

## Ten Ways to Help Finance Conservation ON YOUR LAND



**Editor's note:** This article is the first in a series to appear in "Landmarks" that describe various ways in which you can finance the application of conservation practices to your land.

### Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)

ACP is a federal cost-share program that stresses solving soil, water, and pollution problems on agricultural land. The program, administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), emphasizes the installation of conservation practices, (usually with five to ten year lifespans), to protect soil and water resources.

If you are a farmer, you may be eligible for cost-share rates that range from 50 to 75% of the actual installation cost of certain conservation practices. In Westmoreland County, the annual maximum cost-share limit is \$3,500 per participant.

The ASCS County Committee determines cost-share rates and approves eligible ACP practices. The farmer-elected County Committee is composed of William Ebert, New Alexandria, Robert M. Lenhart, New Stanton, and Paul Fenton, Mt. Pleasant.

### Some Eligible Conservation Practices in Westmoreland County

#### Spring Development

A trough or tank installed to provide livestock water supplies from a spring, pond, well or other source. Items included in this practice are the trough, collection box, gravel, waterline fittings, labor, etc.

- Permits piping of water to rotational pastures
- Provides clean water supply for livestock
- Improves forage utilization through distribution of grazing

*Cost-share rate:* 60% (not to exceed \$700)

*Eligible landuse:* pasture

*Lifespan:* ten years

#### Stripcropping

Alternating strips of grass or close-growing crops with cultivated crops on the contour or across the general slope.

- Conserves water, soil and fertilizer
- Increases cover variety for wildlife
- Cuts fuel consumption

*Cost-share rate:* \$8.00 per acre

*Eligible landuse:* cropland

*Lifespan:* ten years

#### Sod Waterway

A natural or constructed waterway or outlet that is vegetated and is used for the safe disposal of water runoff. Items included in this practice are grading, shaping, and establishing good vegetative cover.

- Helps prevent or heal gullies
- Provides outlet for diversions and terraces
- Provides nesting areas, cover, and travel lanes for wildlife
- Works well with conservation tillage, terraces, contour farming and strip-cropping

*Cost-share rate:* 75% (not to exceed \$1.27 per lineal foot)

*Eligible landuse:* cropland

*Lifespan:* ten years

#### Permanent Cross Fences

A series of internal fences that subdivide an existing pasture into paddocks for rotational grazing purposes.

- Protects pasture from overgrazing
- Improves forage quality
- Reduces soil erosion

*Cost-share rate:* 50%

*Eligible landuse:* pasture

*Lifespan:* ten years

#### Streambank Stabilization

The placement of properly sized rock to prevent streambank erosion from occurring.

Used where streambanks are eroding at an accelerated rate or subject to damage from livestock.

- Improves water quality
- Maintains stream channel capacity and alignment
- Reduces streambank erosion

*Cost-share rate:* 50% (not to exceed \$12.50 per lineal foot)

*Lifespan:* ten years

#### Diversion

A grassed channel with a supporting ridge on the lower side constructed across the slope to divert water runoff.

- Prevents gullies
- Reduces soil erosion
- Diverts excess water runoff to safe outlets
- Cover may be used for hay or silage
- May be used on steep slopes

*Cost-share rate:* 75% (not to exceed \$1.27 per lineal foot)

*Lifespan:* ten years

Continued on page 1.

## Tree Planting

The establishment of a stand of trees or shrubs for soil protection, forestry purposes, and to preserve and improve the environment.

- Increases timber, pulpwood and fuel production
- Reduces soil erosion
- Protects long-term productivity
- Enhances wildlife habitat and beautifies landscape

Cost-share rate: 65% (not to exceed \$40 per acre)

Eligible landuse: planned woodlots

## Seeding and/or Topdressing

The establishment or improvement of a grass/legume cover through the application of lime, fertilizer and seed. A current Penn State soil test is required.

- Improves forage quality
- Reduces soil erosion

Cost-share rate: 50%

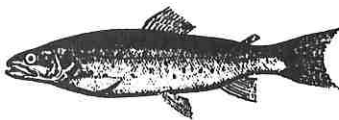
Eligible landuse: pasture or hayland

Lifespan: five years

Contact the ASCS office for a complete list or a detailed explanation of all the approved ACP practices. All ACP practices must be approved by the County Committee prior to installation.

The Soil Conservation Service provides free technical assistance for all the above listed practices except seeding and topdressing. Technical assistance for tree planting is provided by the Bureau of Forestry.

Some of these practices can help farmers comply with the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act. To apply for ACP contact John Lohr, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, at 834-0830. Applications should be made early in the calendar year because funding is limited.



*A 4.1-mile section of Loyalhanna Creek between Kingston Dam and Monastery Run is scheduled to be stocked pre-season and in-season in 1989. The Loyalhanna Watershed Association, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the city of Latrobe are actively seeking conservation easements and land holdings to develop a "greenbelt project" devoted to public recreation.*



# Compost Anyone?

by Greg Phillips

Are you a farmer, landscaper, nursery operator, or just a weekend gardener with an interest in a supply of compost? If you are, the Westmoreland Conservation District would like to know about it!

Everyone knows that compost is a natural combination of fertilizer and mulch. Its use in gardening and landscaping can bring great benefits at a very low cost. Everyone also knows that the Pennsylvania Legislature recently passed the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act. This Act required certain municipalities (14 in Westmoreland County) to implement a recycling program. Furthermore, the Act states that at least three materials must be separated from the waste stream and recycled? What you might not know is that the Act also requires all leaf waste to be collected separately for composting.

But to be truly recycled, the leaf waste must be used as a compost. That is why the District's Compost Recycling Committee is compiling a list of potential markets for this valuable material. If you, or someone you

know, can use a leaf compost product, contact Greg Phillips at the Westmoreland Conservation District.

- Composting has been demonstrated to be an effective waste management technique that can produce a useful end product while diverting a portion of the waste stream from disposal. It has been estimated that yard wastes, including leaves, trimmings and related vegetative materials constitute up to 16% of the municipal waste stream, with a greater percentage realized in some municipalities on a seasonal basis.

- Composting has several benefits. First, it removes the material from the local landfill load, saving space for other types of trash. Second, it provides an environmentally safe and natural fertilizer/mulch for public and private use. Third, it can pay for itself once the market is developed. Last, it is a good way to introduce recycling to a community and to generate public goodwill.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

# Water



Our theme for the Westmoreland Conservation District's 1988 Annual Report is "Water". We will remember 1988 as the year of the drought. Not only did the lack of rainfall cause significant problems for farmers, everyone in Westmoreland County felt the effects of the drought hit home. We were amazed by the bone-dry photographs of Beaver Run Reservoir in the newspaper and on television. We talked of brush fires on the Ridge, burned-out lawns, drought warnings and watches, unusually dry streambeds, and sweltering heat. Many of us heard pleas for water conservation

measures for the first time in our lives. It made us reflect upon the necessity of adequate supplies of clean water.

Even if we have above average rainfall in 1989, it will take some time before our surface and ground water supplies are renewed. We must be taught that it is nature's prerogative to bless us with abundant rainfall or confound us with a devastating dry spell. We must think about our precious water day in and day out - - rain or drought. We must work even harder to protect our water resources. We must understand that water is indeed a finite resource.

It was a productive year for the Westmoreland Conservation District, a year in which we were able to increase both state and local funding, expand our technical staff, and establish several new programs to explore solutions to some of Westmoreland County's most challenging problems.

In May we hired a Hydraulic Engineer. This addition of a second technician greatly increased our ability to administer both the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Stormwater Management Programs. A Cooperative Agreement with the Soil Conservation Service made it possible to provide extra conservation planning and application assistance to the many farmers that complied with the conservation provision of the Food Security Act.

The Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act was passed in early August. The District responded by forming a Compost Recycling Committee to explore the possibility of establishing a County-wide composting program.

Five Special projects were conceived, funded, and completed. They were: the collection of urban stormwater infiltration and runoff data, the production of a Landowner Reclamation Program brochure, the development of an Environment poster, the formation of the Westmoreland Woodland Association, and the computerization of the District's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program.

An innovative approach to abandoned mine reclamation was utilized to complete reclamation of a bond forfeiture site on the Harr Farm while work got started on reclamation at the Greensburg Sportsmen Association's property.

The outlook for 1989 is promising. Current plans call for a renewed commitment to water conservation, the development of a Pilot leaf Composting program, a **continuation** of the Jacobs Creek Flood Control Project, and the completion of the Turtle Creek Stormwater Management Study. The Westmoreland Conservation District is looking forward to even more growth and improvement as we strive to increase our programs and services for resource conservation in Westmoreland County.



J. Roy Houston  
Chairman

The Westmoreland Conservation District is a public organization created under state enabling law as a special-purpose district to develop and carry out a program of soil, water, and related resource conservation, use and develop within Westmoreland County.

The purpose of the District is: to focus attention on land, water, and related resource problems; to develop programs to solve them; to enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the District goals; and to make all citizens aware of the interrelationship between human activities and the natural environment.

**Call us at 837-5271 for information on:**

- Envirothon
- Leaf Composting
- Woodland Management
- Stormwater Management
- Gypsy Moth Spray Program
- Flash Flood Warning System
- Rural Abandoned Mine Program
- Landowner Reclamation Program
- Westmoreland County Soil Survey
- Westmoreland Woodlands Association
- Resource Conservation & Development
- Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
- Agricultural Conservation Planning & Application
- Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

## Controlling Water to Cut Erosion

Sediment is the number one pollutant, by volume, to the waters of Westmoreland County. In recent years, however, progress made by the Westmoreland Conservation District has helped to protect our valuable soils and minimize the damaging effects of siltation.

Since the District's conception in 1949, we have emphasized conservation planning to minimize soil erosion on farmland. In the early 70's Westmoreland County experienced tremendous development. The District's Board of Directors recognized the need for soil erosion and sedimentation control (E&S) in the urbanized areas of the County as well. In 1972, the Westmoreland Conservation District became one of the first conserva-

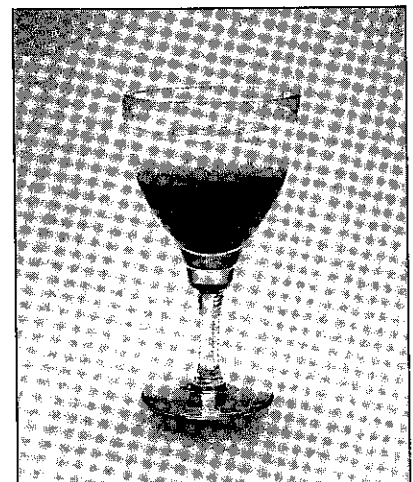
tion districts in the State to be delegated the administrative responsibilities for Pennsylvania's newly created E&S Control Program.

Today, we serve as the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation's (BSWC) official designee for administration of the E&S Program within the boundaries of Westmoreland County. As such, the District utilized \$31,832 made available by the Pennsylvania General Assembly through the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program. Of this total, \$12,000 was provided as cost-sharing for the employment of the District Manager, \$10,000 for the District Technician, and \$1,500 for administrative assistance.

A new E&S Program Delegation Agreement was executed in 1988. This agreement, between the District and the BSWC, details the administrative responsibilities of each party. After considerable discussion, the District's Board of Directors voted to remain at Level II under the new agreement. Level II requires the District to provide public information on the program, review and process plans and permits, respond to complaints, conduct inspections, and seek compliance for sites in violation. Enforcement actions for sites involving continued violations are referred to the BSWC. The Westmoreland County Commissioners provided the BSWC with a letter of concurrence to complete the agreement.

### Selected Accomplishments and Highlights for 1988

• Earth Disturbance Inspections	198
• Erosion and Sedimentation Complaints	33
• Enforcement Activities	1
• Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan Reviews	221
• Earth Disturbance Permits	4
• Computerization of the E&S Program	
• Acquisition of funding for additional technical staff	
• Execution of the new E&S Program Delegation Agreement	
• Development of a Municipal Memorandum of Understanding	



# Understanding the Environment

Conservation education can foster an awareness and appreciation for the value of our natural resources. The District's educational activities are designed to advance the wise use, protection, and enhancement of the soil, water, and related natural resources.

## Highlights for 1988 . . .

Distributed **National Wildlife Week Kits** to area school districts.

Exhibited the District's **Conservation Planning Display** at the Westmoreland County Fair, Greenawalt's Egg Festival, and the Greengate Mall Energy and Conservation Fair.

Expanded the mailing of "**Landmarks**", our award-winning quarterly newsletter, and "**Definitions**", our 1987 Annual Report, from 1,800 to approximately 2,300 people.

Developed and printed a "**Certificate of Recognition**" for presentation to selected individuals for their commitment to the conservation of Westmoreland County's natural resources.

Printed and distributed 1,000 "**Conservation Directories**", a listing of federal, state, and local agencies and their responsibilities, to area sportsmen clubs, municipalities, consulting engineers, and conservation organizations.

Formalized plans to proceed with the development of a "**Youth Awards Program**" for Scouts and 4-H Clubs.

Hosted a **Conservation Tour** of Westmoreland County for fifty cooperators from the Preble County (Ohio) Soil and Water Conservation District.

## Conservation Competition Continues to Grow

Who are Ed Stoner, Susan Bach, Tom Graham, Brooke Merrill, and Jack Straite? They are the five students from Franklin Regional High School who won the Third Annual Westmoreland County Envirothon. The team from Franklin Regional, coached by Tom Pearson, went

on to place second at the Pennsylvania State Envirothon. The Envirothon is a test of environmental awareness in which teams composed of five high school students compete against each other to prove their knowledge of soils, aquatics, forestry,

wildlife, and current events.

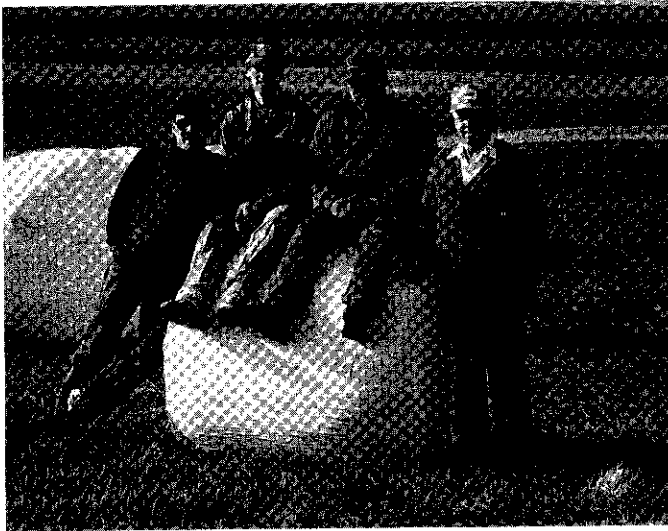
Tony Quadro, Westmoreland Conservation District, coordinated the local Envirothon which is traditionally held the first Monday in May at Twin Lakes County Park. Coca-Cola of Kecksburg provided the refreshments and every-

one received a special T-shirt. The District staff cooked lunch for the students, their advisors, and the agency representatives who participated in the Envirothon. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day both enjoyable and rewarding.

Name	Affiliation	Contribution
Tony Quadro	Westmoreland Conservation District	Program Coordination
Malcom Stas	Westmoreland County Department of Parks & Recreation	Program Coordination
Greg Phillips	Westmoreland Conservation District	Special Event
Wade Kozak	Mt. Pleasant School District	Team Advisor
Jack Parry	Hempfield Area School District	Team Advisor
Alex Smith	Central Westmoreland Vo-Tech	Team Advisor
Fred Goodman	Derry Area School District	Team Advisor
Tom Pearson	Franklin Regional School District	Team Advisor
Tom Baughman	Jeannette School District	Team Advisor
Wes Gordon	Soil Conservation Service	Soils Station
Greg Croni	Soil Conservation Service	Prime Farmland Station
Dennis Neidelgh	PA Game Commission	Wildlife Station and Bear Trapping and Radio Tracking Demonstration
Don Guldon		
Tom Fitzgerald	Bureau of Forestry	Forestry Station
Ed Rhoads	Westmoreland County Department of Parks & Recreation	Aquatics Station
Bonnie Wenk	Westmoreland Conservation District	Publicity
Mark Jackson	Jackson Graphics	Artwork and Photography
Kathleen Fritz	Westmoreland Conservation District	Food Preparation
Lincoln Steff		

# Congratulations to Local Conservationists

The Westmoreland Conservation District's Board of Directors presented awards to the following individuals during 1988. We commend them for making a special effort to conserve our natural resources and hope that by recognizing their achievements we are able to stimulate others to contribute to the betterment of the environment.



**Outstanding Conservation Farmers** - left to right: Jerry Eidemiller; Mark Eidemiller; Greg Pastor; Jerome Eidemiller

## 1988 Recipients

**Jerome Eidemiller, Jerry and Mark** (sons), and **Greg Pastor** (cousin), **Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award** - for their commitment to soil, water, and related resource conservation on their farm, Twin Stars, located near New Alexandria. Twin Stars is a dairy and grain operation with about 50 milking cows. The Eidemillers use conventional tillage on their 416 tillable acres, however, all the plowing has been done on the contour and according to a conservation plan since the 1950's.

Mr. Eidemiller has been farming since 1938 and became a District cooperator in 1952. Some of the conservation practices the Eidemillers have incorporated into their farming operation are contour strip-cropping, grass waterways, diversions, a pond, and several subsurface drainage systems.

**The Greensburg Sportsmen Association, Special Conservation Recognition Award** - for their participation in the Landowner Reclamation Program (LRP) and the stabilization of a partially reclaimed surface mine near Mutual. The LRP allows interested landowners to utilize state funds to reclaim bond forfeited abandoned surface mine land on their own property.

By contracting with Dick Kepple, New Alexandria, the Sportsmen completed repairs to and enlarged an existing pond, constructed 4,000 feet of surface water controls, and seeded about six acres. The reclamation plan, developed by the District with Soil Conservation Service assistance, 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.

In addition, the members of the Greensburg Sportsmen Association have planted 5,500 seedlings over the last two years and participated in a Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation project on their property. The Association is also involved with many conservation education activities.



**Award Recipients** - left to right: Tom Pearson, Murrysville Upper Elementary School; Chuck Waugaman, President - Gbg. Sportsman Assoc.; John W. Stoner, Jr. accepting for William Stutz, Businessmen's Assurance Co.; Shirley Tosh, 4-T's Restaurant; Kelly Sofaly, Student Intern; Mrs. Mary E. Eidemiller and Mark Eidemiller, Twin Stars Farm; Pat Tatano, Pat's Stereo Center.

We would especially like to commend Chuck Waugaman, President, Greensburg Sportsmen Association, for his volunteer efforts and continued cooperation with the District.

**Tom Pearson, Upper Elementary School, Murrysville - Conservation Education Award** for his continuing commitment to environmental and conservation education. Tom has served as the advisor for the Franklin Regional High School's Envirothon team since the event was first sponsored by the District in 1986. His team has finished first in the Westmoreland County Envirothon twice and placed second at the State competition in each of the last two years.

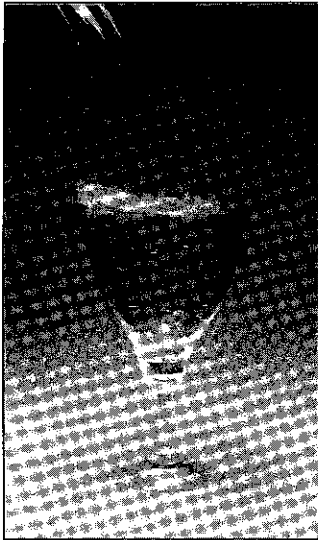
Tom has received the PA Alliance for Environmental Education Award and the American Association of University Women's Environmental Education Award. In addition to teaching his fifth grade class, he is the elementary school Science Committee Chairman, Discover Program Coordinator, advisor to the Junior Naturalists, Junior Science Explorers, and coach of the Eco-team. He is also involved with Gypsy Moth research at Carnegie-Mellon's Powder-mill Nature Reserve.

**Pat Tatano, Pat's Stereo Center, Greensburg; Ken and Shirley Tosh, 4-T's Restaurant, New Florence; and William Stutz, Business Men's Assurance Company of America, Pittsburgh, Certificates of Recognition** - for sponsoring an issue of the District's newsletter, "Landmarks."

**Kelly Sofaly, Student Intern, California University of Pennsylvania, Certificate of Recognition** - in appreciation of her volunteer service to the Soil Conservation Service and the exceptional manner in which she completed the Westmoreland Conservation District's Urban Stormwater Runoff and Infiltration Study.

One of the purposes of the District's Certificate of Recognition is to involve local businesses with the District programs. We appreciate your generosity and look forward to working with you in the future.

# Water, Water, Everywhere?



Despite the drought conditions we experienced in 1988, the rains will return, and so will stormwater problems. Lack of stormwater management in the County has resulted in uncontrolled runoff, increased flood stages, reduced groundwater recharge, erosion and sedimentation problems, and decreased stream quality.

The Westmoreland Conservation District's Board of Directors has long recognized the need for stormwater management in Westmoreland County. In order to further encourage use of stormwater management practices, the District's Board of Directors hired Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer, to expand our

stormwater management capabilities. Since May, Jim has helped individuals, developers, and local governments with stormwater problems. Some of these situations have required extensive calculations of rainfall and runoff volume and velocity.

## Selected Stormwater Activities

Name	Municipality	Service
Glen Lowry	Hempfield Township	Design calculations for a culvert installation
Chuck Stynchula	Murrysville	Hydraulic calculations and permit assistance for stream crossing
Larry Ross	Allegheny Township	Runoff calculations for stream crossing and permit assistance
Developers and municipal engineers	Murrysville Hempfield Township Penn Township Greensburg	Stormwater management plan reviews
Allegheny Township Supervisors	Allegheny Township	Stream survey and channel design calculations
Youngwood Council	Youngwood Borough	Recommendation for solving Jacks Run sedimentation problem
Avonmore Council	Avonmore Borough	Recreational lake improvement recommendations
Floyd Genassi	Cook Township	Pond soils and site evaluation and layout
Westmoreland County Commissioners	Westmoreland County	Acquisition of data for the Turtle Creek Stormwater Management Study

Additionally, Jim explained the principles of stormwater management to several developers and engineers, and demonstrated calculations for them. In 1989, the District will be capable of providing more comprehensive stormwater management services for Westmoreland County.

## Turtle Creek Stormwater Study Makes Headway

The Stormwater Management Act of 1987 required counties to develop stormwater management plans on a watershed basis. At that time, Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties entered into an agreement to study the Turtle Creek watershed, and engaged the Chester Engineers to perform the

work. So far, Chester's activities for the study have included gathering raw data on rainfall, surface conditions, soil types, stream channel geometries, and stream obstructions. Additionally, a computer model was developed and is being calibrated. The next step is to run the model to determine areas of the

watershed where stormwater detention would be of use. District Hydraulic Engineer Jim Pillsbury assisted John Maslanik from Chester in gathering data for the study, and will further assist him as he suggests remedies for flooding in the watershed.



# Improving Land and Water Quality

How many acres of abandoned mine land are there in Westmoreland County? How many miles of streams are degraded by acid mine drainage? The answers to these questions might surprise some people. To the Westmoreland Conservation District

Board of Directors the magnitude of the abandoned mine problem in our County is significant.

That is why the District provides local leadership to encourage the reclamation and wise use of abandoned mine

lands. To accomplish our objectives, we cooperate with both federal and state agencies to reduce hazards to public health and safety, eliminate soil erosion, and improve water quality through reclamation.

*In 1988, the following reclamation delivery systems were utilized by various agencies to reclaim abandoned mine sites in Westmoreland County.*

The **Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP)**, is a voluntary program administered by the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Westmoreland Conservation District. RAMP utilizes funds from the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) to reclaim hazardous abandoned mined land sites.

The **Bond Forfeiture Program (BF)** utilizes bond forfeiture money and allocations from the Pennsylvania General Fund to reclaim hazardous abandoned mine sites. The **Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML)** uses funds collected through SMCRA. Both programs are administered by the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

The **Landowner Reclamation Program (LRP)** makes use of the statutory authority of the Conservation District Law to convey bond forfeiture money through the District to individual landowners. The Program is administered by the Westmoreland Conservation District in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Resources.

Type of Site	Number of Sites	Cost	Sites under Design	Estimated Cost
BF	3	\$278,383	3	\$756,000
OSM	13	\$1,656,705	20	\$7,764,000

Source: BAMR, Ebensburg

## WPCAMR

### Coalition Strives for Reclamation

During the year, the Board of Directors and staff continued to participate in Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) activities. WPCAMR is an organization of volunteers, representing twenty-three counties in Western Pennsylvania, who encourage the reclamation of abandoned mine land.

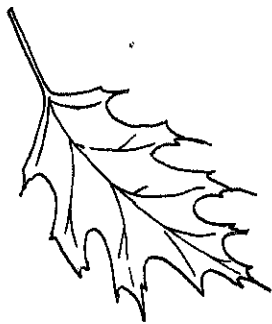
#### 1988 Activities . . .

- Presented testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.
- Lobbied federal and state legislators to increase funding for reclamation.
- Held regional business meetings throughout Western Pennsylvania.
- Participated in the eight-state Appalachian Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

#### WPCAMR Objectives . . .

- Increase and maintain steady funding for the Rural Abandoned Mine Program.
- Work to re-authorize the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.
- Encourage local involvement in the State Abandoned Mine Land Program.

# Leaf Composting Potential Explored



In July of 1988, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act. The Act requires municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more to implement a recycling program by September 26, 1990. At least three materials from a list of seven must be separated from the waste stream and recycled. In addition, **all** leaf waste must be collected separately for composting.

The Act gives county government the primary

responsibility for planning how municipal wastes will be handled. In an effort to assist with recycling plans at the local level, the Westmoreland Conservation District organized a Compost Recycling Committee to investigate the feasibility of establishing a county-wide leaf compost recycling program.

The Committee met once a month at Ann Saxman's house in Greensburg to trace the disposition of the leaf waste from the collection process to the final distribution of a

compost product. During 1988, the Committee located potential markets for compost, surveyed the Westmoreland County Waste Haulers Association, initiated a study to evaluate biodegradable plastic bags, traveled to several sites to observe leaf collection/compost operations, discussed a Pilot Leaf Composting Demonstration Project, and prepared recommendations which will be made available to County officials.

## Committee Composition:

Ann Saxman, Landscape Designer and WCD Associate Director

Alex Smith, Teacher and WCD Director

Bonnie Wenk, Freelance Reporter and WCD Associate Director

Lynn Showalter, Planner, Department of Planning

Paul Heyworth, Editorial Editor, Greensburg Tribune-Review

Eric Oesterling, County Agent, Penn State Extension Service

J. A. Rutter, Contract Landscaper, Murrysville

Robert West, Contract Landscaper, Latrobe

Barbara Burtik, Legislative Aid, Representative Allen Kukovich

Gerl Berlin, Owner, Tri-Valley Refuse

Greg Phillips, District Manager, WCD

Bonnie Jean Adams, Reporter, Murrysville Area Star

## Gypsy Moth Arrives in Westmoreland County

Heavy infestation of the Gypsy Moth occurred in the Murrysville, Ligonier, New Alexandria, and Acme areas of Westmoreland County this summer. In its destructive larval stage the caterpillar prefers to feed on oak, aspen, basswood, apple, and birch, sometimes causing a significant loss of timber value and esthetics.

The Westmoreland Conservation District, in cooperation with the County Planning Depart-

ment and the Bureau of Forestry, helped to coordinate the first state-sponsored Gypsy Moth Spray Program for Westmoreland County in 1988. District staff attended public meetings that were held in Ligonier, Murrysville, and Greensburg to inform County residents of the pest's habits and the benefits of the spray program. Approximately 600 people, who were interested in the spray program were required to fill out applications.

Upon receipt of the completed applications, properties were identified and plotted on topographic maps. District personnel conducted field investigations to verify egg mass numbers and tree species. Those properties that qualified were mapped in spray blocks and submitted to the Bureau of Forestry. Spraying on these blocks is to take place in May of 1989.



# Local/Federal Cooperation Key to Success

The Westmoreland Conservation District promotes the development on conservation plans and the establishment of practices to protect the soil, water, and related resources. The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conser-

vation Service (SCS), works through the District to provide conservation planning assistance and other valuable technical services to farmers and land users upon request.

The major thrust of SCS activity during the year

was to assist agricultural producers with the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act (FSA). Planning and application of on-farm conservation practices is mandated by FSA. SCS has been working with Westmoreland

County farmers to develop these required plans and subsequently implement conservation practices.



The following presents a brief summary of the major services and conservation practices established with SCS assistance in 1988:

• Acreage of conservation plans prepared	13,000
• Acreage of contour stripcropping established	1,250
• Grass waterways acreage constructed	4
• Linear feet of diversions constructed	4,000
• Spring developments installed	15
• Agricultural Conservation program referrals serviced	175

### In addition, SCS

- Supplied soil survey information upon request.
- Assisted farmers with planning and installation of intensive rotational grazing systems for livestock/forage management.
- Assisted the Westmoreland Conservation District with on-site investigation of soil erosion and stormwater related problems.
- Provided technical assistance to land users, resulting in various applications of agronomic practices to reduce soil erosion. These included: conservation cropping systems, conservation tillage, pasture and hayland management, and planned grazing systems.
- Assisted farmers with planning of manure management systems.
- Cooperated with the Westmoreland County Department of Parks and Roads through the Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area to begin construction of a 17 acre recreation lake at Northmoreland County Park. This project is the largest associated RC&D project in Pennsylvania.
- Completed a mine entrance closing near Herminie through the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP). Also performed field surveys and planning for five RAMP sites that are scheduled to be reclaimed in the future.

## Record Number of Special Projects Completed

It was an exceptionally productive year in terms of Special Projects. The State Conservation Commission approved all five Special Projects that were submitted by the Westmoreland Conservation District. The District utilized \$8,390 from the Conservation District Fund allocation Program for expenses incurred while conducting these Special Projects.

The State Conservation Commission used the following criteria to determine Special Project funding priorities: state, regional and district objectives addressed, benefit to county residents, degree of technicality, low cost/high benefit ratio, and originality or uniqueness of the project.

Following is a brief description of the District's Special Projects for 1988:

### Urban Stormwater Infiltration and Analysis -

Involved the installation of ten sets of Infiltrometers to monitor infiltration and runoff rates on eleven residential lawns. Kelly Sofaly, Student Intern, completed the field work for the project and forwarded the data to Penn State University for analysis. Dr. Watschke, Professor of Turf Grass Science, is using the data to supplement his research on the nutrient and pesticide loading of suburban-urban watersheds.

### Landowner Reclamation Program Brochure -

consisted of the production of 2,000 informational brochures which will be used by conservation districts and the Depart-

ment of Environmental Resources to promote Pennsylvania's newest reclamation program. The District contracted with Jackson Graphics, Greensburg, to design and prepare artwork for the brochure.

### Computerization of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program -

involved the purchase and installation of computer software and hardware that was utilized to transmit data via a modem to the Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation in Harrisburg. The project will help to standardize reporting for all of Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

### Envirothon Poster -

resulted in the production of 5,000 full-color posters which will be used to promote the state-wide Envirothon Competition. The District contracted with Jackson Graphics, Greensburg, to design and prepare artwork for the poster.

### Westmoreland Woodland Association -

formed a County-wide organization to promote conservation-oriented woodlot management, forestry education, increased utilization of local timber resources, and to provide a forum to discuss woodland related issues. The Association has elected officers, adopted by-laws, and established a dues structure.

# Thank You...

We would like to extend a special "Thank You" to everyone who made it possible for us to meet our objectives in 1988. Your generous financial support and commitment to conservation have enabled us to strengthen and expand our natural resource conservation programs.

**Westmoreland County Commissioners**  
**United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service**  
**Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission**  
**Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation**  
**Westmoreland County Department of Planning**  
**Westmoreland County Department of Parks and Roads**  
**Compost Recycling Committee Members**

And all the people who cooperated with us this year to make an even better Westmoreland County!

## Looking Ahead to Next Year

Every November, the District Board convenes to review our accomplishments and set priorities for the upcoming year. This meeting also provides a forum for the discussion of conservation issues that relate to Westmoreland County. If you have an environmental concern, please inform a Director or staff member of it.

*The following priorities are on our agenda for 1989:*

### **Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program**

- Obtain cost-share funding for the Hydraulic Engineer
- Develop and distribute a municipal Memorandum of Understanding
- Obtain NICEET certification for the technical staff
- Complete publication of the District's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual
- Refine the computerization of record keeping
- Conduct educational training sessions for developers and the oil and gas well drilling industry

### **Stormwater Management Program**

- Complete the Turtle Creek Stormwater Management Study
- Assist municipalities with the development of stormwater management ordinances
- Increase on-site inspections of stormwater management facilities
- Prepare a model stormwater management study for a selected watershed

### **Abandoned Mine Reclamation**

- Continue to participate in the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Publicize and support the Rural Abandoned Mine Program
- Complete reclamation of the Greensburg Sportsmen Association's Landowner Reclamation Program site
- Start reclamation of a third Landowner Reclamation Program site
- Contact landowners to determine interest in the Landowner Reclamation Program

### **Conservation Education**

- Increase school district participation in the Environment
- Construct a water conservation display

### **Compost Recycling**

- Seek District Representation on the County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Prepare a final report on the feasibility of establishing a County-wide leaf and yard waste composting program

### **Gypsy Moth**

- Cooperate with Department of Planning and Bureau of Forestry to implement the Gypsy Moth Spray Program
- Provide information to the public

### **Public Relations**

- Continue to publish "Landmarks"
- Develop a brochure that describes District programs

### **Conservation Planning**

- Employ a part-time technician to assist Soil Conservation Service with their Food Security Act workload
- Continue to make farmers aware of the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act

### **Special Projects**

- Seek funding for a pilot stormwater conservation project
- Acquire funding for a water conservation display



412-837-5271

# Conservation Team Westmoreland County

### ***Penn State Cooperative Extension Service***

William Kelly, County Extension Director  
PO Box 250, 971 Old Salem Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**837-1402**

### ***Department of Emergency Management***

Richard Hunger, Executive Director  
12 Courthouse Square  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**834-2191**

### ***Department of Parks & Recreation***

Anthony Miele, Director  
RD 12, Box 21-C, Donohoe Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**836-1700**

### ***Department of Planning***

Larry Larese, Director  
601 Courthouse Square  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**834-2191**

### ***Loyalhanna Watershed Association***

Lysle Sherwin, Executive Director  
PO Box 501  
114 South Market Street  
Ligonier, PA 15658  
**238-7560**

### ***Turtle Creek Watershed Association***

Kelly Sofaly, Executive Director  
700 Braddock Avenue, 4-S-12  
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112  
**829-5042**

## **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

### ***Department of Environmental Resources***

Bureau of Soil & Water Conservation  
Harry T. Meyer, Field Representative  
Darl Rosenquest, Soils Engineer  
3913 S. Washington Rd.  
McMurray, PA 15317  
**941-7100**

Community Environmental Control  
Robert Pushwa, Supervising Sanitarian  
Armbrust Professional Building  
RD 2, Box 603-C  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**925-8115**

Bureau of Forestry  
David Williams, District Forester  
PO Box 519  
Laughlintown, PA 15655  
**238-9533**

Bureau of Oil & Gas Management  
Chuck Eisiminger, Oil & Gas Inspector  
121 South Highland Avenue, 7th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**258-7914**

Bureau of Surface Mining  
James Brahosky, District Mining Manager  
Armbrust Professional Building  
RD 2, Box 603-C  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**925-8115**

Bureau of State Parks  
William C. Forrey, Director  
PO Box 1467  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
**(717) 787-8800**

Linn Run State Park, Keith Taylor **238-6623**  
Laurel Mountain Ski Area, Robert Kuran **238-6688**  
Keystone State Park, Michael Buchelt **668-2930**  
Laurel Ridge State Park, Robert Hoffman **(814) 445-7725**

Bureau of Waste Management  
Gale Campbell, Manager-Operation Section  
121 South Highland Avenue  
Highland Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**645-7100**

Bureau of Water Quality Management  
Terry Pallas, Operations Chief  
121 South Highland Avenue  
Highland Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**645-7100**

Bureau of Air Quality Control  
Joseph Pezze, Air Quality Chief  
121 South Highland Avenue  
Highland Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**645-7100**

Bureau of Dams and Waterways Management  
Larry Busack, Hydraulic Engineer  
RD 1, Box 120-A  
Clinton, PA 15026  
**899-2377**

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Mike Biela, Acting District Engineer  
122 South Center Street  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
**(814) 472-9666**

### ***State Conservation Commission***

Paul. O. Swartz, Executive Secretary  
One Ararat Boulevard, Room 214  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
**(717) 540-5080**

### ***Pennsylvania Department of Transportation***

William King, District Environmental Manager  
PO Box 459  
Uniontown, PA 15401  
**439-7155**

### ***Pennsylvania Fish Commission***

Thomas Qualters, Regional Supervisor  
RD 2, Box 39  
Somerset, PA 15501  
**(814) 445-8974**

### ***Pennsylvania Game Commission***

Don Madl, Regional Director  
PO Box A, 339 West Main Street  
Ligonier, PA 15658  
**238-9523**

Please Detach for Future Reference

Federal Agencies on reverse side 

**United States Department of Agriculture**

Agricultural Stabilization  
and Conservation Service  
John Lohr, Director  
932 St. Clair Way, Route 30 East  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**834-0830**

Farmer's Home Administration  
Michael Jankovic, County Supervisor  
938 St. Clair Way, Route 30 East  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**834-0396**

Soil Conservation Service  
Wesley M. Gordon, District Conservationist  
932 St. Clair Way, Route 30 East  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**834-3970**

**Department of the Army**

Corps of Engineers  
George Miller, Commander-Colonel  
Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**644-6800**

**United States Department of the Interior**

Geological Survey  
David B. Richards, Subdistrict Chief  
Room 2204, Moorhead Federal Building  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**644-2863**

Fish and Wildlife Service  
Charles Kulp, Supervisor  
Suite 322, 315 South Allen Street  
State College, PA 16801  
**(814) 234-4090**

Office of Surface Mining  
Joseph Geissinger, Area Office Manager  
319 Washington Street  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
**(814) 533-4464**

**District Affiliations**

**Central Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce** - advancing the economic, commercial, industrial, professional, cultural and community well-being of Westmoreland County.

**Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development Area** - providing technical and financial help for natural resource development within Southwestern Pennsylvania.

**Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation** - providing local leadership for the reclamation, development, and wise use of abandoned mine lands in the bituminous coal area of Western Pennsylvania.

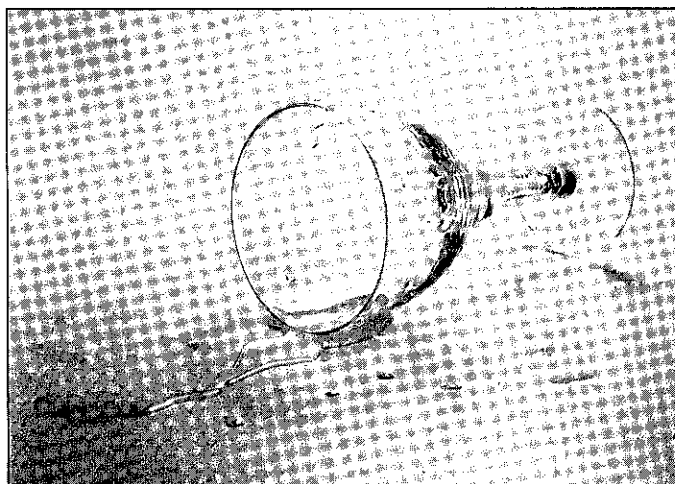
**Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts** - serving as the collective voice of Pennsylvania's 66 conservation districts, PACD works with state and federal agencies, the state legislature, farm organizations and environmental groups to facilitate the work of conservation districts.

**National Association of Conservation Districts** - representing 3,000 conservation districts and their state associations as their national voice on soil and water conservation issues.

**Public Encouraged to Attend District Meetings**

The Westmoreland Conservation District is administered by a Board composed of five farmer directors, three public directors, and one County Commissioner. The Board convenes at least once a month to plan, prioritize, and supervise the implementation of programs. Regular meetings are scheduled to begin at **8:00 p.m.** on the **fourth Wednesday of each month.** They are held at the **Peoples Natural Gas Company** in Greensburg. The District office is located at 932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East, Greensburg, PA 15601.

**Water**  
VALUE EVERY DROP!



# Woodlands Group Forms

by J. A. Glasstetter & A. P. Quadro, Jr.

Prospective members of the Westmoreland Woodlands Association adopted provisional bylaws and elected officers during their first official meeting which was held recently at Mt. View Inn. Elected to the Board of Directors were: Bill Baber, President; J. A. Glasstetter, Vice President; Don Stitt, Secretary; Robert L. Ackerman, Treasurer; Neil Kinneer; Donald N. Miller, and Mel Saltzman.

During the meeting, Bill Baber stated, "The Association was organized to provide a forum for those who have an interest in woodland management. Because those interests can be varied and diverse, the

Association anticipates and welcomes a broad-based membership."

Jim Lacek, Service Forester, spoke about the formation and history of a similar organization that operates in Bradford County. The Bradford Woodland Owners Association was formed eight years ago and recently hired a part-time Executive Director.

Membership in the Westmoreland Woodlands Association is open to anyone who has an interest in woodland management. Dues are currently \$10 per year. Applications for membership can be obtained by calling the Westmoreland Conservation District.

## Be a Landmarks Sponsor!

The District is accepting a limited number of sponsors to help defray the cost of "Landmarks." Please help us spread the word about natural resource conservation.

If you would like more information on sponsoring an issue please call Greg Phillips at the District office, 837-5271.

*This Issue of Landmarks is Sponsored by:*

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## Naturally DELICIOUS

By Lincoln Stefl

### LEMON GLAZED CHICKEN

1 broiler-fryer chicken, cut in parts  
1 tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. pepper  
1 jar (10 oz.) apricot preserves  
¾ cup Prepared yellow mustard  
2 tsps. grated lemon peel  
½ cup fresh lemon juice  
1 lemon, thinly sliced

Place chicken parts, skin side up in shallow bake pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Mix preserves and mustard, heat, stirring about five minutes. Stir in lemon peel and lemon juice. Pour sauce over chicken. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes. Top each piece of chicken with a lemon slice; baste with pan juice. Bake 30 more minutes. Serve over steaming rice.

Share your favorite recipes Send to:

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

## Introduce A Friend To Landmarks!

The official newsletter of the Westmoreland Conservation District is published quarterly and available free of charge. Use this coupon to add a friend's name to our mailing list.

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Greensburg, PA 15601  
Phone: 412-837-5271

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TERRY MAROLT  
Commissioner, Director

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BILL PAXTON  
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District Manager

LINCOLN STEFL  
Administrative Secretary

ANTHONY P. QUADRO  
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JAMES W. PILLSBURY  
Hydraulic Engineer

KATHLEEN A. FRITZ  
Secretary

GREGORY A. CIRONI  
District Technician

U.S.D.A., Soil  
Conservation Service  
Staff

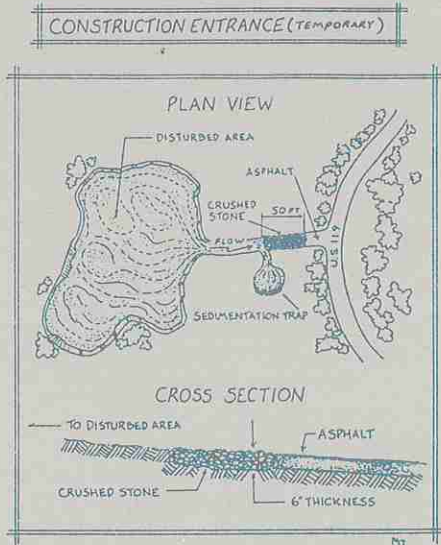
WESLEY M. GORDON  
District Conservationist

JOE OBENSKI  
Soil Technician

LARRY STOKUM  
Soil Technician

# V.I.P.s Gather for Erosion Control Workshop

by A.P. Quadro



Roy Houston, Chairman, Westmoreland Conservation District, declared the erosion control workshop, held on April 11, 1989 at Mountain View Inn, a huge success. The workshop was targeted for engineers, developers, contractors, and municipal officials who work with Pennsylvania's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Program.

Speakers for the event were: Mike Sherman and Darl Rosenquest, Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation; Dan Seibert, Soil Conservation Service; Jim Pillsbury, Westmoreland Conservation District; and Lowell McGee, Fahringer, McCarty & Grey.

Topics such as erosion control plan content, municipal responsibilities, enforcement procedures and site stabilization measures were detailed for those in attendance. In addition, stormwater management benefits and rationale, as well as the District's newly developed Municipal Memorandum of Understanding were outlined.

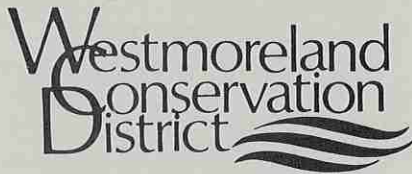
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