

WCD Conservation Pioneer Remembered

GILBERT J. HUTTER 1925 - 2003

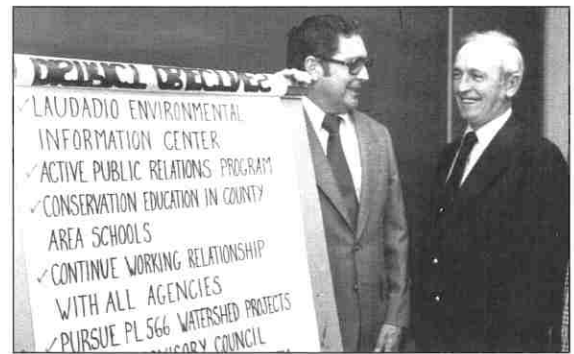
By Paul Heyworth



Gib Hutter at the dairy on his farm near Kecksburg, PA.



Gib receives an award for conservation efforts.



(l-r) Roy Houston and Gib Hutter set future district goals in the 1970's.



(l-r) Former Commissioner Dorothy Shope, District Directors: J. Roy Houston, Frank Skacel, Ed Rinkoff, Gib Hutter, Boyd Wolff, Bob Shirey.



Gib recognized by former Commissioner Dick Vidmer at his WCD Director retirement picnic.

Coming over a rise in the road between Norvelt and Kecksburg, you come upon one of the most beautiful family farms in Westmoreland County. The home and barn stand proudly amid the lush green corn contours rolling across the landscape. The milk-jugging store across the street from the homestead, represents one of the last such operations in the region.

The Gib Hutter farm in Mt. Pleasant Township has long represented a model

of conservation practices and innovative agriculture. The 200-acre-plus dairy facility also represents a great deal of hard work and determination on the part of the family of six.

But Gilbert J. "Gib" Hutter still took time to serve his community, from the volunteer fire company and rescue squad to the Westmoreland Conservation District. He became a director in 1965 and immediately became vice chairman and two years later chairman (1966

through 1969). He later served as vice chairman from 1980 through 1994 when he retired.

Gib died June 16 in Latrobe Area Hospital at age 78. Only two months later, he became the first member of the District's Hall of Honor, recognizing his outstanding 24 years of service that included being named "Outstanding Farm Cooperator" twice. He and his sons, Blaine and Dale, won the 1992

Continued on page 2

Westmoreland Conservation District

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WCD Conservation Pioneer...

Continued from page 1

Good Earth Council Family Award for Pennsylvania. The Hutter family has provided a memorial to the district in his name.

"Gib Hutter led by example," reports District Chairman J. Roy Houston. "He proved conservation practices resulted in better production. He was willing to try out new ideas and if they worked he would spread the word. His farm became a model followed throughout the region."

Although he had to drop out of school to help with the farm during the Depression, Gib Hutter will be remembered as a "common sense visionary." He pioneered the district's first master plan and was instrumental in the installation of the three-dam Jacobs Creek flood control and prevention project that protects Scottdale and Everson. He also worked to create the Donohoe Center for various agricultural/environmental groups.

His quick wit, knowing smile and down-to-earth style during district meetings earned him a reputation as a "doer." Under his guidance the district expanded in both budget and

scope of operations. Many private landowners became "cooperators," voluntarily putting conservation practices on their farms, during his tenure. The first "urban" directors joined the board. The district increased its partnerships with other farm or environmental organizations. But most of all, older members will remember the district picnics on the Hutter Farm and the plowing contests at the county fair. They will remember his gentle, but firm style in moving projects forward. They will remember his love of the land and his willingness to convert that love into constructive labor. Born in Weltytown, Mt. Pleasant Township, Hutter was one of four children in the family of Peter and Eleanor Shick Hutter. He married Erma Jane Baker of Mammoth in 1947. They bought the farm four years later.

He is survived by his wife, Erma Jane Baker Hutter; sons, Blaine and Dale, both of Kecksburg; daughters Kathy Katarski of Norvelt and Carol Geary of Kecksburg; 13 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren; and a sister, Thelma Hutter Heide, of Weltytown. Interment was in St. Vincent Cemetery, Latrobe.

Working on Dirt & Gravel Roads

By Craig Barras



New catch basin installed along Lupyan Road in Loyalhanna Township.

Loyalhanna Township has completed work on Lupyan Road. They made nearly \$12,000 worth of improvements to

this road that drains to Boatyard Run, a tributary to the Conemaugh River. They utilized a grant of \$4,990.00 through the program and matched their equipment, labor, and materials to complete the project.

The work entailed installation of 750 feet of 4" perforated underdrain pipe; installing a new 24" pipe to carry the stream under the road; and several cross pipes to improve drainage and reduce erosion along the road. Over 500 tons of new road base, rip-rap, and driving surface aggregate were added to approximately 0.5 miles of road. Derry Township will be making improvements to the bottom 500 feet of this road which is named Stemmler Road in the near future.



Local Individuals Win State Awards

By Lorrie Quadro

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) recently presented its annual awards to individuals and organizations that have helped to promote or continue conservation efforts in Pennsylvania.

The Westmoreland Conservation District is proud to announce that our nominees received awards in the following categories:

Conservation Farmer of the Year The Graham Family

This award is given to a farmer who has furthered conservation through the establishment and maintenance of soil, water, and nutrient management practices. The Graham Family has had a conservation plan for their dairy farm since the 1970s. Bob has served as county president for the Farm Bureau and presently is the secretary of the organization. For 70 years the Grahams have run a 500-acre farm in Bolivar, PA. They installed streambank fencing



Bob & John Graham

and a steam crossing. The Grahams also planted 200 trees along the streams of their property to create a riparian buffer and wildlife habitat. This award is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation.

Elected Official Recognition Award P. Scott Conner, Westmoreland County

This award is presented to an elected official who has consistently supported conservation issues and has made outstanding contributions to the conservation of Pennsylvania's natural resources. Scott Conner is a

Westmoreland County Commissioner who also serves on the Westmoreland Conservation District board. One of Commissioner Conner's greatest contributions has been his constant guidance, support, and financial backing of the District's new Conservation Education Center. The Commissioner has been described as "a man of integrity who acts on his convictions." The award was presented to the Commissioner at the annual meeting of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.



P. Scott Conner

Alliance for Conservation Education (ACE) Launched

By Leanne Griffith

An Alliance for Conservation Education has been created to support environmental instruction in Westmoreland County. Participants range from watershed volunteers and business leaders to teachers and government officials.

ACE will be launched during an informal "mixer" at Four Points Sheraton Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. The evening's program is titled, "The Art of Presentations: Tips & Techniques for Formal and Non-Formal Educators." Participants will receive a brief overview of the Alliance's purpose and objectives. Dr. James Hamilton, a dynamic storyteller/philosopher, will mix entertainment with helpful hints on public speaking and presentations. Hamilton, a Penn State University professor of communications,

has a master's degree in environmental science.

ACE also hopes to receive input from our "partners" to better serve regional needs. "We want to help those involved in working to expand the community's understanding of the environment and conservation practices. The basic idea is to improve the quality of life in Westmoreland County," explained Leanne Griffith, education coordinator for the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Nicki Foremsky, Water Quality Agent for both the Westmoreland Conservation District and Penn State Cooperative Extension Service added, "Our activities will range from workshops providing instructional materials to tours and demonstrations. We hope

to share ideas, increase educational awareness, and refine our communication between groups."

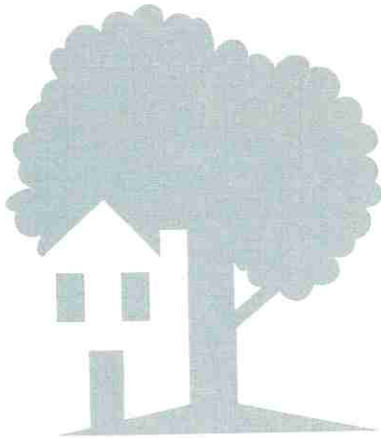
The deadline for registration is Oct. 24. For more information contact Leanne Griffith at (724) 837-5271 or email her at leannegriffith@yahoo.com.

ACE is guided by a steering committee which includes educators from Westmoreland Conservation District, Westmoreland County Penn State Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation, PA CleanWays of Westmoreland County, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Western PA Conservancy, Saint Vincent College, Powdermill Nature Reserve, and Franklin Regional High School.

Home*A*Syst Works on Health and Safety

An Environmental Risk Assessment for the Home

By Nicole Foremsky



Have you ever asked yourself... Has it been more than 2 years since my water was tested for bacteria or nitrates?

Do I use products without knowing whether or not they are hazardous?

Do I ever use pesticides without reading the label or following directions?

Do I throw away food or yard waste that could be composted?

Is my home really safe? Can I make it safer?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then you, your family, and your home could benefit from Home*A*Syst.

Home*A*Syst is a national program designed to assist homeowners and renters in evaluating the health and safety of their home environments. The eleven chapters in Home*A*Syst cover essential topics that every resident or homeowner should understand, including:

Water Pollution Prevention

- Stormwater management, reducing pollutants in runoff
- Drinking water well management, well location, construction, maintenance and water testing
- Septic system basics and maintenance

Yard and Garden Care

- Managing lawns, gardens, and landscaping

Identifying Household Hazardous Waste

- Product selection, safe storage, and disposal of household hazardous wastes

Indoor Air Quality

- Proper ventilation

Heating and Cooling Systems

- Saving energy and keeping safe

Managing Household Waste

- Preventing, reusing, recycling, and composting

The Home*A*Syst guidebook offers all the information you need to minimize or eliminate a pollution risk around your home.

For additional details, contact Nicki Foremsky at: 724-837-1402 ext. 170.

Hikers On Stormwater Trail Discover New Vistas

By Jim Pillsbury

1803 MARKED THE BEGINNING of the historic Lewis and Clark expedition, which passed through Pittsburgh on its way to the discovery of much of the American West. One might say that the expedition, undertaken at the request of President Thomas Jefferson, was a watershed event in our national history. Lewis and Clark discovered new plants, new animals, new mountains, new Native American people groups, and most importantly, new rivers — the Missouri, the Columbia — which would prove to be central to later development.

2003 marks the beginning of another water-centered exploration: the Westmoreland Conservation District's Stormwater Demonstration Trail. Funded by a \$74,000 Growing Greener

Grant, the project involved construction of our infiltration parking lots both in front of and behind the Barn, installation of our cistern and solar pump, creation of the rain garden and grassy swale, renovations in the Nature Park, and finally the creation of a series of colorful signs and brochures describing the various stormwater improvements made.

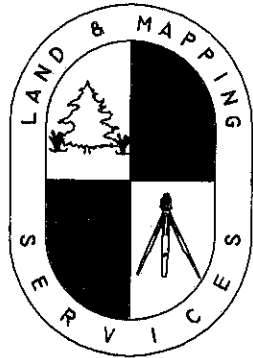
Beginning at the landscaped circle at the top of our rain garden, the light blue Stormwater Trail signs guide visitors step by step thru the hydrologic cycle, illustrating dry-site landscaping, parking lot runoff, rooftop runoff, infiltration, retention, water re-use, and many other features. Linked by the common theme of wise stewardship of

water, the signs offer informative text (by Karen Jurkovic) and colorful illustrations (by Mark Jackson) to educate and inform the public of the benefits of our various methods of conservation. Brochures available at the stations give curious citizens more information to take home and study.

Information gathered by Lewis and Clark's expedition guided our growing nation westward. Our Stormwater Demonstration Trail will guide engineers, developers, municipal officials, and most of all residents of our growing county to more thoughtfully manage our most precious resource — our water, for future generations of Westmoreland County citizens.

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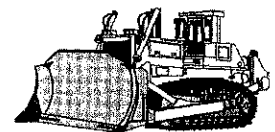
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Agriculture Basics Workshop

Instructors: Leanne Griffith, Conservation Education Coordinator for the Westmoreland Conservation District

Joann Logan, 4-H and Youth Extension Agent for Penn State Extension

Tammy Gray, 2nd Grade Teacher at Stanwood Elementary.

1 Act 48 Credit

Cost: \$125

Dates: Saturday November 1st and Saturday November 8th

Location: Center for Conservation Education (The red barn behind the Donohoe Center located along Donohoe Road in Greensburg across from Clairview School).

Schedule: **Day 1** – Hands on activities, lesson plans and resources dealing with Westmoreland County Agriculture including dairy, livestock, crops, vegetables and fruit. Learn more about the life of the typical farmer and some of the global challenges farmers face. Sample treats provided by the Alternate State Dairy Princess, Rachel Ebert. A trip to Derry High School's Agricultural Center features a large greenhouse with hydroponic gardening, a floral shop, and various farm animals.

Day 2 – Hands on activities, lesson plans and resources dealing with soils, nutrient management, and Agricultural Best Management Practices. Our travels will take us to several farms.

About the Workshop: Agriculture Basics is a new course designed to help today's classroom teacher meet many of



the Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology (4.4 - Agriculture and Society). This course is designed for elementary and middle school teachers. All three instructors have completed the course "Ag in the Classroom" offered by Penn State University and would like to share some ideas, lesson plans, and resource references to help you get started in your classroom. Pack a lunch for each day and join the fun!

Registration: Register through the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit (724) 836-2460 xt. 204.

Farm Field Day: Pasture Walk and Workshop

Date: October 31st

Time: 10:00am – 2:30pm

Location: Center for Conservation Education

Cost: FREE!

About the Workshop: We will discuss Grazing Systems, BMP's in Grazing Systems, Cost Share Programs, tour through Whitethorn Watershed Area

and take a pasture walk at the Adam Battistella Farm.

Registration: Register by October 22nd by contacting: Dan Griffith (724) 837-5271.



By Dan Griffith

Do you like to eat good food? Do you know anyone who doesn't? Do you know where good food comes from? Most of the readers of this newsletter have a pretty good idea where their food comes from and some have an idea of the work that it takes to grow quality food. Most farmers are constantly amazed that so

"Eating is an agricultural act."

– Wendell Berry

many of the children that they meet have no idea that food comes from anywhere except the store. A cow is an animal they pet at the zoo. Chickens apparently have fingers. And let's not even discuss where milk comes from.

Do we want to live in a society that receives all of its food as a prepackaged, precooked, blob of stuff where everything tastes pretty much the same – like sugar and salt? Do you remember the science fiction movies of years ago where people survived on pills that they took for their meals? We aren't very far away from that scenario with some foods.

We need to decide personally if that is the future we want for our children, or do we want to have delicious meals of food with hearty flavors and colors. To have a variety of these kinds of foods available to us, each of us needs to support the local growers of foods. Attend some farmer's markets. Buy fresh. Talk to the farmers. Find out how he grows his food, what kind of chemicals he uses on the food, etc. Have the kids help pick out the foods and help prepare them for eating. Setting an example is the best way of teaching. It is also a delicious way of learning.

Watershed News

CONSERVATION IN ACTION ACROSS WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Watershed activities and achievements are definitely on the rise in Westmoreland County. Here are a few examples:

Pucketa & Chartiers Watershed Association (PACWA)

- Conducted a visual and biological assessment on June 26th of Pucketa and Little Pucketa Creeks and Chartiers Run with WPCAMR, Penn State Extension, DEP, Allegheny and Westmoreland Conservation Districts.
- River Sweep along Allegheny River at Braeburn Beach in the City of Lower Burrell. 12 volunteers picked up 20 tires and a roll off box full of trash.



PACWA at River Sweep along Allegheny River at Braeburn Beach.

- Held a joint meeting with Plum Creek Watershed Association hosted by the Plum group at the Borough Municipal Building on August 21st. The groups talked about how they can work together on water monitoring and fundraising programs.

Kiskiminetas Watershed Association (KWA)

- Working with Allegheny Township on the development of Pine Run Park near the confluence of Pine Run and Kiskiminetas River. Participated in the River Sweep at this area in July and picked up tons of trash.
- Continue water sampling program on Kiski River and its tributaries.

By Craig Barras, Watershed Specialist

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association (JCWA)

- Will have an intern through the Student Conservation Association and Growing Greener for one year to assist with projects. This intern will split time with Sewickley Creek Watershed Association.



JCWA volunteers have periodically done water sampling throughout the watershed. Here samples are taken at the upstream flow to Acme Dam.

- Will be scheduling at least one day of visual/biological assessments of streams in the watershed this fall.

Loyalhanna Watershed Association (LWA)

- Have completed much of the field work in the upper Loyalhanna Creek watershed for their watershed assessment grant through a DEP Growing Greener grant.
- Held a public meeting on the assessment on October 1st at the Unity Township building.
- Started work on Saxman Run AMD Remediation project in Latrobe.



Ben Wright, Watershed Resource Specialist with Western PA Conservancy – Watershed Assistance Center peers into the headwaters of Loyalhanna Creek near Stahlstown.

Mountain Watershed Association (MWA)

- Gallentine II Mine Drainage Remediation Project began on September 15th.
- Mill Run Rootwad Project on Area 15 began on September 22nd.
- “Longwall Mining Follies” presentation at Waynesburg College on Sept. 23rd.
- MWA Community Picnic was held on October 5th at ‘Caddy Shak’ along Route 31 in Donegal Township near Jones Mills.

Turtle Creek Watershed Association (TCWA)

- Continue working with Murrysville and Export on Borland Farm Road AMD Project.
- Completed streambank stabilization project at Sugar Camp Park in Pitcairn Borough on unnamed tributary to Dirty Camp Run through funding from Growing Greener and the Western PA Watershed Protection Program.

Sewickley Creek Watershed Association (SCWA)

- Held their Annual Picnic on August 21st at New Stanton Park. The Western PA Conservancy presented the final Watershed Conservation Plan at the picnic.
- Recently started work at the Brinkerton AMD Remediation site on Sewickley Creek in Mount Pleasant Township.
- Continue working with Hedin Environmental on the Lower AMD Reclamation project in Sewickley Township.

Education Center Receives Finishing Touches

By Karen Jurkovic



Native plants and flowers, interpretive signs, and historic farm elements surround the education center.

Inside and out, extensive “finishing touches” were put on the District’s new Education Center this summer, readying this unique facility to make even more progress toward its goal of bringing the message of conservation to area residents.

Inside

Dedicated office space was created for our new education staff. An unfinished loft above the Center’s stairway and kitchenette was transformed into office and work space for the full-time educator and part-time education secretary.

Two small windows were cut into the top of the building’s north side to allow light and natural ventilation into the space. Ceiling lights, telephones, and electricity were installed, and existing ductwork was adapted to reduce the HVAC noise and improve the aesthetics of the space.

Half-height walls, built to separate the loft into two functional areas and to provide privacy from the Center’s main



Space in the loft for the new education office.

meeting area below, were finished in natural cherry and chestnut to match the surrounding wall surfaces.

Finally, a new set of oak stairs was installed to connect the loft space to the Center’s main level, allowing the education staff quick access to the Center’s main program areas.

Outside

Extensive landscaping and creation of conservation demonstration areas were completed around the building this summer, beginning with the rain garden on the building’s east side. Part of the Center’s new educational “Stormwater Trail,” (see separate article) the rain garden shows residents how they can capture rainwater from their homes or businesses and use it to create a beautiful landscaped area.

Our rain garden manages about 1,000 gallons of rainwater from the Education Center’s roof in three connected manmade features – a seep (in a natural setting, this is where water comes out of the ground), a springhouse (a manmade structure often built on farms before refrigeration where water would be used to keep milk cool), and a small collection pond that provides habitat for wildlife.

Landscape designer Linda Alworth designed and installed the main physical structures of the rain garden last year, and this summer she added a pump and stone watering trough (donated by Adam Eidemiller, Inc.) and landscaped the entire area.

After rototilling, weeding, and adding compost, she planted native perennials, including Black-eyed Susans, and old fashioned flowers such as Hollyhocks and climbing roses. In the Geoweb pockets (used to help stabilize the sloping ground,) Linda planted peppers, tomatoes, and winterberry vine.

Many of the landscape plants in this area were donated by Linda and by members of the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County. Dave Hails of Ecological Restoration, Inc. also supplied wetland plants – including Arum, several species of Bulrush, and Cattails – for the rain garden’s wildlife habitat pond.

Landscaping also took place on the south side of the Center, where a large area of ground that had been disturbed during construction was cleared of weeds, amended with some 60 tons of top soil, and seeded for a lawn/picnic area by Jupina Landscaping.

Jupina also planted a “no mow” grass mix on the slope opposite the rain garden, and 10 deciduous and 14 evergreen trees on the west and south sides of the Center – including three islands of trees created as a stormwater management feature in the gravel parking lot behind the building. Jupina



Landscaped path in front of education center.

Landscaping’s labor, equipment, and plant materials were donated through a combination of gifts from that company, THF Realty, and Sewickley Creek Watershed Association.

All of the Center’s recent landscape additions have greatly beautified the building and made it blend more naturally with the adjacent natural areas of Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

Even more importantly, each landscape improvement also will be used as a teaching tool, to demonstrate conservation-in-action and to encourage area residents to implement similar conservation measures – from improving wildlife habitat, to creatively managing stormwater, to reducing water use by landscaping with native plants on their own properties.

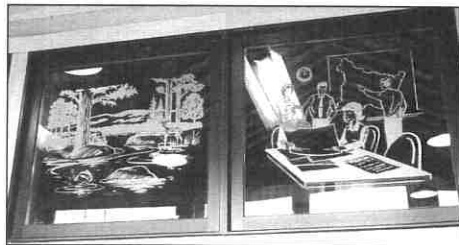
Entryway Windows Feature Conservation Images

In addition to the new recognition of Sustaining Contributors, the glass windows in the entrance of the Education Center are sporting a new series of four retro-style images depicting the District's major program areas.

Portrayed in frosted vinyl to simulate etched glass, the images, which run across the top of the glass wall portray agriculture, forests and streams, urban planning, and sustainable communities.

The 1950s style of the artwork was

selected to evoke the era in which the Westmoreland Conservation District was founded (1949).



Classic conservation art on foyer windows.

Contributors to the Center for Conservation Education late August 2002 to August 15, 2003

The following list includes those donors who have helped with the Center's capital campaign (which now is nearly complete) as well as those whose contributions have helped to fund the next major phase of this ambitious project — launching the Center's educational programs.

These newest donors, who we refer to as Sustaining Contributors, have helped us install a variety of demonstrations to show conservation in practice, purchase materials and equipment, and develop curriculum and programming.

Sustaining Contributors who have given at the Partner level and above have been permanently recognized for their contributions on the glass wall immediately inside the Center's front door. This recognition will be updated several times a year as other contributions are received.

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(\$10,000 and above)

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Representative Ted Harhai

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Sewickley Creek Watershed Assoc.
Thomas A. Stickle

Partners

(\$500 to \$999)

Linda Alworth
Ecological Restoration, Inc.
Gib Hutter Family
Jackson Graphics

If you would like to be a part of this important conservation-education effort, you can make a tax-deductible contribution by completing the pledge card below.

THE CENTER FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

An education project of the Westmoreland Conservation District



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- Please indicate by checking this box if you would like your pledge to be billed and indicate over what period of time, e.g. the next 1, 2, or 3 years. _____

Note: The names of those who have given at the Partner (\$500) level and above will be placed on the glass wall in the Center's foyer. For donors who make more than one contribution, the combined value of these gifts will be used to determine the category of giving.

Make checks payable to:

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THANK YOU!

Conservation Education

UPDATES FROM THE EDUCATOR'S CORNER OF "THE BARN"

By Leanne Griffith, Conservation Education Coordinator

New things are always happening in and around our Barn. Stop by and see for yourself.

The new Educator's Corner of the Barn is being constructed up in the hay loft as this article goes to press. Soon new secretary, Christie Rhoades, and I and many boxes of accumulated educational materials will be moving up. Give us a few weeks to straighten things up a bit and then stop by and visit.

RECENT EVENTS



Thirty-seven members of the State Leadership Team for Conservation Districts came from the state of Indiana to visit the Westmoreland Conservation District in late August. The staff and board presented information about our programs. After lunch the group toured the Education Center and then continued on to tour the gristmill and wetlands at Saint Vincent College. Angela Belli, Environmental Education Coordinator, led the tour. The bus tour talks were led by Wes Gordon, District Conservationist from Natural Resources Conservation Service and Gary Sheppard, County Extension Director for Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Seventy-five people enjoyed the Sewickley Creek Watershed's Annual picnic which was held at the New Stanton Park on August 21st. The final version of the official Rivers Conservation Plan was presented to the public at the picnic.

Nicki Foremsky hosted a Home-A-Syst program for homeowners in early September. The program covered such topics as protecting water quality, waste management, identifying household hazardous wastes, recycling and composting, and yard and garden care. The program was a cooperative effort of Penn State Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland Conservation District, and PA CleanWays of Westmoreland County.



Barb Beshore of DEP held a state-wide two day "Watershed Academy 101" for the Ohio Basin. The meeting was held as a training session for watershed groups, managers and specialists and Department of Environmental Protection staff.

The Stormwater Trail was one of the featured tours during the event led by Jim Pillsbury. Bruce Golden and Deb Simko from Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation spoke on "Watershed Impacts and Best Management Practices for Abandoned Mine Drainage".

Nicki Foremsky hosted a macro-invertebrate identification workshop that was held in mid September. Designed for watershed groups and agency personnel working with watershed groups, Vivian Williams from Stroud Water Research provided an in-depth training and field sampling for macroinvertebrates. This was a cooperative effort of Penn State Cooperative Extension and Westmoreland Conservation District.



At Powdermill Nature Reserve the installation of a new gravel driveway became a demonstration for contractors and local municipal officials who work at installing dirt and gravel roads in the

Ligonier region. The new road will open an access from the new permeable parking lot at Powdermill to Route 381. A special drainage measure called a French mattress was installed under the road to allow runoff to pass from one side to the other.

Westmoreland Conservation District and Powdermill cosponsored this event.

Seventy-two participants enjoyed the second annual Riffle Run Golf Tournament which was held at Donegal Highlands Golf Course. This networking event was held for members of watershed groups, agencies and consultants who work together to restore watersheds in southwestern Pennsylvania.



Jim Pillsbury and Mike Barrick shared information with thirty members of the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors in New Stanton on current National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems rules and regulations, effective erosion control measures and examples of good stormwater management techniques.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vegetated Gabions Workshop

Westmoreland Conservation District plans to hold a hands-on vegetated gabions workshop for engineers and municipal officials in Spring 2004. The meeting will start at the Barn and move to Lynch Field for the actual construction of the vegetated gabions. Lunch will be provided. There will be a nominal charge for this workshop. Contact Jim Pillsbury for further information at (724) 837-5271 or email him at jwpillsbury@yahoo.com.

Teacher's Workshops



Ag Basics is a new workshop for teachers that will be taught on two Saturdays, November 1 and 8. The workshops will start at 8:30 a.m. and run through 4:30 p.m. each day. The cost for this course is \$125 and you will receive 1 Act 48 Credit upon completion of the coursework. This workshop is cosponsored by Leanne Griffith of Westmoreland Conservation District, Joann Logan of Penn State Cooperative Extension and Tammy Gray, a Hempfield second grade teacher. Contact Leanne Griffith at (724) 837-5271 or email at leannegriffith@yahoo.com to learn more about this class.

You may register for either of these classes through the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit. Contact Paula Hartman at: Westmoreland Intermediate Unit RR 12 Box 205 Donohoe Road Greensburg, PA 15601 (724) 836-2460 ext 204 for the registration information.

On-Lot Septic Workshop

Homeowners with septic systems will be interested in attending a workshop to learn more about caring for their on-lot septic system. The workshop will be held Wednesday, October 22 from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Derry Township Building.

The agenda includes septic system basics, the roles and responsibilities of the homeowner, township and Department of Environmental Protection, what to do with failing systems, alternative systems, and funding sources. This is a cooperative effort of Westmoreland Conservation District and Penn State Cooperative Extension. Contact Nicki Foremsky for information about this class at (724) 837-1402 or email her at nmf125@psu.edu.

Envirothon News

The Envirothon for 2004 will be held on the first Monday in May at Twin Lakes Park. Tony and Leanne will be distributing educational packets to interested teachers in November. If you would like further information about participating in the Envirothon, please contact Tony at tonyquadro@yahoo.com or Leanne at leannegriffith@yahoo.com or call 724-837-5271.

A new home-school team is being formed for this year's Westmoreland County Envirothon. Their meetings are held at the Calvin Presbyterian Church in the North Huntingdon area near Circleville. They are looking for anyone who may be interested in joining their study group. Please contact Neva Shields at (724) 423-7451 or Tammy Deemer at (412) 824-3068 for further information.

SUMMER 2003

Staff News

Many thanks go to Ashley Gay, Katie Stokum and Jessica Griffith who

shared part of their summer working as interns for the District. Great job, ladies!



Congratulations to Dan Griffith who has received a \$3,000 Geographic Information System (GIS) Software Grant under an agreement between the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). The District will receive ArcView 8 GIS software, several texts on utilizing GIS for environmental applications and land use planning, CD ROMs containing spatial data about the Commonwealth and local area and two days of training at Mifflin County Cooperative Extension Office.

Congratulations also to Ron Rohall, vice-chairman of the Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors! Ron has been appointed by Governor Rendell to serve as a member of the Ohio Basin Regional Water Resources Committee. Established as a component of Act 220, the committee will assist in the update of the state water plan which will answer such basic questions as: how much water we have, how much water we use, and how much water we need. For more information on the Act, check out this link online: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/act220/>

District Hires New Secretary



Christie Rhoades

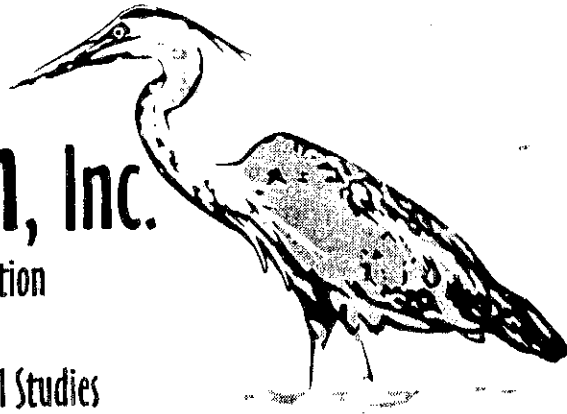
The Westmoreland Conservation District is glad to welcome new part-time secretary Christie Rhoades to our team! Christie is a recent graduate of California University where she received a B.S. degree in Accounting. Her time will be spent

learning program secretary duties to assist our technical staff, and clerical support for our education program.

Christie resides in West Newton and she likes to swim, dance and go shopping.



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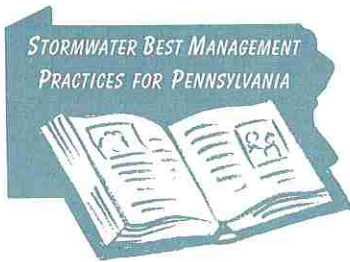


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Apollo, PA 15613
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Pillsbury Appointed to State Stormwater Committee

By Lorrie Quadro



Planning Commission, PA Housing Research Center out of Penn State, Van Cleef Engineering Associates, PENNDOT, and many more. Because the manual is intended for engineers, land developers, and municipalities, membership of the committee is varied, so different voices need to be heard in its creation. This is a great opportunity because southwestern PA is a little behind in stormwater management practices and it gives our region an opportunity for stormwater advancement. Jim expects to learn a great deal from this experience.

However, Jim will not go to committee meetings empty-handed. Besides his love of baked goods, Jim will be bringing 15 years of experience in stormwater management. He graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1988. Shortly after graduation, he began his work as Hydraulic Engineer for WCD. In 1997 he became a Registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania.

Pillsbury says he envisions the committee providing “goals, visions, and philosophy” on stormwater management to the developers of the manual, Cahill Associates. The manual is designed to “fill a hole” in state regulations concerning stormwater management, he explained. It will detail ways for engineers, land developers, and municipalities to meet regulations. With these techniques of increased groundwater infiltration and better on-site management practices, along with more water quality programs, the amount of surface pollutants entering streams should be minimized; Pennsylvania’s water quality will be improved.

The committee will meet with Cahill Associates on a regular basis to discuss the progress of the manual and provide their input. These meetings will be open to the public and the final draft of the manual will be available for public comment. The process is expected to be finished in 18 months.

Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer for WCD, has been chosen to sit on a newly-formed state committee. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty appointed him and 24 other people to a committee to oversee the development of the Pennsylvania’s Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual.

Jim was one of many who volunteered for a spot on the committee and is pleased he was chosen. The committee is made up of a diverse array of people who represent different private and public interests. Along with the WCD, there are members from Bucks County

When It Rains, It Pours and Pours and...

By Jim Pillsbury

Earlier this year, Hydraulic Engineer Jim Pillsbury visited one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World — Hoover Dam, on the Colorado River between Arizona and Nevada. Built primarily to control flooding, this masterpiece of Art Deco concrete has saved billions of dollars, countless lives, and much trouble over its 70-year existence. The care and effort that went into its construction has certainly paid off for the American Southwest.

Closer to home, this summer brought flooding and damage to certain areas of our county. Intense rainfalls in the Youngstown, Baggaley Ridge, and Darlington areas cost property owners and municipalities time, money, and trouble. District staff were busy responding with technical and permitting assistance to many calls for help. With each particular situation, we noticed

common elements which contributed to the flooding:

- Culverts blocked by debris. It is the responsibility of property owners to keep culverts and bridges free of debris to allow passage of water. There is no permit needed to remove flood debris from a culvert or bridge.
- Undersized culverts or bridges. A culvert or bridge must be designed to safely pass flood flows without damage to the structure itself, or to adjoining property. An engineer can help determine an adequate size for a crossing, and permits may be obtained from PA DEP.
- Accumulation of sediment and debris in a stream channel. It is the responsibility of property owners to keep streams clear of obstructions. Careless dumping of debris into streams contributes to flooding. There is no permit needed to remove flood debris from a stream;

however, to dredge out soil or rocks always requires a permit from PA DEP.

- Poor choice of location for structures. Common sense tells us to keep homes, garages, and sheds well away from and above streams. A trickle on a dry, sunny day may turn into a torrent in a few minutes in a cloudburst. Information on flood plains, setback distances, and permits is available from the Conservation District.

With a little care and effort of our own, and without pouring millions of yards of concrete, we can address flooding in our own County, saving property and helping the environment at the same time.





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KATHY'S KIDS KORNER – Recent Barn Happenings

By Kathy Fritz

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

Can you find the following words in the puzzle?

1. Ashley
2. Budget Prep
3. Christie
4. Counter
5. Fish & Plants
6. Interns
7. Katrina
8. Kitchen
9. Landscaping
10. Pond
11. The Loft
12. Tours
13. Training
14. Waterfall
15. Workshop

NATURALLY
Delicious

by Karen Barnhart

Turkey Casserole

- 1-2 lb. white meat turkey roast, roasted and cubed
- 1 C. diced onion
- 1 C. chopped celery
- 2 C. longhorn cheese cubed
- 1 bag slivered almonds
- 1 C. mayo
- 1 sm bag crushed potato chips

Mix all ingredients except chips in large bowl.

Place in greased casserole.

Sprinkle with chips.

Bake at 350° for 45-60 min. or until chips get browned.

Find the Artist's Paint Brush

By Joanne Kitsko



As the vibrant colors of summer begin to wane, nature's colorful array of fall foliage transforms the environment that surrounds us into the splendor of Autumn! This spectacular transition of colors projects a kaleidoscope blend of flaxen gold, verdant greens, russet browns, crimson, ruddy burgundy and flaming orange copper tones of stunning, picturesque beauty. Crisp autumn air, a variety of colorful leaves, a rich bountiful harvest, conjure images of the artist's unique creation of a phenomenal, conservation masterpiece. With easel in place, pallet in hand, you must find the artist's brush

concealed somewhere in this issue of Landmarks in order to create your own illustration portraiture of a conservation masterpiece. The 7th, 14th, and 21st callers to Joanne at 724-837-5271 correctly identifying the location of the artist's brush will receive some colorful prizes! Previous contest winners are not eligible; however, comments regarding our publications are welcome and always appreciated. Good luck! Eugene Salai of Ruffsedale, Kayla Martle of West Newton, and Eleanor Emge of Saltsburg were the lucky winners of our "Find the Artist's Paint Brush" contest in the summer, 2003 issue.

Visit our website at:
www.wcdpa.com

LANDMARKS

The Official Newsletter of the Westmoreland Conservation District

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Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 8 – District Meeting
- 11 – Watersheds and Sustainable Communities Teacher's Workshop
- 17 – SW Regional Roundtable
- 18 – Watersheds and Sustainable Communities Teacher's Workshop
- 22 – On-Lot Septic System Workshop at Derry Township Building

NOVEMBER

- 1 – Ag Basics Workshop for Teachers
- 5 – Alliance for Conservation Education Program at Four Points Sheraton – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Ag Basics Workshop for Teachers
- 14 – Westmoreland Conservation District's Annual Banquet

PA DEP Secretary Visits District



(l-r) Greg Phillips, District Manager; Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer; Linda Alworth-Arnold, Lingrow Landscaping; Kathleen McGinty, PA DEP Secretary; Kim Miller, District Director; Gary Sheppard, County Extension Director for Penn State Cooperative Extension.

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