

DER Head Tours Local Reclamation Effort

by Greg Phillips

Department of Environmental Resources Secretary Art Davis, accompanied by local conservationists that included members of the Greensburg Sportsmen Association, recently met to examine the Association's newly reclaimed surface mine near Mutual.

The Sportsmen participated in the Landowner Reclamation Program (LRP) to restore the partially reclaimed site. The LRP, an innovative approach to reclamation, allows interested landowners to utilize bond forfeiture funds to reclaim abandoned surface mines on their property. Only those sites where the bond monies have been forfeited and collected are eligible. Low priority sites, or those without dangers to the public — such as highwalls and vertical mine openings, are especially suited for the LRP.

Chuck Waugaman, President of the Greensburg Sportsmen Association, stated, “The Landowner Reclamation Program gave us the opportunity to expedite the reclamation of this site. We were able to work with local, state, and federal agencies to customize the reclamation plan to meet our needs. We wanted to stabilize the site with vegetation and at the same time improve wildlife habitat. The Landowner Reclamation Program allowed us to do just that.”

By contracting with Dick Kepple, New Alexandria, the Sportsmen completed repairs to and enlarged an existing pond, constructed 4,000 feet of surface water control, and seeded about six acres. In addition, about 3,000 seedlings were planted. Among the species planted on the site were Green Barberry, Dogwood, Rugosa Rose, and Oriental Crab Apple. The reclamation plan, developed by the Westmoreland Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Ser-

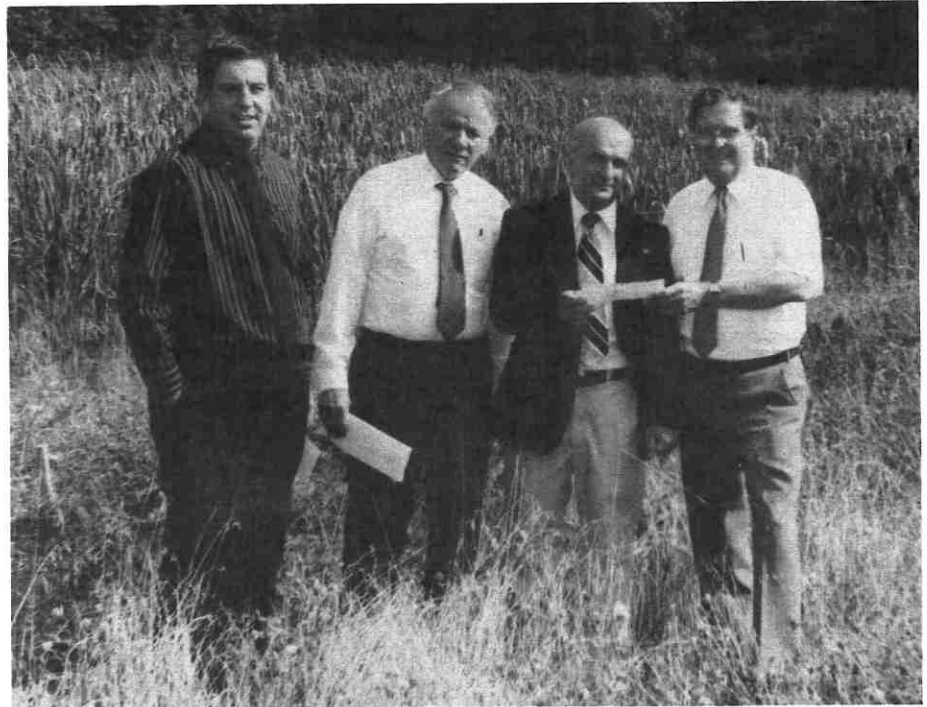


Photo — Tom Keller

vice, included the development of two wetland areas along with special plantings to improve wildlife habitat. About \$15,000 in bond forfeiture funds were used to reclaim the site.

Greg Phillips, District Manager, Westmoreland Conservation District praised the project as an excellent example in inter-agency cooperation. Phillips said, “The LRP is an especially effective way to reclaim sites where a minimal amount of

earth-moving is involved. It is tailor-made for sites where the installation of surface water controls and permanent seeding is needed.”

Among the agencies participating in the reclamation effort were the Conservation District, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation.

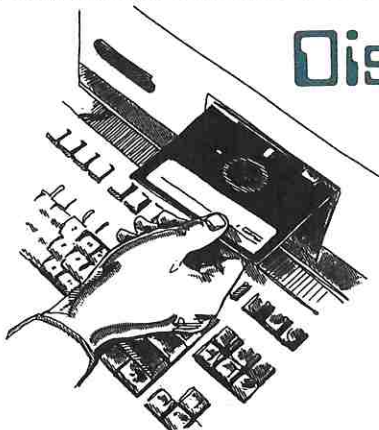
Conservation is defined as: “The protection, improvement, and use of natural resources according to principles that will assure their highest economic or social benefits for man and his environment, now and in the future.” The Westmoreland Conservation District is continuously searching for new and better ways to implement this principle.

One relatively new tool which the District is looking at has a multitude of applications

in natural resource management and conservation. It is a technology called “Geographic Information Systems”, or GIS. GIS is used to expand the use of maps in land management. The purpose of GIS is to display information on map form using a computer system capable of storing and generating map data. Maps are entered into the system by tracing all lines to be stored with an instrument called a “digitizer”.

Once digitized into the computer, various

Continued on page 2



District Looks at “GIS”

by Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.

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maps can be generated. Specific information can be highlighted or patterned. Distances and areas can be calculated such as the acreage of woodland on a given tract. Other examples of information which can be stored include: soil types, forest type, wildlife habitat, wetland, utility lines, rainfall amounts, agricultural productivity, and much more.

GIS has many applications. For example, soil erosion potential could be determined from a map of soil types, erodability factors, slopes, and rainfall amounts; fire fighting strategies could be determined using a map of vegetative cover, residential locations and accessibility, or taxes could be assessed using maps of soil productivity for farmers and woodland owners.

The District is currently examining the potential for acquiring GIS for use in Westmoreland County. In addition, a workshop is being planned for sometime next year for engineers, planners, county officials, and other agency personnel on the uses and benefits of GIS. ■

Naturally DELICIOUS

by Lincoln Steff

Pumpkin Roll

by Kathleen Fritz

3 Eggs - Beat
Add 1 cup sugar
2/3 cup pumpkin
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
3/4 cup flour
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
Mix all ingredients together.



Grease a jelly roll pan then line with wax paper. Pour the batter into the pan, spread so it is even.
*Optional - Sprinkle with crushed pecans (3/4 cup).

Bake for 15 minutes at 375°

Take a tea towel and sprinkle the towel with confectioners sugar lightly all over. When the pumpkin roll is done, flip it over onto the towel and roll it up till it cools. After it cools, unroll the pumpkin roll and remove the wax paper. Then add the filling and roll back up. Refrigerate until ready to eat.

Filling

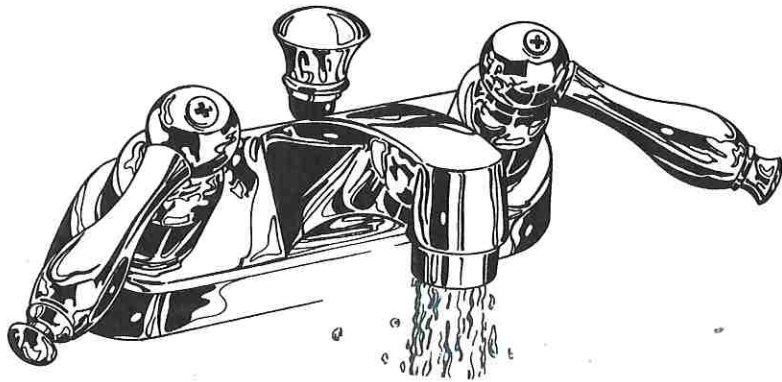
Mix: 1/2-8 oz. cream cheese
2 tsp. margarine
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup confectioners sugar
1 cup cool whip

Share Your Favorite Recipe!
Send Them To:

Naturally Delicious
c/o Westmoreland Conservation District
932 St. Clair Way
Greensburg, PA 15601

Comments from the SCS Chief:

as submitted by: Wes Gordon, District Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service



Conservation Partnership for Clean Water

Farmers have a vested interest in keeping their natural resources healthy — their very lives depend on it — so they continue to be the most concerned citizens this Nation has when it comes to water quality and quantity. They know that agriculture must assume responsibility for prudent management of soil, irrigation water, agri-chemicals, and animal waste. But making those management decisions alone can be hard in the high-risk business of agriculture. That's why I want folks in production agriculture to know that they can turn to SCS and their local conservation district as partners for help and advice.

SCS's job in this partnership is threefold:

■ Offer the landowner reasonable alternatives for solving water resource problems. Our job is to offer practical options, including a choice of what we call "best management systems" for water quality, and to let the landowners make their own decisions. Helping them to put on the ground voluntarily something we agree is workable will do more good than a lot of regulation.

■ Where there are State, Federal and local regulations, help farmers understand and meet the requirements. Through our conservation district partners, we are a link between private-sector agriculture and those who make water quality laws and regulations. We help landowners understand their responsibilities in controlling nonpoint source pollution, and we help regulators see agriculture as part of the solution, not as part of the problem.

■ Help nonagricultural people see the agricultural perspective, to understand that much of agriculture is taking the initiative in water resource protection. That is not an easy task when you have the responsibility of feeding and clothing the other 98 percent of the people in this country and much of the rest of the world, all the while dealing with nature, consumer demand, and public sentiment — and trying to make a living at it!

The partnership effort does not stop with SCS and the conservation districts. Throughout the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), water quality is a top conservation priority and the interagency teamwork is unprecedented. All USDA agencies involved in water resources, and many of our counterparts in other Federal and State agencies and in the private sector, are integrating their work in education and technical assistance, research and database development. The goal of this partnership is to help American agriculture protect water resources without jeopardizing its economic efficiency.

Protecting water quality and quantity is everybody's business, and we must work in harmony with each other if we expect our business to succeed. And it will succeed — as a partnership, as a team! But, we need to get on with it now!

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Congressman Austin Murphy addresses Press Conference on reclamation funding issues.

Time is running out!

After a decade of reclamation, there are still 240,000 acres of dangerous, abandoned mines in Pennsylvania.

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation recently held a Press Conference at the Mountain View Inn, near Greensburg. Among the speakers who discussed the importance of federal reclamation funding were: Congressman Austin Murphy, James Grace, Department of Environmental Resources; Jim Lyon, Environmental Policy Institute; and Dave Mankamyer, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

Approximately 25 media representatives attended this event.

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Westmoreland Conservation District

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Reader's Survey

by Kathy Fritz



Every November, the District's Board of Directors meet to review the year's accomplishments and set priorities for the future. The 1989 Annual Planning / Awards Meeting was held on November 16th at the Greensburg Sheraton Inn.

The Annual Planning / Awards Meeting provides an opportunity for cooperating agencies and individuals to discuss their environmental concerns with the Board of Directors. The following reader's survey is your chance to provide the Westmoreland Conservation District with your thoughts concerning conservation in Westmoreland County.

- ___ accelerated soil erosion and sedimentation
- ___ increased stormwater runoff from impervious areas
- ___ degradation of streams due to acid mine drainage
- ___ contamination of ground water supplies
- ___ improper or inadequate disposal of solid waste
- ___ loss of farmland and open space to development
- ___ acid rain damage

What do you think about some of the major environmental problems that affect you? Below is a partial list to get you started. Please feel free to add others and then rate them on a scale of 1 to 5.

- 1 — Highest Priority
- 2 — High
- 3 — Moderate
- 4 — Low
- 5 — Lowest Priority

- ___ loss of wetlands
- ___ gypsy moth infestation
- ___ point and non-point water pollution
- ___ air pollution
- ___ abandoned mine sites
- ___

Please return your survey to:
Kathy Fritz, Westmoreland Conservation District, 932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East, Greensburg, PA 15601. The results of this survey will be published in a future issue of "Landmarks".



HELP!! *My House is Under Water!*

by Jim Pillsbury

Frequently, the District receives requests for assistance from homeowners with flooding trouble. These homeowners suffer wet carpets, ruined furniture, damaged appliances, and great loss of time and money. Often, people are completely unaware of the risk they face until after the first heavy thunderstorm of the season. What may appear to be a peaceful brook in the backyard can become a raging torrent in minutes.

If you think that your real estate purchase is located in a flood prone area, you should consult the following publications:

USGS Topographical Quadrangle — these maps show the relationship of natural and man-made features. They include details of slopes, streams, roads, houses, and buildings. Often, low or flood-prone areas are easily determined from the maps.

FEMA Floodplain Maps — these maps show outlines of the flood zones in specific areas where the Federal government considers flooding to be a problem. They usually identify only major, stream-related flooding, and have few physical features except flood channels, certain roads, and bridges.

USDA Soil Survey — this book of photographic maps outlines soil types and some natural features. It contains charts of technical information on the merits or dangers of a particular type of soil, including seasonal flooding or wetness problems.

Should you need assistance in locating or using these publications, please call the District office.

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