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

By Kathy Fritz

Can you find the following words in the puzzle?

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Barn Move | 6. Growing Greener | 11. Recipe |
| 2. Developers | 7. Growing Smarter | 12. Smart Growth |
| 3. Dirt & Gravel Rd | 8. Kids Korner | 13. Soil Survey |
| 4. Education Notes | 9. New NRCS Hires | 14. Watershed News |
| 5. Find the Car | 10. PACD Annual Mtg | 15. Workshops |

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

With the Center for Conservation Education well under way, we are looking forward to developing many new programs and opportunities. With your help, we will be able to provide educational opportunities that best fit your needs and interests. Please complete the following survey and tell us what type of programs would be of interest to you and your family. The survey may be dropped off, mailed, or completed on our website at: www.wcdpa.com. Please return or submit the survey by November 5, 2002 to The Center for Conservation Education – c/o Leanne Griffith, 211 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

1. In order for us to plan age-appropriate programs, please check all levels that apply for your family:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School or Junior High | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School | |

2. Would you enjoy programs for the entire family?

- Yes No

3. The Conservation District specializes in the following areas. In the line provided, please express ideas for programs in which you are interested.

- Agriculture _____
 Conservation Education _____
 Erosion and Sediment Control _____
 Forestry _____
 Storm Water Management _____
 Water Quality _____
 Watersheds _____

4a. Do you have suggestions for other programs that you would like to see hosted at the Center for Conservation Education? _____

4b. Would you like to present a program? If so, what topic? _____

4c. Do you have any speakers or programs to recommend? If so, please explain. _____

5. Periodically, the Conservation District organizes tours of the county to learn about conservation practices. Do you have any suggestions for areas to tour? _____



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