

A Special Person

by Lincoln Stefl

This special issue of "Landmarks" honors Ann Rudd Saxman and her continuing outstanding commitment to the conservation of Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Ann is a devout conservationist and a talented landscape designer. She has combined her lifelong love of the natural environment with her willingness to volunteer to promote conservation. Ann was an advocate of the benefits of soil and water conservation, composting, recycling, and solid waste management prior to the formation of formal programs to address these concerns.

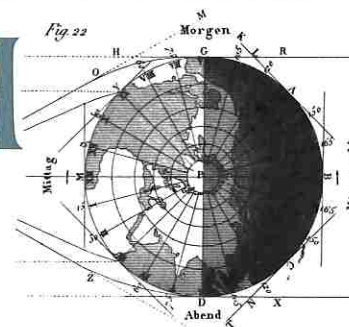
In 1969, Ann was the first woman to be appointed a Westmoreland Conservation District Associate Director. She was responsible for raising funds and coordinating the production of a nationally acclaimed "Directory of Environmental Information" in 1972. Ann is a proponent of "networking" conservation through various state agencies and private organizations.

Ann was asked, "What changes have you seen in the Westmoreland Conservation District over the years?" She responded, "The District has definitely raised its profile by getting more involved with community environmental projects. More people are aware of the District's activities because of programs like leaf composting and recycling." Ann also stated that even more people should be made aware of the scarcity and value of pure water and clean air.

Ann continues to speak to the public about conservation and regularly attends District meetings. She frequently hosts the District's Compost Recycling Committee meeting at her home.

From everyone at the District, "Thank you Ann." We are looking forward to more of your continued involvement with natural resource conservation.

EARTH DAY!



April 22, 1990 will mark the 20th anniversary of the first Earth Day in 1970. That first Earth Day focused attention on environmental problems and resulted in the passage of legislation to clean up our air, streams and rivers. The establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency also followed the first Earth Day.

Much as been accomplished in twenty years, but much remains to be done. The greenhouse effect is now indisputable, ozone depletion in the upper atmosphere is continuing, we are still a throwaway society, and species are disappearing faster than they were twenty years ago. Vast numbers of people express concern for the environment, and it is hoped that the twentieth Earth Day celebration can forge an environmental coalition that will focus citizens' concerns about environmental issues and turn them to actions and votes.

Locally, school districts are receiving packets for Earth Day education; many organizations will be participating in recycling programs, sponsoring clean-up days, or planting trees. St. Vincent's College has scheduled many activities: a lecture series which will include Ralph Nader, a display of posters from area schools, an art contest for high school and college students, a course with lectures open to the public, etc.

As I've made contacts about Earth Day (primarily on the eastern side of the county), it appears that there are some coordinating functions which interested people may wish to do:

1. A coordinator or people working on Earth Day, who could put people in touch with others for collaboration or to share ideas.
2. Someone who can keep a calendar of planned activities and events. There might be some interest in coordinated public relations for Earth Day.
3. A clearinghouse of ideas for small groups (PTA's, church groups, youth clubs, pre-schools, etc.)

I have started a list of interested people and projects. Call me at 423-6247 and I'll share contacts and details of what I've learned.

Helen Ostermiller, Co-president
League of Women Voters of the
Ligonier Valley

Good News for Gardeners

Methods To Lower Garden Maintenance

by Ann Rudd Saxman

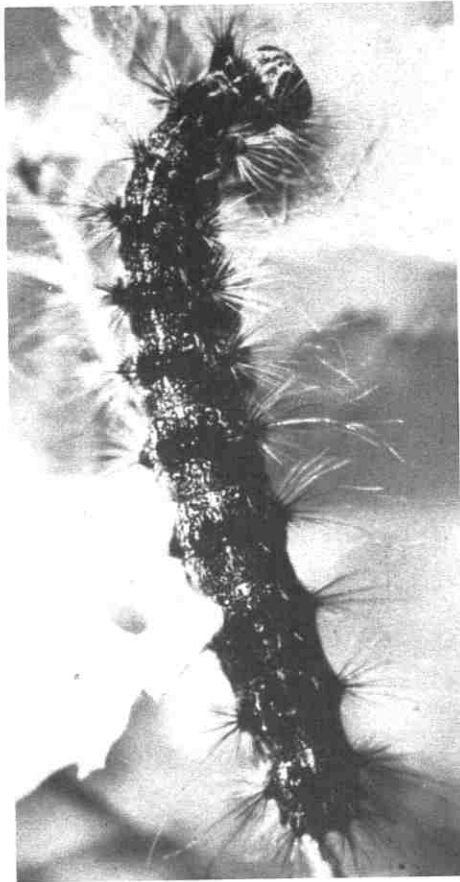
With good conservation practices your plants will work for you more than you work for them.

- To grow more vegetables in less space with fewer weeds and less labor, plant them close together in blocks with grass or carpet-mulched paths. Soil erosion will be much less and water will be better retained than in cultivated rows.
- Plant flowering annuals and perennials at the edge of a shrub bed, rather than in separated beds. This avoids extra trimming and usually is more attractive.

- Study the catalogues from reliable nurseries. Select plants which are: **hardy**- no fussing with winter cover, no replacement costs; **less susceptible to disease and insects** - little or no spraying; **slower growing** - less pruning and easier to maintain over the years.
- Maintain a mulch of 2-3 inches of grass clippings or leaves to reduce watering and weeding.

Combating the GYPSY MOTH

by Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.



By now just about everyone in Westmoreland County has either heard about the gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) or has suffered some damage from it. The gypsy moth caterpillar, or larval stage, does its damage by defoliating trees. Preferred trees include all species of oak, aspen, apple, basswood, gray and white birches, willow, and witch hazel. Older larvae also prefer beech, chestnut, eastern hemlock, pine, and spruce.

To combat the gypsy moth, "integrated pest management" (IPM) can be employed. IPM is a system of insect control where various activities are conducted to minimize losses in the most economical and environmentally sound manner.

The first thing one should do in an IPM system is pest identification. The gypsy moth is sometimes confused with the eastern tent caterpillar by homeowners, but the gypsy moth does not make "tents". It seeks shelter during the afternoon hours on hot summer days but the larval stage does not construct any woven thread structure. The larva is hairy, 1½" - 2" long, grayish in color, and has a yellow head. There is a double row of spots along the back: the first five rows are blue in color, the next six rows are red.

If identifying in the winter months, one should look for the tan colored egg masses on the sides of trees or under the upper branches. The egg

masses are roughly oval in shape, and 1" - 2" in length. Each egg mass contains approximately 500 eggs.

The second stage in IPM involves monitoring the population and determining the potential damage. One can easily determine the amount of egg masses in a given area by counting all of the egg masses in a circular plot measuring 18.6' in diameter (1/40th acre) and multiplying by 40. This results in the number of egg masses per acre. Some monitoring should be done in surrounding uplands to account for blow-in potential.

If the population is above 250 egg masses per acre, and trees are of the preferred species, some level of control may be necessary. Control can be either by mechanical or chemical means. In low level populations and low numbers of preferred trees, such as in a residential situation, mechanical methods can be employed with a reasonable amount of success. Mechanical methods include wrapping burlap or other material around the tree at approximately four to five feet above the ground. During the afternoon hours, the caterpillars seek shelter in the material and can be scraped into a can of kerosene or soapy water.

Another mechanical control is to wrap a sticky band around the tree at four to five feet above ground. The caterpillars will not cross the bands and can be scraped off of the tree into soapy water or kerosene. Do not apply sticky or gooey material directly to the tree surface. It can be harmful to the tree. This method may be only marginally effective, caterpillars already in the canopy are already across the barriers! Also, it does not work as well on rough barked trees such as chestnut oak.

If populations are high (1,000 per acre or more) and the preferred species are present, a decision will have to be made as to whether to spray or not. This decision involves many factors, a few of which are: esthetics, nuisance populations, tree mortality, and personal tolerance levels to insects and insect sprays.



Some may want to spray to protect the values of their homes and property. The gypsy moth can cause staining on siding, porches, and driveways. They may get into swimming pools and be carried indoors with firewood and air dried laundry. Frass (droppings) get into pools, on laundry, and in food during picnics. Some people even develop a slight rash when brushed by the caterpillars hairs. Trees may die leaving an unsightly "snag" in the yard. So, to some, an esthetic or nuisance spraying is warranted. The question becomes, "How much is the owner willing to tolerate?"

In an area which is forested (includes forested residential) and the forest is predominantly oak, or other preferred species, mortality becomes a determining factor in whether to spray or not. According to entomologist Dr. Alan Cameron, Penn State, heavy defoliation will cause one to three percent mortality after the first year, 10% the second year, and 20% or greater the third year. These numbers are somewhat dependant upon other stresses such as drought, other insect attacks, timber harvesting, etc. Spruces and pines will succumb after one year of total defoliation. High populations usually crash from a virus after the second or third year. To keep tree mortality at acceptable levels, the cycle must be disrupted, that is a spraying should take place before or after the first year of potential heavy defoliation. Population monitoring is very important in this scenario.

If the decision is made to spray, one must then decide which spray to use. Two effective and relatively save sprays currently being used for gypsy moth are BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) and Dimilin (common name: diflubenzuron). Dr. Cameron states that BT, a natural bacteria lethal to the gypsy moth can be very effective, but timing and weather conditions are critical. BT has low residual activity and must be applied with both leaf growth and larval growth are at the proper stage. A second spraying is recommended after 10 - 14 days. Other non-target butterflies and moths are also affected. BT must be ingested by the insect.

Dimilin, a chemical which inhibits chitin formation (prevents insect from molting), is also very effective. However, with Dimilin, the timing is less critical. It has excellent residual activity and can act as both a contact and ingested insecticide. By law, it can only be sprayed once per year for gypsy moth control. Non-target organisms include some other immature canopy insects, crustaceans, and some other aquatic organisms. (Note: No human toxicity has been demonstrated at the recommended spray rates — ½ oz. of toxin per acre).

The last option would be to do nothing and "let nature take its course". Although this option does not involve spraying, it does have an environmental impact. By not spraying we can expect a reduced oak population (and acorn reduction), potential temperature increase in streams, increases in soil erosion, wasted

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1989

ANNUAL REPORT

40

by Greg Phillips



The Westmoreland Conservation District was born October 21, 1949. The year 1989 marked forty years of resource conservation service to the people of this County.

Like all children, the District had to learn and develop. The 1950-60's were formative years. Our primary mission was to encourage farmers to practice soil and water conservation. Fortunately, the District had the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to serve as a role model. Thanks to technical assistance provided by SCS, farmers began to place conservation practices on the land.

The 1970's were a time of accelerated urbanization and growth in Westmoreland County. The District grew too. Urban programs, to prevent sedimentation and manage stormwater, evolved to address the concerns that were associated with development.

The 1980's presented a new set of environmental chal-

lenges. Unlike our youth, adolescence was difficult and complex. Technical issues, like non-point source pollution, groundwater protection, land use planning, and solid waste management abounded. However, increased state and county funding made it possible for the District to expand and enhance our technical capabilities.

The future looks bright as the District enters the 1990's. More people are voicing their environmental concerns and getting involved at the grass roots level. As a young adult, the Westmoreland Conservation District has indeed learned and matured. We are able to listen intently to local concerns and respond to needs in an effective and efficient manner. At forty, we have the experience and energy that is necessary to have a decisive, positive impact on the quality of life in Westmoreland County.

40 YEARS AGO

Greensburg Daily Tribune.

Greensburg, PA, Friday, November 14, 1950

Soil Board to Make Tour Conservation Group Holds Meeting Here

Members of the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District Board, at their meeting recently, decided to make a conservation tour of two farms in the county on December 15 to dramatize and familiarize the people of the county with the soil conservation work which is being done in this area.

Oscar A. Kimmel, Harrisburg, supervisor of soil conservation district in Pennsylvania, was present at the meeting. He discussed with the board members the preparation of their annual report and the reorganization of the board which will take place at the January meeting.

Mr. Bowman, of the State Game Commission, spoke of ways and means in which the Commission plans to assist the District.

Francis T. Bowne, district conservationist, reported that in the Westmoreland Soil Conservation District to date there are on hand 95 agreements between the district and farmers interested in conserving the soil on their farm. On 90 of the farms conservation surveys have been completed. On 80 of these farms, practices are now being carried out for the conservation of soil and water on the land, and for increased production.

The Board also passed on agreements with the Flood Control Division of the U.S. Army Engineers for work to be done in cooperation with the Indiana County Soil Conservation District in the area flooded by high waters back of the Conemaugh Dam. A month ago the Board approved the

same type of agreement with the U.S. Army Engineers for the area back of the Loyalhanna Dam.

Within the next few days, the Soil Conservation Service will start making conservation surveys on the land above the Loyalhanna Dam, which is owned by the federal government. This will be done to determine the capability of the land and to plan proper land use for the area.

Members of the Board who attended the meeting were: Mortie Gongaware, Irwin, Chairman; Robert Torrance, Export, vice chairman; Robert McAleese, North Belle Vernon, secretary; and Eugene Cairns, Ligonier. J. Calvin Turner, Rostraver Township, who represents the county commissioners on the Board, was absent due to illness.

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 inter-relationship 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



Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program Progresses

In 1972, the Westmoreland Conservation District became one of the first conservation districts in the state to be delegated the administrative responsibilities for Pennsylvania's newly created Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&SPC) Program. Today, the District is the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation's (BSWC) official designee for the administration of the program within Westmoreland County.

The Westmoreland Conservation District is delegated by the BSWC as a Level II District. As such, the District is required to inspect all earth disturbance sites, provide educational programs on erosion control, process earth disturbance permits, and review erosion and sediment pollution control plans.

During 1989, the District utilized \$43,105.31 made available by the Pennsylvania General Assembly through the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program. Of this total, \$14,012.88 provided cost sharing for the employment

of the District Manager, \$11,984.78 for the District Technician, and \$2,100.00 for administrative assistance. An additional \$15,007.65 was obtained in 1989 for the cost sharing of the new District Hydraulic Engineer.

In addition to its Level II responsibilities, the District is responsible for reporting all activities under the E&SPC Program to the BSWC at quarterly intervals. The District's E&SPC computer database was expanded in 1989 to incorporate the necessary forms and reports to accomplish this task.

During 1989, the BSWC made additional funding available to districts whose technicians were certified by the National Institute for the Certification of Engineering Technologies (NICET). Westmoreland Conservation District Technician Anthony Quadro was certified at Level II in the Land Management and Water Control: Erosion Control category.

Several meetings were held with county municipalities to introduce a newly developed

Municipal Memorandum of Understanding. Several municipalities signed the agreement with the District including: Penn Township, Rostraver Township, the Municipality of Murrysville, and Donegal Township. Several more municipalities are targeted for 1990.

An erosion control workshop was held during the year for municipal officials and engineers. The morning session covered rules and regulations affecting municipalities and land developers; the afternoon session was geared toward engineers and municipal inspectors and covered erosion control measures and specifications. Over 80 were in attendance at this meeting.

The District will continue to emphasize the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program in 1990. Goals include: continued development of the municipal Memorandum of Understanding, increased number of inspections, completion of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Manual, and an erosion control seminar.

1989 Summary of Activities:	
Earth Disturbance Inspections	282
Erosion and Sediment Pollution Complaints	50
Enforcement Activities	2
Earth Disturbance Permits	8
Erosion Control Plan Reviews	220

BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Conservation education can foster an awareness and appreciation for the value of our natural resources. The District's educational activities are designed to stimulate the sense of "environmental ethics" that resides in everybody.

Highlights for 1989

- Cooperated with the Westmoreland County League of Sportsmen to distribute over 1,000 **National Wildlife Week Kits** to area school districts.
- Exhibited the District's **Water Conservation Display** at the Westmoreland County Fair, Greenawalt's Egg Festival, and the Greengate Mall Energy and Conservation Show.
- Expanded the mailing of "**Landmarks**", our award-winning quarterly newsletter, and "**Water**", our 1989 Annual Report, from 2,300 to approximately 3,500 people.
- Presented "**Certificates of Recognition**" 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.
- Hosted a **Conservation Tour** of Westmoreland County farms for 50 cooperators from the Montgomery County (Ohio) Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Presented a forestry management program to over 150 Greensburg Salem School District students at the Camp Soles Environmental Education Field Days.
- Developed a wetland conservation plan for students at Sloan Elementary School.
- Cooperated with Keystone State Park and the County League of Sportsmen Youth Conservation School to design and implement a trail management plan.

Envirothon Sees Increased Growth in '89

The Franklin Regional team of Brooke Merrell, Janice Conner, Tom Graham, Susan Bach, and Chris Sezak won all five events in the Fourth Annual Westmoreland County Envirothon. The events included: Soils, Forestry, Aquatics, Wildlife, and Recycling. The team, coached by Tom Pearson, went on to take third place

honors at the Pennsylvania State Envirothon. This marked the fourth time in as many years that a Westmoreland County team has placed in the top three at the state competition.

Second and third place awards in the county competition went to Derry and Hempfield High School respectively.

The first, second, and third place teams all received trophies and a field trip to West Penn Power's Mitchell Power Plant. All participants received a specially designed T-shirt and were treated to a cookout lunch.

The Envirothon strives to teach students about the environment through competi-

tion. The County event is sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District, West Penn Power Company, and the Westmoreland County Department of Parks and Recreation. Many thanks to all who helped make the day both enjoyable and rewarding.

Name	Affiliation	Contribution
Tony Quadro	Westmoreland Conservation District	Program Coordination
Malcom Sias	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
Elda Conner	Derry Area School District	Team Advisor
Tom Pearson	Franklin Regional School District	Team Advisor
John Baughman	Jeannette School District	Team Advisor
Mary Beth Jakobek	Ligonier Valley School District	Team Advisor
Joan Zahorchak	Greensburg Salem School District	Team Advisor
Wes Gordon	Soil Conservation Service	Soils Station
Tom Fitzgerald	Bureau of Forestry	Forestry Station
Joe Stefko	PA Game Commission	Wildlife Station
Mike Fowles	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Aquatics Station
Lysle Sherwin	Loyalhanna Watershed Association	Recycling Station
Dave Schmidt	West Penn Power	Awards
Bonnie Wenk	Westmoreland Conservation District	Publicity
Mark Jackson	Jackson Graphics	Artwork and Photography
Kathleen Fritz	Westmoreland Conservation District	Food Coordination and Preparation
Lincoln Steff	Westmoreland Conservation District	Food Coordination and Preparation, Station Posters

Congratulations!

Several local individuals, organizations, and businesses received awards from the Westmoreland Conservation District during 1989. Some of the recipients are long-time friends of conservation and some of them are new acquaintances. In either case, our Board of Directors would like to commend the following award winners for making a special effort to conserve our natural resources. It is hoped that by recognizing their achievements we are able to stimulate others to contribute to the betterment of the environment.



1989 CONSERVATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Farm Cooperator

Heinnickel Farms, Inc.
Alquin Heinnickel, Secretary-Treasurer
Philip Heinnickel, Vice President

Alquin and Philip Heinnickel have demonstrated a long-term commitment to conservation. In fact, the Heinnickels, who operate a beef cattle farm just north of Greensburg, have been District cooperators since 1952. Some of the conservation practices that the Heinnickels have incorporated into their farming operations are: contour strip cropping; diversions; subsurface drainage; sod waterways; and an agricultural waste facility.

Special Conservation Recognition Award

West Penn Power Company
David Schmidt, Manager-Public Information
Howard Townsend, Community Services
Education Representative

After an article appearing in a local newspaper about the Westmoreland County Envirothon, Dave Schmidt contacted the District to learn more about the educational program. West Penn Power subsequently agreed to co-sponsor the 1989 Envirothon. Thanks to their involvement, the District was able to secure "Living Lakes Inc." to demonstrate an aerial lake liming procedure, provide trophies and t-shirts, and conduct an educational tour for the winning teams. West Penn Power Company also sponsored an issue of the District's "Landmarks" newsletter.

Outstanding Conservation Organization

The Loyalhanna Watershed Association
Lysle Sherwin, Executive Director

The Loyalhanna Watershed Association (LWA) is a non-profit citizens group organized in 1970 to protect and develop the Loyalhanna watershed.

LWA's Recent Accomplishments and Activities

- Purchased an important parcel of open space near Ligonier
- Planning a two-mile long greenbelt area adjacent to the Loyalhanna Creek in Latrobe
- Secured the first ever trout stocking of Loyalhanna Creek below Kingston Dam
- Operates an acidity treatment system at Linn Run State Park
- Planning a historical trail system on the route of the PW&S logging railroad in Forbes State Forest
- Operates a self-guided interpretive nature trail
- Sponsors a nationally recognized wildlife art show
- Coordinates a voluntary recycling program in Ligonier Valley
- Distributes birdseed annually as a fund raising event

Certificates of Recognition

Charley Fajt, Palace Printer, Greensburg, and Richard Patterson, Patterson & Associates, Greensburg, were recognized for sponsoring an issue of the District's "Landmarks" newsletter.

Tom Ford, Student Intern, Carnegie Mellon University, was recognized for the exceptional manner in which he completed the District's urban Stormwater Runoff and Infiltration Study and assisted with the organization of our Leaf Composting Program.

Jerry Woodward, Haulers United for Greater Service, was recognized for co-sponsoring a backyard leaf composting informational brochure and providing valuable assistance to the District's Compost Recycling Committee.

URBAN PROGRAMS COME OF AGE



Dollar\$ Down The Drain?

"Isn't it expensive to build a dry pond in the ground to hold water when it rains? This was the question asked in the early 70's when stormwater management was a new topic.

Now, more people are realizing the benefits of using stormwater detention to control frequent local flooding. Such flooding may seem minor, but

in the long term it may cause more economic damage than a once-in-a-lifetime major storm event.

Good stormwater controls can not only remedy present flooding, but they can also prevent future problems. Dry ponds, tanks, or infiltration beds can take the place of enlarging culverts, channeliz-

ing streams, and raising low-lying areas.

The Westmoreland Conservation District's Board of Directors has long-recognized the need for stormwater management. In 1989, District technical staff performed a variety of stormwater management services including 106 stormwater plan reviews.

Selected Stormwater Management Activities

Name	Affiliation	Service	Municipality
David Augustine	Franklin Regional High School Student	Explained hydraulic calculations for culvert installation	Murrysville
John Rohrbacher	Homeowner	Sized rock riprap for streambank repair	Hempfield Township
Wayne Koelsch	Farmer	Verified culvert size	Penn. Township
	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Greensburg Bypass	Discussed stormwater management requirements	New Stanton Hempfield Township Salem Township
Bill Franklin	Westmoreland City Volunteer Fire Department	Calculated stream flows and sized flood walls	Westmoreland City
Fred Gosnell	Developer	Explained stormwater management concepts and calculations	North Huntingdon Township
Ron & Jim Stachoni	Blue Ridge/Agosthoni Mushroom Farms	Designed outlet pipes for stormwater runoff treatment ponds	Derry Township
Joe Batis	Herminie Lions Club	Surveyed and designed pond repair work	Sewickley Township
Mary Gault	Smithton Borough Council	Provided recommendations to correct a flooding problem	Smithton
Walter Gladkowski	West Point Plaza	Discussed stormwater control options	Hempfield Township
	Westmoreland County Commissioners	Reviewed Turtle Creek Stormwater Management Study progress reports	Various Municipalities located within the Turtle Creek watershed



Progress Update on Turtle Creek Study

In 1989, activity continued on the Turtle Creek Watershed Study which was mandated by state law. The determination of stormwater detention requirements by use of a computer model of the watershed was the year's major accomplishment. The model showed

where flooding was a problem and gave the consultant, John Maslanik of The Chester Engineers, a basis for the detention requirements. Maslanik used model results to define areas in Murrysville, Penn Township, North Huntingdon, and other municipalities

where developers must hold back stormwater from their property. The next steps for the study will be to complete the final version of the plan, create municipal ordinances to enforce it, and have it approved by DER.

Leaf Composting

In an effort to assist with recycling programs at the local level, the Westmoreland Conservation District formed a Compost Recycling Committee (CRC) in 1988. Since then, the CRC has met about once a month to gather information, explore alternatives, and make recommendations relative to leaf composting.

During 1989, the CRC completed an in-depth report on leaf composting. The report will be made available to the Westmoreland County Department of Planning for consideration in the revision of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan.

Leaf Composting Recommendation Report Summary

The report identified four alternative methods of recycling leaf waste. They are backyard, agricultural, municipal, and commercial leaf composting.

Potential markets for a compost product include lawn maintenance companies, contract landscapers, nursery operations, farmers, organic

vegetable growers, topsoil suppliers, home gardeners, and the general public.

The report also provided specific recommendations for implementing a leaf composting program, proposed agency involvement, and included a sample of the District's leaf supply/compost demand data base.

CRC Composition:

Ann Saxman, Landscape Designer and WCD Associate Director
 Alex Smith, District Director, WCD
 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, Landscape Contractor, Murrysville
 Robert West, Landscape Contractor, Latrobe
 Barbara Burtik, Legislative Aid, Representative Allen Kukovich
 Gen Berlin, Owner, Tri-Valley Refuse
 Greg Phillips, District Manager, WCD
 Lincoln Steff, Administrative Secretary, WCD
 Dianne Walters, District Director, WCD
 Kelly Sofaly, Turtle Creek Watershed Association

RECLAMATION EFFORTS INCREASE

Abandoned Mine Reclamation

In 1989, 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** utilizes bond forfeiture money and allocations from the Pennsylvania General Fund to reclaim hazardous abandoned mine sites. The **Abandoned Mine Land Program** uses funds collected through SMCRA. Both programs are administered by the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

The **Landowner Reclamation Program** 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.



WPCAMR

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. Greg Phillips, District Manager, served as the secretary for the coalition during 1989.

1989 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.

A LONG STANDING RELATIONSHIP



Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Annual Report

In 1989, the majority of the work performed by the SCS in Westmoreland County related to conservation planning for the Food Security Act (FSA). During the year, SCS completed and certified nearly 15,000 acres of conservation plans for FSA. Since 1986, about 35,000 acres of an expected 40,000 have been planned and certified.

The next major step in the FSA process is the application of conservation practices on the land. SCS has already made significant progress in that respect. During 1989, the Greensburg Field Office marked out and assisted with the application of 1,481 acres of contour stripcropping systems. These strips are the easiest way for most farmers to comp-

ly with FSA provisions. In addition, SCS responded to 150 referrals for technical assistance that involved spring developments, grassed waterways, and similar on-farm conservation practices.

The Westmoreland Conservation District promotes the development of conservation plans and the establishment of practices to protect the soil,

water and related resources. SCS works through the District to provide conservation planning assistance and other valuable technical services to farmers and land users upon request.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Although there were no construction dollars available through RC&D in 1989, a lake construction project was completed in mid-September at Northmoreland Park. The project was an excellent example of inter-governmental cooperation. Westmoreland County funded 100% of the construction costs, while SCS provided design, inspection and administration services. Once operational, Northmoreland Lake will become the only public trout fishing facility in the Northwestern part of Westmoreland County.

A similar cooperative effort between SCS and the Municipality of Murrysville resulted in the installation of a rock-lined channel at the Murrysville Fire Department. The protected channel served to stabilize a long-standing erosion problem. SCS provided technical assistance and Murrysville funded the project.

Rural Abandoned Mine Program

A 12 acre abandoned mine site in Murrysville was reclaimed through the Rural Abandoned Mine Program. In addition, several sites were inventoried and planned to expedite reclamation during 1990 and 1991.



The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

ASCS, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers farm commodity, conservation, environmental protection and emergency programs. ASCS goals include stabilization of the nation's agricultural economy, conservation of farm resources and protection of food and feed reserves.

ASCS's Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) provides cost-share assistance to producers who want to control erosion through practices such as strip cropping, cover seeding, control of water runoff, use of conservation tillage methods and other means.

Under provisions of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), begun in 1986, producers submit bids they are willing to receive to retire highly erodible land from production for a period of ten years.

Other conservation programs include the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), for catastrophic damage to farmland; the Forest Incentive Program (FIP), to assist in the establishment of forest cover; and the Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP).

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 1990:

Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program

- Increase number of site inspections
- Encourage selected municipalities to sign the District's Municipal Memorandum of Understanding (Hempfield Township, Derry Township, Unity Township, Ligonier Township, and Mt. Pleasant Township)
- Meet with selective municipalities to discuss the Municipal Memorandum of Understanding
- Complete publication for the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual
- Conduct an erosion control seminar for the oil and gas well drilling/transmission industry

Stormwater Management Program

- Maintain level of plan reviews, inspections, complaint investigations, and technical assistance
- Coordinate a Penn State University sod study
- Finish the Turtle Creek Stormwater Management Study
- Initiate a Slate Run Stormwater Management Study
- Conduct a stormwater management seminar/tour for municipalities and developers in the Turtle Creek watershed

Abandoned Mine Reclamation

- Continue to participate in the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Publicize and support the Rural Abandoned Mine Program
- Contract to start the fourth Landowner Reclamation Program site
- Publicize the Landowner Reclamation Program

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

Computers

- Enter into the Soil Conservation Service cooperative agreement for computer purchase and maintenance
- Acquire Geographic Information System (GIS) software
- Sponsor a GIS seminar
- Update contact database

Conservation Education

- Design and utilize a sponsor's page for the "Landmarks" newsletter
- Assist Tom Keller with the development of a slide show depicting the history of conservation in Westmoreland County
- Assist the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts with the development of a resource conservation magazine
- Organize an informational meeting to address the issues of land application of septic sludge
- Sponsor the 1990 Envirothon at Mammoth County Park
- Utilize Tom Benevento's artwork for a conservation education subject
- Develop a brochure that described District programs

Compost Recycling Program

- Utilize a student intern to assist the District's Compost Recycling Committee (CRC)
- Present the CRC policy paper to representatives of the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and the solid waste management consultants
- Assist the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service with recycling newspaper for livestock bedding
- Produce and distribute a recycling directory
- Produce and distribute a follow-up to the backyard compost flyer
- Host an organizational meeting to introduce leaf supply (municipalities) to demand (landscapers, etc.)
- Begin to train individuals to serve as "neighborhood composting experts"

Ag/Environmental Service Center

- Seek support for the construction of a facility to serve the agricultural and environmental information needs of the citizens of Westmoreland County

Gypsy Moth

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

Miscellaneous

- Distribute donated seedlings to selected conservation organizations

THANK YOU



We would like to extend a special "Thank You" to everyone who made it possible for us to meet our objectives in 1989. 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

Penn State University

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

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
834-3950

Department of Parks & Recreation

Anthony Miele, Director
RD 12, Box 203, Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601
830-3950

Department of Planning

Larry Larese, Director
601 Courthouse Square
Greensburg, PA 15601
830-3600

Loyalhanna Watershed Association

Lysle Sherwin, Executive Director
PO Box 561
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 Elsiminger, Oil & Gas Inspector
RD 2, Box 435
Monongahela, PA 15063
258-7914

Bureau of Surface Mining
James Brahosky, District Mining Manager
Armbrust Professional Building
RD 2, Box 603-C
Greensburg, PA 15061
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 State Park
Keystone State Park, Michael Bucheit **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
Dave Root, Water Quality Specialist
Armbrust Professional Building
RD 2, Box 603-C
Greensburg, PA 15601
832-5543

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, Civil Engineer, Manager
RD 1, Box 120-A, 428 Rt. 30
Clinton, PA 15026
899-2377

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
C. H. Myers, District Engineer
122 South Center Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931
(814) 472-9666

State Conservation Commission
Paul. O. Swartz, Executive Secretary
One Ararat Building, 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 Manager
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

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Stabilization
and Conservation Service
John Lohr, County Executive 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
Lt. Col. William Roudabush, Commander-Colonel
Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
644-6800

United States Department of the Interior

Geological Survey
Water Resources Division
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) 533-4223

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.



Left to Right: Gregory M. Phillips, District Manager; Anthony P. Quadro, Environmental Control Officer; Lincoln Steff, Administrative Secretary; Kelly Sofaly, Executive Director - Turtle Creek Watershed Association; Kathy Fritz, Secretary; James W. Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer.

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.

lumber and veneer and the associated economies, and a potential reduction in acorn consuming animals.

So, the decision to spray, or scrape, or smash, or do nothing is not an easy one and it should be made with the factors of ecology, economics, and environmental and human impact in mind. But, by using the integrated pest management system, we can make a decision and, a decision we must make! ■

Numbers

by Wes Gordon

Each year, the Pennsylvania Agriculture Statistics Service publishes a Statistical Summary of Agriculture. A copy of this publication recently arrived in the SCS office as it does every year. Unless you are a statistician it is not the type of publication that you sit down and read page by page. There are 85 pages just chocked full of numbers that have everything to do with agriculture in Pennsylvania. For instance, there are: numbers of cows, number of acres of corn planted, numbers of eggs produced, numbers of snapped beans processed, value of products, etc., etc., etc.

Let's look at a few of these numbers. It is no surprise that the dairy industry is big business in Pennsylvania. Our dairy farmers produced 10.2 billion pounds of milk in 1988 making this state the fifth largest milk producer. Right in front of us are: (#1) Wisconsin, (#2) California, (#3) New York, (#4) Minnesota. And good things happen to our milk. For example, Pennsylvania produced 87 million gallons of ice cream, second nationally only to California (they produced over 100 million gallons).

There are a total of 55,000 farms in Pennsylvania, an estimated 13,700 of which are commercial dairy farms. At the beginning of 1989, there were 1.9 million cattle, 970,000 hogs, 134,000 sheep on our farms. What a feed bill! To help feed these animals, farmers grew about 1.5 million acres of corn, 1/3 of which goes into all those silos (5.5 million tons of corn silage). That is enough corn silage to rank Pennsylvania third in the nation. The largest acreage crop in this state is hay (all types), amounting to over 2 million acres, tenth highest in the nation.

Pennsylvania ranks first among all states in only one crop and that is _____ well you guess and I will tell you later.

Toward the back of the Statistical Summary is a section that I found interesting. It is "Record Highs and Lows in Pennsylvania Agriculture". It was here that I discovered that records for potato harvest have been kept since 1866. Only 20,500 acres of potatoes were harvested in 1988, an all-time low as opposed to the all-time high of 308,000 acres in 1917. But wait, the highest yield was 26,000 pounds per acre in 1985 compared to the low of 3,800 pounds per acre in 1876. It is a remarkable tribute to the agricultural industry that yield increases over time have been dramatic for all crops. Like corn,

from a low of 22 bushels per acre in 1930 to a high of 110 per acre in 1985. Or oats from 17.5 bushels per acre in 1890 to 70 per acre in 1985. Speaking of oats, our neighboring county to the east, Somerset, leads all counties in production of oats. Westmoreland is sixth on the list.

It is also fun to look at one commodity or one crop and note the trends. Take sheep for example: In 1867, this state had nearly 3 million sheep. In 1984, the number of sheep was down to only 88,000. Interestingly, there was 22% increase in sheep numbers between 1988 and 1989. In January of 1989, the highest sheep inventory (134,000) was recorded since 1974. Greene County leads the state in sheep numbers.

Back to snap beans for a second, Pennsylvania produced nearly 12,000 tons of them for processing in 1988! (and that was lower due to the drought).

And how did you do on my quiz question? The answer is Pennsylvania led all states in mushroom production. In fact, Pennsylvania mushrooms account for 45% of the total of the United States' production. In addition, our state's mushrooms accounted for 39% of the nations' fresh market and 61% of the processed sales.

This was a quick look at some of these 85 pages of numbers. If you are interested in more details, the Statistical Summary is available from:

PA Agricultural Statistical Service
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone 717-787-3904

Naturally DELICIOUS

by Lincoln Stefl

Shrimp Salad

Submitted by Ann Rudd Saxman

- 1 lb. shrimp (raw / medium size)
- 1 Cup celery, chopped into 1/4" pieces
- 1 Cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 Cup orange, cut into 1/2" pieces, (removed from skin)
- 1/2 Cup orange, cut into 1/2" pieces, for garnish
- Salt & Pepper

Into large pot of boiling water, drop the shrimp all at once. Cook 3-4 minutes. Let cool in cooking water. Drain, peel, devein, and cut in half. Add celery and mayonnaise to shrimp. Salt & Pepper to taste. Mix well and serve on a bed of chopped lettuce. Garnish with orange pieces. Serve with biscuits.

Note: When in season, use tomatoes in place of oranges.

Happy Day

Submitted by Lincoln Stefl

*A pleasant smile and a happy face
Make the world a brighter place
Live with zest, love and style
And always wear a happy smile
and may this poem in its own way
help you have a "HAPPY DAY"*

Published by

Westmoreland Conservation District

932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: 412-837-5271

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District Conservationist

JOE OBENSKI
Soil Technician

LARRY STOKUM
Soil Technician

Westmoreland County Recycling Collection Points

by Kathleen Fritz

Greensburg

Daniels & Miller
242 North Hamilton Avenue
All metal (no tin cans or glass)
Monday through Friday from
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Phone: 834-1500

Hempfield Township

Greensburg Waste Paper Company
Fosterville Road
Cardboard, computer paper, and stationery
Monday through Friday from
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday by appointment
Phone: 836-7676

Keystone Cullet
off Willow Crossing Road
Aluminum cans, glass bottles, jars,
window panes
Monday through Friday from
9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Phone: 837-5100
Soon to add an additional collection center
in the Latrobe area

Greensburg Beverage Company Inc.
Roseytown Road
Aluminum Cans
Wednesday and Saturday from
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Phone: 837-3550

Westmoreland Recycling Industry Inc.
Old Route 119 and Fosterville Road just
north of Youngwood
Glass, aluminum cans, corrugated card-
board, computer paper, white ledger
paper, colored paper, metal, and certain
types of plastic bottles
Monday through Friday from
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Phone: 834-1634

Stanko/Dens-a-can International
On the Donohoe Road by WABCO
All types of aluminum, copper, brass,
and glass
Monday through Friday from
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 noon
Phone: 834-8080

Latrobe

Lattanzio
622 Miller Street
Aluminum cans, cast and scrap iron,
copper, brass, aluminum siding, and
all metal
Monday through Friday from
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Evenings by appointment
(Same hours apply at their Derry Township
location, off Route 981)
Phone: 537-4941 & 537-3471

Ligonier

Loyalhanna Watershed Association
National Guard Armory on West Main St.
Aluminum cans, tin, plastic screwtop
bottles (no oil bottles), and glass bottles
One Saturday each month from 9 a.m.
to 12 noon. (Check the Ligonier Echo
for exact date)
Phone: 238-7560

Scottdale

Yelinek & Sons
R.D. 1, Scottdale
Aluminum, tin, plastic jugs, cardboard,
and glass
Monday through Friday from
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon
Phone: 887-4030

If you know of additional recycling collection
points in Westmoreland County that are not on
this list, please call 837-5271 or write Kathy
Fritz, Westmoreland Conservation District,
932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East, Greensburg,
PA 15601

CLIP AND SAVE ✂

A Call For Entries . . .

Youth Poster Competition Features Recycling Theme

The Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival
invites young artists ages 3 - 18 to participate
in the 1990 Young People's Poster Competition.
This year's theme is, "Think About
Our Environment. Recycle Now!" The Festi-
val will take place July 5 - 8 at Twin Lakes
County Park near Greensburg. It's one of the
most outstanding arts & humanities celebra-
tions in the U.S.A. featuring unique crafts,

ethnic foods and non-stop entertainment.

A total of \$350 in awards will be presented
in the Young People's Poster Competition.
Please call Ann Klink at 527-5208 or Celilia
Morreo at 832-1770 for a set of competition
rules and more information. The deadline for
entries is April 30th, 1990.



Westmoreland
Conservation
District

932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East
Greensburg, PA 15601

Address Correction Requested

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