

## Project Gob Pile Underway

A countywide drive to eliminate mine refuse piles will end up as a statewide model.

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) is using a \$48,000 Growing Greener (DEP/EPA) grant to locate, evaluate, and prioritize more than 90 gob (boney/slate/ash) piles in Westmoreland County.

In its seventh month of operation under the direction of the coalition's coordinator Mark Killar and manager Paul Heyworth, the project has been well-received by landowners, municipal officials and watershed association leaders. "We've received a lot of information and support from NRCS, DEP, FSA and other agencies," Heyworth reported. "We also have received great cooperation from co-generation professionals, fuel suppliers, and processors.

Ryan Harr of Derry is handling the Geographic Information System (GIS) work. Ed Smail of Jeannette received a summer internship from the Office of Surface Mining.

Former Coalition staffer Jeff Fliss is the DEP adviser. The project steering committee consists of Heyworth, Killar, Harr, Deb Simko, Wes Gordon and Linda Boxx, who originated the concepts behind the project.

Field investigators are looking at adverse impacts caused by the piles, from environmental considerations such as water, plants, and animals to social and economic elements such as health, safety, tourism, and community pride.

After the piles are prioritized, the coalition will work with consultants to build an econometric model and develop investment plans leading to the elimination of piles.



HELP US FINISH THE HOME STRETCH...

## Education Center Moves Toward Completion

& New, Practical Help for Area Residents

by Karen Jurkovic

For a long time, the District has been promoting the value of helping people learn about conservation. And while you may agree wholeheartedly with the theory behind this goal, have you ever secretly wondered how much people *really* need to know about conservation? How important it is in our daily lives? Or whether it's easy and practical enough to make a real difference to you and your family?

*Well, if...* last winter's heating bills rekindled your thinking about the importance of saving energy...

*or if...* gasoline prices are driving you to ask if there isn't a better way to design our communities – a way where we can use other options for getting from here to there, like walking or biking or taking public transportation...

*or if...* your home gardening and

landscaping plans have been dampened because you're concerned that the drought conditions we've seen in four of the past six years could become more frequent...

*then, knowing just a little about conservation could help you a lot.*

**Find out more on pages 6-7**



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## Franklin Recaptures Envirothon Crown

It was cool and breezy for the District's 16<sup>th</sup> annual Envirothon at Twin Lakes County Park as Franklin Regional High School reclaimed the county championship. Nine Westmoreland County teams including Belle Vernon, Burrell, Greensburg Central Catholic, Greensburg-Salem, Hempfield, Kiski, Norwin, Yough, and Franklin Regional High Schools participated in the event. Yough and Burrell finished second and third respectively.

Five member teams were tested on their knowledge of forestry, aquatics, soils and landuse, wildlife, and urban non-point source pollution. A number of cooperating agencies including the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Penn State

Cooperative Extension Service helped to administer the tests.

Our corporate partners played a major role in generously providing financial and in-kind support. The major corporate sponsor for the Envirothon is Allegheny Energy. Additional support is provided by Shop n' Save, Beckwith Machinery Co.,

Sony Corporation, Westmoreland County Parks Department, and Jackson Graphics.

The Franklin Regional team of Ryan Harster, Stephanie Bragg, Dan Graper, Jason Zsak, and Rosemary Pike, along with their advisor, Tom Pearson (pictured) went on



to represent Westmoreland County at the Pennsylvania State Envirothon at Bald Eagle State Park on May 21 and 22. They represented our county well, and placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the overall standings. The winning team from Erie County will go on to the 2001 Cannon National Envirothon to be held on July 24 – 29 at Raymond, Mississippi.

## Anti-Erosion team in high gear

by Mike Barrick

The District technical staff has been busy with issuing permits, public outreach programs and monitoring earth-moving activities. Inspecting construction sites and assisting residents with their technical questions and complaints provides a daily challenge.

This spring, staff reviewed erosion & sedimentation pollution control plans to verify compliance with Chapter 102 of the Clean Streams Law. In the first quarter of 2001, we reviewed 87 plans for sites which will disturb approximately 562 acres in Westmoreland County. Eleven of these 87 sites disturbed 5 or more acres requiring the applicant to apply for an NPDES Permit.

The District is delegated by the DEP to issue General Permits under Chapter

105 for stream encroachments. The district also issued two GP-4 Intake/Outfall Permits; 14 GP-5 Utility Line Stream Crossing Permits; one GP-6 Agricultural Crossing Permit; six Agricultural Crossing Permits; six GP-7 Minor Road Crossing Permits; one GP-8 Temporary Road Crossing Permit; and one GP-9 Agricultural Activities Permit.

It is the responsibility of staff technicians to investigate complaint calls. In the first quarter of 2001, the office received ten (10) complaint calls regarding earth moving activities and one (1) complaint call on stream encroachment activities.

In addition, routine earth disturbance inspections are completed by the technical staff. There were 126 inspections completed at 78 sites from January to March, 2001.

# “Pasture Walk” Useful Tool

by Dan Griffith

A new “buzz phrase” in the agricultural community is a “pasture walk”. What is that? Where do you do it, and why in the world would anyone want to have one? Let’s start with a simple definition: a pasture walk is an observational stroll through a grazing system to inventory and evaluate the plants, fencing, water supplies, animal access, and other pertinent details. A properly conducted pasture walk will show the strengths and weaknesses of that particular grazing system and set a baseline for gauging improvements against.

A typical pasture walk will start with the access for the animals – is the alleyway stabilized and not muddy? Is the footing for the animals acceptable? Are the fences arranged for the minimum amount of travel to the pastures? Are the gates in the fences on the barn side of the pastures, so that they are where the cows naturally gather? Use some animal psychology to figure out the best flow pattern for the alleyways and fences. Then check for water supply – beef and dairy situations will need different capacities at different times of the day – remember that milk is 87% water, so you need to get all you can into the dairy cows. Is the water clean and cool – in other words, would you drink it? If not, that is a very important place to start making improvements. If you need a stabilized stream crossing for the animals to get to the

other side of the creek, talk to Dan Griffith at the Westmoreland Conservation District about possible cost share funding to help out.

Now, move on to the plants in the grazing areas. Are the species of grass the kinds that produce the most meat or milk? Are there a lot of weeds? Most all weed species will reduce the tonnage of quality pasture in fields. If they make up more than 50% of the crop, it is time to take action. Seek advice from Extension or a Certified Crop Advisor to determine what to replace your crop with – a lot of considerations have to be made to decide which species would be best. More graziers are using some warm season grasses which don’t even start growing until June, but they grow very well through the hot summer – sometimes so much that it is difficult to keep ahead of it. Check the height of a just-grazed pasture to see if the paddock is over-grazed – that is very detrimental to the regrowth of the plants. Adjustments may be needed to the size of the paddocks relative to the size of the herd.

The District is planning at least one pasture walk during the week of the Westmoreland County Fair. It will be in conjunction with the Project Grass effort, which is an NRCS funded program to encourage graziers to use rotational grazing. If you are interested in going on the pasture walk with us, contact Dan Griffith at the Westmoreland Conservation District.

**A pasture walk is an observational stroll through a grazing system to inventory and evaluate the plants, fencing, water supplies, animal access, and other pertinent details.**



## Education ensures lasting future

By Chris Droste

Our goal is to promote a healthy and sustainable environment for all to enjoy. The best possible way to achieve this goal is by educating the public on today’s issues, from water quality to backyard conservation. As conservation district staff, we seek to educate people with workshops fulfilling individual needs. This year we focused mainly on solutions relating to erosion control, flooding, backyard conservation, and water quality. The district staff has already presented seven workshops this year. The erosion control technicians, Chris Droste and Mike Barrick, prepared two workshops that dealt with erosion-related problems for PennDot maintenance crews and utility companies. The PennDot assembly focused on stabilization of shoulders, ditches, and slopes. Also discussed was wildflower plantings along highway corridors. The utility company event focused on proper installation of utility lines through streams and wetlands and proper stabilization of right-of-ways. Special guest speakers included Ramez Ziadeh from DEP, who discussed the regulation, and Wes Gordon from NRCS. He discussed proper use of vegetation stabilization.

Other workshops focused on water quality. Staff members Nicole Foremsky, Tony Quadro, and Craig Barras were involved with five workshops dealing with such issues. One workshop entitled “Your Community, Your Watershed” focused on issues from Backyard Conservation and household water pollutants, to stormwater issues, and erosion control. This event was designed to help residents be aware of environmental problems in their watershed. Nicki also hosted an event entitled “Safe Drinking Water Clinic.” The focus was on water pollutants and septic systems and how to test your own water for contaminants. Nicki also took part in the Nutrient Management workshop that centered attention on improving water quality on local farms. Another program she hosted was called the Pond Management workshop which focused discussions on proper pond construction and nutrient loading from runoff. The staff was very busy this spring – especially in the education arena.



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# News 'n Notes

## WORKSHOPS

### **Stream Event at Saint Vincent**

Stream Bioassessment Conference on Watersheds Recovering from Mine Drainage – July 26-27, 2001, at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Westmoreland County, approximately 40 miles east of Pittsburgh. The intended audience includes academic researchers, water quality professionals, and leaders of watershed volunteers. The conference will feature a keynote speaker as well as full, basic and student conference registration options. Further information, online registration and online abstract submission forms for the conference can be found on the Environmental Education homepage, which is under the Special Programs link on the Saint Vincent College Website [www.stvincent.edu](http://www.stvincent.edu). You may also contact the conference organizers: Dr. Cynthia Walter (724) 539-9761 ext. 2329 [cwalter@stvincent.edu](mailto:cwalter@stvincent.edu) or Michelle Pershing (724) 539-9761 ext. 2359 [sbac@stvincent.edu](mailto:sbac@stvincent.edu).

### **2001 Groundwater Guardian Conferences Set**

The Groundwater Foundation out of Lincoln, Nebraska, has selected Pittsburgh as the location for the annual Groundwater conference and Groundwater Guardian Designation ceremony. The Water Resource Education Network (WREN), PA Rural Water Association and others will be working with the Foundation to assure a fun and resource-filled three days.

"The conference is a valuable event for anyone involved with education about water resources, whatever your audience," said Sherene Hess, WREN Project Manager. "Attendees will learn about successful activities undertaken in communities across the country, and go home inspired to share what they've learned in their own communities".

The conference theme is "Technologies communities can use to protect their drinking water".

Dates are November 14-16, 2001 and the location is the Pittsburgh Hilton and towers. WREN will provide scholarships on a first come-first served basis to Pennsylvania community representatives interested in attending. Contact Hess at 724-465-4978, or email [sherenehess@yourinter.net](mailto:sherenehess@yourinter.net) for info.

## EDUCATION

### **More GreenWorks Videos Available**

The newest set of *GreenWorks for Pennsylvania* videos has arrived! The Westmoreland Conservation District is pleased to offer these informative, entertaining videos for use by the public.

*GreenWorks* is an Emmy-award winning television program about creative ways Pennsylvanians are finding to preserve and protect the environment. It is produced by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Fund for Pennsylvania (EFP).

If you have ever wondered what people are doing to help save the environment, or wished you could see firsthand what you could do to join the effort, you and your family or organization

may borrow these fast-paced, thirty-minute videos. Call the Westmoreland Conservation District at 724-837-5271 to make arrangements. The new set includes 11 episodes of *GreenWorks*' third season. Topics include clean air, recycling, waste and more.

To learn more about "GreenWorks for Pennsylvania" visit [www.greenworks.tv](http://www.greenworks.tv), or call 1-877-PAGREEN.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Album Preserves Farm Heritage**

Local author Cynthia Bombach Helzel fell in love with farming when she was a child. Her recent book, entitled "A Farm Heritage Album" is a collection of stories and black-and-white photographs of Westmoreland county farming throughout the last 50 years.

The book's chapters are labeled by subject – Horses, Machinery & Equipment, Grain Crops, Cattle, Poultry, and others. In addition to the stories and photos in the book, the author has included blank pages at the end where farmers can record their own life stories and photos.

The book, said Helzel, is her attempt at farm preservation. "I wanted to preserve every one, but I knew that couldn't be done," she said. "So, I chose to save their stories instead."

"A Farm Heritage Album" is available in the Westmoreland Conservation District offices (724-837-5271) or by contacting Cynthia Bombach Helzel at RD 1 Box 377, Gbg, PA 15601.

### **District Annual Report Wins National Award**

The Westmoreland Conservation District's 1999 annual report, which chronicled the organization's first 50 years of progress, was selected in December 2000 to receive first place in the Special Publications Outreach Category in a competition sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Equipment Manufacturers Institute (EMI). Judges noted that this professional report was "a very attractive publication... serving two distinct purposes. In addition to summarizing programs and activities of the district, this issue celebrated (their) 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a very inventive way."

The award brought the District a \$500 check and recognition at the 55<sup>th</sup> NACD Annual Meeting held in Fort Worth, Texas, in February 2001. This is the second time in three years that the District has captured a first-place award in this competition. In 1997, our quarterly newsletter, *Landmarks*, took top honors in the newsletter category.



A representative from the Equipment Manufacturers Institute (EMI) presents an award to a WCD representative.

# Education Center Moves Toward Completion

HELP US FINISH THE HOME STRETCH



Contrary to some perceptions, practicing conservation doesn't mean sacrificing your lifestyle. In fact, incorporating a few well-placed conservation practices actually can help you maintain the lifestyle you want by easing the burden on your pocketbook and finding better ways to realize your goals.

Making people aware of the practical advantages of conservation and helping them include them in their lives is the whole idea behind the Westmoreland Conservation District's new Center for Conservation Education. At this converted 120-year-old barn on the Donohoe Road in Greensburg, you soon will be able to see:

- energy-savers like insulated wall-panels, low-E windows, and a geothermal heat pump that's super-efficient to run because it doesn't have to make heat, but simply taps into the heat that's already in the ground;
- easy and helpful tips you can do around your house and in your daily routine to make your community more sustainable; and
- water-saving native landscaping and a cistern system that catches rainwater and then uses the sun's energy to pump it to the garden.

"When it opens later this year, the Center will be one of the region's very best sources for practical conservation

information," said District Manager Greg Phillips. "The public can come here to explore a whole range of conservation subjects – from recycling to water quality – and most of the Center's programs will be offered free-of-charge."

Other conservation examples incorporated into the design of the 7,600-square-foot Center include:

- zoned, radiant floor heating that maximizes comfort and avoids heating unused space,
- exterior deck surfaces made of recycled auto tires, and
- concrete floors that have been colored with iron oxide that was removed from an abandoned coal mine discharge in the Sewickley Creek watershed.

The one-of-a-kind conservation clearinghouse also will feature a fuel cell that will generate enough electricity to power the building, and water-saving toilets and fixtures.

The building and the grounds around it will be incorporated in the Center's education programs, which are designed with a local, Westmoreland-County-specific focus. A team of area educators has just completed the first of these programs: a series of activities focusing on Westmoreland County's watersheds and its sustainable communities. The programs will be presented for area secondary-school teachers in a free workshop this fall and also will be used in programs for the general public.

"The Center is the most ambitious project the District has ever undertaken in its 52-year history," Phillips said. "Through it, we hope to reach a significant number of Westmoreland County's 370,000 residents. And if we can help each of them make just a few, easy conservation-related changes in their daily life, the combined effect can lead to some of the greatest improvements

Westmoreland County's ever seen in water quality, in the wise use of our natural resources, and in creating communities that are highly livable."

But before the Center can begin to realize its tremendous potential, it has to be completed. "The Center is about 80% complete," Phillips said, "and we've gotten this far through the generosity of hundreds of donors who have contributed nearly \$750,000 to the project. Now, to finish the more than \$1 million building and get it operational, we've got to find people willing to help us raise the rest."

The photos with this article show the Center's major outstanding needs. Contributions of any size are welcome and all are tax-deductible.



The Center's HVAC equipment has an Energy Star rating for efficiency. The building has been oriented on the site to take maximum advantage of the sun's warmth in the winter and the prevailing breezes in the summer – both of which will reduce the demand for energy to produce heating and cooling. *Needed for HVAC equipment — \$52,000*



The interior finishes of the Center will feature panels of chestnut and oak original to the 120-year-old barn, freshly planed to reveal their beauty. Donated cherry and poplar also will be used, representing the range of natural diversity found in our

local forests, and providing the visual basis for the Center's soon-to-be-developed education program on sustainable forestry. *Needed to complete interior finishes throughout — \$75,000*



The L-shape of the Center's main meeting room allows it to be comfortably adapted for use with a variety of different-sized groups, up to 100. The room is wired for multiple electronic media, and a goal is to also include high-speed Internet access. This room will become the new meeting place for area grassroots conservation groups such as the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County and PA CleanWays, both of which already have scheduled it for 2002.

*Needed to complete/furnish the main meeting room — \$50,000*



Years ago, Ann Rudd Saxman helped us create the county's first conservation resource library. We would like to carry on that tradition in the new Center by creating a much-needed single source library that would house both technical resources for conservation professionals and general information for the public. We envision that the resource library would provide access to everything from videos, brochures, and web sites to the Geographic Information System for the entire county. It also would be a central place to get information on the activities of area conservation groups and to become involved.

*Needed to complete physical space — \$30,000*

*Needed to purchase resources, computer, furnishings — \$20,000*

*Some of the most recent contributors to the Center for Conservation Education include the following:*

<p><b>BENEFACTOR</b> (\$10,000 and above) Allegheny Energy (third-year donation) The Hillman Foundation, Inc.</p> <p><b>PATRONS</b> (\$5,000 to \$9,999) THF Realty</p> <p><b>SPONSORS</b> (\$1,000 to \$2,499) Robert Amore Botanical Society of Westmoreland County (pledge)</p>	<p>Dan and Leann Griffith PA CleanWays Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pillsbury (second donation) William Rea</p> <p><b>PARTNER</b> (\$500 to \$999) Robert O. Bender II Nature's Way Food Outlet Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation</p>	<p><b>ASSOCIATES</b> (\$250 to \$499) Robert L. Ackerman Harry and Mary Meyer Richard Patterson Dorothy Stoner</p> <p><b>IN-KIND DONATIONS</b> <i>have recently been received from:</i> Vince Gaston, Gaston Lumber Larry Lapina, Omnova Solutions Lenhart's Drilling WIRSBO Water Furnace International</p>
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**IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE VALUE OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION,** won't you help us finish the new Center so that important work can begin? Your donation is tax-deductible and very much appreciated. Donors at the Partner Level (\$500 - \$999) and above will receive permanent, public recognition.

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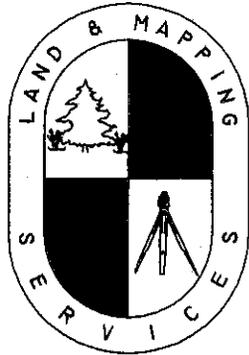
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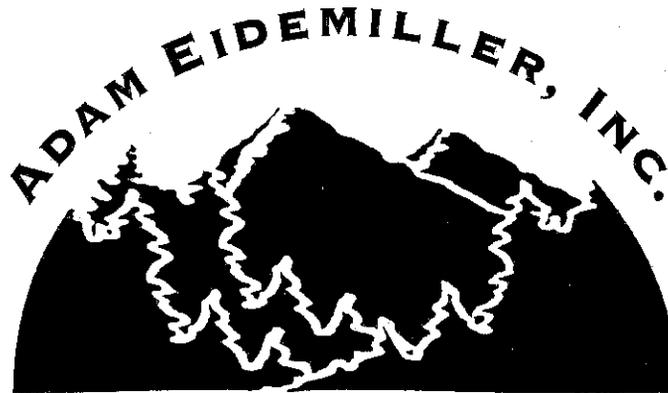
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# Watershed News

By Craig Barras

## **Jacobs Creek Watershed Association**

- Received a grant from the Center for Watershed Stewardship at the Pennsylvania State University for graduate students to study the streams, farms and forests of the watershed in the coming year
- Growing Greener stream restoration project at Stairs Farm nearing completion (streambank stabilization, fencing and buffering, and agricultural crossings)
- Quarterly water sampling of entire watershed (26 monitoring points). Participated in DEP's Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program 'Watershed Snapshot' with residents of the watershed.
- Purchased 'Enviroscape' watershed education model with RWSI (Regional Watershed Support Initiative) grant from WPCAMR
- Applied for Growing Greener streambank stabilization grant

## **Kiskiminetas Watershed Association**

- Adopted By-Laws, elected Board of Directors and Officers early in the year
- Purchased water monitoring equipment and display board with RWSI grant from WPCAMR
- Conducting biological and chemical sampling on tributary streams of the watershed with the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI) and the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

## **Laurel Valley Greenway**

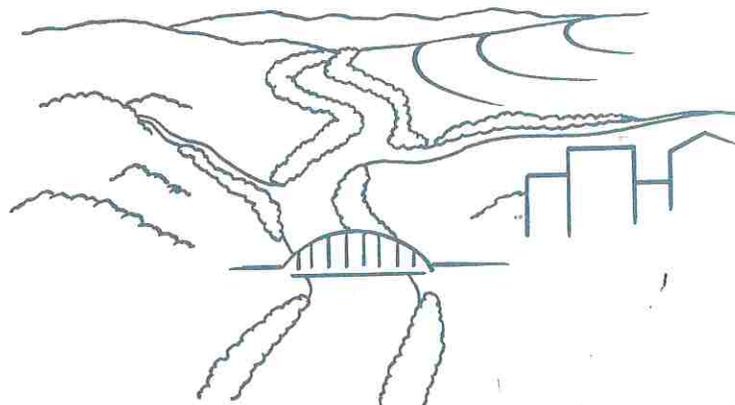
- Continuing work on obtaining funding for the Lacolle Recreational Trail & Greenway (4 mile trail along the Conemaugh River from New Florence to Lockport).
- Working with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Game Commission on integrating educational areas at proposed wetland bank in New Florence along rail trail.

## **Loyalhanna Watershed Association**

- Hired new Executive Director, Drew Banas
- Rehabilitating Freidline Mine Successive Alkalinity Producing System (SAPS) with DEP WRPA funding to improve water quality at this discharge
- Working with Ligonier Borough to make improvements to St. Clair Grove community park in the eastern end of the borough
- Continuing to monitor Adelphoi Borehole discharge in Loyalhanna Creek with Growing Greener grant
- Conducting Youth Conservation Corps in Forbes State Forest for the eighteenth year. Groups repair trails and build bridges and overlook decks.
- Worked with PA Cleanways to cleanup illegal dump site on Penrod Road in Ligonier Township
- Partnering with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to identify and preserve important natural areas for conservation easements

## **Mountain Watershed Association**

- Completed Draft Rivers Conservation Plan for the Indian Creek Watershed
- Construction beginning on the Gallentine Mine Drainage Remediation Project
- Phase I Archaeological assessment at the Kalp Discharge Project site
- Submitted Growing Greener proposal for Fluvial Geomorphology study of Mill Run



## **Pucketa/Chartiers Watershed Association**

- Purchased water monitoring/testing equipment with RWSI grant from WPCAMR
- Held three public meetings in April and first organizational meeting in May
- Adopted By-Laws and elected Board of Directors in June

## **Sewickley Creek Watershed Association**

- Began working on Rivers Conservation Plan with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Moved their office to Westmoreland Community College.
- Students from Harrold Middle School Ecology Club, with support from Allegheny Energy and Youngwood Borough stenciled a non-pollution message ("NO WASTES - DRAINS TO SEWICKLEY CREEK") around catch basins on the streets of Youngwood.
- Progress continues on Lower Growing Greener project (Iron Oxide Resource Recovery)

## **Turtle Creek Watershed Association**

- Conducted spring clean-ups of fishing areas and a tire dump
- Assisted the Fish and Boat Commission in stocking Turtle Creek with trout in April. This was the first time in over ten years the stream has been on the state's stocking list.
- Completed Growing Greener, streambank stabilization at Bear Hollow Park in Murrysville with in-kind services from Murrysville Public Works Department and many volunteers.
- In March, the group applied for DEP Growing Greener grant for Borland Farm Road mine discharge in the White Valley section of Murrysville.
- Moved their office to 'the castle' in Wilmerding, Allegheny County. The building is registered as a national historic landmark.
- Deb Simko resigned as Executive Director and Kristy Flavin was promoted to that position

## **Yough River Council**

- Will hold Annual Membership Meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Cedar Creek Park in conjunction with Yough River Sojourn
- Working with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on studying vegetation and sediment accumulation on forested islands in the river
- Developing Watershed Education Program that will cover the entire Yough River corridor

# Grant Spreads Conservation Message

by Jim Pillsbury

Our Conservation District's heart's desire has always been to spread the message of wise resource use to as many people as we can. From an erosion inspector explaining how to install silt fence to a contractor, to a clerical staffer handing out brochures to office visitors, each employee reaches out in unique ways. Our outreach is best in the field – that is, when we can actually show someone physical examples of conservation work. Recently, we received two State grants to do this: \$35,000 from the 319 Program, and \$75,000 from Growing Greener. Both these monies are being used here at Donohoe Center and the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

Improvement of the stream environment in the park is the focus of the 319 grant. High stormwater runoff from the surrounding industrial park has caused bank erosion and loss of habitat. Traditionally, the stream would be repaired by vast quantities of rock riprap. Our

innovative project uses mostly 'soft' solutions. Work already done includes the installation of 'BioLog' streambank stabilization rolls (made of coconut fiber), the planting of 'live stakes' of willow and dogwood to stabilize the bank and provide habitat, and the creation of a 'wet pond' for wildlife in the industrial park's detention pond. Remaining work involves further stabilization of the streambanks and more habitat plantings, and the use of additional water control structures such as check dams and level spreaders, to slow the runoff down. Some trail enhancement is also planned to allow park visitors access to these new, natural features.

Creation of a 'stormwater demonstration trail' is the goal of the Growing Greener grant. Once again, we deviate from the traditional stormwater solution of catch basins, pipes, and detention ponds. Physical site improvements will feature an alternative surface parking lot for rainfall infiltration and a rain cistern to

collect some of the roof water from the new Center for Conservation Education (Barn) now nearing completion. Soon, pavement blocks made of recycled plastic and concrete will be installed between Donohoe Center and the Barn. When rain falls on traditional asphalt pavement, it runs off... but when rain falls on our new parking area it will infiltrate into the ground, reducing downstream flooding and helping recharge our groundwater. Colorful signs and numbered posts will correspond with a new brochure which will guide walkers on a stormwater journey – from Donohoe Center's traditional paved parking lot, to the innovative new lot, to the rain cistern at the Barn.

Successful completion of these two grants involves much effort! Volunteers are needed to plant some small shrubs for habitat, to create the numbered trail, and to assist in development of the brochure. Please contact the District for further information.

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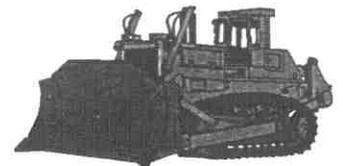
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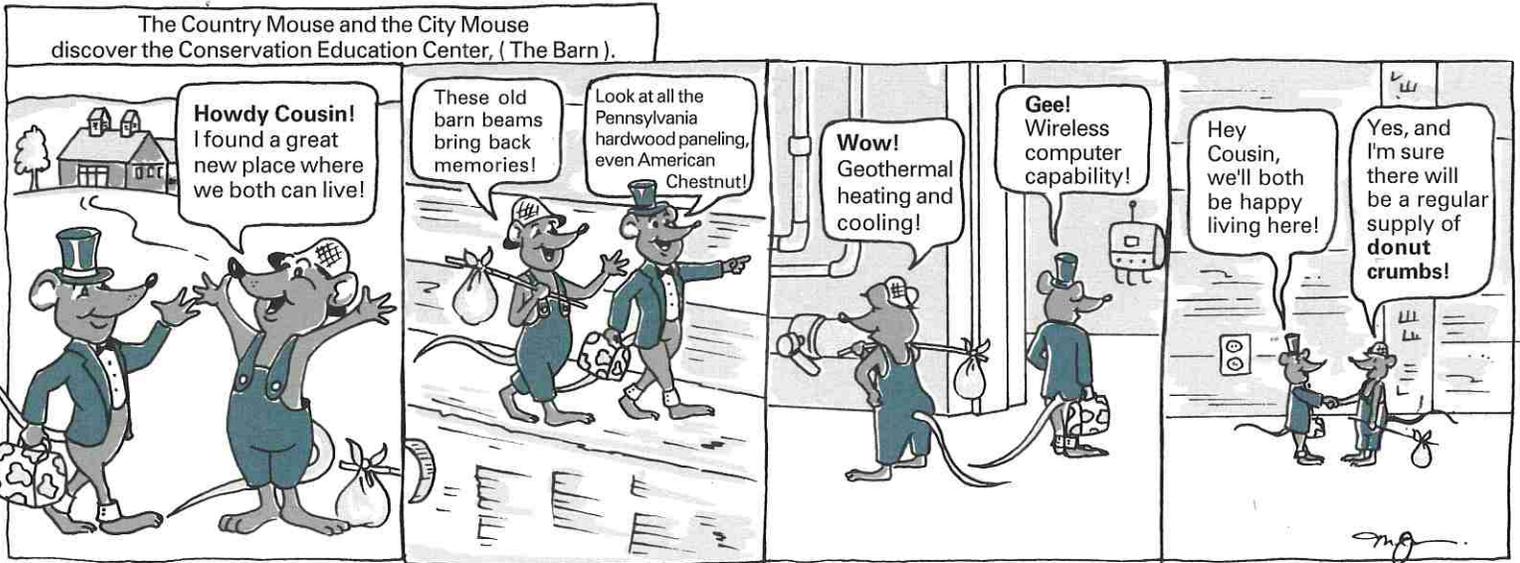
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# In The Field by Mark Jackson and Lorrie Stouffer



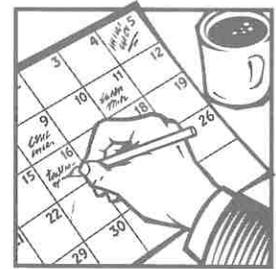
## KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

By Kathy Fritz

E	T	A	D	P	U	E	L	I	P	B	O	G	S
N	Q	S	P	O	H	S	K	R	O	W	P	R	T
V	F	M	N	Z	V	K	R	A	T	E	O	O	A
I	K	A	Y	M	H	A	R	F	J	S	T	W	I
R	R	U	V	U	N	D	F	G	N	Y	A	I	R
O	J	T	M	O	A	Z	X	O	S	U	T	N	S
T	A	G	P	S	T	T	P	X	S	Q	O	G	P
H	T	R	N	A	U	S	U	F	V	T	S	G	R
O	P	O	P	V	R	Y	D	H	O	R	O	R	O
N	L	W	Q	I	E	T	Z	X	X	E	U	E	J
Z	E	T	A	D	P	U	N	R	A	B	P	E	E
L	G	H	M	D	A	N	C	R	N	J	X	N	C
Y	C	S	T	O	R	M	W	A	T	E	R	E	T
W	U	J	J	G	K	F	F	A	K	S	V	R	B
E	R	O	S	I	O	N	C	O	N	T	R	O	L

Can you find the following words in the puzzle to the left?

- Barn Update
- Chair Sponsors
- Envirothon
- Erosion Control
- Gob Pile Update
- Growing Greener
- Nature Park
- Potato Soup
- Smart Growth
- Stairs Project
- Stormwater
- Workshops



## Secondary-school Teachers: Mark your calendar now!

Watch for news in August of a free, one-credit, Act 48-approved workshop featuring the Center For Conservation Education's new curriculum on Westmoreland County's watersheds and sustainable communities.

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# The Jacobs Creek Stream Restoration Project



THE JACOBS CREEK STREAM Restoration Project was recently completed on the Jess Stairs farm. Shown here is a stabilized cattle crossing over Jacobs Creek. The area on the left shows the fenced-out streamside buffer. Over time, without the cattle trampling the banks, the vegetation will re-establish to prevent soil erosion and provide valuable wildlife cover. The area will be used as an educational tool to teach farmers about proper streamside management. This project is a cooperative effort of the Westmoreland Conservation District and the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association. Funding was provided by a DEP Growing Greener Grant.



*Enjoy the  
simple gifts...*

## FIND THE WINDMILL CONTEST

The Westmoreland Conservation District's 2000 Annual Report mailing envelope featured this windmill graphic. We've hidden the windmill in this issue of *Landmarks*, and will give special prizes to the 1st, 6th and 8th callers to Joanne at (724) 837-5271 correctly identifying its location. Good luck!

## LANDMARKS

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Westmoreland Conservation District*

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JACKSON GRAPHICS: MARK JACKSON,  
STEPHANIE LAFRANKIE - GRAPHIC DESIGN

LAUREL VALLEY GRAPHICS - PRINTING

*Address Service Requested*

*Winner, National Association of Conservation  
Districts, 1997 Communications Competition*

LANDMARKS

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