

They Did it Again...

4th Envirothon Win for Franklin Regional!

by Tony Quadro

A five member team from Franklin Regional High School represented Westmoreland County in the seventh annual Pennsylvania State Envirothon at Bald Eagle State Park in Centre County. Team members Tom Graham, Chris Szejik, Brooke Merrell, David Augustine, and Janice Conner placed third out of over forty teams from across the state.

Franklin Regional qualified for the State competition by winning, for the fourth time in a row, the Westmoreland County Envirothon on May 7, at Mammoth County Park. Second and third place awards went to Derry Area and Yough School Districts respectively. Trophies were awarded to the first three place teams: all participants received specially designed T-shirts and were treated to a cookout lunch.

Terry Krommel of the Powdermill Nature Reserve presented an informative explanation of Powdermill's small mammal research. Students were shown radio collars and receivers and several species such as: a white footed mouse, a dwarf Siberian hamper, and a short-tailed shrew. The Envirothon's main objective is to cultivate a desire to learn about our environment through competitive events. Students compete against each other in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and this year's current event: wetlands.

The event is sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District, West Penn Power Co., Westmoreland County Department of Parks, Charley Brothers, Davis' Supermarket, and the Westmoreland County League of Sportsmen. The District would like to thank all of the agency people, students, and teachers who helped to make this year's event a big success!



On a Winning Streak, the Franklin Regional Envirothon Team - standing left to right: Brooke Merrel; Janice Conner; David Augustine; Tom Pearson, Advisor; kneeling left to right: Tom Graham; Chris Szejik.

Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation Award Established

Ann Rudd Saxman, a devout conservationist, talented landscape designer, and vital part of the Westmoreland Conservation team, passed away June 4, 1990. Ann combined her life-long love of the natural environment with her willingness to voluntarily promote conservation.

Prior to the establishment of government programs, she had been an advocate of the benefits of soil and water conservation, solid waste management, composting, and recycling. In 1969, Ann was the first woman to be appointed as a Westmoreland Conservation District Associate Director. 1972 brought the nationally-acclaimed "Directory of Environmental Information," in which Ann was responsible for coordinating and raising funds.

To preserve her spirit of conservation, J. Roy Houston, Chairman, Westmoreland Conservation

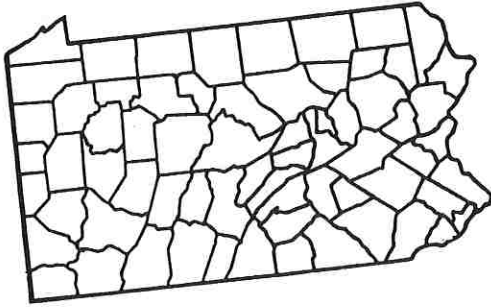
District, has announced the creation of a statewide award that has been established to recognize outstanding and long-term volunteer service in the field of conservation. This award, named in honor of Ann Rudd Saxman and her lifetime of community service, is funded through a grant made by the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation of Latrobe. The foundation and the Westmoreland Conservation District wished to recognize Mrs. Saxman's commitment to community and conservation.

Nominations for the award will be established from each of Pennsylvania's 66 county conservation districts. The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts will annually choose an individual to receive the honor. The first award will be made in October 1991.



CHECK THIS OUT!

Conserve your Pennsylvania



by Jill Bates

Why not join the exclusive network of environmentally-minded Pennsylvanians wanting to conserve their county's natural resources?

As a member of this "conservation partnership," you will be networking into a state-wide conservation movement. You'll encounter Pennsylvania's natural resources, wonders, unique get-aways, and methods to conserve our beautiful state's treasures.

Through a quarterly journal, discover and re-discover your local conservation district, and gain a voice in environmental issues. Joining this partnership will also fund state and local educational programs.

A complete look at this new "conservation partnership" can be found in the Fall issue of "Landmarks." If you have questions and/or want to be a part of conserving Pennsylvania, call Jill at the District, 837-5271.

Naturally DELICIOUS



by Lincoln Stefl
Submitted by Jill Bates

Swiss Vegetable Medley

- 1 bag (16 oz.) frozen broccoli, carrots and cauliflower combination. Thawed and drained.
- 1 can (10 3/4 oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup.
- 1 cup (4 oz.) shredded Swiss cheese.
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1 jar (4 oz.) chopped pimento drained. (optional)
- 1 can (2.8 oz.) Durkee French Fried Onions.

Combine vegetables, 1/2 cup cheese, sour cream, pepper, pimento, and 1/2 can fried onions. Pour into a 1-quart casserole. Bake, covered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Top with remaining cheese and onions; bake, uncovered, 5 minutes. Makes 6 servings.



RAMP Works in Westmoreland

by Wes Gordon

The Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP) has been a welcome addition to the mine reclamation efforts in Westmoreland County. A county such as ours is both rich in the history & heritage of coal mining but also plagued with problems from past coal mining activities. Unreclaimed mine sites have created hazards to rural people throughout the county. Open mine entrances, air shafts, and unstable highwalls present hazards to people living and working in the area. The production of coke from the coal mined here in the county has also left hazards such as abandoned and collapsing coke ovens and unsafe structures.

RAMP has assisted in the removal of many such hazards. During the 10 years the program has been active in Westmoreland County, 15 sites have been completely reclaimed. These have included items

like sealing abandoned entrances, filling air shafts, removing highwalls and unsafe structures. In each case, surface water disposal and permanent vegetative establishment were of paramount concern. We have been especially proud of the vegetation established on these sites, many of which had been bare for a number of years. These sites were reclaimed at the request of the landowner in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service and the Westmoreland Conservation District.

The Conservation District & SCS continue to accept applications from landowners of eligible abandoned mine lands. On-site visits are conducted to determine eligibility and degree of hazard. If you own land which has been adversely affected by past coal mining activities - give us a call. Maybe we can help.

Goodbye Greg!

by Wes Gordon

Gregory Cironi, jointly employed by the Westmoreland Conservation District & SCS since August 1988, recently resigned and moved with his wife, Beverly and son, Ben to Waterville, Maine. Greg was a key element in the Field Office effort to perform the Food Security Act requirements. He analyzed nearly 1000 Highly Erodable Land determinations for farming land and planned soil and aerial maps for most of the SCS planners who worked in Westmoreland County. Greg completed many FSA plans especially for small operations and helped with field work. An ardent hunter, fisherman, and archer, we know Greg will enjoy Maine. He hopes to be able to work for the SCS/District there. We wish him and his family much happiness. He will be missed.





Kathy's Kids' Corner

Landmarks Word Search

by Kathleen Fritz

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

Recycle Oil
 Shredded Newspaper
 Composting
 Conservation
 Soil
 Erosion
 Sediment
 Stormwater
 Wetlands
 Pastureland
 Woodlot Management
 Trees
 Defoliation
 Gypsy Moth
 WCD
 ASCS
 SCS
 RAMP
 Envirothon
 Summer Landmarks

Keep These Meetings in Mind

Westmoreland Conservation District Meetings:
 August 29th; September 26th;
 October 24th
 8:00 PM at the People's Gas Company,
 Donohoe Road, Greensburg

Loggers & Landowners: Working Together in the 90's
 September 11, 7:00 PM,
 Mt. View Inn, Rt. 30
 Greensburg

Westmoreland Woodlands Association
 Meeting to be held Mid-August, Early
 September. Call Westmoreland Conser-
 vation District at 837-5271 to confirm
 date.

Introduce A Friend To Landmarks!

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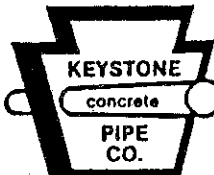
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ENVIRONMENTAL GOODIES

Stop by the Westmoreland Conservation District, 932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East, Greensburg. Check out and pick up free environmental brochures and pamphlets. Also, possible gifts for family and friends. Come on in!



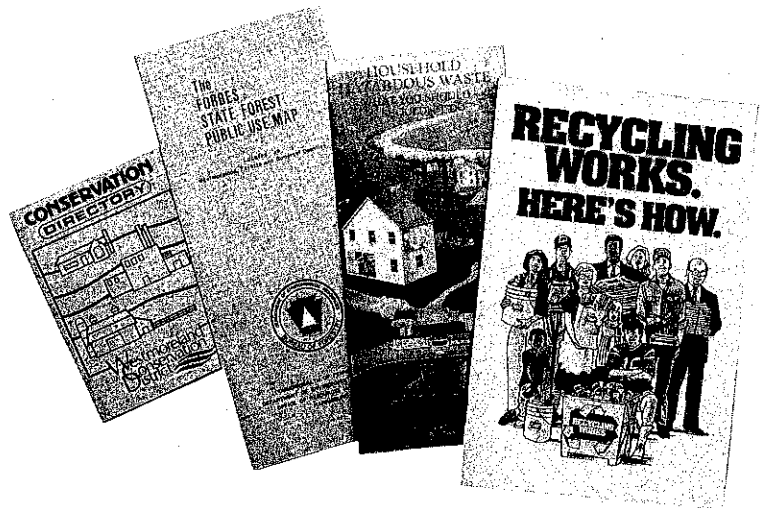
Color poster available (36" x 24") Cost: \$3.00



1990 Envirothon T-Shirts

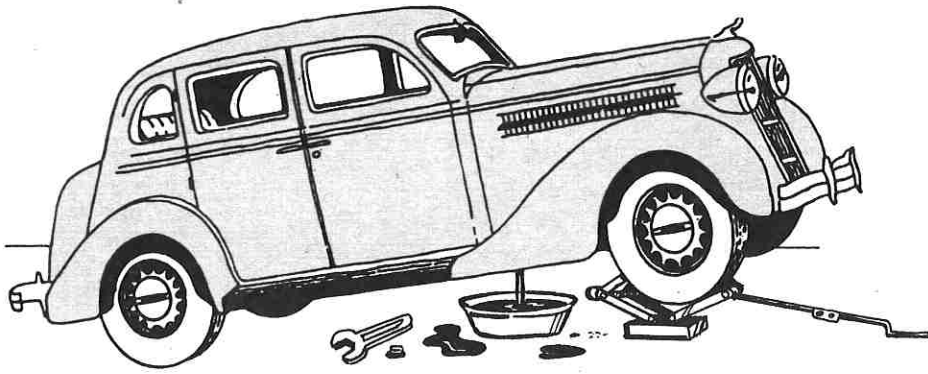
Available in LG, XL, XXL

\$5.00 each while quantities last



Free Brochures. Come and pick them up!

Yes, Oil Can Be RECYCLED



by Jill Bates

Pennsylvania residents, in 1 year, produce 35 MILLION GALLONS of used oil. 23 MILLION GALLONS of that is generated by those who change their own oil. Sadly, most of those individuals dispose of that oil into the ground, storm drains, garbage, or streams. The oil may disappear out of sight, but that doesn't mean it's not going to come around for a repeat performance.

If used oil is poured into the ground, it seeps into the water table and contaminates our drinking supply. 1 quart of oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water.

Dumping oil into the sewer or storm drain, is like tossing it directly into a stream or river. 1 pint of used oil can produce a poisonous oil slick an acre large.

Tossing it into the trash is no solution. It's now illegal to do so.

Used motor oil is possibly the worst oil for the environment. The oil is damaging in itself, and also picks up extra toxins while in your engine. But, used oil doesn't lose its lubricating quality, which means it can be cleaned and processed into heating fuel, or refined and converted into an industrial lubricant or usable motor oil.

If this oil was recycled, 500,000 barrels could be saved each year and about \$20 million worth of oil would remain in our economy.

The next time your car's oil is changed, either by you or the service station, remember the possible harm dumping oil can bring to you. If you get your oil changed, ask if your service station recycles. If they don't, take your car to a place that does. If you change your own oil, there are places that will take it. Remember - whether it's 4 quarts or 40, that much less ends up in our soil and water.

The following stations will take your used oil to be recycled. For an expanded list of those stations that take oil or change oil that will be recycled, or if you know of someone who takes oil, call Jill at the District, 837-5271.

Bob Mentzer Ford

Across from Pizza Hut on Rt. 30
before the Westmoreland Mall, Greensburg
837-6820

Bob's Auto Center

739 South Main St., Greensburg
838-1414

Moospaper Anyone?

by Gary Sheppard

The Westmoreland Conservation District and the Westmoreland County Extension Office are seeking users and suppliers of old newspaper.

Farmers are learning that newspaper is an effective and cheap source of bedding for cattle. Several local farms are already using chopped newspaper to bed dairy cattle. This practice not only saves on bedding costs, but also recycles one of society's major wastes. Newspaper is more absorbent than straw or sawdust, contains fewer disease causing organisms, and can fit into many livestock operations.

If you or someone you know can save old newspaper and have the desire to help eliminate this paper waste problem, these farmers need your assistance. The paper should be kept clean and dry, black and white newsprint, and free of any metal, such as staples.

If you would like to use or supply old newspaper, or would like more information, contact either,

Gary Sheppard

County Extension Agent
837-1402

or

Kathy Fritz

Westmoreland Conservation
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