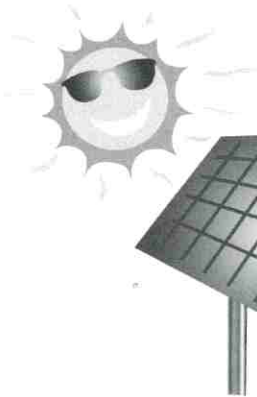


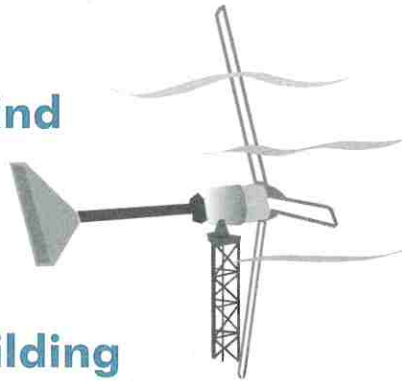
PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE FIRST-EVER

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FIELD DAY

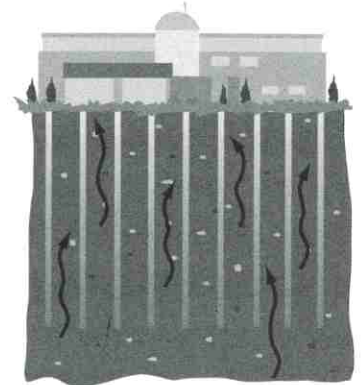


Solar

Wind



Green Building



Geothermal

With the specter of winter heating bills on the horizon, the upcoming October 26 “Sustainable Energy Field Day” is a chance to see how alternative energy options, such as geothermal, can not only keep you comfortable, but make things a little easier on your pocketbook and on our natural resources at the same time.

At this first-ever conservation event, you also can get the facts on wind power, solar power, and a variety of green building/remodeling approaches that can reduce the overall amount of energy your home or business uses.

Sustainable Energy Field Day is open to the public and will be held on our “conservation campus” – three adjacent buildings on Donohoe Road in Greensburg where participants can see firsthand:

- a 10-kilowatt wind turbine and a 2-kilowatt solar array;
- a geothermal system, structural insulated panels, water saving toilets, wood from “cull” trees, recycled tires used as decking, and native landscaping;

- a 125-year old barn adapted and reused for conservation offices and an education center; and
- the first green rehabilitation of a commercial building in Westmoreland County, complete with a roof covered with green, living plants.

The all-day event is divided into two parts

- workshop sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in which regional experts will present the technical aspects of the green materials and alternative technologies, and
- an open house from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. where visitors can tour the campus and ask questions of the experts.

Participants can attend one or both parts.

Vendors representing radiant floor heat, structural insulated panels, recovered iron oxide, and recycled tires will be among those on hand throughout the day.

**SIGN UP
for the Workshop Sessions**

Space is limited for the workshop sessions, and registration is necessary. Please call 724-837-5271, ext. 210 or email christie@wcdpa.com.

continued on page 3

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New Conservation Directory Available

A comprehensive new update of the "Conservation Directory" reference guide has just been completed.

This new edition lists staff names, phone numbers, email addresses, fax numbers, and mailing addresses for more than 100 regional conservation partners – from federal agencies to grassroots groups.

The directory is available as a printed booklet...and electronically on our website www.wcdpa.com under "Publications."

Because the directory information changes so frequently, we plan to completely update it every year.

A limited number of the printed directories are available free-of-charge. If you would like to receive one, please stop by our office or contact the District at 724-837-5271.



Find the Keys

by Joanne Kitsko

Our 2005 Annual Report features a truly grand tour of the northwestern portion of Westmoreland County. For an investment of some energy (gasoline), you can drive that tour circuit and get an up-close and personal look at some very interesting conservation sites (see page 5 as an example).

Another option is to drive to the Westmoreland Conservation District/Donohoe Center campus on October 26, and spend the day learning how you can save on your heating, cooling and electric costs at our "Sustainable Energy Field Day."

But before you can do either, you

have to find the keys to your vehicle first (they're hidden somewhere in this issue of *Landmarks*). The 4th, 10th, and 16th callers to Joanne at 724-837-5271 who correctly identify the whereabouts of the set of keys will be the lucky winners of a prize!

Previous winners of our contest are not eligible to win again; however, we always appreciate and welcome your calls and visits.

The three winners of our "Find the Keys" contest in the Winter 2006 issue of *Landmarks* are: caller #5, Bob Bender, Jeannette; caller #11, Russell Richter, Normalville; and caller #17, Barb Svec, Greensburg. Congratulations!



Congratulations, Powdermill Nature Reserve!

Celebrating 50 Years
 and
 a 2006 Western PA
 Environmental Award
 for
 "Currents Connecting Cultures"

Congratulations

to Greg Phillips on 25 years of dedicated service with the Westmoreland Conservation District
 – the Board of Directors

Happy 25th Anniversary, Greg!

Congratulations to a Boss who's dedicated to the District's mission! (Why not celebrate by taking time to do a little fishin'?)

– Westmoreland Conservation District Staff

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FIELD DAY

continued from page 1

The workshop sessions cover four separate tracks: Green Roof, Geothermal, Adaptive Reuse and Green Building, and Wind Power and Solar Power. Participants can choose to attend two tracks.

Among the scheduled speakers are: Jorg Breuning, Green Roof Service; Ryan Snow, Green Building Alliance; Gary Sheppard, Penn State Cooperative Extension; Richard Glance, Glance & Associates, Inc. Architecture & Planning; and Bernard Linn, US Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

The \$20 workshop cost also includes lunch, and an afternoon "Ask the Experts" session where participants can choose to talk individually with the event's morning speakers, or learn more about sustainable-energy financing and investments from representatives from the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

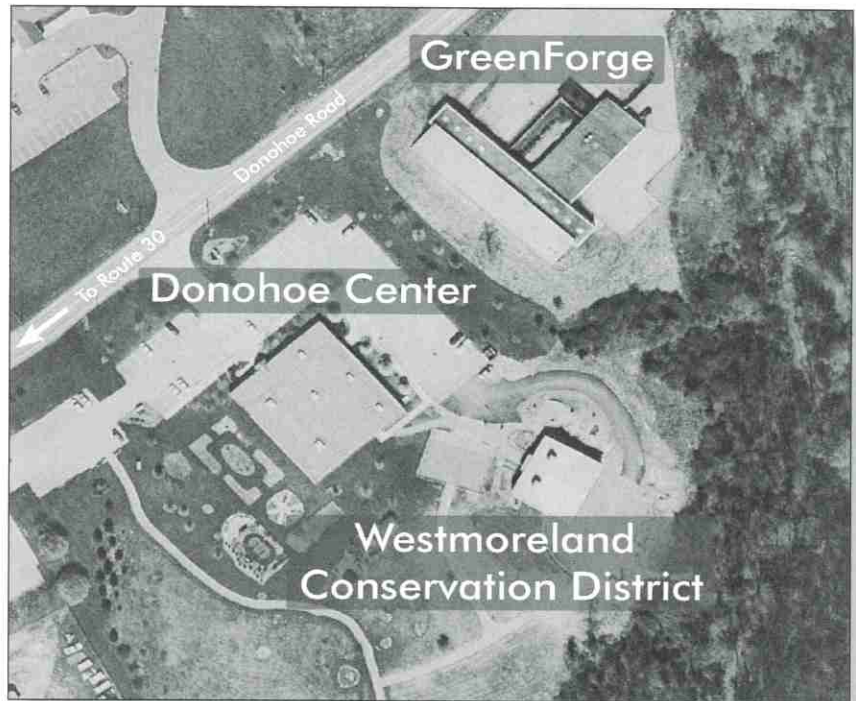
**STOP IN at the Open House
Free! No registration
necessary.**

From 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. the entire campus will be open for free tours.

Experts and vendors from the morning session will be available to answer questions. There also will be refreshments, a craft table for kids, and door prizes and giveaway items.

Sponsors for the "Sustainable Energy Field Day" are: Westmoreland Conservation District; Penn State Cooperative Extension Westmoreland County; US Department of Agriculture Rural Development; GreenForge Inc.; West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund; and PA Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Energy Technology Deployment. The event is partially funded by an environmental education grant from DEP.

For more information, contact the Westmoreland Conservation District at 724-837-5271 or leanne@wcdpa.com.



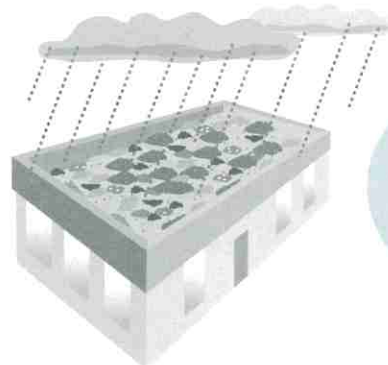
The October 26 "Sustainable Energy Field Day" will be held at three buildings, all located next to each other on Donohoe Road: Donohoe Center, the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters, and the GreenForge building.

This "conservation campus" is just about one mile from Westmoreland Mall in Greensburg.



In winter, a geothermal system can produce an extra \$3 of heat for every \$1 spent to run it.

Water-saving toilets reduce the amount of potable water drawn from the municipal system and save twice: once in the cost of water and once in the cost of sewage.



A flat roof covered with growing plants is a natural way to moderate building temperature, reduce stormwater runoff, enhance air quality, insulate sound, and improve aesthetics.

What to think about (and do) before you harvest timber



Whether you're a landowner looking to harvest trees from your woodlot, or a professional logger taking on a major timber project, you'll need to have some plans and approvals in place before you begin.

The following is a general guide of the steps you may need to take before you begin logging in Westmoreland County. As always, a little planning up front can save a lot of headaches later.

Municipal Ordinances

One of the first things you should do before harvesting timber is to talk with the officials who have jurisdiction over the location of your harvest.

Some municipalities have timber-harvesting ordinances. And among those that do, all require the Westmoreland Conservation District to review your completed E&S Plan (see next section) before harvesting begins.

Beyond that, the specific requirements of timber-harvesting ordinances can vary greatly from municipality to municipality. For example: Some municipalities require that you check to see if there are any plant species of special concern on the property.

Addressing the requirements of a municipal ordinance generally will take a few weeks to complete, so it's good to start early.

E&S Plan

Another early step in the process is to develop an E&S (Erosion and Sediment Control) Plan for your harvest. This plan is required for all timber harvests because they are considered to be an earth-moving operation.

An E&S plan lists the actions you will take to minimize the amount of earth disturbed during your harvest, and which 'best management practices' (see below) you will use to control erosion and sediment pollution.

"Controlling erosion is a challenge on many logging jobs because roads have to be cut across the forest floor to get the harvesting equipment to the trees, and then to provide a path for skidding the logs out," explained Tony Quadro, assistant District manager/technical programs director with the Westmoreland Conservation District. Skid roads are the main source of pollution on timber-harvest sites, especially where these roads go across streams.

The Conservation District can advise harvesters on ways to minimize erosion on their logging site. "There are a number of what we call 'best management practices' that work well in controlling soil erosion, such as creating waterbars across the haul and skid roads, using either bridges or culverts to cross streams, and seeding the cut and fill slopes and landing areas," Tony explained.

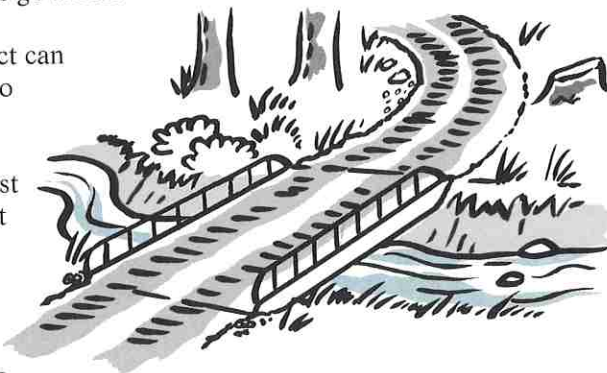
Will you be crossing any streams?

If you will have to cross any stream to get to or from the timber, you may need a permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

To find out if you do, talk to DEP or the Westmoreland Conservation District. If a permit is needed, you will have to submit the appropriate forms to the DEP regional office in Pittsburgh. You also will have to check to see if there are any plant species of special concern on the property (the Westmoreland Conservation District can help you do this, or you can do it yourself via the Internet at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us).

If you do need a permit to cross a stream, allow three to five weeks of processing time to receive it.

Also – If your harvest site is such that you will need to cross a stream



that is stocked with trout, there are certain times of the year that, by law, you will not be able to cross that stream at all. Knowing this in advance will help you plan your harvest at a time when it can be done without disruption.

And, if your harvest site involves a stream that is designated "exceptional value" or "high quality," there are additional regulations about how you

continued on page 5

Before harvesting timber



- Check with the municipality to see if there is an ordinance regarding timber harvesting.
- Develop an E&S plan.
- Evaluate any special situations on your site, such as the need to cross a stream or impact a road. If any of these exist, you will need more planning time and possibly more permits.

As a general rule, begin planning and getting your permits one to two months before you want to begin your timber harvest.

...Harvest Timber continued from page 4

can cross it (for instance: it can't be forded).

For more information about streams on timber harvest sites, contact the District.

Will you be directly entering from or exiting onto a municipal road or state highway?

If so, you may have to get a road bond and/or have an entryway permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

If this situation applies to your harvest, contact the municipality that the road is in, or PennDOT before beginning work.



Woodlot owners –

If all of this planning and permitting leaves you feeling a little overwhelmed, know that most of these arrangements can be handled for you by a professional forester.

Other helpful resources

Westmoreland Conservation District – 724-837-5271 or www.wcdpa.com

Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association – 724-668-7650 or www.swpawoods.org

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry – 724-238-1200 or www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – 412-442-4000 or www.dep.state.pa.us

Westmoreland County municipalities that have timber-harvesting ordinances/permit requirements

as of September 2006

Allegheny Township

Hempfield Township

Ligonier Township

City of Lower Burrell

Municipality of Murrysville

North Huntingdon Township

Penn Township

Rostraver Township

Unity Township

Upper Burrell Township

Hidden In Plain View II

The District's latest annual report continues the "conservation tour" theme with a 100-mile loop through the northwestern part of Westmoreland County.

If you take this tour, you'll notice that this part of the county has a different look and feel than the 'heartland' portion we featured in the 2004 annual report.

In the northwestern part of Westmoreland, for instance, you'll have a chance to see some of the county's major water features – a dam, a drinking water reservoir, and three of our five rivers (the Conemaugh, the Kiskiminetas, and the Allegheny) – as well as two of our most historic towns – Vandergrift, once called "America's most important industrial town," and New Kensington, where the aluminum industry was born.

Here's a sample stop on that tour.

DOWNTOWN VANDERGRIFT



This old picture postcard shows how the landscaped island once looked, as viewed from the steps of the Casino theater, looking toward the train station.

Discussing the possibility of turning this gateway area of Vandergrift into a permeable green parking lot are Cindi Contie, Vandergrift Improvement Program board member, and Westmoreland Conservation District staff members Jim Pillsbury and Kathryn Hamilton.



Hailed by historian Ida Tarbell as America's "most important industrial town," Vandergrift is a unique, planned community, built in the late 1890s by an iron and steel company that was the first to allow workers to own their homes.

George McMurtry started the community by building a steel mill on a 650-acre farm along the Kiski River, and then hiring the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted to design a town with gently curved streets, paved sidewalks, and plenty of open space.

One of those open spaces – an expanse of lawn between the town's train station and its revitalized Casino Theater – has strayed from its original landscape design over the years, changing to virtually all pavement to accommodate automobile parking.

Civic leaders and local citizens have joined together to study what can be done to enhance this town-gateway area. One proposal they are considering would create a space that blends both Olmsted's original lawn design with the needs of the automobile age by installing a **permeable parking lot**. These lots can be created in various ways, such as using stone pavers with short grass growing in between. The overall result looks much like a lawn, but acts like a parking lot because it can bear the weight of vehicles.

Another benefit of this kind of "infiltration" parking lot is that it protects the quality of nearby waterways (in this case, the Kiski River) by allowing rain and melting snow to slowly sink into the ground instead of just running off and carrying any leaked antifreeze or oil into the water.

For more information: Vandergrift Improvement Program Inc. (724) 567-5286, www.officialvandergrift.com; or Westmoreland Conservation District (724) 837-5271, www.wcdpa.com.

A "green breaking" ceremony was held in April to mark the official start of this project, which is transforming a vacant commercial site into a leading demonstration of today's most promising sustainable building technologies.

(l-r) Greg Phillips, District Manager/CEO; Larry Larese, executive director, WCIDC; Tom Balya, chairman, Westmoreland County Commissioners; and Katie McGinty, secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection toss copper scrap into a recycle bin at the ceremony.

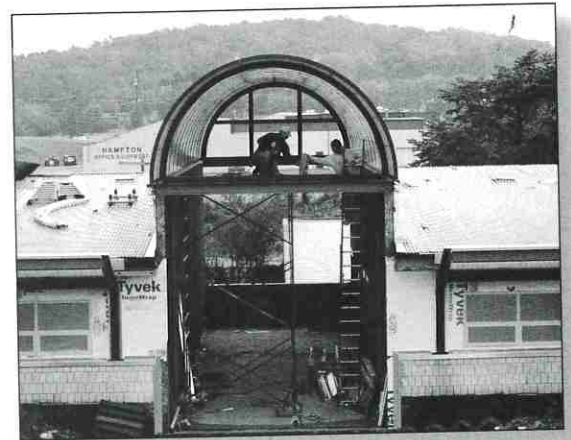


GreenForge Building Breaking New Ground

GreenForge's two flat roofs were planted in late September with some 6,000 sedum in the county's first demonstration of green-roof technology.



Volunteers included Latrobe High School students and representatives from Powermill Nature Reserve and the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County.



A two-story, arched glass entryway was created on the building's top floor. One of the green roofs is visible from inside this entryway (toward the back of this photo).

GreenForge, the latest addition to our conservation campus, has been undergoing dramatic changes in the past few months.

In fact, we raised one of its roofs... and planted two others!

We also drilled 30, 200-foot-deep wells for the geothermal heating and cooling system, installed a wall of low-E glass windows on the southwest side of the building, and moved close to 3,000 tons of earth to create inviting and easy access between GreenForge, Donohoe Center, and the District's headquarters next door.

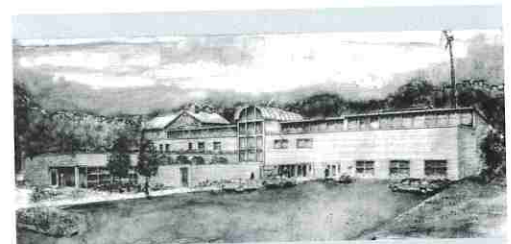
"GreenForge is attracting a lot of notice now that our rehabilitation work has moved to include the exterior of the building," said Greg Phillips, District manager/CEO. "In fact, already we have leases signed or being drafted with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development and three other nonprofit organizations that want to move in." The building

is scheduled to be ready for initial occupancy in December.

This ambitious conservation undertaking is believed to be the first "green" rehabilitation of a commercial building in Westmoreland County. The 23,000-square-foot building is being designed and outfitted with energy-conserving measures, and low-impact sustainable building technologies to a degree high enough to qualify it for Silver-level certification from the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System®. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council, representing all segments of the building industry, developed this rating system.

Cost of the GreenForge project is just over \$2 million. Initial fundraising efforts have raised about half of these costs.

For more information on the green technologies or rental space, contact Greg Phillips at 724-837-5271.



Goals of GreenForge

- Showcase leading-edge conservation demonstrations as a way to encourage others to adopt green building and sustainable energy technologies.
- Reduce the building's energy use and operational impact on the natural resources, including the air and water, and on man-made infrastructure elements such as the storm sewer system by incorporating innovative stormwater management, green materials, and innovative technologies.
- Create a reasonably priced lease space that can serve as a "conservation incubator" for nonprofit conservation, agriculture, and rural-development agencies.

Stormwater Management Program Manual pours it all out



If you've ever spent a sleepless night wondering...

What does the District look for when it reviews a stormwater management plan?

What does NPDES stand for?

At what stages in the construction process do District personnel visit sites and for what purpose?

... well, you soon won't have to wonder any more. The answers to these and many other stormwater questions are being addressed, in depth and in black and white, in a new "Stormwater Management Program Manual," scheduled to be available early next year.

This is the first-ever comprehensive written guide to the policies and procedures that govern the Westmoreland Conservation District's stormwater program. It was created by District staff and Board members, with input from a 25-person advisory committee that added a valuable 'user's perspective' to the document so that it is especially relevant to the needs of designers, developers, landowners, municipal officials, and agency representatives who work with stormwater management.

"The District's new manual standardizes our stormwater procedures and makes them more efficient," explained Jim Pillsbury, PE, the District's hydraulic engineer.

Pushing toward 45 pages in length, the manual provides answers to such frequently asked questions as "Who is responsible for water flowing across one property from another?," definitions of "point source discharge" and other stormwater terms, and a short course in hydrology and hydraulics before launching into the nitty-gritty details of how the District conducts its stormwater plan reviews, provides technical assistance, interfaces with regulations of the Pennsylvania Code and other agencies involved in environmental regulation, conducts site visits

Best Management Practices



One section in the new manual features innovative ways to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

These 'best management practices' go beyond the traditional approach of simply holding stormwater in devices such as dry detention ponds and underground tanks, to actually reducing the volume of runoff and improving water quality.

Some of the methods employed include: reducing the size of street widths, installing infiltration trenches, and designating certain areas of a site as permanent untouched areas.

"We've come a long way from the days when stormwater ponds were just holes in the ground, surrounded by a chain link fence," said Kathy Hamilton, the District's technical assistant. "We encourage people to call us before they do their stormwater designs so we can discuss some of these new, progressive approaches that could work on their site."

A comprehensive look at best management practices also will be available in the upcoming, 700-page Pennsylvania Stormwater Manual, scheduled to be published by the Department of Environmental Protection by early 2007.

and inspections, and handles complaints.

"Part of the reason for creating this manual now is because of the growing number of people in Westmoreland County who are becoming involved in the management of stormwater," Jim said.

Those numbers are growing for several reasons, including the fact that more county municipalities are adopting ordinances and requiring stormwater reviews of construction projects. There also has been a recent change in federal regulations that requires even smaller construction sites to have a stormwater management plan. "When the regulation changed the plan-requirement threshold from five acres to one acre, we saw the number of stormwater management plans in Westmoreland County triple," Jim said.

The new manual will be available on request, beginning in early 2007. Copies also will be distributed at the annual "Engineers' Workshop," scheduled for March of next year. And the document will be available electronically on the District's website, www.wcdpa.com.

Along with issuing the new Stormwater Management Program Manual, the District will be instituting a new fee schedule for stormwater management plan reviews in 2007.

Greg Phillips, District manager/CEO explained: "For the past 18 years, ever since we first established the stormwater program, the District has been absorbing its costs. And over those almost-two decades, the program has become more sophisticated and the volume of work has increased dramatically. Federal permitting requirements, for example, have become more complex, and more sites are required to have a stormwater plan. In the past several years alone, our overall workload in regard to stormwater has more than tripled – which is why we added a part-time technical person earlier this year to help Jim with the program. Our Board felt that it was time to start recovering some of the program's costs and so, just as with the E&S program, they felt there should be fees for the stormwater services we provide."

Details of the fee schedule are now being developed.



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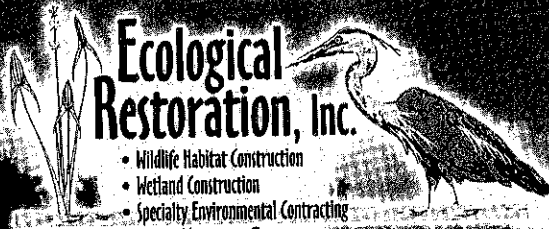
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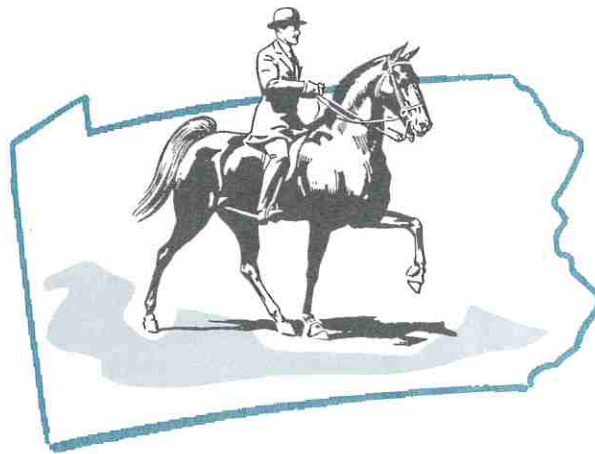
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District staff can help you understand the new changes to Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Law



Farmers and owners of pleasure horses please note –

As reported last year in *Landmarks*, Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Law (Act 38; formerly Act 6) is indeed making some changes that may affect your operation. The changes became effective on October 1, 2006.

More kinds of operations covered

The biggest change is that this state law now applies to more kinds of agricultural operations. Previously, the law applied only to operations with production animals. As of October 1, it applies to all livestock or poultry operations (including pleasure horse operations) that have eight or more "animal equivalent units" (a total of 8,000 or more pounds of live animal weight).

If your operation has eight or more animal equivalent units, what should you do?

The next step is to determine your "animal density" (the average animal weight per acre).

To do this, take the total number of pounds of live animal weight on your operation, and divide it by the total number of acres your operation has available for manure distribution (include pastures, but don't include lawns, woods, etc.). If the answer is 2,000 pounds or more (that is, an average of 2,000 pounds of animal weight per acre), you will need to develop a nutrient management plan. The Westmoreland Conservation District can help you do this.

What is a nutrient management plan?

A nutrient management plan is a guide that helps farmers manage fertilizers and animal wastes profitably and efficiently.

The plan looks at the specific conditions of a farm, including the current condition of the soil and the way (when and at what rate) nutrients are applied. It calls for regular soil and manure tests so that nutrients aren't being applied if the soil really doesn't need them. This saves you time and money, and helps the community by keeping excess nutrients out of nearby streams and waterways.

Having a nutrient management plan also can make you eligible to apply for cost-share programs that help pay for conservation measures, including fencing to keep animals out of the stream, barnyard gutters and drainage systems, and manure pits.

Even if you are not required by law to have a nutrient management plan, you can **voluntarily** create one for your operation. Five Westmoreland County farmers recently voluntarily did just that. They are: the Chuck Carr farm in Salem Township (719 acres); the Kemerer farm in Unity Township (193 acres); the Heinnickel farm in Hempfield Township (1,590 acres); the Catalina farm in Scottsdale (670 acres); and the Smith farm in South Huntingdon Township (70.5 acres).

This means that 34 farms in Westmoreland County now have voluntary nutrient management plans. Beyond its operational benefits, a voluntary nutrient management plan also can

offer some protection from nuisance lawsuits.

If you are interested in developing a nutrient management plan, the District can help you put it together. We also can help you apply for money to underwrite the cost of developing a nutrient management plan. Interested farmers should contact Dan Griffith, the District's nutrient management specialist/agricultural conservation technician, for more information at 724-837-5271, ext. 103.

If your operation raises or maintains livestock for production, transportation, or recreation (including pleasure horse operations), you will need to determine your animal density to see if you are subject to the law's regulations.



If you are unsure, call Dan Griffith, the District's nutrient management specialist/agricultural conservation technician, at 724-837-5271, ext. 103.

Education News

by Leanne Griffith

UPCOMING EVENTS

January – May 2007

Please Note: Events are subject to change. Please telephone or email the contact person listed with each event if you are interested in attending.

Contractors' Workshop

Friday, January 19

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Westmoreland Conservation District,
Greensburg

Contractors are invited to attend this informative event that focuses this year on how to anticipate (and resolve) problems before they happen. Scheduled topics include: erosion and sediment control details on new construction, slope and channel stabilization methods, and how to implement the plan on the site.

Registration is required. Contact Christie at 724-837-5271 ext. 210 or christie@wcdpa.com. \$20, includes breakfast.



Southwestern Pennsylvania Tillage Conference

Wednesday, January 24

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Giannilli's II, Route 30 East, Greensburg

Scheduled speakers include Sjoerd Duiker and Wayne Reeves on the "No-till Revolution" and "Progress in Conservation Systems." The conference also features a panel discussion with area farmers, breakout group discussions, and a vendor show.

Registration is required.
Contact Bobbi at 724-853-5555 Option 3 or bobbi.bailey@pa.usda.gov. \$25.

Southwestern Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Workshop

Friday, February 9

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Giannilli's II, Route 30 East, Greensburg

This workshop will explain the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – a program that encourages landowners to install

conservation measures and to remove land that is highly environmentally sensitive, such as streambanks and steep cropland, from agricultural production for a certain period of time. Landowners will be reimbursed for costs on most conservation practices and will receive a yearly rental payment on land enrolled in the CREP program. Watch for more details.

Registration is required. Contact Christie at 724-837-5271 ext. 210 or christie@wcdpa.com. A nominal fee will be charged.

Engineers' Workshop

Thursday, March 15

Friday, March 16

8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Giannilli's II, Route 30 East, Greensburg

Engineers will find a hearty serving of conservation information in the first half of this all-day event, followed by a fun, hands-on afternoon activity where they can put their knowledge into practice.

Topics include: low-impact design strategies, plan design tips, new erosion-control materials, and the District's new stormwater management manual.

The complete workshop is only one day long, but it will be offered twice, on two consecutive days. Participants can choose the day that best suits their schedule.

Registration is required. Contact Kathy at 724-837-5271 ext. 110 or kathy@wcdpa.com. A nominal fee will be charged and lunch is included.

Forestry II

Saturday, March 31

8:30 a.m. – noon

Westmoreland Conservation District
and Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park, Greensburg

This program is for woodlot owners and others interested in forest stewardship. It will provide information on basic woodlot ecology, silviculture, and measurement and timber-volume determination. Also discussed will be: stand development and forest history, forest succession, tolerance, crown position, relative stand density, and types of cutting. The group will have the opportunity to apply this information by developing a stand prescription in nearby Nature Park.

Space is limited and registration is required. Contact Leanne at 724-837-5271 or leanne@wcdpa.com by March 23. \$5.

Conservation Bus Tour

Friday, April 13

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Board at and return to Stratigos
Banquet Hall, North Huntingdon



This year's tour is designed for engineers, contractors, municipal officials, planners, and other technical professionals. We will travel to several local housing plans and commercial developments that employ low-impact stormwater management designs and practices.

continued on page 11

New Titles Added To District's Resource Library



Power with Nature – Solar and Wind Energy Demystified by Rex A. Ewing

Positive Impact Forestry by Thom E. McEvoy

Lake and Pond Management Guidebook by Steve McComas

Managing Cover Crops Profitability by the Sustainable Agriculture Network

Concise Encyclopedia of Environmental Science

Earth by James E. Fulmer

The Solar Electric House by Steven J. Strong and William G. Scheller

Solar Living Source Book – Your Complete Guide to Renewable Energy Technologies and Sustainable Living by John Schaeffer

Wind Energy Basics – A Guide to Small and Micro Wind Systems by Paul Gipe

Nature Friendly Communities – Habitat Protection and Land Use Planning by Christopher Duerksen and Cara Snyder

The New Ecological Home – A Complete Guide to Green Building Options by Daniel D. Chiras

Forests in Peril by Hazel D. Delcourt

Common Sense Forestry by Hans Morsbach

Insects by Donald J. Borror and Richard E. White

Mammals by William Henry Burt and Richard Philip Grossenheider

You are welcome to visit the library during regular District business hours (M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.). Videos, magazines, and books can be signed out, free-of-charge, for up to two weeks.

Thank you!

The following individuals and organizations have made recent donations to the library.

Chris & Heather Droste

Bill & Dorothy Kotsenas

Arthur M. Kromel

Jim Resh, Indiana Conservation District

William Slosky

Thanks also to those donors recognized in previous issues of *Landmarks* who made additional donations of resource materials!

Education News continued from page 10

Registration is required. Contact Christie at 724-837-5271 ext. 210 or christie@wcdpa.com. A nominal fee will be charged and lunch is included.

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Program.

Envirothon
Monday, May 7
8:30 a.m. –
2:30 p.m.

Mammoth Park,
Mount Pleasant

This academic competition helps students in grades 9-12 develop a better understanding of the environment and their role in it. Topics include: aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife and this year's special issue, alternative/renewable energy.

Contact Leanne at 724-837-5271 or leanne@wcdpa.com.



Annual Awards Banquet continued from page 16

Annual Awards Banquet Participating Local Producers

Bardine's Country Smokehouse

Crabtree
kielbasa, smoked meats

Bellview Foods

Penn
condiments

Friendship Farms

Lycippus
dinner rolls

Hearts Content Farm

New Alexandria
pasture-ranged, grain-fed chicken

Heinnickel Farms

Greensburg
Angus beef

Hillandale Farms

New Kensington
cheese, eggs, butter

Hutter's Dairy

Kecksburg
milk, ice tea

Kerber's Dairy

North Huntingdon
ice cream



Salsa Sisters

Latrobe
salsa dips

Sand Hill Berries

Mount Pleasant
pies

Schramm Farms & Orchards

Harrison City
produce

Stone Villa Wine Cellars

Acme
wine (table centerpiece prize)

Dorothy Stoner & family

Latrobe
sauerkraut

Wendel Springs Farm

Herminie
cabbage

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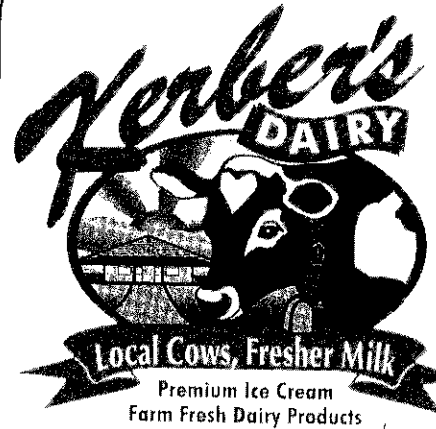
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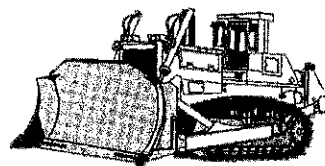
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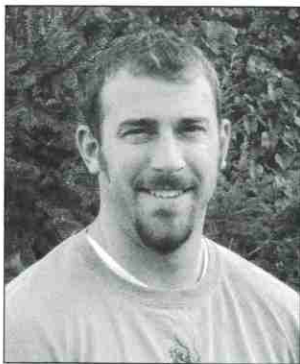
People In The News

Recent Appointments



Charles Duritsa has been named as an associate director of the District. Chuck formerly was the regional director of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. As such, he has been familiar with the Conservation District's work here in the western part of the state. He retired from the DEP in 2004.

Chuck also serves a number of other regional conservation-related organizations. He is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education; a Pennsylvania Commissioner of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO); a member of the Board of Directors and vice president for operations of the Pittsburgh RiverQuest; and a member of the Board of Directors of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. From 1988 to 1999, he also served as a member of the Southwest Regional Planning Commission.



Rob Cronauer, formerly an erosion control specialist with the Westmoreland Conservation District, has been promoted to watershed specialist.

In his new job, Rob takes over the watershed duties from Mike Barrick, who served in that capacity for five years before accepting a position with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation earlier this year.

Rob can be reached during regular business hours at 724-837-5271, ext. 104.



Nicole Bossart recently joined the Westmoreland Conservation District as an erosion control specialist.

In this position, she will work with area developers, earthmovers, engineers, farmers, and homeowners to help minimize erosion in a number of locations throughout Westmoreland County – including utility, residential/commercial development, and highway work sites; steep slopes; and streambanks.

Controlling erosion is important because it helps to keep soil from collecting in area streams and waterways, where it acts as a pollutant, smothering aquatic life and degrading water quality. Too much soil in a streambed also can cause flooding.

Bossart previously worked on controlling the West Nile virus as a technician for ADAPCO Inc. in Ford City and as a scientific intern with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology from Clarion University, and was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society there.

A life-long resident of Youngwood, Bossart developed a respect for natural resources at an early age from her father, who is an avid hunter, fisherman, and camper.

She can be reached during regular

business hours at 724-837-5271, ext. 175.



Johannna Sheppard recently joined the Westmoreland Conservation District as the agricultural program assistant and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) assistant.

In the agricultural program assistant portion of this shared position, she is conducting the accounting, processing the paperwork, and preparing the quarterly reports for best management practices being implemented on farms in Westmoreland County with state Growing Greener grants.

As the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program assistant, she is helping to process paperwork for landowners who have applied for government cost-share to install conservation practices on their land under the CREP program. The goal of CREP is to reduce erosion, improve stream quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. The program benefits both the landowner and the community.

Sheppard previously worked as a county extension agent (livestock and 4H) in both Washington County and in York County. She is a graduate of Delaware Valley College, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science.

She and her husband, Gary, and children Jason, Danielle, and Alyssa live on a small farm in New Derry, where she raises sheep in an intensive grazing system.

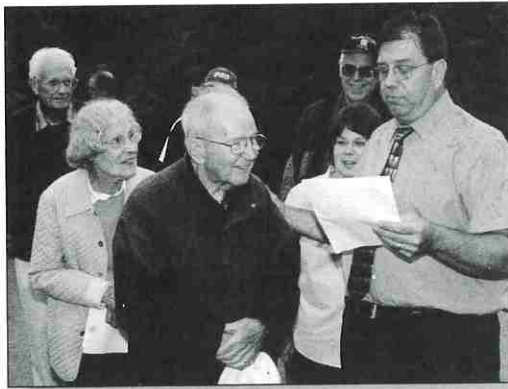
She can be reached during regular business hours at 724-834-3970, ext. 3 or 724-837-5271, ext. 184.

continued on page 14

Transitions

Bill Kotsenas, associate director of the District since 1993, retired in September. Bill represented the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County – a nominating organization for the District, and a group for which he served as president from 1988 to 1996, and as conservation chairman since 2000.

Bill has been a tireless advocate for the botanical world. He organized one of the region's first "plant rescues" in



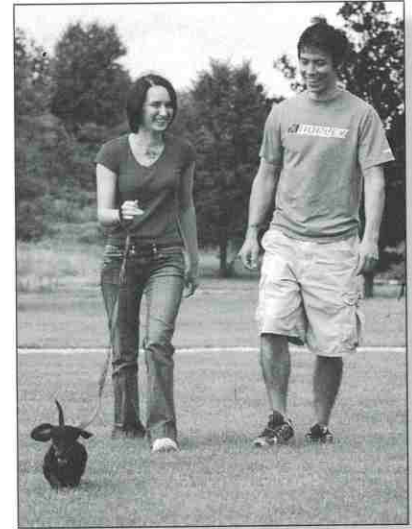
the late 1980s, and for many years has shared his wildflower slides and love of plants with high school students, colleges, and civic groups.

To recognize Bill's service and many contributions to conservation, the District planted a tree in his honor. Bill's wife, Dorothy and daughter Nancy accompanied him at the ceremony on Sept. 13.

Because of his knowledge of botany, we asked Bill to choose the type of



tree he would like, and he chose the serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), a Pennsylvania native understory tree that is among the first to bloom in the spring.



District Secretary **Christie Rhoades** is now going by the name **Christie Sebek**. She married George Sebek in a ceremony in July in Las Vegas.

Christie and George (and dog Reeses) are the featured travelers in the District's 2005 annual report.

KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

by Kathy Fritz

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- NO TILL
- WATER QUALITY
- DRINKING WATER
- VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS
- OLMSTEAD
- BIKE TRAILS
- FOREST STEWARDSHIP
- SOIL DISPLAY
- FARM MARKETS
- KOZ
- SCENIC STOPS
- RESERVOIR
- HIKING TRAILS
- GIFT SHOPS
- RIVER ACCESS



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LANDMARKS

*The Official Newsletter of the
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Annual Awards Banquet November 17



The great success of last year's annual awards banquet, with its menu of all locally produced foods and its new location at the beautiful Greensburg County Club, has prompted us to schedule a repeat performance for this year.

So we hope that you will make plans to join us beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, November 17, when we honor the people and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to conservation...enjoy a fresh, homegrown meal...spend time sharing and talking...and – new this year – have our funny bones tickled by “the country’s funniest farmer,” Jay Hendren.

Banquet planner Sandy Dzendzel promises that the evening will be a good time, from start to finish.

Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance by sending a check, payable to the Westmoreland Conservation District, with your reservation form (or name, address, and phone number) to our office (no money is taken at the door). Price per person is \$30. Table sponsorships also

are available. If you would like to support conservation and local agriculture in this way, you may purchase a table of eight for \$350, or a table of 10 for \$450. This year's sponsors include **Tri-County Engineering** and **Bruce Construction**.

Hope to see you there!

This year, the banquet will feature a menu of hearty, handcrafted local foods.



Hors d'oeuvres

Domestic cheeses...smoked meats...
assorted quiche... pickled vegetables...
crudités...homemade salsas

Dinner

Prime Salad with Champagne Vinaigrette
Dinner Rolls with Butter
Chef-carved Western Aged Prime House Rounds
Sicilian Chicken
Kielbasa with Homemade Sauerkraut
Red-skinned Basil Mashed Potatoes
Harvard Beets
Beans Carbonera

Dessert

Dutch Apple Pie
French Vanilla Ice Cream with Cinnamon Swirl
Chocolate and White Milk
Fresh-brewed Coffee and Tea
and Ice Tea



You can enjoy these delicious dishes at home! See page 11 for a list of local producers who are supplying this year's banquet foods.

This year's awardees

Conservation Farmer of the Year
Adam Battistella

Sustainable Community Partner
Smart Growth Partnership
of Westmoreland County

Municipal Conservation Partner
Rostraver Township

Conservation Volunteer
Murrysville Parks Volunteers

Conservation Hall of Honor
Ann Rudd Saxman
(posthumously)



As a special treat this year, we'll be entertained by Jay Hendren, an Ohio farmer who's been performing stand-up comedy for the past 10 years. Jay draws his clean, down-home humor from his experiences on the family farm.

The Greensburg Country Club is located just off PA Route 130, about 1-3/4 miles west of Seton Hill University. For detailed directions go to <http://greensburg.wpga.org>.

continued on page 11

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Winner, NACD Communication Award



Winner, Governor's Energy Award

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