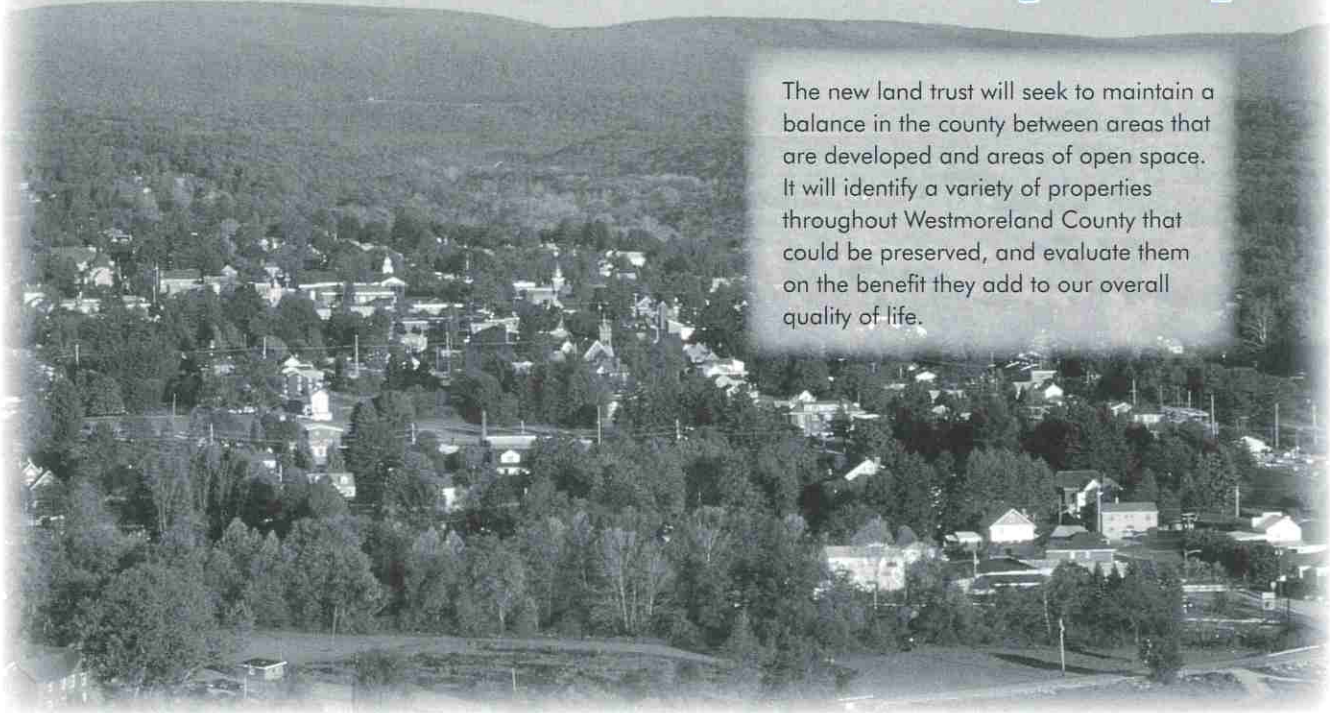


New Land Trust to Preserve Open Space



The new land trust will seek to maintain a balance in the county between areas that are developed and areas of open space. It will identify a variety of properties throughout Westmoreland County that could be preserved, and evaluate them on the benefit they add to our overall quality of life.

In late 2007, the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, Tom Balya, Tom Ceraso and Phil Light, passed a resolution creating the new Westmoreland Land Trust.

A land trust is a local organization that conserves land of special value to the community, such as land that contributes to the region's quality of life because of its scenic, recreational, environmental, historical or cultural attributes.

"We created this land trust because citizens throughout the county told us that their number one priority is to retain the predominant rural character of Westmoreland County," said Commission Chairman Tom Balya, citing the results of a series of public meetings held in 2004 to create the blueprint for the county's future – its comprehensive plan. "The Westmoreland Land Trust will be a valuable partner in maintaining, and improving, the quality of life in Westmoreland County."

Land use plays a crucial role in determining the future of a region. The primary land use objective in Westmoreland County, as identified in the comprehensive plan, is to provide a balance between development and preservation. The land trust will be an important addition to the organizations that are already actively working to help achieve that balance because, on the conservation side, the trust has the potential to preserve a wide variety of types of land – such as land that offers scenic vistas, tracts that help to create a larger greenway corridor through the county, and sensitive areas that are under pressure for development.

The newly formed Westmoreland Land Trust is an independent organization, directed by a board of local citizens appointed by the county commissioners. The trust will not be responsible for any local zoning decisions.

The trust held its first meeting in January, and has met monthly since then

to work through the large number of administrative and philosophical items that accompany the formation of a new organization.

Some of the trust's initial work includes developing a mission statement, determining operating and land procurement policies, and applying for non-profit status.

The group also is studying the best way to apply some \$363,000 in initial

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Daniel Griffith, *Nutrient Management Specialist/
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Mimi Thomas-Brooker, *Education Program Coordinator*
Dana Rizzo, *District/Penn State Extension
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Christie Sebek, *Secretary*

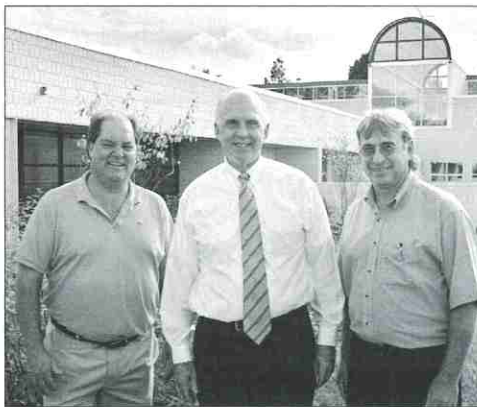
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Bobbie Bailey, *Coordinator*
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PA Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff (center) visited GreenForge last fall as part of a tour that spotlighted successful ways to reduce dependence on imported fuel. District Director Kim Miller (left) and District Director Ron Rohall (right) gave the secretary a tour of the building.



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* Look for the Energy Star symbol not only on lighting, but also on home appliances, roofing materials, doors and windows, home electronics, and office equipment.



Partnership of Westmoreland County

Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County To Move into GreenForge

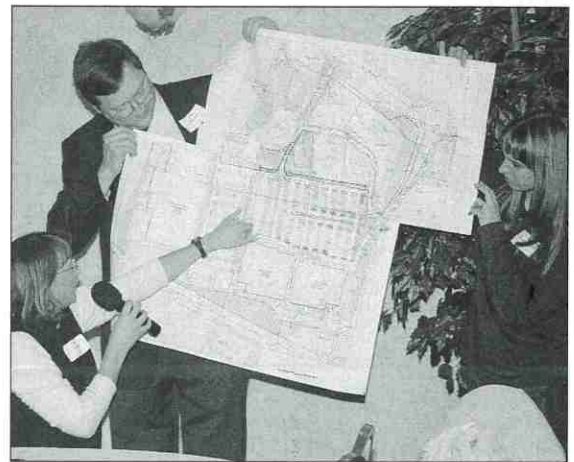
In late March, the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County announced that it would locate its offices next to the District and Donohoe Center, in the newly refurbished GreenForge building. This means that the 23,000-square-foot GreenForge building, which stood vacant just three years ago, is now fully occupied. It also brings yet another like-minded agency to our growing "conservation campus."

"We have partnered with the Smart Growth Partnership in many ways since its formation in 1999, but we are especially looking forward to the new opportunities that we are sure will result from being next-door neighbors and having the chance to interact on an almost-daily basis," said Greg Phillips, District manager/CEO.

The Smart Growth Partnership is a nonprofit organization that works with the county's cities, townships and boroughs to address the challenges associated with economic growth and revitalization. It formerly was housed at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

GreenForge was designed to be a type of "conservation incubator" that provides reasonably priced lease space to nonprofit conservation, agriculture, environmental, and economic development agencies. Other such groups that have located in the building include: the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency, the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and Westmoreland Cleanways.

District looks to new levels of service with Stormwater Program, GreenForge Building



The District's annual workshop for engineers in March attracted 222 professionals from Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Crawford, Fayette, Indiana, Jefferson, Mercer, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland counties as well as the states of Ohio, Maryland, and West Virginia who came to hear the newest ideas in stormwater management.

The Westmoreland Conservation District has one of the oldest stormwater management programs in the state, thanks to the foresightedness of its board members who, in 1988, realized that urbanization in the county could cause significant hydrological changes in our streams and rivers – greater volume of water, faster flow of water, more sediment buildup, and more pollution – if not managed properly.

That vision has meant that, for the past 20 years, the District's hydraulic engineer has been working one-on-one to make area developers aware of the importance of stormwater management, and to help them install measures that reduce the potential negative effects of the stormwater – rain and melting ice and snow – that runs off the solid surfaces of the housing plans, shopping centers, business complexes, parking lots, and roadways that they build.

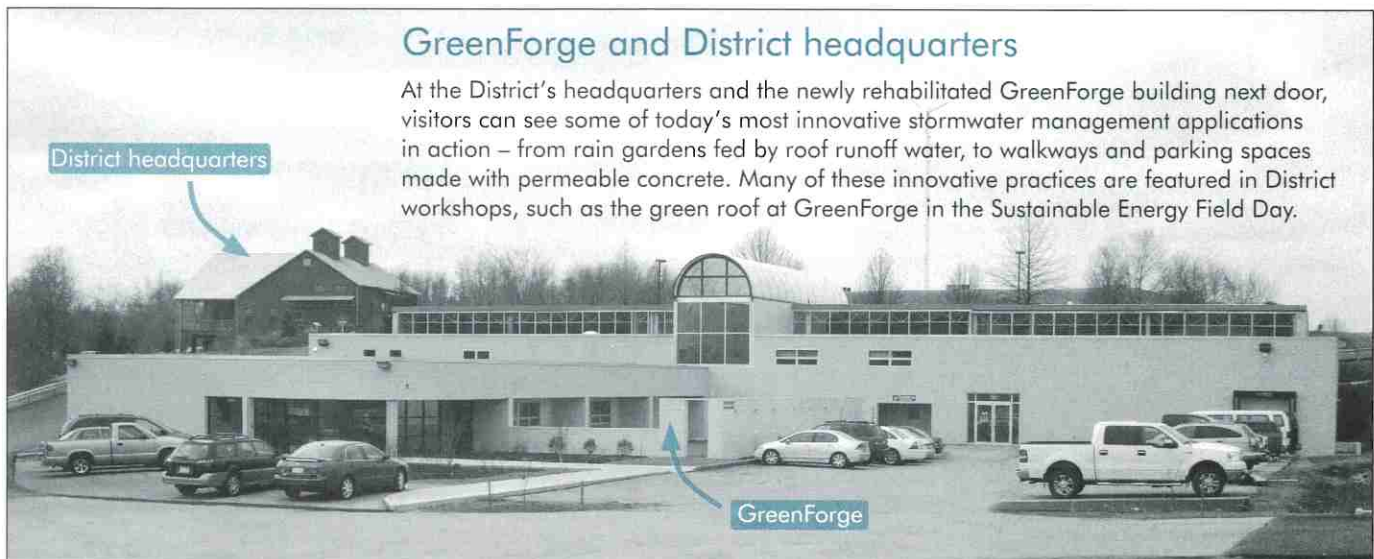
In the past few years, those patiently planted seeds have really begun to take root. Growing awareness of the economic benefits of good stormwater management (e.g. its ability to alleviate pressure on the local sewer systems and so reduce the need to invest taxpayer dollars in fixing or building infrastructure), and of its ability to reduce property loss from flooding and improve water quality have drawn a growing number of municipal officials, engineers, designers, and others to the District to learn more about this topic.

Our staff – Engineer Jim Pillsbury and Landscape Architect Kathy Hamilton – are daily assisting a growing number of individuals with site-specific guidance on effective stormwater management, as well as frequently traveling throughout the area to speak to groups on innovative stormwater practices. And, as of the end of last year, they also have at their

continued on page 4

GreenForge and District headquarters

At the District's headquarters and the newly rehabilitated GreenForge building next door, visitors can see some of today's most innovative stormwater management applications in action – from rain gardens fed by roof runoff water, to walkways and parking spaces made with permeable concrete. Many of these innovative practices are featured in District workshops, such as the green roof at GreenForge in the Sustainable Energy Field Day.



disposal one of the most comprehensive stormwater demonstration sites in Westmoreland County. At the District's headquarters and the newly rehabilitated GreenForge building next door, visitors can see some of today's most innovative stormwater management applications in action – from rain gardens fed by roof runoff water, to walkways and parking spaces made with permeable concrete. Many of these innovative practices are featured in District workshops, such as the green roof at GreenForge in the Sustainable Energy Field Day.

With stormwater management now our fastest growing conservation program, the District is beginning to undertake a strategic plan to meet the growing demand for services. Some of the things we are considering include: adding another staff member, developing additional new education

programs, expanding our efforts into new areas such as those related to the creation of stormwater-friendly municipal ordinances, and putting a watershed-wide demonstration project on the ground.

Foundations, businesses, and individuals who recognize the community value of stormwater management have helped to support our efforts with direct and in-kind donations.

One of these, the Colcom Foundation, has not only made a donation, but also offered a challenge grant to help us with our stormwater efforts. The challenge is that the foundation will match every dollar, up to and including \$100,000, that is donated to assist with the District's stormwater management/education efforts. Donations are tax-deductible. For more information, contact Greg Phillips, Westmoreland Conservation District manager/CEO, at 724-837-5271 or greg@wcdpa.com.

The need for stormwater management

In Westmoreland County, an average of 1,000 new housing units have been added every year for the period of 2000-2006. Residential development alone is creating an additional 41 million gallons of stormwater runoff each year, and carrying a load of pesticides, road salts, pet waste, and other suburban pollutants with it as it rushes into our streams.

Commercial development also is increasing, often paving over previously undeveloped land, and frequently accompanied by large expanses of impervious parking that burdens the storm sewer infrastructure with added flow rates, and the nearby streams with motor oil, litter, and other kinds of urban pollution.

Some innovative stormwater management examples on our campus...



Green roof

GreenForge boasts the first green roof in Westmoreland County. More than 6,000 living green plants grow on top of this building and act like sponges to soak up rainwater.

A green roof is an amazing (and attractive) way to manage stormwater. Almost every single drop of rain that falls on it stays out of the storm sewer system because it is used by plants to grow and returned to the atmosphere through transpiration.

Permeable concrete

GreenForge is the first place in Westmoreland County to demonstrate a porous concrete parking lot.

Seven parking spaces and 80 feet of five-foot-wide walkway at GreenForge are made of this innovative stormwater management material that allows any rain that falls on it to pass right through and into the ground, instead of just running off of the surface, like traditional concrete.

Porous concrete's ability to infiltrate water has many benefits, including helping to replenish the groundwater, which many people with wells rely on for their water supply.





Stormwater trail

A series of outdoor information stations allows visitors to take a self-guided tour of the innovative stormwater features on our campus. Most stations also offer a detailed, take-home fact sheet for those who want more information on how to put the idea into practice.

Watch for additional stations to be added to the trail this year!



Rain garden

Rain from the gutters and downspouts on one side of the District's headquarters is directed through an underground pipe to the top of a natural slope and circulated through a series of three ponds.

So instead of just sending rainwater into the storm sewer system, we use this free resource to create a tranquil rain garden that adds beauty and gentle, relaxing sound to our landscape.

Thank you, Donors!

Our stormwater program and the GreenForge building both have been receiving generous support from foundations, businesses, individuals and other donors who recognize the value they add to our communities.

Thanks to the following recent donors.

Recent GreenForge Donors

September 2007 – March 2008

Benefactor

(\$10,000 and above)

Adam Eidemiller, Inc.

Hillman Foundation

Westmoreland County Commissioners –
Chairman Tom Balya, Tom Ceraso, and Kim Ward
(Growing Greener II County Environmental Initiative)

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Fawcett

Karen and Michael Jurkovic

Sony Technology Center

Greg and Holly Stone

Partner

(\$500 to \$999)

The Meritage Group

Recent Stormwater Management Program Donors

December 2007 – March 2008

Benefactor

(\$10,000 and above)

Colcom Foundation

(enhancing the stormwater outreach program)

Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation
(landscaping projects GreenForge/campus connections)

Laurel Foundation
(water quality education/stormwater programming)



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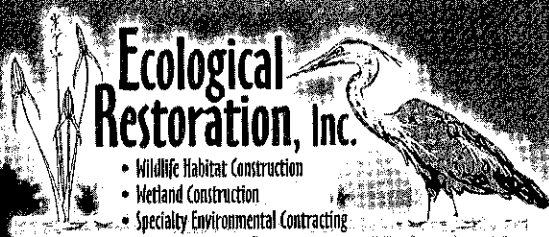
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“Floods & Fixes” Tour

More than 60 people – including engineers, architects, municipal officials and conservationists – joined us for a day-long bus tour last fall to look at the problem of flooding in our communities, and the variety of ways that can be used to capture, divert, and infiltrate stormwater to reduce that threat.

This “Floods & Fixes” tour gave participants a first-hand look at:

- the Murrysville Public Works Building – where a sediment-control structure on a detention pond and control measures prevent road-salt piles from contaminating the nearby high-quality stream, Haymaker Run;
- Marquis Place, a new residential development in Murrysville – where the amount of paving has been deliberately kept to a minimum and an innovative pond has been installed to add beauty and keep a permanent level of water at all times;
- a new parking lot in the City of Greensburg – where landscaping, infiltration pavers, and large buried chambers significantly reduce runoff; and
- the District’s GreenForge building in Greensburg – where the first green roof in Westmoreland County has been installed.



Murrysville Mayor Joyce Somers (far right) describes newly installed stormwater controls at the Murrysville Public Works Building.



Developer Richard Kacin explains innovative stormwater control plans for his residential development, Marquis Place, in Murrysville.

The tour was part of the District’s comprehensive stormwater education program (see page 3).

Financial and other support for this tour was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

From rain barrels connected to home downspouts to manmade ponds that hold and slowly release rainwater, stormwater management comes in many shapes and sizes.

But it all shares the same purpose – to keep rain close to where it falls, reducing how much runs off after a storm. And less runoff means less flooding.

An added benefit of the stormwater-management measures is that they also help reduce water pollution.

Nutrient Management Plans Approved

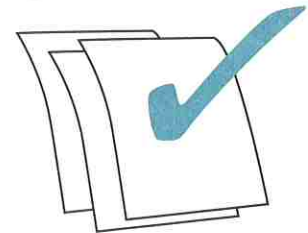
Two area farmers recently received approval of nutrient management plans for their properties.

Jim Kepple of New Alexandria received approval for his plan that covers 440 acres in Salem Township, and Vince Makovics of Belle Vernon received approval of his plan for 150 acres in Rostraver Township.

The addition of these two farms and nearly 600 acres means that a total of 36 farms and more than 13,400 acres

in Westmoreland County are being managed under the guidance of a nutrient management plan.

The creation of these plans is totally voluntary. They are farm-specific, and can save farmers’ money by insuring that nutrients aren’t being applied if the soil really doesn’t need them. A plan also can make a farmer eligible for cost-share programs that help pay for conservation measures, such as barn gutters and streambank fencing.



For more information, contact Dan Griffith, the District’s nutrient management specialist/agricultural conservation technician at 724-837-5271 or dan@wcdpa.com.

land-acquisition funding that was allocated by the county commissioners last year as one of 21 separate conservation projects in Westmoreland County funded under the state's Growing Greener II County Environmental Initiative.

District instrumental in Land Trust formation

The Westmoreland Conservation District has played an important role in the formation of the Westmoreland Land Trust.

In the County Comprehensive Plan, the Westmoreland Conservation District and the Westmoreland County Planning Department were asked to establish and lead a steering committee of stakeholder agencies, organizations, and individuals that first explored the possibility of forming a land trust as one way to achieve local citizens' desire to preserve the county's rural character.

The District helped to identify and form this steering committee in early 2007, and since then has provided much needed organizational support, including help with financial administration, website creation, and secretarial and administrative functions.

The District also has made its offices available to serve as the physical location of the trust, hosting the group's meetings and serving as its official mailing address.

The District also hosts the new land trust on its website, at the following URL: www.wcdpa.com/landtrust.

"There are many reasons the Westmoreland Conservation District and the new Westmoreland Land Trust are a good fit," said Greg Phillips, District manager/CEO, "not the least of which is the direct connection between open space preservation and stormwater management – which is the District's fastest-growing conservation program."

Allowing land to remain in a natural, undeveloped state is the best of all stormwater management practices. Rain that falls on forests or fields can sink into the ground instead of just running off as it does on an impervious developed surface and adding more burden to the storm sewer system.

Additionally, on natural, undeveloped lands, plant roots and soil act as filters, removing various pollutants from the rain and snow melt, which benefits water quality. Water that infiltrates the ground recharges the groundwater supplies, which we draw on to supply our wells, streams, and rivers.

"In forming the new land trust, the Westmoreland County Commissioners

not only have helped to preserve the rural character of our county, but they also have given an added boost to effective stormwater management, which is increasingly important as more and more development spreads throughout our county. All county residents will benefit from this," Greg said.

Members of the current land trust board, appointed by the Westmoreland County Commissioners, are listed below with their residence and profession. Each will serve a term from one to three years. The group elected the four officers at the first meeting.

Chuck Duritsa, Board Chair,
Hempfield Township,
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Protection Regional Director (Retired) and
Environmental Consultant

Bruce J. Corna, Jr., Board Vice Chair,
Washington Township,
Bruce Construction, LLC

Carolyn Graham, Board Treasurer,
Fairfield Township,
Dairy Farmer, Financial Accountant and
CPA Candidate

Karen Jurkovic, Board Secretary,
Greensburg,
Communications Consultant specializing
in conservation

Betsy Aiken, Export,
Vice President, Westmoreland Conservancy

Mark Bowers, Rostraver Township,
Westmoreland Conservancy Member
and Botanist

Alex Graziani, Greensburg,
Executive Director, Smart Growth Partner-
ship of Westmoreland County

R. Ted Harhai, Monessen,
State Representative

Ted Kopas, Hempfield Township,
Chief of Staff, Westmoreland County
Commissioners

Mike Kuzemchak, Rector,
Laurel Highlands Program Director,
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Larry Larese, Export,
Director, Westmoreland County
Department of Planning

H. Lewis Lobdell, Ligonier Township,
Executive VP Managing Director PNC CRC,
PNC Bank

John Lohr, Norvelt,
County Executive Director,
USDA Farm Service Agency

Michael J. O'Barto, Unity Township,
Chairman, Board of Supervisors,
Unity Township

John Pallone, New Kensington,
State Representative

Tony Quadro, Stahlstown,
Assistant District Manager/Technical Programs
Director, Westmoreland Conservation District

Vincent Quatrini, Jr., Unity Township,
Chair, Community Foundation of
Westmoreland County

Betty Reefer, Bell Township,
Director, Westmoreland County
Agricultural Land Preservation Program

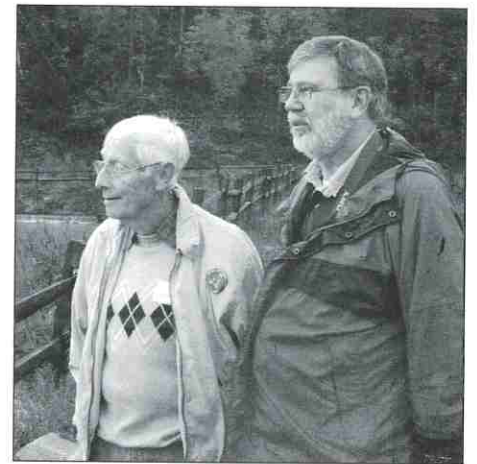
Malcolm Sias, Unity Township,
Planning Coordinator, Westmoreland County
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

Lisa Smith, Stahlstown,
Ecologist and Land Stewardship
Consultant

Virginia Stump, Westmoreland City,
Team Leader/Area Specialist, USDA Rural
Development and member of the North
Huntingdon Planning Commission

John Ward, Unity Township,
Attorney at Law, Ward & Christner, P.C.

Major Abandoned Mine Drainage Cleanup Project Dedicated at Lowber



Bob Hedin of Hedin Environmental is largely responsible for this innovative treatment system that cleans the water and creates a marketable product at the same time.

Above left: At the Lowber abandoned mine drainage treatment site, mine water polluted with iron oxide is captured at the main discharge and routed through a series of ponds where the iron oxide particles can settle out. Above right: Sewickley Creek Watershed volunteers (l-r) Robert Hepler and Darl Dodson have worked for many years to develop and install this system to help clean up Sewickley Creek and the Youghiogheny River. Left: At the edges of the settling ponds, sawtooth separators help filter out the iron oxide that is periodically removed, processed and sold as a commercial pigment used for coloring a variety of products.

A dedication was held last fall for the six ponds and one wetland that the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association built at Lowber (between Sutersville and Herminie) to clean the polluted water that has been discharging into Sewickley Creek for more than 60 years from an abandoned coal mine.

This manmade passive water-treatment system is so effective in removing the iron oxide that has severely polluted the creek since the 1940s that, today, trout have been caught in water there.

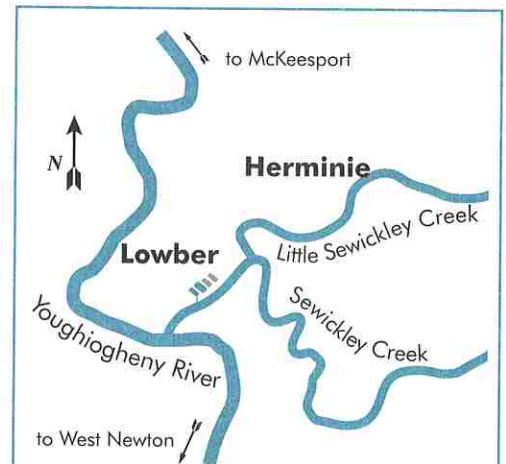
The Lowber discharge is the largest abandoned mine discharge in the lower Sewickley Creek watershed and one of the greatest sources of pollution to Sewickley Creek. It discharges some 1,500 gallons of water per minute, and that water is contaminated with about 70 milligrams of iron per liter.

The ponds and wetland hold the discharged water for more than 40 hours,

and during that time, much of the iron drops out. When the cleaned water is returned to the stream, it contains only about 2 milligrams of iron per liter.

The iron oxide that dropped out of the water is periodically removed from the system, and cleaned, dewatered, and dried. In this form, it can be sold as a pigment. In fact, the window shades and concrete floor in the District's headquarters and the retaining walls at the GreenForge parking lot all have been colored with pigment made from iron oxide taken from the stream at Lowber.

The Lowber site is one of the first in Pennsylvania (and most likely, in the world) where a beneficial resource has been recovered from polluted mine drainage. Already, more than 1,000,000 pounds of iron oxide have been removed from the site.

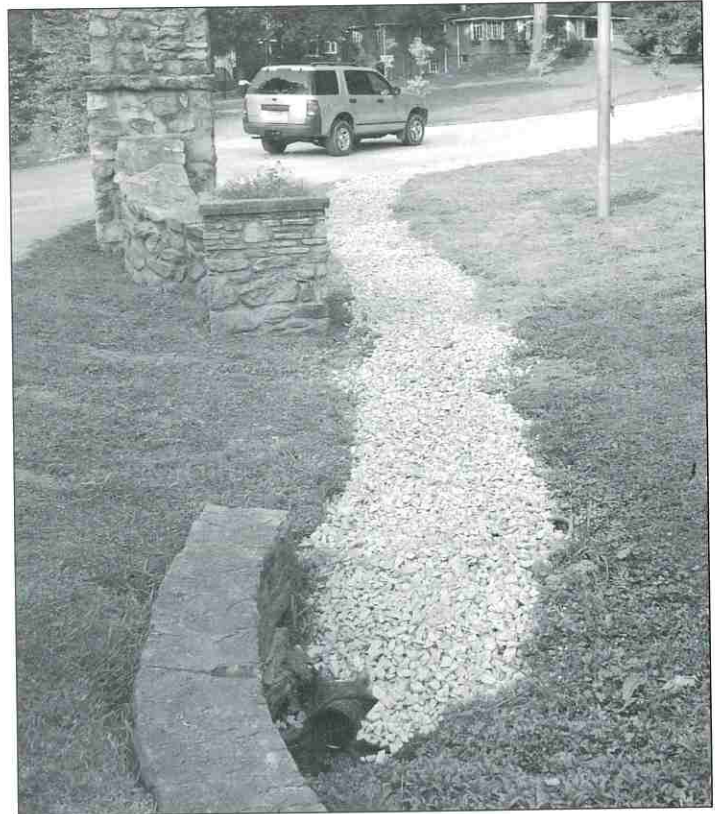


Lowber is just about two miles upstream from where Sewickley Creek empties into the Youghiogheny River...so much of the polluting iron oxide from the Lowber discharge used to end up in that river. In fact, this pollution was often visible – it looked like a large, orange plume of pollution traveling along the river's eastern shoreline.

...As we were going to press, we learned that the Lowber project won the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. Congratulations!

This installation near Antiochian Village features a first-of-its-kind technique in Pennsylvania.

A ditch was created and lined with geotextile material, filled with stone, and then the geotextile material was folded over the top of the stone, and more stone was layered on top.



Dirt and Gravel Road Work Update

In the last issue of *Landmarks*, we featured work that the Dirt and Gravel Road Program had completed in Laurel Mountain Borough along White Oak Road.

In this issue, we feature another project completed last fall, this one in Fairfield Township, right near Antiochian Village. This installation features a new technique that the Dirt and Gravel Road Program has never performed before in the state of Pennsylvania. A ditch approximately 3 feet deep by 3 feet wide by 50 feet long was created, lined with geotextile material, and filled with size R3 stone. Then the geotextile material was folded over the top of the stone fill, making a drainage 'enchilada,' and more stone was layered on top to hold the fabric in place.

The installation is just now beginning to be tested. It was not used before spring so that vegetation could have a chance to grow and stabilize the disturbance.

The Dirt and Gravel Road Program works to correct the erosion problems these unpaved roads often create. Because dirt and gravel roads are most

frequently found in rural sections of the county and near high-quality streams, the sediment they add can have significant polluting effects for a major part of a watershed.

Improvement projects planned for 2008 in Westmoreland County include:

Furnace Lane in St. Clair Township, to enhance Baldwin Creek;

Crooked Run Road in Salem Township, to enhance Beaver Run;

Oak Road in Donegal Township, to enhance Loyalhanna Creek;

Clark Hollow Road in Fairfield Township, to enhance Tubmill Creek;

Church Camp Road in Fairfield Township, to enhance Tubmill Creek.

The 2008 Dirt and Gravel Roads Maintenance Workshop will be held on October 1, 2, and 3 at Antiochian Village, north of Ligonier.

This is the first time this statewide workshop will be held in Westmoreland County.

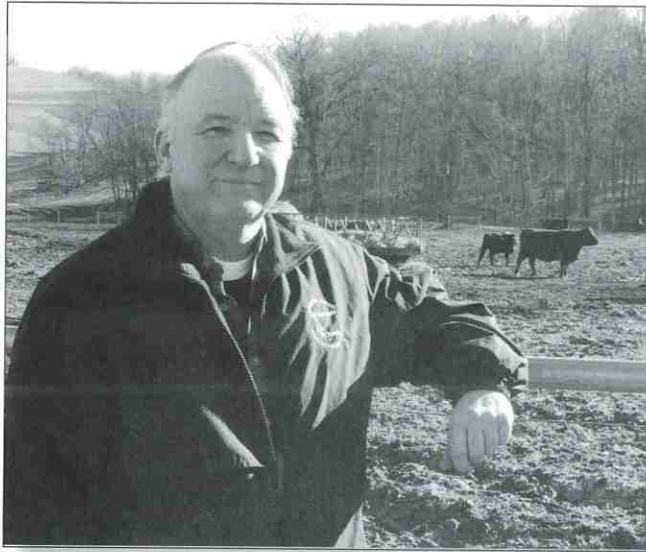
This annual maintenance workshop includes active demonstration projects on road sites in the field and concurrent classroom topics on environmental and unpaved road maintenance issues.

It typically draws a crowd of 200-250 attendees from conservation districts, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, private industry, and local municipalities.

To receive more information, contact Kathy Moir at kam16@psu.edu, or 1-866-668-6683.

Terry Matty Chosen as Farmer of the Year for 2007

To be Recognized at November Awards Banquet



Terry Matty, a dairy heifer and beef farmer, was named the 2007 Farmer of the Year for the extensive rotational grazing system and the many other notable conservation measures – spring developments, water troughs, a manure storage facility, streambank fencing, and roof runoff management – he has installed on the 500 acres he stewards in Smithton.

Unfortunately, the District's austerity measures last year forced us to postpone our annual awards banquet, and so we were not able to publicly honor Terry as we normally do with the farmers selected for this honor.

However, we will honor Terry's accomplishments – along with those of our 2008 Farmer of the Year (who will be chosen later this year) – at the 2008 annual awards banquet on Friday, November 14. The 2008 banquet promises to be "bigger and better than ever" – and the first sign of that is its new location, the Westmoreland County Club in Export.

Be sure to mark your calendar and watch our website www.wedpa.com and your mail for more information.

KATHY'S KIDS KORNER *by Kathy Fritz*



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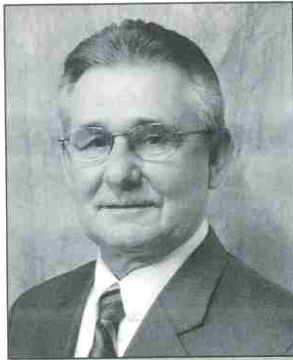
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People In The News

Recent Appointments

DIRECTORS



Thomas Kuzemchak has been appointed by the Westmoreland County Commissioners as a farmer director of the District.

He lives in Latrobe and operates the family's 130-acre beef and crop farm in Indiana, Pa. that features a number of conservation practices. For 23 years, he worked as a senior loan officer with Ag Choice Farm Credit, helping farmers in southwestern Pennsylvania with agricultural financing.

He also is a member of the Westmoreland County Extension Association Board of Directors and the Latrobe Lions Club.

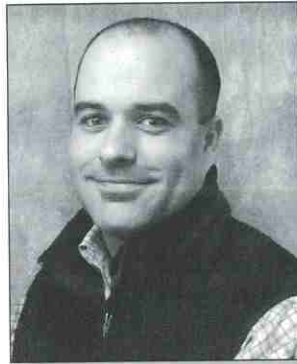


William Doney was elected to the position of Board secretary, replacing P. Roy Kemerer (see Transitions).

Bill has served on the volunteer board since 2001. He is a retired teacher who owns and operates a 220-acre farm in South Huntingdon Township.

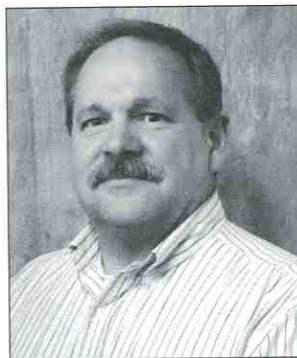
ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Four new associate directors have been named: Bruce J. Corna Jr., Joseph Dietrick, Ellen Keefe, and Barbara D. McMillan.



Bruce Corna, Jr. is the principal in three companies: Bruce Construction, LLC; Botanic, LLC; and Pennsylvania Horticulture and Environmental, LLC.

A resident of Washington Township, he also serves on the board of the Westmoreland Land Trust and has been involved with both the Green Building Alliance and the US Green Building Council.



Joseph Dietrick of Latrobe is a professional engineer with Fahringer, McCarty, Grey, Inc., a local firm of landscape architects and engineers. He has volunteered with the District as a member of the Stormwater Management Advisory Committee, and he has been involved with a number of area organizations, including the Latrobe Industrial Development Authority, the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, and the Laurel Highlands Trail.



Ellen Keefe is the executive director of Westmoreland Cleanways. She is a resident of Derry Township and is affiliated with a number of other community groups, including service as a board member of the Friends of Keystone State Park and the Latrobe Municipal Authority. She is a member of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania and a Penn State master gardener.



Barbara D. McMillan is an educational psychologist who has been interested and active in the areas of natural resource conservation and alternative energy for a number of years. She is a Westmoreland County 4-H leader, a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program participant on her land, a Penn State master gardener, and a member of the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club.

She also has served as a volunteer on the District's Sustainable Energy Advisory Committee, and helped to plan the highly successful "Sustainable Energy Field Day," which drew more than 300 people to our campus in the fall of 2006.

Transitions



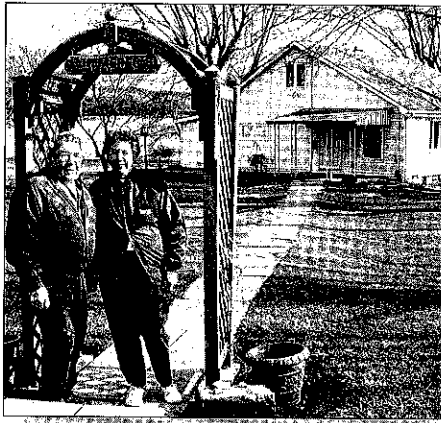
P. Roy Kemerer, a District director since 1988, passed away in November.

Roy first joined the District in 1982 as an associate director. In 1995, he was elected Board secretary, and he served in that capacity until his death.

Roy was always an advocate for agriculture. He was the owner and operator of a model conservation dairy farm, the Kemerer Homestead Dairy Farm, that he and his wife Thelma established in the late 1940s on 102 acres in Pleasant Unity.

Roy also promoted agriculture in the community in a number of ways, including serving as: chairman of the Governmental Relations Board, Westmoreland County Farm Bureau; Region V vice president of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers and National Young Farmers; leader of 4-H dairy club for Mt. View agricultural projects; and as a superintendent for Ayrshire cattle at the Fair for more than 30 years.

In addition, Roy was chairman of the Trustees of the United Methodist



Roy and Thelma Kemerer at their home.

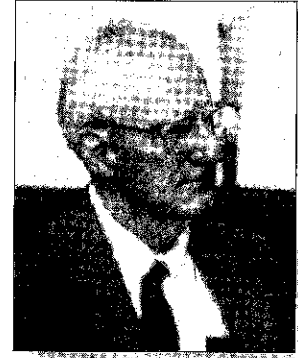


Roy Kemerer on a past fall day at the farm.

Church, Pleasant Unity, and a member of both Pleasant Unity VFW Post 8643 and Unity Township American Legion Post 982 and their combined honor guard.

Roy is survived by his wife of 59 years, Thelma; daughters LaVerne, Nevada, Laurretta, Susan, and Barbara;

son Richard; 15 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.



William Shea, who had served the District through 2001 as an associate director for more than 25 years, passed away in October.

Dr. Shea held numerous positions in industry and academia, including serving as head of the Environmental and Conservation Technology Department at Westmoreland County Community College. In addition to the District, he volunteered his time with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, where he also served as a director, and with the Boy Scouts of America.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian; two sons, William and Charles; a daughter, Aileen; and three grandchildren.

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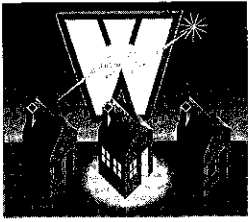
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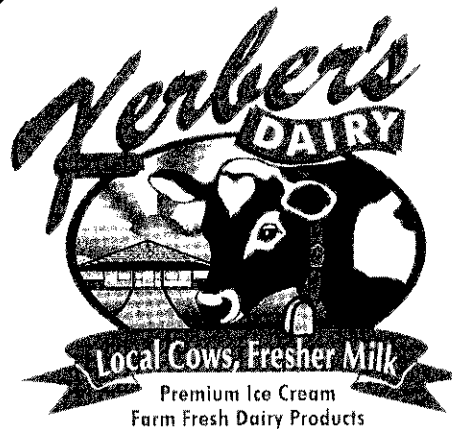
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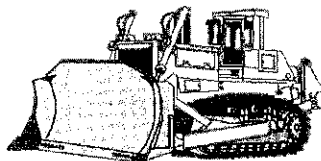
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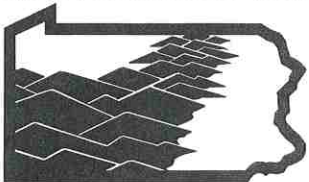
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Corrections and clarifications

Regarding the article on the "Trees of Distinction" program in the last issue of *Landmarks* (page 18), the location of the "other notable red oak tree" mentioned is more accurately expressed as between Scottdale and Mt. Pleasant, rather than simply as Scottdale.

We also apologize for incorrectly spelling the last name of the person who brought that notable oak to our attention. The correct spelling is (David) Hiebert.



NATURALLY Delicious

by Karen Barnhart

Here's another favorite from the family cookbook.

BUTTERMILK-SPICE BISCUITS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 cups all-purpose flour | 1 teaspoon baking powder |
| 1 cup uncooked quick-cooking oatmeal | 1 teaspoon baking soda |
| ½ cup rye flour | ½ teaspoon ground ginger |
| ½ cup yellow cornmeal | ½ teaspoon salt |
| 1 or 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon (according to taste) | 1 ½ cups buttermilk |
| 1 or 2 teaspoons ground nutmeg (according to taste) | ¼ cup vegetable oil |
| | ¼ cup honey |

Preheat oven to 400 degrees with a rack in center. Spray a cookie sheet with nonstick cooking spray.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together dry ingredients.

In a small bowl, mix buttermilk, oil and honey. With a wooden spoon, gently stir buttermilk mixture into dry ingredients until just moistened.

Drop dough by ¼ cup measures onto cookie sheet and bake for 12 to 14 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Serve warm. Makes 18 biscuits.

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LANDMARKS

The Official Newsletter of the Westmoreland Conservation District

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Design and Photography - Mark Jackson

Contributing Photographers -
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District staff are pictured on the June 2008 calendar pages in The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County's most recent annual report.

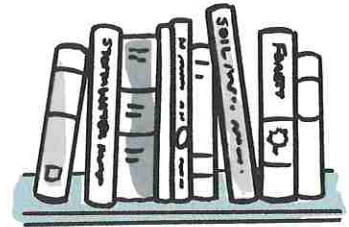
The report highlights select area organizations that have benefited from the foundation's philanthropy.

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County made several gifts to the District in the late 1990s to help with the costs of transforming a barn into an education center.

The foundation administers a range of funds that help not only conservation, but also with efforts that improve the cultural, educational, health service, social service, and other aspects of life in our community.

Pictured l-r, standing are District staff Dan Griffith, nutrient management specialist/agricultural conservation technician; Chris Droste, erosion control specialist; Rob Cronauer, watershed specialist; and seated: Christie Sebek, secretary; Greg Phillips, District manager/CEO.

Resource Library Additions



Our Conservation Resource Library now houses a number of detailed aerial maps of the county, taken over the past thirty years. The maps were donated from the Farm Service Agency and are available for use and reference in the library.

We've also received some recent new book additions, courtesy of Bill Slosky. Thanks to these donors!

Hundreds of books, videos, and magazines are available for borrowing, free of charge from the library, which is located in the loft at the District's headquarters.

Subjects include: agriculture, dirt and gravel roads, erosion control, conservation education, environmental awareness, alternative energy, forestry, green living, land use, plant science, pollution, recycling, biology, soil, water, and many others.

The library is open during normal business hours, which are Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. It is closed on holidays.

District Meetings

District meetings are open to the public and, with the exception of the annual banquet, are held on Wednesdays at the District's headquarters, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg.

Here are the meeting dates and times for the remainder of 2008.

June 11, 5 p.m.

July 9, 5 p.m.

August 13, 5 p.m.

September 10, 5 p.m.

October 8, 5 p.m.

November 14, 6 p.m. - Annual Awards Banquet, Westmoreland County Club, Export (new location!)

December 10, 11 a.m.

For information on upcoming conservation education programs visit our website: www.wcdpa.com

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