

## ◆ Franklin Regional Continues Winning Ways ◆



Left to Right: Tony Quadro, *Westmd. Conservation District*; Franklin Regional Envirothon Team - Tom Pearson, *Advisor*; Brooke Merrell, David Augustine, Janice Conner, Tom Graham, Susan Bach, Chris Sezak.



Mock aerial lime application, part of Living Lakes Envirothon Demonstration.



Left to Right: Sponsors - Malcolm Sias, *Westmd. Co. Dept. of Parks & Recreation*; Dave Schmidt, *West Penn Power*; Greg Phillips, *Manager* and J. Roy Houston, *Chairman, Westmd. Conservation District* display 1989 T-shirt.

by A. P. Quadro

A team from Franklin Regional High School recently placed third at the Pennsylvania Envirothon held at Reed's Gap State Park. Students from Westmoreland County have placed either first, second, or third in each of the last four Pennsylvania Envirothons. Over 40 counties participate in the competition annually.

Franklin Regional qualified for the State competition by winning the Westmoreland County Envirothon on May 1 at Twin Lakes County Park. The team, coached by Tom Pearson, consisted of Brooke Merrell, David Augustine, Janice Conner, Thomas Graham, Susan Bach and Chris Sezak. Franklin Regional became the first team to win all five events at the County Envirothon. The events include: soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife, and recycling.

Second and third place awards at the Westmoreland County Envirothon went to teams from Derry and Hempfield Area Senior High Schools respectively. The first, second, and third place teams received trophies and the opportunity to participate in a field trip to West Penn Power's Mitchell Power Plant to examine pollution control equipment. All Envirothon participants received a specially designed T-shirt and were treated to a cookout lunch.

A very exciting and highly unusual mock demonstration of an aerial lime application process was conducted by "Living Lakes". "Living Lakes", a private non-profit organization based in Washington DC, utilizes both helicopters and specially

constructed barges to apply a lime slurry to biologically dead, over-acidified lakes and streams.

The Envirothon strives to teach students about the environment through competition. The Westmoreland County Envirothon is sponsored by the Westmoreland Conserva-

tion District, West Penn Power, and the Westmoreland County Department of Parks and Recreation. The District would like to extend thanks to all of the agency people, students, and teachers who helped make the program a success.

### Meeting Planned For September 12th

## Update on Agricultural Security Areas

by Wes Gordon

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture recently conducted a Farmland Protection Workshop in Greensburg. The purpose of the workshop was to provide Agricultural Security Area (ASA) and Agricultural Easement Program training to government officials, agriculture agency personnel, farmers, and interested citizens.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, there are 327,553 acres enrolled in ASAs. To date, there are no

ASAs in Westmoreland County. Pennsylvania's ASA program was established by Act 43 of 1981. Under Act 43, an ASA is a unit of 500 or more acres of viable agricultural land. As of August 1988, 87 ASAs have been created in Pennsylvania. The average size of an ASA is about 3,765 acres and an average of 32 farmers participate in each ASA.

Landowners who want to participate in an ASA must petition their local government to establish the ASA. The local governing body

Continued on page 2

must approve the petition for the ASA. Landowners who participate in ASA are protected from local ordinances that restrict farming operations. And there are limitations on land condemnation procedures, by Commonwealth or local agencies, within the ASA. In the future, participants in ASA may be able to sell development easements to the Commonwealth. (The development easement represents the right to develop the agricultural land for non-farm uses.)

The Westmoreland Conservation District, in cooperation with the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Westmoreland County Commissioners, is planning to conduct an informational meeting on Agricultural Security Areas and farmland protection. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Greensburg Garden & Civic Center. The featured speaker will be Stan Lembeck of Penn State University. Please plan to attend! ■

## Carnegie Mellon Connection

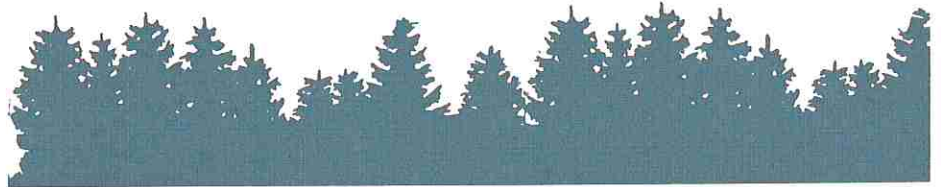


This June, Tom Ford began his student internship with the Westmoreland Conservation District. Tom is doing a number of things at the District including: developing a computer database system, assisting the District's Compost Recycling Committee, conducting run-off and infiltration tests, and participating in site visits with District staff. He will be with the District until August 25, 1989.

Tom says, "The summer of 1989 has been both very active and productive. Working at the Westmoreland Conservation District has provided me with an excellent opportunity to learn about conservation while contributing to environmental protection."

Tom will be a second year graduate student at Carnegie Mellon when classes begin this September. He is looking forward to graduating next May with an MS degree in Public Management and Policy.

# Tree Farms For Conservation



by A. P. Quadro, Jr.

One of the prime goals of the Westmoreland Conservation District is the protection of water quality through protection of watershed integrity. In Westmoreland County, trees often make up a large percentage of a stream's watershed area, especially in streams such as the Loyalhanna. Trees not only protect water quality, but also provide wildlife habitat, and produce valuable lumber products. One way to ensure generations to come of clean water and the continued benefits of the forest, is the American Tree Farm System.

The American Tree Farm System fosters the management of forest resources for repeated crops of timber while supporting wildlife, conserving soil and water, and providing places for recreation. The Tree Farm idea views timber as a crop, and like agricultural crops, timber can be harvested at intervals off of a given tract of land. To ensure this, the landowner should have a management plan which prioritizes thinning, weedings, and methods of regeneration, all of which are to be implemented in an environmentally sound manner. Although the rotation ages are much longer, timber can be harvested like farm crops to meet the needs of the population and still provide the benefits described above.

To qualify as a Pennsylvania Tree Farm, a tract of land is usually at least 10 acres and is capable of producing commercial

forest products. Each Tree Farm must have a written management plan and a map, and is reinspected every five years. At least two practices (timber stand improvement, etc.) must be completed on a significant part of the land to qualify as a certified Tree Farm. Qualified land that has not been previously managed may be enrolled initially as a "Pioneer Tree Farm".

Other guidelines require the use of erosion and sediment control practices and quality logging to keep streams clean, and proper silvicultural practices to provide high quality trees and regeneration.

There are 46 certified Tree Farms comprising 6,242 acres in Westmoreland County. Tree Farms can help to provide quality habitat and watersheds as well as a viable forest product industry. To find out more about the Tree Farm System, contact Tony Quadro at 837-5271.



The Westmoreland Woodlands Association, an organization composed of tree farmers and others who are interested in forest management, will hold a meeting on September 14 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service office located on Route 66, 1/2 mile north of Greensburg. Mr. John Heissenbuttel of the American Forest Council, Forest Policy and Research Office, Washington, DC will speak on timber harvesting ordinances.

## Naturally DELICIOUS

by Lincoln Steff

### FRESH VEGETABLE LASAGNA

- 2 Tbs oil
- 3 small zucchini, sliced and quartered
- 3 large carrots, sliced in rounds
- 2 medium red sweet peppers, sliced
- 4 green onions, sliced
- 15 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 1 28-oz. can Italian-style tomatoes, quartered
- 1 28-oz. can tomato puree
- 1 lb. skimmed ricotta cheese
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 lb. part-skim mozzarella cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups cold water



Heat oil in frying pan. When hot, add vegetables and stir-fry 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Coat a 10½-by 15-inch baking pan with nonstick spray. Arrange half the noodles in the pan. Add half of the vegetables, tomato pieces, puree, ricotta, Parmesan and mozzarella. Add another layer of noodles and the rest of the other ingredients. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add the 2 cups of water. Cover pan with foil coated with nonstick spray. Bake in a preheated 350° oven for 1½ hours. Let stand ½ hour before cutting. Excellent when served the next day. Serves 6 to 8.

Share Your Favorite Recipe!  
Send Them To:

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



# Photography From Above

by Jim Pillsbury

Have you ever wondered why birds like to fly? Perhaps it is because they enjoy a view that very few others see. Aerial photographs provide a birds-eye view for planners, developers, engineers, farmers, scientists and resource conservationists.

Your County conservation team uses aerial photography to locate streams, ponds, roads, houses, and other physical features. In addition, aerial photography is used to determine crop acreages and locations for

federal crop reporting. A series of chronologically ordered aerial photographs reveals the past land use patterns of an area. The exact location of existing or proposed conservation practices are depicted on the aerial photograph that is part of every conservation plan. Even informational publications, such as the Westmoreland County Soil Survey, utilize aerial photography for base mapping.

Here is an aerial photo of a portion of Westmoreland County. *Can you identify the location?*

*Answer: Depot Street, Youngwood. Visible at right are the Jack's Run flood plain and wetland area.*

## — ANNOUNCEMENT —

### Farm Credit has moved

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Suite 101  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Phone: 834-4235  
(located across from Mt. View)

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**Ruth Trumbetta** - Farm Records &  
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**Ronna Weaver** - Secretary  
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*Be a Landmarks Sponsor!*

# CONGRATULATIONS

*West Penn Power salutes the Franklin Regional School District team for winning the May 1 Westmoreland County Envirothon and taking third place in the Pennsylvania State Envirothon, June 24.*

*We are pleased to be a participating sponsor of this valuable environmental education event.*

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