

A GREENER FUTURE

First Tenants Move Into GreenForge



Rural Development was the first tenant to move into GreenForge.

The agency's new second floor, 1,900-square-foot office allows it to better manage its growing number of programs, which range from helping communities create jobs to maintaining utility infrastructure.

(l-r): Rural Development staff Karen Kuhns, Cindy Dietz, and Mark Protch in their new office.



After years of standing empty, GreenForge – a former business-incubator building along the Donohoe Road in Greensburg – became a vital part of the community again in the past few months, as its first new tenants moved in.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development organization and the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation were the first two groups to move into GreenForge – and the event was a major milestone in a two-year-long effort by the Westmoreland Conservation District and its partners to transform this nondescript, 1980s-era cinderblock building into distinctive, contemporary office space and a model of green-building rehabilitation.

GreenForge is believed to be the first green rehabilitation of a commercial building in Westmoreland County.

The building's transformation has included a striking new roof line featuring a two-story glass archway, a coat of lively yellow paint, and host of conservation practices and materials inside and out – from a geothermal heating system to a roof covered with live plants...from energy-efficient windows to native landscaping.

Demonstrating and encouraging green building

"GreenForge is conservation-in-action – a real building, in use every business day, where people can come and see how these conservation measures stack up...how effective they are at saving energy, reducing the building's operational impact on the air and water, and saving money," explained Greg Phillips, manager and CEO of the Westmoreland Conservation District.

"We want to share the expertise we gain in rehabilitating and operating GreenForge, and we hope it will encourage more people to create more green and conservation-friendly houses, shops, and businesses all over Westmoreland County."

The District offered tours of the building and featured its conservation practices in a "Sustainable Energy

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New Hope for Cleaning Up Abandoned Coal Mine Damage

More than one billion dollars is slated to come to Pennsylvania to help clean up the pollution, safety hazards, and other damaging legacies left in our communities by abandoned coal mine operations.

"This is a monumental achievement," said Bruce Golden, regional coordinator of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, one of the key groups, along with the Westmoreland Conservation District, that has been lobbying hard for the past several years to receive this funding.

The money – collected from fees imposed on current coal-mining operations – will be allocated over a period of 15 years. It will be drawn from a trust fund that the federal government created in 1977 when it passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Although some money from the fund has been coming to Pennsylvania all along, the amounts were well below the levels our state was entitled to under the terms of the Act. Also, for the past few years, the regularity of the allocations appeared to be in jeopardy, and they were being renewed only on a short-term, one-year basis.

"We don't yet know exactly how much of the money can go toward on-the-ground remediation projects... or what the mix of projects might be," Bruce explained. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has planned a series of forums around the state to gather input from various stakeholders – including the



Bruce Golden, regional coordinator, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (l) and Greg Phillips, Westmoreland Conservation District manager/CEO (center) discuss critical abandoned mine reclamation funding issues with former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum during the Senator's visit to the District in September 2004.

public – about how to best manage this funding.

Editor's note: Many people have worked for years to encourage the government to make this full funding allocation to Pennsylvania – watershed groups, conservation districts, environmental agencies, and concerned citizens from all walks of life.

One of those people is Bruce Golden. Bruce has done many things for this effort, the most recent of which was creating a comprehensive spread sheet, showing in great detail where the money would come from and how it would be distributed. John Daves, administrator of the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program, recently credited Bruce's work as the catalyst that made the allocation happen now. "What Bruce did was provide all the research and interpretation that each legislator normally would have had his or her staff do. This saved an enormous amount of time and helped speed the decision through. All Pennsylvanians will benefit from his efforts."

In Westmoreland County, about 1 out of every 10 streams is impaired with mine drainage. More than 100 coal-refuse piles loom over the landscape.



Find the Keys...

by Joanne Kitsko

Any business day, you can visit our office on the Donohoe Road. We have a Resource Library of information, racks of informative brochures and fact sheets, and expert conservation staff who are available by appointment to assist you.

But before you consider driving to our facility, you have to locate the vehicle keys hidden somewhere in this issue of Landmarks. The 3rd, 12th, and 18th callers to Joanne at 724-837-5271 who correctly identify the whereabouts

of the set of keys will be the lucky winners of a prize! Good luck to all!

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

The three winners of our "Find the Keys" contest in the Fall 2006 issue of Landmarks are: caller #4, Betty Carr of New Alexandria; caller #10, Dorothy Shafron of Latrobe; and caller #16, Ralph Ofchinick of Harrison City. Congratulations!

Annual Banquet Attracts Record Numbers

If you were one of the record 250 people who joined us at Greensburg Country Club last November 17, you were treated to an outstanding evening of fresh, delicious local food... good hearty laughs...and well-deserved tributes to some of the men and women who are leading the way in regional conservation efforts.

Honored that evening were:

- Adam Battistella – Conservation Farmer of the Year
- Ann Rudd Saxman (posthumously) – Conservation Hall of Honor
- Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County – Sustainable Community Partner
- Rostraver Township – Municipal Conservation Partner
- Murrysville Parks Volunteers – Conservation Volunteer



Jayme and Adam Battistella

Adam Battistella Conservation Farmer of the Year

Adam Battistella's 151-acre Hempfield Township farm is one of only a few in all of Westmoreland County that practices intensive rotational grazing. His use of this conservation practice improves the animals' health, saves on feed costs, and produces more product than traditional approaches. It also has tremendous positive benefits for the community.

Adam's practice of intensive rotational grazing – along with his efforts to rebuild and reseed the banks of the streams that meander through his property, and to install 2,500 feet of grassed waterways – have reduced soil erosion

and nutrient-loading, and improved water quality for thousands of citizens throughout the larger Loyalhanna Watershed.

Adam voluntarily developed a nutrient management plan for his farm and he also has a conservation plan. His farm is one of 56 that are preserved in Westmoreland County under the Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation Hall of Honor

Ann Rudd Saxman was one of our county's conservation pioneers. In 1960, she was already thinking about preserving open space and took it on herself to convince the Westmoreland



Ann Rudd Saxman's daughters, (l-r) Eleanore Pearson and Alice Meadow

County commissioners to set aside a large tract of undeveloped land for a nature park. Today, that land is a quiet haven in the center of one of the county's busiest commercial developments...63 acres of meadow and mature

forest tucked between US Route 30 and the Donohoe Road in Greensburg.

Decades ago, Ann also was a determined advocate for municipal composting and conservation education – both of which are in full bloom in our county today, due in large part to her efforts.

She shared her passion for the natural world with the hundreds of local citizens she touched through her many activities, which included service as an associate director of the Westmoreland Conservation District, a volunteer landscape coordinator at Fallingwater, and a teacher at Westmoreland County Community College.



The Smart Growth Partnership (l-r) Beverly Poole, office coordinator; Carolyn Royse, grant/proposal writer; Alex Graziani, executive director; Dr. Frank Cassell, advisory board chair

Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County Sustainable Community Partner

The Smart Growth Partnership celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2006, and in the few years of its existence, it has made tremendous inroads in helping

continued on page 4

*Annual Banquet Attracts Record Numbers
continued from page 3*

our county and many individual Westmoreland County communities actively plan for their future – insuring that they become the kind of places their citizens want to live, work, and play in.

Hempfield Township, Greensburg, South Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, Irwin, Latrobe, Donegal, Avonmore, and Rostraver Township are just some of the communities that have joined with the Smart Growth Partnership to develop a plan to insure or improve their community quality-of-life. Smart Growth also played an important role in helping Westmoreland County create its first-ever countywide comprehensive plan and now is working on some of the goals that plan identified – including developing a master plan for one of the county’s major east-west highways, US Route 30.



Nick Lorenzo, chair of the Rostraver Township Supervisors

**Rostraver Township
Municipal Conservation Partner**

Rostraver Township has initiated some very leading-edge conservation practices within its 32 square miles, and this is especially important because, like other areas in our county, this township is seeing increased pressure from commercial and residential development.

Rostraver is the first municipal government in Westmoreland County to have an ordinance that encourages low-impact approaches – such as infiltration trenches – as a way to manage stormwater. It also is very progressive when it comes to controlling erosion, with one of its most recent ordinances setting maximum slope tolerances and toe-of-slope setback requirements on development sites. And Rostraver is the first township in Pennsylvania to replace its planning commission with a planning agency that consists of

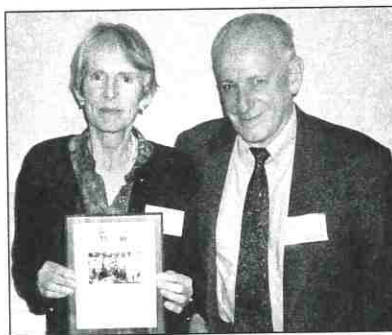


Comedian Jay Hendren promoted laughter after the meal with his down-home humor.



District Associate Director Ted Kopas served as master of ceremonies for the evening.

the township planner, zoning officer, and engineer – an arrangement that has been extremely effective in gaining compliance with its conservation ordinances from those who have some of the most-direct impact on the natural resources in this township.



(l-r) Pia van de Venne, volunteer coordinator, Murrysville Parks Volunteers, with volunteer Mount Fitzpatrick

**Murrysville Parks Volunteers
Conservation Volunteer**

Since 1999, the Murrysville Parks Volunteers has been doing a yeoman’s job of not only making Murrysville’s seven public parks more enjoyable places to be...but also of protecting the natural resources and native plants found there.

This group of more than 50 volunteers have spent more than 4,500

hours eradicating invasive plant species, making repairs and installing waterbars to reduce erosion on the various hiking trails, stabilizing streambanks to reduce erosion and improve water quality, and using local seed sources to reintroduce native species in areas where there has been a trial cut or other earth-disturbance.

The bike trail in Duff Park is a prime example of this group’s work. They successfully eradicated the invasive garlic mustard as well as the Japanese knotweed that was so tall and aggressive there that it actually prevented people from using parts of the trail.

The organizations that served as sponsors

These firms and organizations provided financial support for the event

Antonacci Design Associates, Inc.

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C.B. Speicher Engineering, LLC

KAG Engineering, Inc.

Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA)

Tri-County Engineering, LLC

The evening's menu

Prime Salad with
Champagne Vinaigrette

Dinner Rolls with Butter

Chef-carved Western Aged Prime House Rounds,
Sicilian Chicken, Kielbasa with Homemade Sauerkraut

Red-skinned Basil Mashed Potatoes,
Harvard Beets, Beans Carbonera

Dutch Apple Pie with French Vanilla Ice Cream
with Cinnamon Swirl

Chocolate and White Milk;
Fresh-brewed Coffee and Tea; Ice Tea

The local producers who made it possible

*These local growers and producers provided the
food products featured in the meal*

Bardine's Country

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condiments

Friendship Farms

Lycippus

dinner rolls, bread chips

Hearts Content Farm

New Alexandria

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grain-fed chicken*

Heinnickel Farms

Greensburg

Angus beef

Hillandale Farms*

New Kensington

cheese, eggs, butter

Hutter's Dairy

Kecksburg

milk, ice tea

Kerber's Dairy*

North Huntingdon

ice cream

Salsa Sisters

Latrobe

salsa dips

Sand Hill Berries

Mount Pleasant

pies

Schramm Farms & Orchards

Harrison City

produce

Stone Villa Wine Cellars

Acme

wine (table centerpiece prize)

Dorothy Stoner & family*

Latrobe

sauerkraut

Wendel Springs Farm

Herminie

cabbage

* These producers provided their products at no cost for this event.

2007: No banquet.

But soon, we hope, a major celebration!

The annual banquet has been a tradition of the Westmoreland Conservation District for three decades. Hundreds of people attend each year, and it's always a great time. So making the decision to postpone it for a year wasn't an easy thing to do.

"Our Board of Directors decided to forego the banquet in 2007 because of the enormous amount of staff time, money, and energy that we are investing in the GreenForge project (see pages 1, 8-9)," explained Greg Phillips, district manager/CEO. "The GreenForge project is about twice as big in every aspect – from its size and how much it costs, to the number of District staff that are involved – as the project we undertook several years ago when we created our current headquarters from a Westmoreland County bank barn."

Making this current commitment even greater is the fact that GreenForge is on a fast track to completion.

"Because District staff were the only people who were going to work in the barn, we decided to move in before the building was totally finished, and we've been gradually completing it – finishing areas like the loft library and my office – over a period of years, as we raised additional money," Greg said. "Unfortunately, GreenForge isn't like that. In this case, it's important that all of the space in that building – all 23,000 square feet of it – be finished as soon as possible, because only then can it be rented out to other agencies, and only after it's rented out for a period of time can it begin to generate some modest income to help fund our conservation programs (see page 9)."

This combination of factors has put the District in a current financial crunch, making it necessary to forego many of the activities it has supported in the past – from sponsoring Christmas tree recycling through Westmoreland Cleanways to postponing the annual banquet. "I'm confident that this is a short-term situation," Greg said, "and that if we make some sacrifices now, we will realize benefits in

the not-too-distant future when GreenForge is up and running and paid for. When that happens, I guarantee that we'll have a BIG celebration – something even bigger and better than any of our annual banquets – and everyone will be invited."

The District is relying on donations to help it raise the remaining \$1.2 million it needs to complete the GreenForge project (see page 9).





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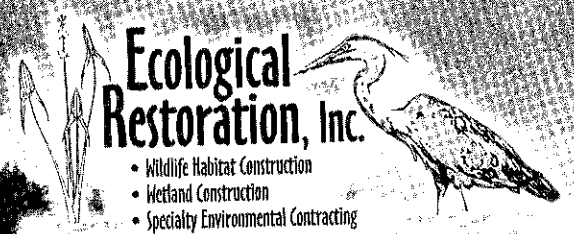
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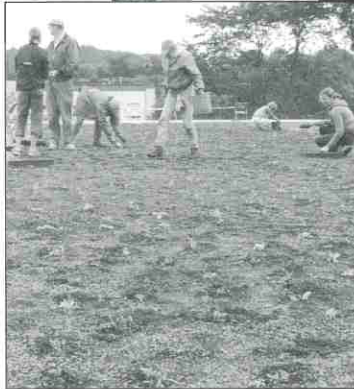
Sustainable Energy Field Day

More than 300 people came to our conservation campus during the first-ever "Sustainable Energy Field Day" last October.

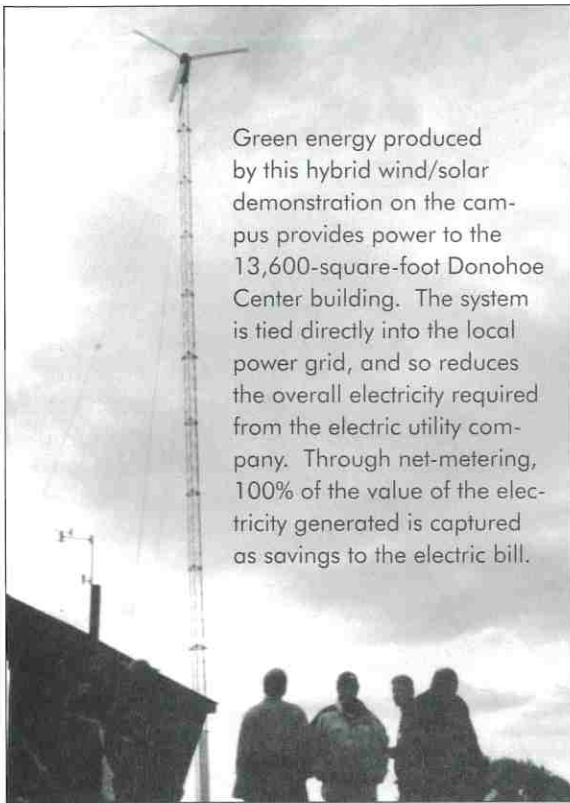
They saw demonstrations, participated in discussions, and gathered information on alternative energy topics that ranged from energy efficient lighting to wind and solar power.

Green building practices, which also can directly reduce the overall amount of energy a building or home uses, also were highlighted during the day-long event.

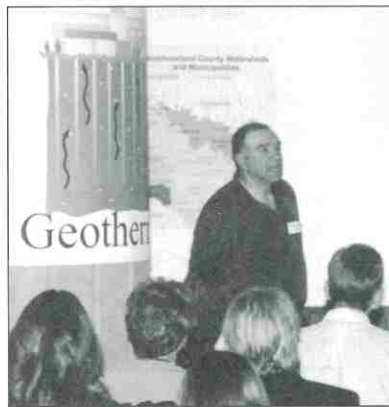
Vendors representing radiant floor heat, structural insulated panels, recovered iron oxide, and recycled tires were on hand throughout the day.



GreenForge's unfinished atrium was the perfect vantage point for discussions of green roof technology, a natural way to moderate building temperature, reduce stormwater runoff, enhance air quality, insulate sound, and improve aesthetics. The 6,000 living plants on GreenForge's two flat roofs were planted last fall and should begin to be a noticeable mat of color during the 2007 growing season.



Green energy produced by this hybrid wind/solar demonstration on the campus provides power to the 13,600-square-foot Donohoe Center building. The system is tied directly into the local power grid, and so reduces the overall electricity required from the electric utility company. Through net-metering, 100% of the value of the electricity generated is captured as savings to the electric bill.



Dennis Deverse, a local supplier of geothermal systems, was one of the event's expert speakers. Others included: Jörg Breuning, Green Roof Service; Ryan Snow, Green Building Alliance; Gary Sheppard, Penn State Cooperative Extension; Maggie Hall, PA Department of Environmental Protection; and Bernard Linn, US Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Visitors could take energy-saving action right at the Field Day event by signing up for the Energy Star® "Change a Light, Change the World" program. Participants used the Internet to pledge to replace at least one light in their home with an Energy Star®-qualified one. The



Alliance to Save Energy says that doing this with just one light is as good for the environment as not driving a car for more than two weeks! The Energy Star® campaign was sponsored at the event by the Southwest Regional Office of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Sponsors for the "Sustainable Energy Field Day"

Westmoreland Conservation District

Penn State Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland County

US Department of Agriculture Rural Development

GreenForge, Inc.

PA Department of Environmental Protection

Office of Energy Technology Deployment

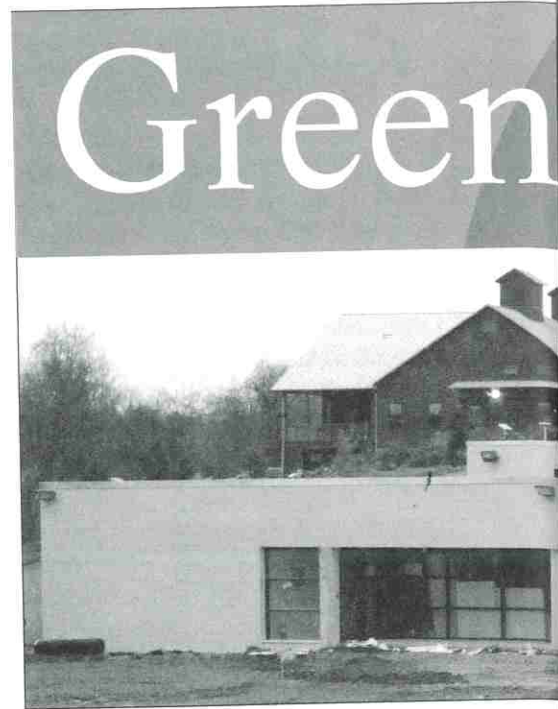
West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund

The event was partially funded by an environmental education grant from DEP.

GreenForge also is bringing other agencies to the campus, such as the organization Outside In. Although this agency doesn't work directly with natural resources, it does work with young people, and provides them with a variety of positive experiences including activities in which they learn firsthand the value of natural resources such as forests, streams, and open space. We are hoping to encourage an even greater appreciation and understanding of conservation in these young people once they are part of our campus.



At their new office GreenForge office space Outside In staff members (l-r) Cassie Moorhead, clinical supervisor, and Sherri Dowden, counselor, are at work unpacking.



First Tenants Move Into GreenForge continued from page 1

Field Day" last October. Additional workshops and classes will be offered, including: a workshop on energy-efficiency for municipal officials, and a "Conservation 101" workshop for teachers (see Education News on page 10 and the article on "Sustainable Energy Field Day" on page 7).

Enhancing conservation in the community

GreenForge also is attracting new conservation-minded groups – like Westmoreland Cleanways, which moved in in February – to take up residence on this campus on Donohoe Road in Greensburg, which already is home to Donohoe Center (offices of the USDA's Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area; Penn State Cooperative Extension Service; and Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Program), the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters, and the offices of the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Department. All of these agencies are located within a five-minute-or-less walk of each other.

"Sharing a walkable "conservation campus" increases the opportunity for collaboration among these groups," Greg said, "and the more we share

resources, combine efforts, and partner on projects, the greater the ultimate benefits each of our agencies will be able to provide to the community."

Space still available

GreenForge still has more than 2,000 square feet of space available for rent, and although conservation-related organizations are the preferred tenants, any organization interested in rental space is encouraged to contact Greg Phillips at the Conservation District (724-837-5271). "This is a very large

building, and we recognize that we may not be able to initially fill it solely with conservation organizations," Greg said. In fact, the building took on a fourth tenant in late February, an organization called Outside In, that helps troubled teenagers acquire new skills and positive attitudes so they can live life to the fullest.

Rental costs for the remaining space in GreenForge begin at \$13 per square foot, and include all utilities except telephone and computer access. Lease contracts are available for up to five years, with an option to renew.

New Contact Information for Agencies in GreenForge

USDA Rural Development

New mailing address: 226 Donohoe Road, Suite 201, Greensburg, PA 15601. Telephone numbers and email addresses are unchanged.

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

New mailing address: 226 Donohoe Road, Suite 110, Greensburg, PA 15601. New telephone/fax number: 724-832-3625. Email addresses are unchanged.

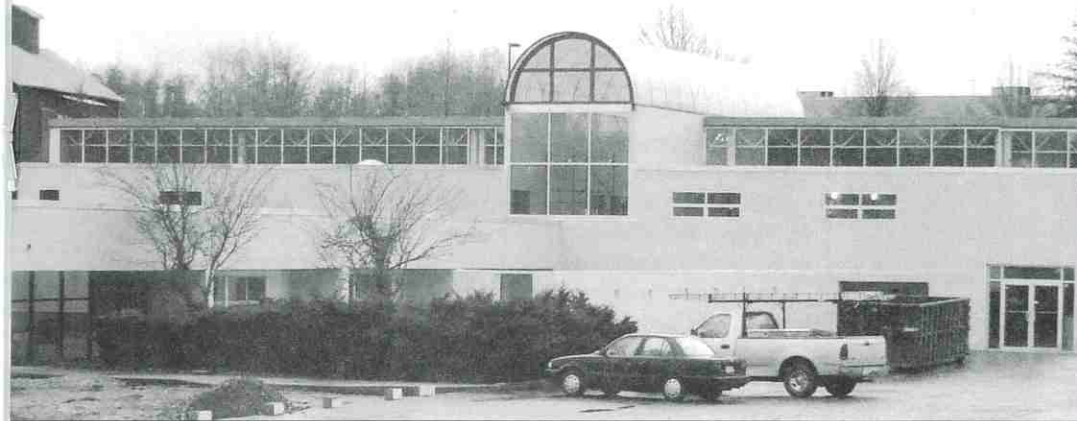
Westmoreland Cleanways

New mailing address: 226 Donohoe Road, Suite 101, Greensburg, PA 15601. Telephone numbers and email addresses are unchanged.

Outside In

New mailing address: 226 Donohoe Road, Suite 111, Greensburg, PA 15601. Telephone numbers and email addresses are unchanged.

Forge



GREENFORGE: A way to support natural resource conservation in Westmoreland County

GreenForge can help support future conservation work in Westmoreland County.

In addition to the building's immediate benefits – encouraging more sustainable, green building practices throughout our county, and serving as an incubator for grassroots conservation organizations – the project has the long-term potential to provide a modest amount of funding for local conservation initiatives, from cleaning up pollution from abandoned coal mines to reducing stormwater runoff.

Once the GreenForge building debt is paid off, part of the building's rental proceeds will be directed to conservation projects that improve the soil, water, forests, and other natural resources in Westmoreland County.

"GreenForge is one of many steps the District is putting in place to insure the long-term health of conservation in Westmoreland County," explained Greg Phillips, district manager/CEO. "Any person who manages a household budget knows that funds are tight these days, and that sometimes you have to find ways to generate a little additional income." With GreenForge, the District hopes to do just that.

"The District relies on government allocations and the generosity of private donors for its operating funds, but these resources can go up or down with the tides of the economy," Greg said. "By investing in GreenForge, we're hoping to add another source of revenue and realize a modest but predictable amount of income for conservation each year." GreenForge will never be a major source of income for the District, but it will add a measure of stability in the amount of funds available each year to do conservation work in the county.

For the District to purchase and rehabilitate the GreenForge building, it estimates it will need a total of \$2.1 million. As with the District's barn headquarters, the organization is relying on both public and private donations to make GreenForge a reality. To-date, support has been received from a number of generous donors, who have taken the project nearly halfway in the fundraising goal.

GreenForge Donors

As of 2/6/07

Benefactor

(\$10,000 and above)

Adam Eidemiller, Inc.

Richard Glance, architect

The Growing Greener County
Environmental Initiative
(Westmoreland County)

Katherine Mabis McKenna
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Richard King Mellon Foundation

Kim Edward Miller, Wolf Lake
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GreenForge Fundraising Committee

J. Roy Houston, Ron Rohall, Kim Miller,
Greg Phillips, Karen Jurkovic.
Advisor: Bob Teeter, Teeter and Associates.

Education News

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note: Events are subject to change. Please call or email the contact person listed if you are interested in attending an event.

Conservation Bus Tour

Friday, April 13

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Board at and return to Stratigos Banquet Hall, North Huntingdon



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

Registration is required. Contact Christie at 724-837-5271 ext. 210 or christie@wcdpa.com by April 6. \$25, includes continental breakfast and lunch.

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

Conservation 101 (Teachers' Workshop - 1 Act 48 Credit)

April 23, 24, 25, 30 & May 1

5:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Westmoreland Conservation District, Greensburg

This course will cover a variety of conservation practices and issues, and will help teachers meet the Pennsylvania standards for Environment and Ecology. Teachers will learn more about conservation, which is the wise use of our shared natural resources, from professionals in the fields of agriculture, alternative energy, erosion and sediment control, forestry, stormwater management, water quality, and wildlife. Materials and lesson plans that can be used in the classroom will be provided to participants.

Online registration required. Contact the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit at <http://wiu.k12.pa.us/curr/courses.shtml>. Registration deadline: April 16. \$150.



Envirothon

Monday, May 7

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Mammoth Park,
Mount Pleasant

This academic competition helps students in grades 9-12 develop a better understanding of the environment and their role in it. Topics include: aquatics, soils, forestry, wild-

life and this year's special issue, alternative/renewable energy.

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

Pond Management Workshop

Saturday, May 19

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Derry Area High School, Derry, and a local farm

This workshop will cover pond construction, water quality concerns; maintenance; permits; plant, weed, and algae identification and control; and fisheries management. It also will include a field trip, materials, and refreshments at a morning break. This workshop is designed for anyone who either has or wishes to construct a pond on his or her property. Bryan Swistock, extension specialist from Penn State and Dana Rizzo, extension educator in water quality for the Westmoreland Conservation District and Penn State Cooperative Extension Westmoreland County, will facilitate this workshop.

Contact Penn State Cooperative Extension at 724-837-1402. Registration deadline: May 9. \$15.

On-lot Septic System Workshop

Wednesday, August 8

Penn State Cooperative Extension, Greensburg

Dr. Al Jarrett from Penn State will focus on "Why systems fail and how to keep them functioning well." The event will include informational displays from various agencies. This fast-paced, informative workshop is intended for homeowners, current or potential, that use a septic system for treatment of their household wastewater.

Contact Penn State Cooperative Extension at 724-837-1402. Registration deadline: August 1. Free.

Ag Basics

(Teachers' Workshop - 1 Act 48 Credit)

Wednesday & Friday, August 15 & 17

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This course takes teachers on field trips to schools, farms, and other sites to introduce them firsthand to agriculture – Westmoreland County's number one industry in terms of gross dollar product. The course also will discuss agri-energy – the use of food sources such as corn to produce fuel, and the larger interwoven nature of food and energy. Hands-on classroom activities round out this fun and informative learning experience. Teachers who complete the course receive a curriculum packet, lesson plans related to agriculture, and a variety of reference and resource materials. This course was written to meet Pennsylvania's academic standards for teaching about environment and ecology, and teachers earn one Act 48 credit (30 CEU hours) when they complete it.

Online registration required. Contact the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit at <http://wiu.k12.pa.us/curr/courses.shtml>. Registration deadline: August 8. \$150.



Forestry I

Tentatively scheduled for fall 2007

Westmoreland Conservation District
and Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park, Greensburg



Learn common forestry terms and basic tree identification, how to measure the amount of board feet in a tree, and how to use a forester's prism. Part of the class will be spent in the wooded Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park. Participants will leave with an understanding of forest industry

terms, basic measurement methods, and timber volume estimating. Led by forester Tony Quadro, this workshop is cosponsored by the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association.

Space is limited and registration is required. Contact Christie at 724-837-5271 ext. 210 or christie@wcdpa.com. \$10; reduced rate of \$5 for members of the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association.

Also watch for these education events –

Farm Field Day

Southwestern Pennsylvania Tillage Conference

Contractors' Workshop

Engineers' Workshop

Forestry II Workshop



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

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



Hidden In Plain View II

Next time you're in the area, be sure to visit this stop on the conservation tour featured in the District's most recent annual report.



Clean Streams & Water Resources: Water Quality

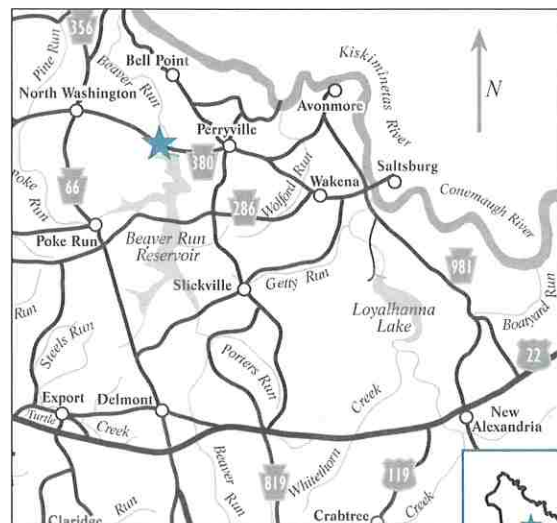
BEAVER RUN RESERVOIR

Beaver Run Reservoir is one of two major water supply sources managed by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County. Some 50,000 homes and businesses in Westmoreland County get the water they use for drinking, washing, and the many tasks of daily life from this reservoir.

Beaver Run Reservoir was constructed in 1952, and then enlarged in 1962. It has a current capacity of 11 billion gallons.

Water from Beaver Run Reservoir is treated at the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County's George R. Sweeney Treatment Plant. This plant can treat a maximum of 24 million gallons of water each day. The average daily production in 2005 was 17.9 million gallons.

Because the water in this reservoir is used primarily for human consumption, no type of recreation is permitted here. Lack of human activity in and near the water also makes this area attractive to wildlife. In 2003, the first known bald eagle nest in recent years in Westmoreland County was seen here. Two eaglets were hatched.



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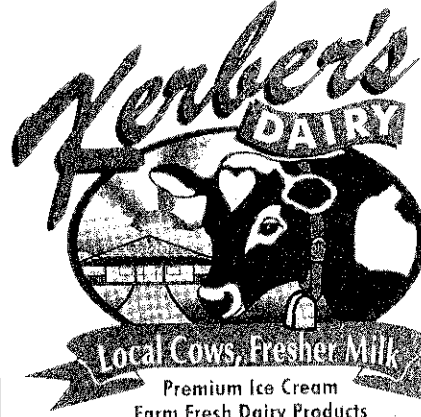
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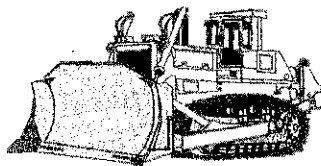
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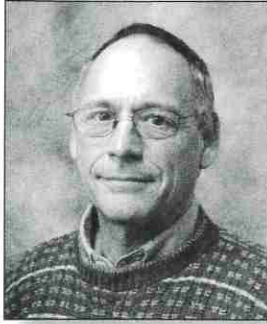
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People In The News

Recent Appointments



Fred Slezak has been named as a director of the District. He previously served as an associate director.

Fred has a cash grain farm in New Alexandria. Of the 1,200 acres he farms, nearly 100% of it is done with no- or minimum-till methods.

Fred has been working with these non-traditional approaches for a number of years, using crop rotation combinations and cover crops to see what works best. He has had great success with alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye, soybeans, corn, and buckwheat.

Fred is the manager/owner of Lone Maple Farms, and president of Lone Maple Ag Services. He also is a certified crop adviser.

A graduate of Penn State (agriculture business management), Fred is a past-president and board member of the Westmoreland County Farm Bureau; and a member of the Penn Ag Industry, the Pennsylvania Agronomic Education Society, The American Society of Agronomy, and the Loyalhanna Watershed Association.



Dana Rizzo recently was named water quality educator, a position shared by the Westmoreland Conservation District and Penn State Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland County.

In this position, Dana will offer workshops and seminars for area citizens to help them learn more about the quality of water in our area – from the quality of drinking water in local wells, to the health of our local streams. Many of the programs will include practical ways to treat, improve, and protect water quality.

Dana grew up in Westmoreland County and was aware from a very young age of the poor quality of the Loyalhanna Creek where it ran near her home. “I remember that the color of the water was orange and that there was sewage in it,” she said, adding that these early impressions were what made her want to do something to improve water quality.

Some of the programs she already has planned for the next few months include a workshop on how to manage ponds, and a workshop on how to insure proper functioning of on-lot septic systems (see page 10).

Dana has a decade of experience in conservation and education that includes work at the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education, the ClearWater Conservancy, and the University of Arizona.

She has an M.S. in Park and Resource Management & Environmental Education from Slippery Rock University, and a Bachelor of Science and professional teaching certificate in Education of Hearing Impaired & Elementary Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Transitions



District Board Member **Kim Miller** recently retired as president of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, a nonprofit organization working to regenerate the food

system in Pennsylvania and so improve the nutritional, economic and social prosperity of Pennsylvania food and agriculture.

Kim had served as president of PASA since 2000, and was a member of its board of directors since 1998.

Under his leadership, the statewide organization grew strong: membership increased from less than 1,000 to more than 4,000 today, and its signature program, the annual “Farming for the Future” conference, has built such respect that it drew 1,700 participants this year from 30 states and 4 countries.



Dorothy Stoner retired from the District board of directors in December after serving for 12 years.

Since appointed to the Board in 1995, Dorothy has generously volunteered her time and contributed her expertise to the District in many areas, including: serving on the Conservation Education Advisory Committee and helping to establish that new program’s mission statement and goals; providing guidance on the development of the District’s Employee Handbook; and serving on the planning committee for the District’s annual banquet (in 2006, she and her family also made the delicious sauerkraut we enjoyed at that event).

As a member of the Board’s Personnel and Merit Review Program committees, Dorothy also has helped to interview candidates for various District staff positions including, most recently, for the water quality educator position mentioned in this article.

Although she is retiring from active participation on the board, we are

continued on page 14

pleased that Dorothy has agreed to continue her involvement with the District and its programs, and we look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with her.



At the Westmoreland Conservation District's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 1999, Dorothy Stoner helped past Directors Frank Skacel, Sr. (l) and Gib Hutter (r) cut a special cake that she baked from scratch and decorated. Her artistic creation featured the District's 50th Anniversary logo.

Thank You, Dorothy Stoner...



Dorothy Stoner (with fellow farmers Greg Forejt and Roy Kemerer). Dorothy and her husband Dick ran a model dairy farm in Unity Township for 50 years, and Dorothy has always been a strong advocate for keeping area farming viable and showing young people that there is a future in farming. The 260-acre Stoner family farm is now being run by her son Sam, his wife Mary and their son Brett, who are carrying on the conservation tradition.



NATURALLY Delicious

By Karen Barnhart

Here's another favorite from the family cookbook, traditionally served on New Year's.

SAUERKRAUT & MEATBALLS

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup raw rice
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 8-oz cans tomato sauce
- 1 cup water
- 1 large can sauerkraut

Mix beef, rice, onion & seasoning. Form into balls. Brown in oil. Add sauce, water and sauerkraut. Cover and simmer for at least 45 minutes.

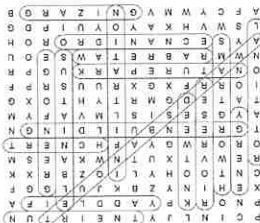
KATH Y'S KIDS KORNER

by Kathy Fritz



Find each of the words listed below which were taken from articles in this issue of Landmarks...

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|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Awards banquet | Infiltration | Rotational |
| Energy | Knotweed | Smart Growth |
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| Grazing | Nutrient | Trench |
| Green building | Ordinance | Waterbar |
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LANDMARKS

*The Official Newsletter of the
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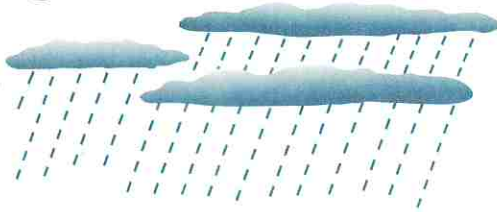
County floodplains to get a closer look

After the hurricanes and record downpours of the past few years, we've all become more keenly aware of the destruction and loss that floodwaters can cause.

One of the important steps in reducing flooding problems is to keep a certain amount of land near streams and rivers undeveloped.

About 5% of the land in our county is designated by the federal government to be in the "100-year floodplain." This means that these places are expected to get flooded during a very large storm.

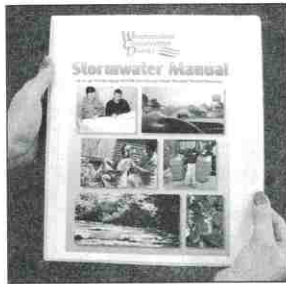
Years ago, people built houses and other buildings in these floodplains because it was convenient – the ground there is nice and flat, and the location is handy to water and transportation. But, over time, rising waters have shown that there can be a terrible price to building in these places.



During 2007, District staff members Jim Pillsbury and Chris Droste will be visiting municipalities throughout Westmoreland County to help make sure the conditions in their floodplains aren't potentially troublesome.

Under an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, District staff will review a municipality's plan for managing floodplains, and provide technical expertise and guidance as needed to help reduce losses from any future flooding that might occur in these areas.

New District Stormwater Manual Available



The first-ever comprehensive written guide to the policies and procedures that govern the District's stormwater program is now available.

The new manual also features examples of the latest "best management practices" – innovative ways to reduce

runoff and improve water quality.

Each municipality will receive one free copy of the manual. A copy also will be included as a handout at some of the District's workshops.

And we hope to soon have the manual available in a downloadable, PDF format on our website, www.wcdpa.com.

If you are not able to obtain a copy through any of these options, we will be glad to provide a printed version of the 100-plus-page manual in a convenient three-ring binder for the nominal cost of \$15 each (fee covers production and mailing costs). Please call us for more information: 724-837-5271.

District Meetings

District meetings are open to the public and held at the District's headquarters, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, on the following dates in 2007.

Wednesday, April 11, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 9, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 11, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, August 8, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, September 12, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12, 11 a.m.



Conservation Tip:

Buy from local growers and producers

You can serve your family everything from milk to lamb...organic carrots to homemade jelly...that's been made right here in Westmoreland County.

Local farmers and producers sell their goods at farm markets, on-farm stands, and in some area grocery stores.

The top three reasons buyers cited for buying local are: it's fresher...it supports the local economy...and it tastes better.*

*Information from Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture's regional Food Infrastructure Network 2006 Consumer Survey.

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