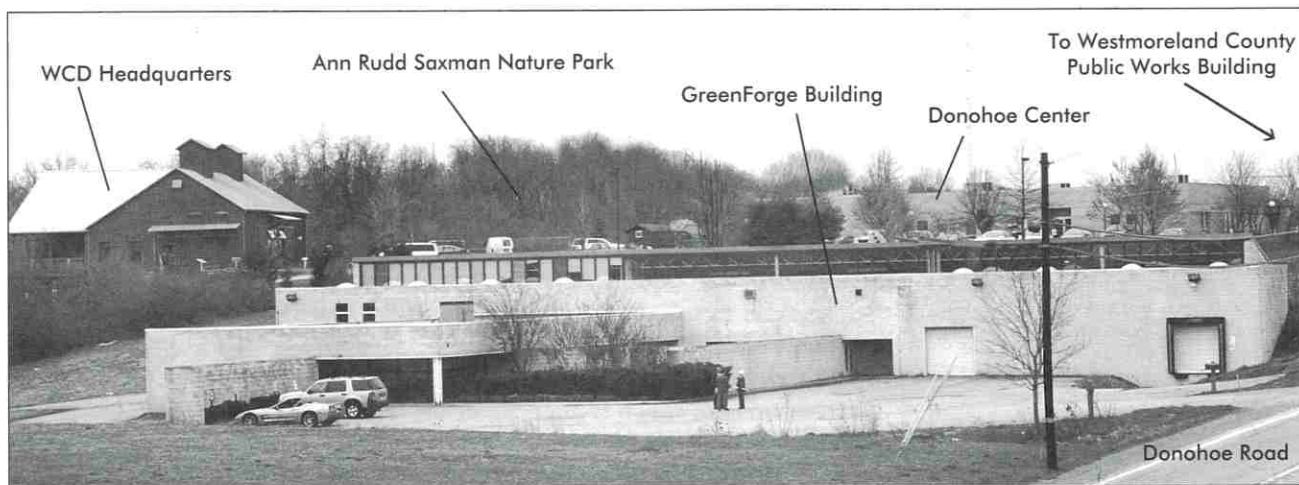


## Conservation Campus Expanding



**O**ur conservation campus is growing again. The 20,000-square-foot building next door to both Donohoe Center and the District's headquarters in the converted barn will soon be transformed into an efficient and practical green space that nonprofit conservation, agricultural, and rural development agencies can call "home."

This building – which goes by the working name "GreenForge" – has been vacant for the past several years. A creative agreement for owning and managing the building has been drafted between the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation (building owner), and the Westmoreland Conservation District (property manager).

Greg Phillips, District manager/CEO, expressed excitement about the project. "GreenForge will take conservation to new levels. As we rent space in this building to both new groups and existing partners, we will have more opportunities for collaboration. We'll share resources and partner on projects, which will increase the effectiveness of each organization's work.

"Another exciting element of the

GreenForge project is that, in getting the building ready to house these conservation-related organizations, we are doing a "green retrofit." We are taking a 25-year-old commercial building, and installing a variety of leading-edge conservation features that will make its daily operation very energy efficient and easy on the environment. We also are going to make these conservation features part of our education program to show people how they, too, can realize benefits by incorporating them in their own building projects.

"And finally, in the longer-term, GreenForge has the potential to provide a steady source of funding for conservation projects throughout the area, once the building debt is paid off."

### Building new partnerships

GreenForge will provide much-needed, reasonably priced lease space for the variety of nonprofit conservation, agriculture, environmental, and rural development agencies in the county.

Leases currently are being negotiated with Westmoreland Cleanways and the Progress Fund, and several other

organizations have expressed interest in occupying the building, which includes both office and warehouse space.

In addition to reasonable rent, GreenForge also provides agencies with the added benefit of being physically near a significant number of like-minded organizations (including the agencies in the original Donohoe Center building, the District's barn headquarters, and the Westmoreland County Public Works building).

Sharing a walkable "conservation campus" increases the opportunity for interaction among these groups. The more often they talk and share information, the more likely it is that they will discover opportunities to share

*continued on page 2*

### Inside this issue...

Awards.....	4
New Resource Library.....	7
Envirothon Winners.....	9
Remining.....	10
People.....	13
District meetings/Annual banquet.....	back cover





### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Roy Houston, *Chairman*  
 Ron Rohall, *Vice Chairman*  
 Conrad Donovan, *Treasurer*  
 P. Roy Kemerer, *Secretary*  
 County Commissioner Tom Balya, *Director*  
 Albert Barnett, *Director*  
 William Doney, *Director*  
 Kim Edward Miller, *Director*  
 Dorothy Stoner, *Director*

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Robert Ackerman	William Kotsenas
Jack Driscoll	Theresa Gay Rohall
Anita Foriska	Elmer Slezak
Alexander J. Graziani, AICP	John Turack
Joseph Kalinowski	Keith Walters
Ted Kopas	Robert Zelmor

### STAFF

Gregory M. Phillips, *District Manager/CEO*  
 Anthony P. Quadro, Jr., *Assistant District Manager/Technical Programs Director*  
 Sandra Dzendzel, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Karen Barnhart, *Assistant Fiscal Administrator*  
 Mark Jackson, *Visual Communications Specialist*  
 Joanne Kitsko, *Receptionist*

### TECHNICAL STAFF

James W. Pillsbury, P.E., *Hydraulic Engineer*  
 Michael Barrick, *Watershed Specialist*  
 Robert D. Cronauer, *Erosion Control Specialist*  
 Christopher Droste, *Erosion Control Specialist*  
 Daniel Griffith, *Nutrient Management/Agricultural Conservation Technician*  
 Carolyn Graham, *Growing Greener Program Assistant*  
 Kathleen Fritz, *Program Secretary*  
 Kathryn Hamilton, RLA, *Technical Assistant*

### EDUCATIONAL STAFF

Leanne Griffith, *Conservation Education Coordinator*  
 Nicole Foremsky, *District/Penn State Associate Extension Educator*  
 Christie Rhoades, *Secretary*

### USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Thomas Sierzega, *District Conservationist*  
 Michele McDonald, *Soil Conservationist*  
 Lawrence Stokum, *Conservation Technician*  
 Rob Knight, *Soil Scientist*  
 Miladys N. Irizarry-Rivera, *Soil Scientist*

### PENN'S CORNER

**Resource Conservation & Development**  
 Bobbi Bailey, *Coordinator*  
 Vivian Bernardo, *Program Assistant*

*Conservation Campus Expanding continued from page 1*

resources, combine efforts, and partner on projects — all of which will increase each agency's organizational capacity as well as the ultimate benefits it can provide to the community.

### Promoting conservation building practices

One of the first steps in the GreenForge project is to retrofit this 25-year-old building with conservation in mind.

"We're planning to use green materials, install demonstration energy-saving technologies, and employ all sorts of best management practices — so that the whole site becomes an example that encourages builders throughout the county to incorporate conservation measures in their projects," Phillips explained.

The exact materials, technologies, and practices to be included in GreenForge are now being determined by the project team, which is made up of many of the same people who successfully transformed an 1880s-era barn into the District's headquarters a few years ago. A list of items under discussion is shown on page 3.

The team plans to retrofit GreenForge in such a way that its operation will use less energy and have less impact on both the natural resources and

man-made infrastructure than a traditional building of its size.

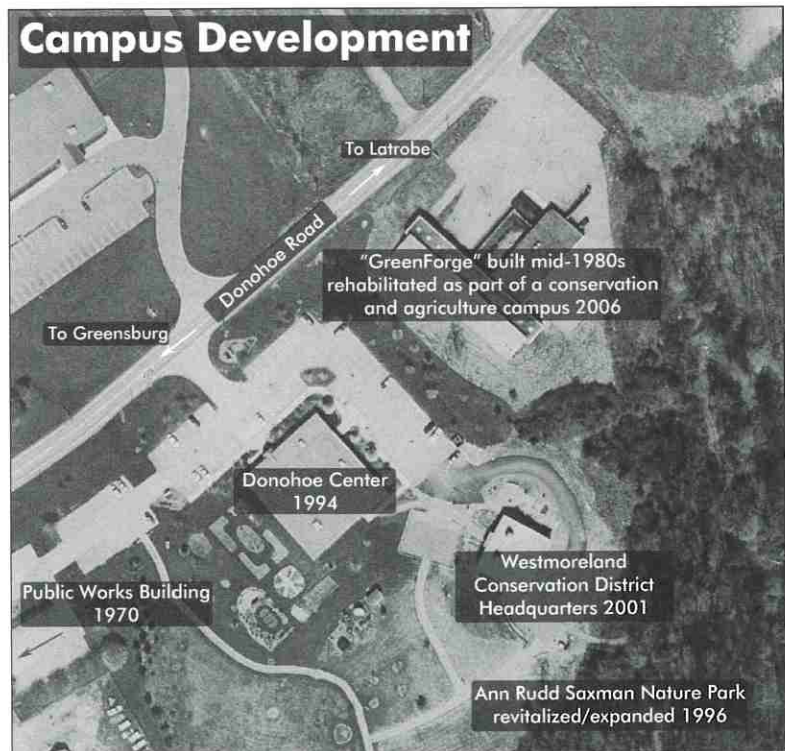
GreenForge also will be adapted in a way that qualifies it for Silver-level LEED Certification. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System is a national standard for high-performance, sustainable buildings. Energy Star ratings also will be an important consideration in all aspects of the building's adaptation.

All of the conservation enhancements to the GreenForge building will be documented, monitored for efficiency, and promoted to the public through the District's education and outreach program.

### Provide a dedicated source of funds for conservation

The ownership/management of GreenForge is set up so that, once the building debt is retired, any income after expenses can be used to support conservation initiatives in Westmoreland County.

These initiatives could include: cleaning up abandoned deep coal mine drainage, implementing soil conservation and streambank stabilization projects, preserving farmland, building and maintaining recreation trails, protecting open space, managing stormwater, and so on.



0 125 250 500 Feet







# District & Associates Capture State & Regional Awards

*The Westmoreland Conservation District and two of its associates recently received top honors in three major state and regional competitions: the Governor's Energy Award, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Awards, and the new Cool Space Award.*



PA Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty (second from right) presents a flag proclaiming the District as a winner of the Governor's Energy Award to District Board of Directors members (l-r) Bill Doney, Kim Miller, Dorothy Stoner, Ron Rohall, Chairman Roy Houston, and Roy Kemerer.

## Governor's Energy Award

The District's Center for Conservation Education captured the prestigious Governor's Energy Award for Environmental Excellence.

The award was presented to the District in early July. Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty made the presentation on behalf of Governor Edward Rendell, and noted that "we very dramatically tightened the standards for this award this year because we want everyone to know that "excellence" really means it."

Only 11 projects from a field of 82 entries were selected to receive this top environmental award. Selection criteria included an assessment of the entry's overall environmental benefit, public service, economic impact, use of innovative technology, teamwork, and environmental education and outreach.

The District's Center for Conservation Education was selected for its winning combination of environmental and economic benefits. The Center's design and construction features holistic planning, resource efficiency, recycled materials, energy-efficient and water-saving measures, and innovative stormwater management.

Its positive economic impact included purchasing, using, and promoting a wide array of local goods and services as well as installing heating, cooling, and lighting systems that use significantly less energy than traditional options.

A new flag flying over the Center's main entrance recognizes the District

as a Governor's Energy Award winner, as does a commemorative plaque displayed inside in the administrative offices.

The awards presentation ceremony included locally grown and produced refreshments from Westmoreland County producers, including: fresh berries from Sand Hill Berries, Mt. Pleasant; gourmet organic cookies from Caren Weaver of Greensburg; chocolates from Brown's Candy Kitchen, Mt. Pleasant; and milk punch, provided by dairy farmers Thelma and Roy Kemerer of Latrobe.

## PACD Awards

Two District nominees – Associate Director John Turack and partner organization Westmoreland Cleanways (formerly known as PA CleanWays Westmoreland County) – were selected as statewide award-winners by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts at its conference in late July.

### John Turack: Elected Official Recognition Award

John Turack received the state organization's Elected Official Recognition Award.

John has been an elected public

servant for only three years, but in that time, he has shown a keen interest in conservation. When he was elected in 2002 as one of three supervisors in Washington Township, a 31-square-mile, second-class township in the northwest part of Westmoreland County, John immediately enrolled in a number of seminars to prepare for his new role, including a variety of workshops sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District. It was this latter association, he says, that raised his awareness of the scope of conservation issues in his township and in the county in general.

Since then, he has put many conservation practices into action. He convinced his fellow commissioners to install permeable surface walkways and an infiltration trench around a new recreation building in a Washington Township park, and persuaded the township's public works director to install a "French mattress" across a swale in the same park to maintain stormwater sheet flow while providing access to a 'spill over' parking area.

He also successfully wrote, received, and implemented a WREN Source Water Protection Grant to promote source-water awareness and protection among members of the public. This effort has far-reaching implications, as approximately one-third of Washington Township drains into Beaver Run Reservoir, a major drinking-water supply



for some 50,000 Westmoreland County homes and businesses.

In addition to his service on the District's Associate Board and its Education and Communications advisory committees, John volunteers with the "The Future of Westmoreland Agriculture" initiative; the Vandergrift Improvement Program; the Kiski, Pucketa and Chartiers Creek, and Turtle Creek watersheds; the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County; the Westmoreland Conservancy; and the Fort Hand Festival.

John serves as chair of the Resolutions Committee of the Westmoreland County Association of Township Supervisors and as membership and public relations director of the Washington/Bell (townships) Lions Club.

Recently, he was named as the new Main Street Program manager for the Blairsville Improvement Group (Blairsville, Indiana County).



*PACD President Jarrett Miller (left) presents the Elected Official Recognition award to John Turack.*

### **Westmoreland Cleanways: Conservation Organization of the Year**

Westmoreland Cleanways (formerly PA CleanWays Westmoreland County) received the Conservation Organization of the Year award from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

Westmoreland Cleanways is an organization run by two staff members, Jack Driscoll and Ellen Keefe, that, in 15 short years, has done an outstanding job of making Westmoreland County a cleaner, safer, and more environmentally healthy place to live.

With tremendous grassroots support from citizens, school groups, and scouts, Westmoreland Cleanways has



*(left to right) PACD President Jarrett Miller and Secretary of Agriculture Dennis Wolff present the Conservation Organization of the Year Award to Westmoreland Cleanways representatives Margaret Hall, secretary of the Board of Directors, and Jack Driscoll, executive director.*

successfully eliminated some 60 of the county's 157 illegal dumpsites (and properly disposed of some 1,500 tons of trash and 15,500 tires).

This work has a direct and measurable benefit for the county's natural resources – particularly its soil and water. Most illegal dumpsites are on steep slopes; 75% to 80% of the time there also is a stream very close by. The type of items dumped (paints, motor oils, batteries) often contain chemicals or hazardous materials that leech out and contaminate the soil and nearby waterways.

By cleaning up these dumpsites, Westmoreland Cleanways is helping to stabilize steep slopes, and preventing further degradation of the soil, improving water quality in our local streams, and restoring wildlife habitat. On some sites where the garbage has actually accumulated in the stream, Cleanways' work may also help to reduce local flooding.

Once a hillside, stream or waterway is cleaned, it usually remains clean, thanks to legions of Westmoreland Cleanways volunteers who have "adopted" a total of 79 geographic locations in the county, and also to the group's efforts to provide both community education and environmentally acceptable alternatives for waste disposal – including an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection, a

weekly electronics recycling program, a Christmas tree recycling program, and an extraordinarily successful paper recycling program that last year collected and recycled 2,582 tons of paper at no cost to the organization or area citizens because of Cleanways' ability to negotiate with the recycling companies.

Westmoreland Cleanways' education effort includes home composting workshops...presentations to civic, social, and school groups...distributing activity books on litter...and developing a Westmoreland-County-specific Recycling Guide each year.



### **Cool Space Award**

The District's Center for Conservation Education also won recognition this year in the Pittsburgh region's first-ever "Cool Space" competition, sponsored by PNC Bank and a non-profit group called the Cool Space Locator to "celebrate and highlight the

*continued on page 6*



cool spaces in our midst and to create excitement about cool spaces that will encourage adaptive reuse of urban locations.”

Forty-five sites were chosen as just these kind of “cool spaces” from a field of 107 entries by a prestigious panel of judges that included James Roddey, chairman of Business Records Management; Tom Sokolowski, director of The Andy Warhol Museum; Gary Saulson, senior VP and director of corporate real estate for PNC Financial Services Group; and Shirley Yee, director of Graphic Design at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

The District’s Center for Conservation Education was a prime example of what Cool Space Locator Co-founder and President Kyra Straussman was looking for in the competition – a space that fit the criteria of being unique and innovative...using recycled or salvaged materials...and fostering collaboration and interaction in its community.

## Voters Overwhelmingly Approve Growing Greener II

In the spring primary election, Pennsylvania voters had the opportunity to vote for the environment, and they overwhelmingly did – passing a \$625 million bond referendum that will be used to clean up rivers and streams, reclaim abandoned coal mines and brownfields, preserve natural areas and open space, improve state parks and local recreational facilities, preserve working farms, and improve habitat.

The Westmoreland Conservation District Board, Associate Board, and staff fully support this environmental initiative, called Growing Greener II, and encouraged area voters to do likewise. Thanks to everyone who did!

In its first phase (2000 to 2004), Growing Greener I invested more than \$4 million in Westmoreland County’s land and streams. It helped local farmers and municipalities install best management practices to reduce pollution...and engaged and educated citizens on the value and care of our natural resources.

Funding from Growing Greener II promises to bring even greater conservation, environmental, and economic benefits to our county.

Governor Rendell has expressed confidence that no new taxes or fees would be needed to fund this important initiative, which is the single largest environmental investment this state has ever made.

---

When Westmoreland County officials were putting together a comprehensive plan for the county last year, they polled area citizens to find out what attributes they wanted in their communities.

Many of the things citizens identified as important – preserving the rural character of the county...revitalizing older towns...cleaning up pollution in the streams...and protecting scenic and open space – are the very same things the Growing Greener II program will support.

---



**ADAM  
EIDEMILLER  
INC.**

**Developers Since 1925**

**GREENSBURG, PA**

**724-837-4300**

or

**412-242-0100**

---

*Supporters of Local Business,  
Industry and OUR COMMUNITY*

---

**Classic Brushless  
Car Wash - Rt. 30 East**  
Automatic - Self Service  
Full Detailing

**724-837-3669**

Next to Hillview Motors  
& Kentucky Fried Chicken



**Call Us At 724-838-7070**

For All Your Lodging Needs  
Route 30 East Greensburg

**Hempfield Mini Storage**

Area's largest self storage facility

**724-834-6464**

Corner of Roseytown & Donohoe  
Roads next to Goodwill  
& O.C. Cluss Lumber



**724-838-8080**

Located next to the  
Four Points Hotel - Greensburg, PA  
Across from Westmoreland Mall



# New Resource Library Created

If you're looking for information on plant science...no-till farming...green building...or just about any subject on the more technical side of conservation or agriculture, the District's new resource library might be a good place to check.

This summer, intern Amanda McMillan (see page 13) solicited donations to create the library and then organized the overwhelming response – nearly 300 books, 30 magazine titles, and 200 videos.

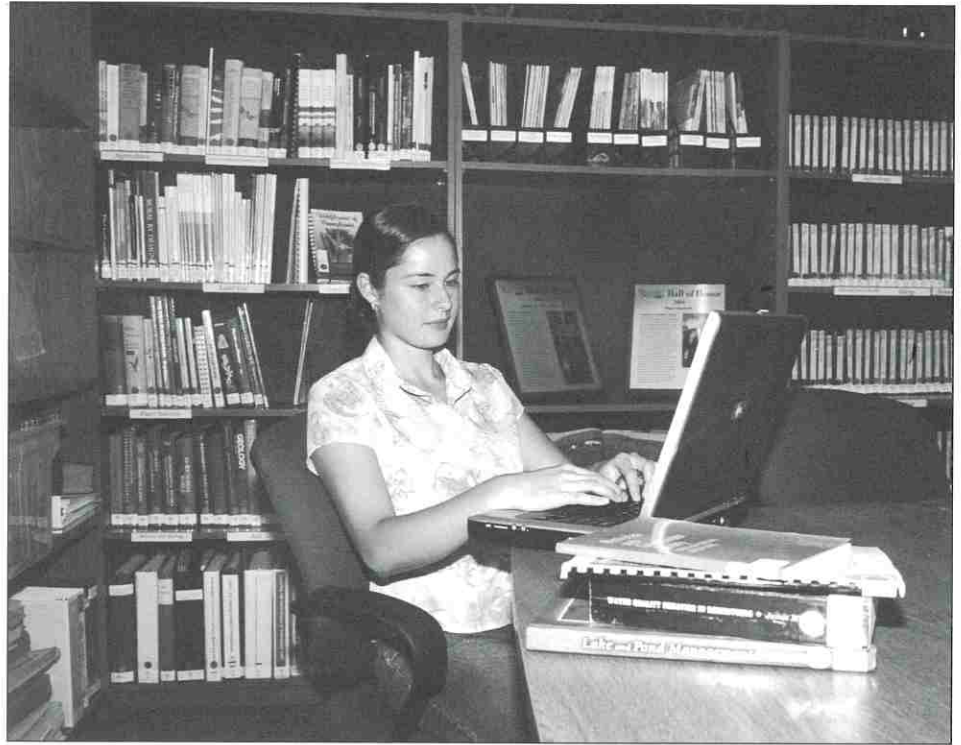
She catalogued the specialized resources into major subject categories, including the following:

- Agriculture
- Conservation District Information
- Dirt and Gravel Roads
- Erosion Control
- Education
- Environmental Awareness
- Energy
- Forestry
- Government/Environment
- Green Living
- Heritage
- Land Use
- Plant Science
- Pollution
- Recycling
- Reference and Directories
- Science/Biology
- Soil
- Water Issues.

Individuals can visit the library during regular District business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. You are welcome to browse the shelves or, soon, to use a computer program to search for resources by keyword, author, or subject.

Christie Rhoades, District secretary, has moved her office to the library, which is located in the large loft, so she will be available to help locate items or explain the library's procedures.

Resources can be signed out for up to two weeks. There is no charge to use the library, but overdue and replacement fees will be charged to



Amanda McMillan catalogs library resources.

ensure that resources are returned.

Amanda is planning to return to the District during semester breaks and next summer's vacation to continue to develop the resource library: "One thing I would like to do is to gather information on how people are using

the library, so we can make adjustments as necessary to make sure it is providing what people want and need," she explained. "I'd also like to expand the resources in the library to include maps, surveys, and a computer with Internet access."

Donations to the library have been received from the following individuals and organizations. Thank you!

Wes Gordon  
Roy and Thelma Kemerer  
Rob Knight  
Greg Phillips  
Betty Reefer, Westmoreland  
County Agricultural Land  
Preservation Program  
The Botanical Society of  
Westmoreland County

The Smart Growth Partnership of  
Westmoreland County  
Westmoreland Conservation District  
technical staff

Additionally, donations that were made to the District in honor of Associate Director Paul Heyworth were used to purchase some 40 titles for the library. These selections were made in consultation with Paul's widow, Myrna.

Books, magazines, videotapes, DVDs, and audio books on conservation and related subjects are still being accepted.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Christie Rhoades at 724-837-5271.





# A Little Piece Of History

by Katie Wells

One day last year, a gentleman stopped in to our Conservation District headquarters to get some information about timbering. As he talked with our staff, he looked around and determined that he was familiar with our barn – in fact, he had climbed the ladder to the hay loft as a young farmhand in Penn Township many years ago. He reminisced with University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg student Katie Wells, who was working on articles about conservation for a class project. Katie shared her story with *Landmarks*.

**D**uane Smith had a job at 17 years old that stayed with him through World War II, bringing him back to Westmoreland County to make a living as a dairy farmer.

As a young boy, Smith worked as a hired hand for Johnny Beakham, who owned a farm in Penn Township. Smith worked a thrashing machine for Beakham, but at harvest time, was sent to help at another nearby farm, the Wagaman's.

"All the farmers in the area used each other's help," Smith said. "If it was time to harvest at one place, all the hired hands would be sent there to help. I was sent to work for the Wagaman's."

The barn that is now the Westmoreland Conservation District was built by the Wagaman family and was in their ownership when Smith was sent there to help out during harvest. (The last farm family to own and operate the barn was the Campbells.)

Smith said that he would not have had this opportunity if the country hadn't been in the circumstances it was in the 1940s. "Most of the guys who normally worked these jobs went to the service in August and September," Smith said. "There was no one left to help, so that's why I decided to take the job."

Smith and the 10-15 other teenage boys that were borrowed from other farms in the area to help with the Wagaman harvest worked only one day, or two at the most. "I worked inside on the thrashing machine, which separates the grain from the straw," Smith said. "The straw came through the door," he said, pointing to the entrance of the Conservation District, "then it went through a thrashing machine, and right out the other side."

The grain was stored on the left side of the barn in the loft, which now holds



Duane Smith stands by the barn ladder he climbed years ago.

the education staff offices for the Conservation District.

"I can remember climbing the ladder that is there right now," Smith said. "Went up and down that thing all day. And the thrasher sat right in the center of this main meeting room floor."

Smith left for the service in January of 1943. When he came back home he realized his life-long dream and bought his own farm. He still grows grain but in recent years, he's turned over the hay-making to his neighbor.

"The best part of working for the Wagaman's was the big banquet dinner that they cooked at the end of the day for everyone," Smith said. "There was chicken and hamburgers, anything you could think of. They were really nice people. And they made good cherry pie."

**Ecological Restoration, Inc.**

- Wildlife Habitat Construction
- Wetland Construction
- Specialty Environmental Contracting
- Passive Wastewater Treatment
- Streambank Stabilization
- Stream Restoration/Relocation

194 Goodview Drive • Apollo, PA 15613  
Phone: 724-727-3771 • Fax: 724-727-3778

### Providing specialty contracting and subcontracting for:

- Wetland Construction
- Wildlife Habitat Construction
- Passive Wastewater Treatment
- Stream Reconstruction/Bank Stabilization
- Reforestation
- Pond Construction
- Erosion Control
- Environmental Remediation



194 Goodview Dr.  
Apollo, PA 15613  
Phone: 724-727-3772  
Fax: 724-727-3778

### Your source for:

- Native Seed
- Quality Construction Materials
- Bioengineering Materials
- Erosion Control Supplies
- Native Restoration Plants
- Native Tree/Shrub Seedlings
- Native Wildflowers
- Landscaping Supplies
- Containerized Native Plants



Specialty Equipment Rental and Sales

194 Goodview Dr.  
Apollo, PA 15613  
Phone: 724-727-3744  
Fax: 724-724-3778



### Specializing in:

- Low ground pressure heavy equipment
- Specialty swamp equipment
- Full line of general construction dozers, excavators, off road dump trucks and other equipment available



# Westmoreland Enrichment Classes Team Wins 20th Annual Westmoreland County Envirothon

The Envirothon is designed to give students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate knowledge of environmental resources and their connection to human activities. The students are challenged in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil/land use, and wildlife.

In addition to its focus on environmental topics, this year's Envirothon asked students to address the concept of "managing cultural landscapes," which examines how to incorporate conservation in the planning and restoration of cultural and historic sites in our country.



*Westmoreland Enrichment Classes team members voted to present the Conservation District with the award the team won at the state Envirothon, in appreciation for the time District board members and staff spent with the students, helping them prepare for the competition. Pictured (l-r) are: Jordan Kelly, Evan Zajdel, advisor Tammy Deemer, Carolyn Deemer, District Manager/CEO Greg Phillips, Gabriel Hipple, and Naomi Westerman. The award is on display at the District's office on Donohoe Road.*

Students from the Westmoreland Enrichment Classes (a group of home school students based in Norwin) won the 20th annual Westmoreland County Envirothon.

The Westmoreland Enrichment Classes team of Carolyn Deemer, Gabriel Hipple, Jordan Kelly, Naomi Westerman, and Evan Zajdel bested 94 other students representing 10 Westmoreland County high schools in their knowledge of forests, soil, wildlife, and aquatic environments during the day-long Envirothon, held on May 2 at Mammoth Park.

The Enrichment Classes team then went on to the next leg of the competition – the Pennsylvania State Envirothon – where they took first place in the oral component, and placed 15th overall. Sixty-four county teams competed in the state Envirothon.

2005 marked only the second year that the Westmoreland Enrichment Classes students had ever competed in an Envirothon on a county level, and the first time they had ever competed on a state level. All members of the Westmoreland Enrichment Classes team are planning to be back for the 2006 competition.

Second place in the Westmoreland County Envirothon was taken by Franklin Regional High School's team of Tim Forrester, Glenn Halperin, Erik Heyl, Benjy Lombard, and Mark Schowalter. Tom Pearson and Linda Vitale were the team's teacher advisors.

Third-place winners were the students from the Yough High School team of Shawn Carpenter, Christian Miedel, Ben Phillips, Nathan Portik, and Brad Sanner. Jason Kramer was the team's teacher advisor.

Also competing were teams from Burrell, Derry Area, Franklin Regional, Greater Latrobe, Greensburg Central Catholic, Greensburg Salem, Kiski, Norwin, Southmoreland, and Yough.

---

Assisting the District in hosting this year's Envirothon were the following partners: The National Parks Service, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation, and Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Nature Reserve.

Major corporate underwriters of the 2005 Westmoreland County Envirothon were Sony Technology Center and Dominion Foundation.

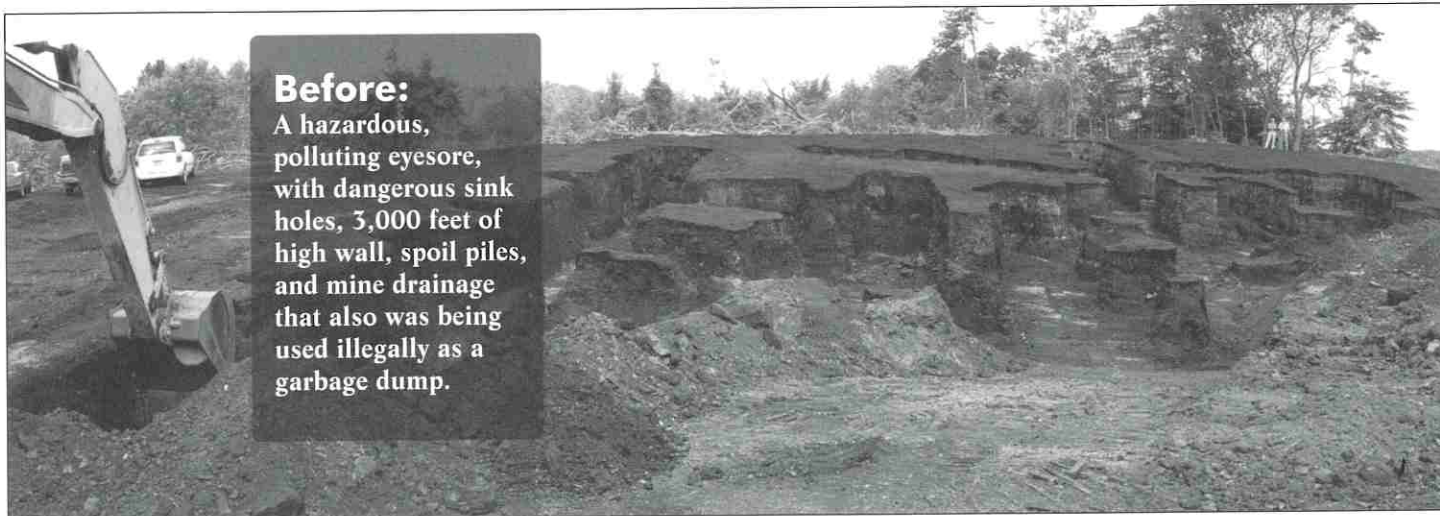
---



*The Westmoreland Conservation District has sponsored the Westmoreland County Envirothon every year since 1986. Assistant District Manager Tony Quadro was recognized at this year's event for his role in coordinating the program for the District for these past 20 years.*







**Before:**  
A hazardous, polluting eyesore, with dangerous sink holes, 3,000 feet of high wall, spoil piles, and mine drainage that also was being used illegally as a garbage dump.

## Remining Program Leads to Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines in Westmoreland County

by Bruce Golden  
Regional Coordinator, Western PA Coalition  
for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

**B**ack in the old, unregulated days of coal mining, extracting coal from the ground at the least possible cost was the top concern of coal operators. But cheap ways too often turned out to be the most expensive in the long run. The legacy of hazardous, scarred landscapes and polluted water that resulted from those “bad old days” of coal mining lives on today, exacting a cost in both local environmental quality and economic potential.

Current coal mining practices are a vast improvement over the old ways. So much so, that today one of the best ways of cleaning up old problems is to actually mine the coal again, using these up-to-date methods.

“Remining” is the term used for returning to an area that was previously mined, and using modern equipment and methods to surface mine the very same site to retrieve the coal that was left behind.

Remining can be profitable for the coal operator and the landowner. It also is beneficial for the environment and the community because, in the process of removing more coal, the remining operator often cleans up the pollution and reclaims the land to modern standards.

Some coal operators such as Coal Loaders, Inc. of Ligonier have embraced remining into their business

strategy. General Manager Don Lupyan said, “Of course we’re here to make a profit, but we also believe in being a good corporate citizen and a good neighbor in the communities where we work. Remining allows us to do that. It’s our best advertisement.” Roughly half of Coal Loader’s business is now remining projects.

One such project is the former Marguerite mine in Unity Township. Up through World War II, coal was mined at this site, using the underground room and pillar method. A labyrinth of tunnels was created throughout the seam as coal was extracted.

After mining ceased and the site was abandoned, roof-falls became common. The ground surface above the mine began to look like a moonscape of sink holes and subsidence. Making matters worse, former passageways in the underground mine complex acted as efficient conduits of water and air, resulting in numerous discharges of rust-colored polluted mine water.

The property owners were interested in using the land for a residential development, but couldn’t do so because of the subsidence. Lupyan recognized an opportunity and a solution. Enough coal remained on the 48-acre tract to profitably surface mine it, so he entered into an agreement with the landowners to remove the remaining coal. In return, Coal Loaders paid a royalty, installed measures to reduce the water

pollution, re-graded the land, and planted grass on the entire site. A year later, the former eyesore is now an attractive field with high grass and wildflowers. And the polluted water has all but been eliminated.

Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection also was instrumental in moving this project forward. Mine operators are often reluctant to get involved with a previously mined site because they inherit the full and often costly responsibility for the problems created by former operators. However, because of the environmental benefits remining can provide, a special DEP program called a Government Financed Reclamation Contract (GFRC) relaxes some of the permitting requirements and waives some fees. This includes the usual requirement that water emanating from the site meet very strict pollution standards.

With a GFRC, DEP requires the coal operator to reclaim the land in ways likely to reduce the quantity of water while improving its quality, but without holding the operator to the strict pollution-cleanup standards. Nonetheless, a significant environmental improvement usually results. Such was the case with the site at Marguerite.

Lupyan confirmed that, without the GFRC, his company would not have worked at the site. He said that once the DEP was convinced that the site



## After:

Acidic water is treated and land is re-contoured to eliminate the dangers and make it usable again. Someday there may be houses here.

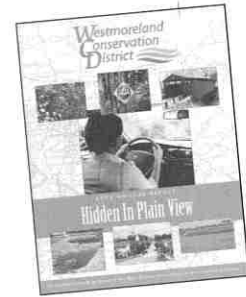
was suitable for re-mining, they issued the GFRC and worked cooperatively ensuring a good final product. He did, however, have one minor complaint. "I'm not sure why it's called a Government Financed Reclamation Contract. It gives the impression we received tax dollars to do this. We didn't. Our primary benefit was the waiver of some permitting requirements." But Lupyan was quick to add that "GFRCs are valuable by any name" and that "the key to success is cooperation. In the end, everyone wins!"

Greg Phillips, Westmoreland Conservation District manager/CEO, noted the important role industry can play in the state's reclamation effort. "There are more than 100 other abandoned coal mine sites in need of reclamation in Westmoreland County, and the job of reclaiming them all and cleaning up all the abandoned mine drainage is enormous. It's not possible for government to pick up the entire

tab of doing the job. Having industry as a partner, as with the re-mining program, is a great way to get more reclamation done quicker while not using taxpayer dollars. It allows us to do more with the limited grant dollars we receive, and it has the advantage of contributing to our local economy."

*The Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation is a non-profit organization working to reclaim land and water damaged by antiquated coal mining practices in Pennsylvania's bituminous coal regions.*

*WPCAMR promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local governments, conservation districts, watershed groups, and industry as the best way of confronting the costly environmental legacy left over from a century's worth of unregulated mining.*



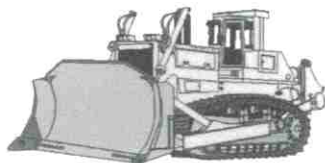
The District's annual report features a road trip you can take through Westmoreland County to see some of the all-time most successful and innovative conservation measures in this region. One of these places is the former coal mine site at Marguerite. Here's how to get there. On US Route 30 at Mountain View Intersection, turn onto White School Road. After about 100 yards, bear L at the Y onto Marguerite Road (C6408). After about 1-1/10 mile, pull off on R. The reclaimed site is on the right. (Note: This is private property. The landowner has given permission to pull off here, but please don't walk on the site.)



## DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

P.O. Box 529  
New Alexandria, PA 15670  
Ph. (724) 668-2223  
Fax (724) 668-2429

*Excavation Contractors  
Mini-Warehouse Storage  
Keystone Plaza Shopping Center*



## FAHRINGER, McCARTY, GREY, INC.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS

1610 Golden Mile Highway

Monroeville, PA 15146

Phone (724) 327-0599

FAX (724) 733-4577



## Chatlos' 1 Hour Photo Systems

903 East Pittsburgh St.  
Greensburg PA 15601  
724-832-9818

We are your one stop photo shop for all your digital and film printing needs.

To get to our new location-  
Take Route 30 West to the Business District of Greensburg  
After you pass Mr.P's Restaurant, The Econo-Lodge, The ERA  
Real Estate Building, We are the located in the next  
building, right before Pennsoil

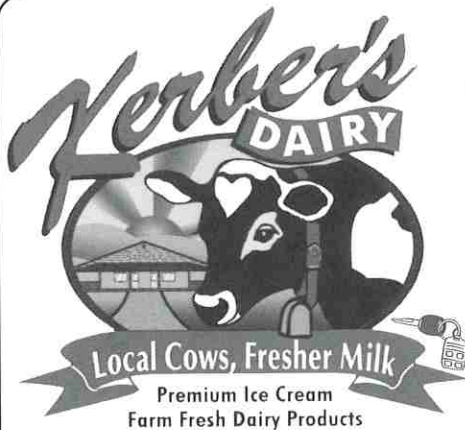


## WILLIAM A. ROTH, P.E.

*Civil Engineer*

**Roth, Moore & Associates**  
*Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers*

14900 Route 30 • North Huntingdon, PA 15642  
Phone: 412-829-4676 FAX: 412-829-6515



### Guffy Road Store

1856 Guffy Road  
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642  
Phone: 724-863-6930  
Fax: 724-863-4920

### Route 30 Store

3 Barnes Lake Road  
near PA Turnpike  
Interchange 67 (Irwin)  
Phone: 724-861-6662

email:  
kerber@kerberdairy.com

[www.kerberdairy.com](http://www.kerberdairy.com)

[www.cclprotech.com](http://www.cclprotech.com)



1500 Broad Street  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Ph # 724-838-0852  
FAX # 724-726-3278

## KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

*by Kathy Fritz*



Find these  
**Energy Conservation** words

Adaptive Reuse  
Bio Fuel  
Conservation  
Geothermal  
Green Building  
Green Roof  
Insulation  
Low-E Glass  
R-Value  
Recycled Tires  
Solar Array  
Solar Canopy  
Solar Waterpump  
Thermal Mass  
Windmill

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



# People In The News

## Recent Appointments

### Staff Appointments



**Carolyn Graham** recently joined the Westmoreland Conservation District as the agricultural program assistant. She replaces Jill Mariani, who elected earlier this year to take a full-time position with the US Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (see "Partner News" on page 14).

Carolyn, a financial professional with a degree in economics/business from the University of Pittsburgh, will conduct the accounting and process the paperwork for more than \$300,000 in state grants that have been awarded to implement best management practices on farms in Westmoreland County.

She previously worked for several area businesses, including Edgewater Steel, where she was supervisor of financial accounting (accounts payable and receivable).

Carolyn currently is pursuing a second bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and has earned the equivalent of a minor in that discipline.

Carolyn and her husband, Robert, and sons John and James live on a 213-acre dairy farm in Fairfield Township that has been in her husband's family since 1931. The Graham family has a long agricultural history; they have been farmers in Westmoreland County since the early 1800s.

Carolyn herself grew up in Eighty-Four in Washington County, and is a master gardener who enjoys intensive, raised-bed vegetable gardening.

Carolyn can be reached during regular business hours at 724-837-5271.



**Kathryn Hamilton** recently joined the Westmoreland Conservation District as a part-time technical assistant to provide support to the organization's growing stormwater management program.

Kathy is a registered landscape architect with more than 20 years' experience in preparing designs, site drawings, and erosion and sedimentation control plans for residential and commercial developments, and for municipal parks throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.

In her new position, she will assist the District's hydraulic engineer with stormwater permit reviews, plan reviews, surveys, drawings, and engineering. She also will provide support for the erosion and sediment control program, and lend her landscape architectural expertise to a variety of Conservation District projects.

Kathy previously worked for the firms of Fahringer, McCarty, Grey, Inc. in Monroeville; and GWSM, Inc. in Pittsburgh. She has had her own business, Kathryn Hamilton, Landscape Architect, since 1993. She will continue to operate that business while also working for the Conservation District.

Kathy grew up in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area and achieved a BS degree in landscape architecture from Purdue University. She has lived in the Greensburg area for nearly 20 years. She and her husband have three children.

Kathy can be reached during regular business hours at 724-837-5271.

### Student Internships



**Amanda McMillan** and Katie Stokum both completed internships with the District this summer.

Amanda, who had just completed her freshman year at Messiah College in Harrisburg, did a yeoman's job of establishing a cataloging system, and labeling each of the several hundred books, videos, and magazines that have been donated to establish the District's new Resource Library (see article on page 7).

Amanda returned to Messiah College this fall, where she is majoring in international political science and planning to add a minor in environmental science. During college breaks, she hopes to spend time at the District, helping to maintain the library.



**Katie Stokum** returned to the District for her second summer internship this year. She worked closely with our program secretary Kathy Fritz to help organize and file the many development and earthmoving plans the District receives.

Katie also took college courses during the summer. This fall, she returned as a sophomore to Seton Hill College in Greensburg where her major is psychology and art therapy.



**Partner News**  
**Appointments**



In late February, **Jill Mariani** became a program technician with the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. Jill formerly had been the Conservation District's agricultural program assistant. In her new position, Jill's responsibilities include working with the Price Support Program, the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, the Crop Disaster and MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) programs, and handling the administrative activities of the FSA office in Donohoe Center, such as payroll, leasing, inventory, and elections.

Jill can be reached during regular business hours at 724-853-5555.

**Awards**

**William Robert (Rob) Knight**, soil scientist with the United States Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service, was selected from a nationwide field of candidates to receive the "Soil Scientist Achievement" award from the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

The award recognizes Rob's 30 years' of accomplishments in identifying, classifying, and documenting almost three million acres of soil in 22 counties in Pennsylvania, including Butler, Fayette, and Westmoreland counties in the western portion of the state.

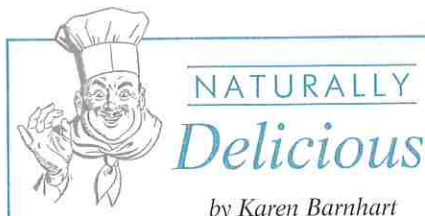


In Westmoreland County, he completed the first-ever update of the county's soils in mid-2002. The county's original soil survey was begun in 1954 and took five soil scientists nine years to complete. Rob and his staff of two completed the update in just four years. It is available at [www.wcdpa.com](http://www.wcdpa.com) and on CD.

"Rob Knight is an exceptional soil scientist," said his technical supervisor Alex Topalanchik. "He has an excellent work ethic and is a consistently high producer of quality work."

Rob is a graduate of Carmichaels Area High School, Penn State University (BS in agronomy, 1972), and the University of Tennessee (MS in soil science, 1979). He and his wife Karen live in Hempfield Township with their two daughters Megan and Katie.

Rob can be reached during regular business hours at 724-853-5555.



Here's another favorite from the family cookbook...

**SAUERKRAUT SALAD**

Mix together:

- 1 large can sauerkraut (drain well)
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/4 cup red pimento

Boil together for 2 minutes:

- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1 cup sugar

Pour over sauerkraut mixture, mix well.

Refrigerate 24 hours.

The last issue of *Landmarks* inadvertently neglected to include a thank you to Wilson Candy Company of Jeannette in the article on our annual banquet. Wilson Candy Company generously provided an assortment of delicious chocolate candy for this event.

We regret the omission and appreciate the support of this fine local food producer.

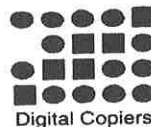
(724) 925-7261  
 FAX: (724) 925-7487

1-800-273-7261  
 (within 724 Area Code)

Service, Quality, & Pride Since 1932



Route 819 • P.O. Box 118 • Armbrust, PA 15616  
 "Three Generations and Still Growing"



**Network Digital Imaging Systems**

**WESTMORELAND BUSINESS MACHINES, INC.**  
**BUSINESS MACHINES INC.**

Digital Copier Company

Your Local Independent Dealer

Banco Business Park  
 1061 Main Street  
 North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Phone: 800-586-9901  
 Cell Phone: 724-433-8541  
 Email: [shelleywbm@comcast.net](mailto:shelleywbm@comcast.net)

**Shelley Stevens**

Sales

Visit us: [www.westmorelandbusinessmachines.com](http://www.westmorelandbusinessmachines.com)





## FRIENDSHIP FARMS

**Natural Farm & Bakery**

Route 130 & Deeds Rd., Lycippus, PA  
Monday – Friday 4 to 9 pm

Visit Our Farm for Fresh Bread Right Out of  
the Oven & for Home Grown All Natural Beef

*Bread also available at:*

Irwin, Eastgate, Ligonier & Latrobe Giant Eagles  
and at Nature's Way, Mount Pleasant County Market,  
Saint Vincent Grist Mill & Schramms

*"Please Call For Additional Information"*

(724) 423-8727 (888) 414-8727

www.friendshipfarms.com email: sales@friendshipfarms.com



## Native Plant Nursery & Land Improvement Services

- Grower & Supplier of Quality Containerized Native Plant Material
- Riparian Buffer Plantings
- Stream Restoration Construction
- Construction of Agricultural Best Management Practices
- Invasive Plant Management & Control
- Wildflower Meadows
- Reforestation & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
- Commercial & Residential Natural Landscaping

### For more information:

Call 888-414-8727 or visit our website at [www.friendshipfarms.com](http://www.friendshipfarms.com)  
Visit our farm located on Route 130 and Deeds Road, Lycippus, PA



## Conservation Tip

*Insulate your home.  
You'll save energy, money,  
and your family will be  
more comfortable – in both  
winter and summer.  
Visit our barn on Donohoe  
Road to learn more about  
using structural insulated  
panels in new construction  
projects (see photo on left).  
These panels are produced  
locally and are a "sand-  
wich" of waste wood with a  
non-CFC-producing foam in  
between.*

## LANDMARKS

*The Official Newsletter of the  
Westmoreland Conservation District*

211 Donohoe Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: 724-837-5271

Admin. Fax: 724-552-0143

Tech. Fax: 724-837-4127

Email: [wcd@wcdpa.com](mailto:wcd@wcdpa.com)

Website: [www.wcdpa.com](http://www.wcdpa.com)

Editor - Karen Jurkovic

Design and Photography - Mark Jackson

Printing - Laurel Valley Graphics



Printed on recycled  
paper with soy inks

## Protect tender seedlings with Tubex®

Tubex® tree shelters offer newly planted seedlings protection from browsing deer, rabbits, rodents, weed trimmers, and mowers. They also create a "greenhouse" environment that helps seedlings grow faster.

The Westmoreland Conservation District recommends using the 5-foot size for maximum protection.

You can save money by ordering Tubex® through the Westmoreland Conservation District – cost of the 5-foot shelters with hardwood stakes is \$3.75 each, plus shipping.

Any profits from these sales are used to help fund the District's programs, including its conservation education efforts.

Contact Tony Quadro at 724-837-5271 to order Tubex® or for more information.



## Tell Us What You Think

We'd love to hear what you think about the look and articles in *Landmarks*...and if there are any other things we can do to make this newsletter more meaningful to you.

Drop us a note at: Landmarks Editor, Westmoreland Conservation District, 211 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601 or [c/o\\_wcd@wcdpa.com](mailto:c/o_wcd@wcdpa.com)





Visit Our Farm at the Oven &

Irwin, East of Greensburg and at Nat

Saturday  
“P”  
(7

www.friends



## Protect 1

Tubex® tree shelters protect deer, rabbits, rock house” environment

The Westmoreland District recommends using protection.

You can save the Westmoreland 5-foot shelters with plus shipping.

Any profits from the District’s program education efforts

Contact Tony Tubex® or for more

# Education News

by Leanne Griffith

## EVENT SUMMARIES

### Southwestern Pennsylvania Tillage Conference



Increased yields, reduced costs, less erosion, and less time in the field are some of the major benefits farmers can realize if they use a non-traditional approach when they prepare their fields for planting.

This minimum- or no-till method was the focus of a conference and trade show held at the Four Points Sheraton in Greensburg on January 26. More than 120 farmers and interested individuals attended.

Keynote speaker Tony Vyn, professor of agronomy from Purdue University, offered documentation regarding crop yields using various methods and pointed out that no-till is yielding very well compared to the plow-and-chisel approach. He said that it is a misconception that a farmer has to stay with no-till for a number of years to reduce “yield drag” and told the group that, “if they had tried no-till 20 years ago and were unhappy with it, it’s time to try it again.”

Presentations on “Manure Management,” “Planter Attachments – Closing Wheels and Row Cleaners for No-Till,” and “Manure Compaction versus High Yields,” plus commercial exhibits, equipment demonstrations, and information about a new organization – the Pennsylvania No-till Alliance – rounded out the conference, which was sponsored by the US Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, Penn’s Corner RC&D, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland Conservation District, and Tri-State Mid-Atlantic Tillage Conference.



### Southwestern Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Workshop

So many area landowners have expressed interest in the new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) since it was introduced here in southwestern Pennsylvania in March 2004, that a special workshop was offered on February 1 to explain the program’s details, and to show landowners where they can get help installing the conservation practices appropriate for their properties.

CREP is a program that encourages landowners to install conservation measures and to take land that is highly environmentally sensitive, such as streambanks and steep cropland, out of agricultural production for a period of years.

The purpose of CREP is to keep erosion to a minimum – a practice that benefits the landowner by protecting valuable soil, and the community at large by reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients in streams and waterways.



Some 100 people attended this workshop, which featured speakers from US Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Representatives from the Westmoreland Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pheasants Forever (Laurel Hills and Tri-County chapters), and Western Pennsylvania Partners for Fish and Wildlife also participated.

### Engineers’ Workshop



More than 250 municipal officials, engineers, and others who review, plan, or build stormwater management systems, particularly in residential and commercial developments, came to the District’s workshop on Managing Stormwater on March 4.





The day-long event at the Four Points Sheraton, Greensburg, featured speakers from the Westmoreland Conservation District, the PA Department of Environmental Protection, and the Army Corps of Engineers on topics that included: Pennsylvania's new stormwater manual, dealing with wetlands and encroachments, the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit forms, and innovative ways for managing stormwater.

A panel discussion featured engineers and architects who already are employing innovative stormwater management approaches in Westmoreland County, such as Chris Nix whose FYPM Design company has designed and engineered bio-retention and infiltration swales in residential developments in North Huntingdon and Unity Township, and Lucien Bove of Bove Engineering, who designed a system of infiltration cells under a commercial parking lot in Greensburg to hold and slowly release rainwater to avoid overloading the storm sewer system and nearby Jack's Run.

A panel discussion featured engineers and architects who already are employing innovative stormwater management approaches in Westmoreland County, such as Chris Nix whose FYPM Design company has designed and engineered bio-retention and infiltration swales in residential developments in North Huntingdon and Unity Township, and Lucien Bove of Bove Engineering, who designed a system of infiltration cells under a commercial parking lot in Greensburg to hold and slowly release rainwater to avoid overloading the storm sewer system and nearby Jack's Run.



### Rain Barrel Workshop

Thirty-one homeowners and landowners joined us in mid-March to make their own rain barrel. Participants received a recycled plastic food barrel, and the guidance and basic components needed to transform it into a rain barrel that can hold up to 50 gallons.

Rain barrels are a great way to capture water when it is plentiful during rainstorms, and save it for a sunny day when gardens and lawns need moisture. Rain barrel water also can be used to create a pond for wildlife (but it is not fit for human consumption).

### Forestry II Workshop

Landowners, woodlot owners, and others interested in learning more about forestry attended a District workshop on April 2.

District forester Tony Quadro helped 46 participants learn more about basic woodlot ecology, silviculture, and volume determination. Specific topics discussed included: stand development and forest history, forest succession, tolerance, crown position,

relative stand density, types of cutting, requirements and permits, and common problems faced by forest managers.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Envirothon Team Recruitment

**Teachers:** Recruit your high-school student teams now, so they can participate next spring in this day-long outdoor challenge that tests their understanding of aquatics, forestry, soils, and wildlife. Study materials will be available beginning this month. The actual competition – where five-member teams do things such as explore a soil pit, measure trees, and test water samples – will be held on May 1, 2006 at Twin Lakes Park. Winners go on to state and national competitions. Contact Leanne at 724-837-5271 or [leanne@wcdpa.com](mailto:leanne@wcdpa.com). Free.

### Growing with No-Till: Putting Your Soil's Silent Partners to Work, Saving Fuel and Time January 25, 2006

Four Points Sheraton, Greensburg

Topics include: soil biology; nitrogen on no-till for small grains and corn with rising fertilizer costs; crop rotation, nitrogen and manure management; tips for using no-till drills successfully; and tips selection, spray selection, and updates. Speakers scheduled to appear: Dr. Jill Clapperton, Dr. Robert Mullen, Gary Long, Don Fretts, Don Rill, and Ed Starzec. A vendor show also will be featured. Contact Leanne at 724-837-5271 or [leanne@wcdpa.com](mailto:leanne@wcdpa.com).

### Engineers' Workshop March 10

Four Points Sheraton, Greensburg

### Conservation Tours April - Dates to be announced

### Earth Day April 22 12 noon – 5 p.m. Saint Vincent College

### Envirothon May 1 Twin Lakes Park, Greensburg

## Keys...

itsko



...just can't wait  
n...." We're all  
nicle, ready to  
eport's conser-  
k at some of the  
in the county,  
This buggy isn't  
unless someone

hand. Find the  
e in this issue  
eligible to win a  
nd 18th callers  
5271 correctly  
of the keys will  
handmade by  
atrobe. Good

mers are not  
r, your com-  
ppreciated and

of our "Find the  
correctly identi-  
e hidden spoon  
2005 issue are:  
gio, Delmont;  
es, Greensburg;  
Weimer, Stahl-  
is!

fit Organization  
S. Postage

**PAID**

nit No. 574  
ourg, PA 15601



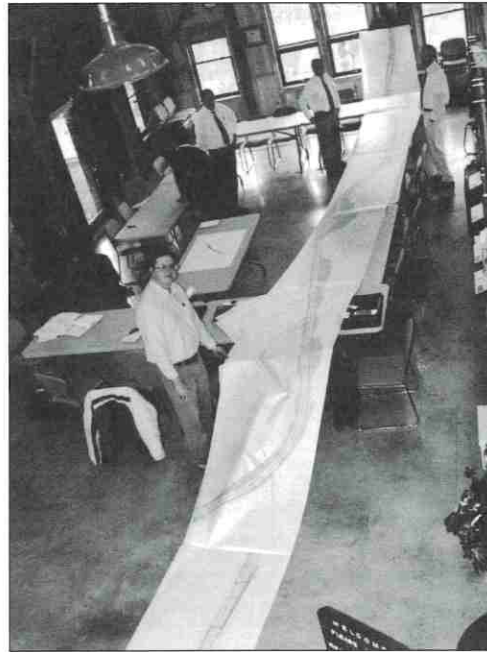
## The Longest Plan

Although we don't keep records on these kinds of things, this plan may well be the largest we have ever been asked to review.

The 60-foot-long drawing was submitted by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission this summer for a project to widen that highway between New Stanton and Irwin.

Our Hydraulic Engineer Jim Pillsbury reviewed the plan in sections, rolling it up like a scroll as he went.

This plan was physically so large because it detailed the work to be done over some 10 miles of the turnpike. Most plans the District receives are for work on sites that are considerably smaller. The average development site, for instance, is about 15 acres. And the average size of a plan for that size development is closer to desk-size, about 3- to 4-foot square.



## Find The Keys...

by Joanne Kitsko



"On the Road Again...just can't wait to get on the road again...." We're all piled in the District vehicle, ready to set out on the annual report's conservation tour to get a look at some of the best conservation sites in the county, but wait just a minute! This buggy isn't about to roll anywhere unless someone can find the keys!

OK folks, give us a hand. Find the keys hidden somewhere in this issue of *Landmarks*, and be eligible to win a prize. The 6th, 12th, and 18th callers to Joanne at 724-837-5271 correctly identifying the location of the keys will receive a bluebird box handmade by Robert Goodman of Latrobe. Good luck!!

Previous contest winners are not eligible to win; however, your comments are very much appreciated and we welcome your calls.

The three winners of our "Find the Soup Spoon" contest correctly identifying the location of the hidden spoon featured in our Winter 2005 issue are: caller #3, Louise Maggio, Delmont; caller #9, Yvonne Hayes, Greensburg; and caller #16, Harry Weimer, Stahlstown. Congratulations!

### District Meetings

District meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.

Upcoming meetings are listed below.

#### Friday, November 18, 6:30 p.m.

This meeting is followed by our annual banquet. This year, the meeting and banquet will be held at the newly renovated Greensburg Country Club. Dinner will feature an entire meal made with food that has been grown and produced locally.

The following meetings will be held at the District's Center for Conservation Education, 211 Donohoe Rd., Greensburg

#### Wednesday, December 14, 11 a.m.

#### Wednesday, January 11, 11 a.m.

#### Wednesday, February 8, 11 a.m.

#### Wednesday, March 8, 11 a.m.

#### Wednesday, April 12, 11 a.m.



## Call us before you harvest timber!

A free, professional conservation plan can mean more profit for you, and long-term health for your woodlot. Westmoreland Conservation District:  
724-837-5271

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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 574  
Greensburg, PA 15601