

District Runs For The Prize: Cleaner Streams



by Jim Pillsbury

The sweet sound of returning songbirds, the scent of blossoming fruit trees, the emerald brilliance of fresh new grass, and the appearance of cute baby animals are all sure signs of spring in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Another favorite sign of spring for the athletically minded is the emergence of runners on rural roadsides, preparing for track and field events. Spring is traditionally the season for the hundred-yard dash, the half-mile, the hurdles, and the old standby, the relay race. This spring marks the seventh anniversary of the Westmoreland Conservation District's entry into a relay race of sorts—the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

Begun by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC, the NPDES program was handed off to individual states—in our case, to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (which now is known as DEP, the Department of Environmental Protection).

DEP chose to pass the baton along to those in the field best able to handle its implementation at the local level, the state's Conservation Districts. It has now been seven years since the Westmoreland Conservation District began to run the NPDES permit process in our county, and we would like to give an update on the progress of our cross-country route.

The first runner on our Conservation District's NPDES team, Kathy Fritz, checks the permit applications received to see that

the paperwork is properly completed. She passes the permit application on to our technical staff (usually Jim Pillsbury or Craig Barras) for a review of erosion-control plans and details. Once the plan is approved, Kathy issues the NPDES permit to the applicant. Then our field team takes over. Craig, Tony Quadro, Holly Dugan, and Jim conduct site visits and inspections to make sure that the earthmoving contractors are properly implementing the plan and protecting the environment. Of the 569 site inspections our team conducted in 1997, 301 involved sites larger than five acres. In all, we issued 41 plans related to NPDES.

The prize at the NPDES finish line is to control the amount of sediment polluting

continued on page 2



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District Runs For The Prize..., continued from page 1

our county's streams. Sediment is the largest pollutant by volume to our Commonwealth's waters.

Historically, our state's Clean Streams Law and the DEP's Erosion Control Rules

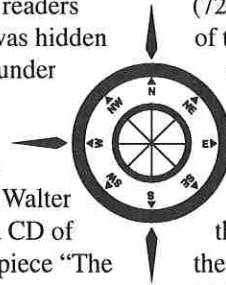
and Regulations have viewed this problem as the responsibility of landowners. The goal of NPDES is to hold both earthmovers and landowners to a uniform standard of performance in the area of erosion control. Earthmovers are now required to be listed on site permits, and are held responsible for erosion control violations.

Final "Find the Fiddle" Winners Announced; New Contest Under Way

The last issue of *Landmarks* concluded our year-long emphasis on "Celebrating the Four Seasons" with three readers who found the fiddle (it was hidden on page 5, in the ground under the picture of the cow).

Barbara Dzambo of Scottsdale; Gordon Pierce of Scottsdale, and Jacalyn Walter of Export each received a CD of Vivaldi's classical masterpiece "The Four Seasons."

This issue of *Landmarks* launches a new contest, based on the new theme of our recently issued annual report:



"Road Map to the Future." Somewhere in this issue is hidden a picture of a compass. The 4th, 9th, and 14th callers to (724) 837-5271 with the correct location of the much smaller version of the compass shown here will each win a map of Southwest Pennsylvania Trout Waters. The map points out lakes and streams for trout fishing in a 19-county area that ranges from Lawrence County in the northwestern part of the state to Fulton County in the southeast.

Westmoreland Conservation District staff, directors, and associate directors are not eligible to win.

New Handbook Offers Unique Approaches To Erosion And Stormwater Management



planning that was developed with input from a 22-member statewide peer review group that included our own Jim Pillsbury, P.E.

The handbook gives fresh ideas for implementing best management erosion control and stormwater practices for developing areas, and is a great tool for engineers, municipal planners, planning commissions, and architects.

The handbook was designed by CH2M HILL with support and funding from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, the Keystone Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

On March 18, District staff joined nearly 100 engineers, planners, and environmental regulators at the Palace Inn in Monroeville for a workshop that introduced many innovative ideas and a unique systems approach to site development.

The content of the workshop was based on a new handbook for environmental

We have a limited number of handbooks available at the District office for sale at \$25 apiece. If you are interested, please call us at (724) 837-5271 and talk to Kathy Fritz.

NEW SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN ENVIROTHON

This year's Envirothon on May 4 at Mammoth Park featured teams from 10 area high schools, including first-time-ever teams from Greensburg Central Catholic and Laurel Valley.

Tony Quadro, the District's program specialist/forester, coordinates the Envirothon and attributes the new participation to expanded outreach efforts last year. "We generated a lot of publicity for the program last year, and then we capitalized on it by sending a special mailing to the principals of the schools that didn't participate to show them what they missed, and inviting them to become involved in '98."

The Envirothon is a year-long environmental education program that helps students learn more about conservation and the environment. It culminates in a competition where student teams are challenged to develop creative solutions to environmental problems in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, as well as a current issue, which this year is watersheds. The District has been sponsoring the Westmoreland County Envirothon since 1985.

If you are an educator or a parent who would like to see your student(s) become involved in next year's Envirothon, call Tony at (724) 837-5271.

First-place winners of the 1998 Envirothon:

Franklin Regional High School

Second place:

Kiski Area High School

Third place:

Hempfield Area High School

Also participating were teams from Burrell, Greensburg Central Catholic, Greensburg-Salem, Laurel Valley, Mt. Pleasant, Norwin, and Yough High Schools.



Major corporate sponsors of the 1998 Westmoreland County Envirothon

Allegheny Power
Innovative Environmental Services
Shop 'n Save

Additional support provided by

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Westmoreland County Sportsman's League

Spring Sale

"Naturally Delicious" Cookbooks

225 recipes to spice up your family mealtimes.....\$10

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Use the form to the right to place your order, and mail it with your check made out to Westmoreland Conservation District to:

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You can save shipping and handling costs by making your purchase at the District Office, on Donohoe Road about one mile from Westmoreland Mall. The District office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



ORDER FORM

Cookbooks

- ___ Quantity Ordered
- ___ Price per cookbook (\$10)
- ___ Shipping (add \$3.00 per book)
- ___ **TOTAL for COOKBOOK(S)**



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- ___ Quantity Ordered
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\$35.00, sizes XXL - XXXL)
- ___ Shipping (add \$5.00 per jacket)
- ___ **TOTAL for JACKET(S)**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
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NATURALLY

Delicious

by Karen Barnhart

Sunday Morning Coffee Cake

- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup butter
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

Sift flour, sugar, baking powder & salt. Mix with butter like pie dough. Remove ½ cup for topping and add ½ teaspoon cinnamon. Beat eggs well and add milk. Then add dry ingredients to form a soft dough. Pour in a 9" x 13" greased pan. Sprinkle with topping. Bake for 35 minutes at 350°.



KATHY'S KIDS KORNER - NPDES Program

By Kathy Fritz

R L A T E N G I N E E R X V S
 E O M N P D E S P E R M I T T
 C R U E I C N C N T E R A R O
 E T N M N H E N O T T O C A R
 I N I P D A R O I I A F T N M
 V O C O I P A I T M W C F S W
 I C I L V T L T A R N M O F A
 N N P E I E P P Z E A H U E T
 G O A V D R E I I P E P R R E
 W I L E U 9 R R R O L Y T E R
 A S I D A 3 M C A C C N E E I
 T O T A L D I S T U R B E D S
 E R Y A O X T E O R S C N J T
 R E Y N E V C D N H N P V O Y
 T E R M I N A T I O N D B V Y

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Act Fourteen | 11. Municipality |
| 2. Chapter 93 | 12. NPDES Permit |
| 3. Clean Water | 13. Notarization |
| 4. CoPermittee | 14. PHMC Form |
| 5. Description | 15. PNDI |
| 6. Development | 16. Receiving Water |
| 7. Engineer | 17. Stormwater |
| 8. Erosion Control | 18. Termination |
| 9. General Permit | 19. Total Disturbed |
| 10. Individual | 20. Transferee |

THE CONSERVATION ADVANTAGE

by Holly Dugan

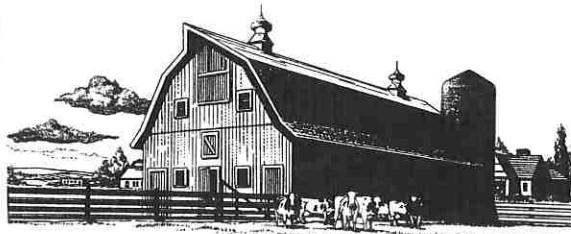
BENEFITS OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN



If you are one of the farmers saying "I won't get a Nutrient Management Plan until I have to," stop and consider some of the benefits. One major reason is saving money on fertilizer costs by better utilizing manure. A comprehensive plan will take into account crop scouting and pesticide recommendations as well as soil and manure testing. Another advantage is limited liability protection.

If you need still another reason, then consider that cost share funding through the Plan Development Incentive Program will be available from the PA Department of Agriculture for CAO's from October 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998. Then funding will be available for **ALL** agricultural operations after September 30, 1998. The cost share will be available through your conservation district.

Knowledge is power. Westmoreland Conservation District has a wealth of information waiting to be used. Your conservation district has services and resources that can help to manage your farm business. Some examples include:



Nutrient Management Information

- Our nutrient management specialist can help you determine if your farm is a concentrated animal operation (CAO) . . . as well as explain the benefits of having a nutrient management plan. The District also has a list of Nutrient Management Act certified specialists who are available to write plans.



Conservation Information

- Maybe your farm could be the Conservation Farm of the Year! We also process general permits for stream crossings and agricultural activities.

Project Grass

- A cooperative effort by local farmers and county conservation districts with assistance from USDA agencies to improve rotational grazing systems. The District also has copies of *The Stockman Grass Farmer* available for loan, or to read when you come in to visit the Farm Service Agency.



Forest Management

- Our forester can provide woodland examinations that determine the quality and quantity of trees and any problems that might exist through an on-site inventory and evaluation.

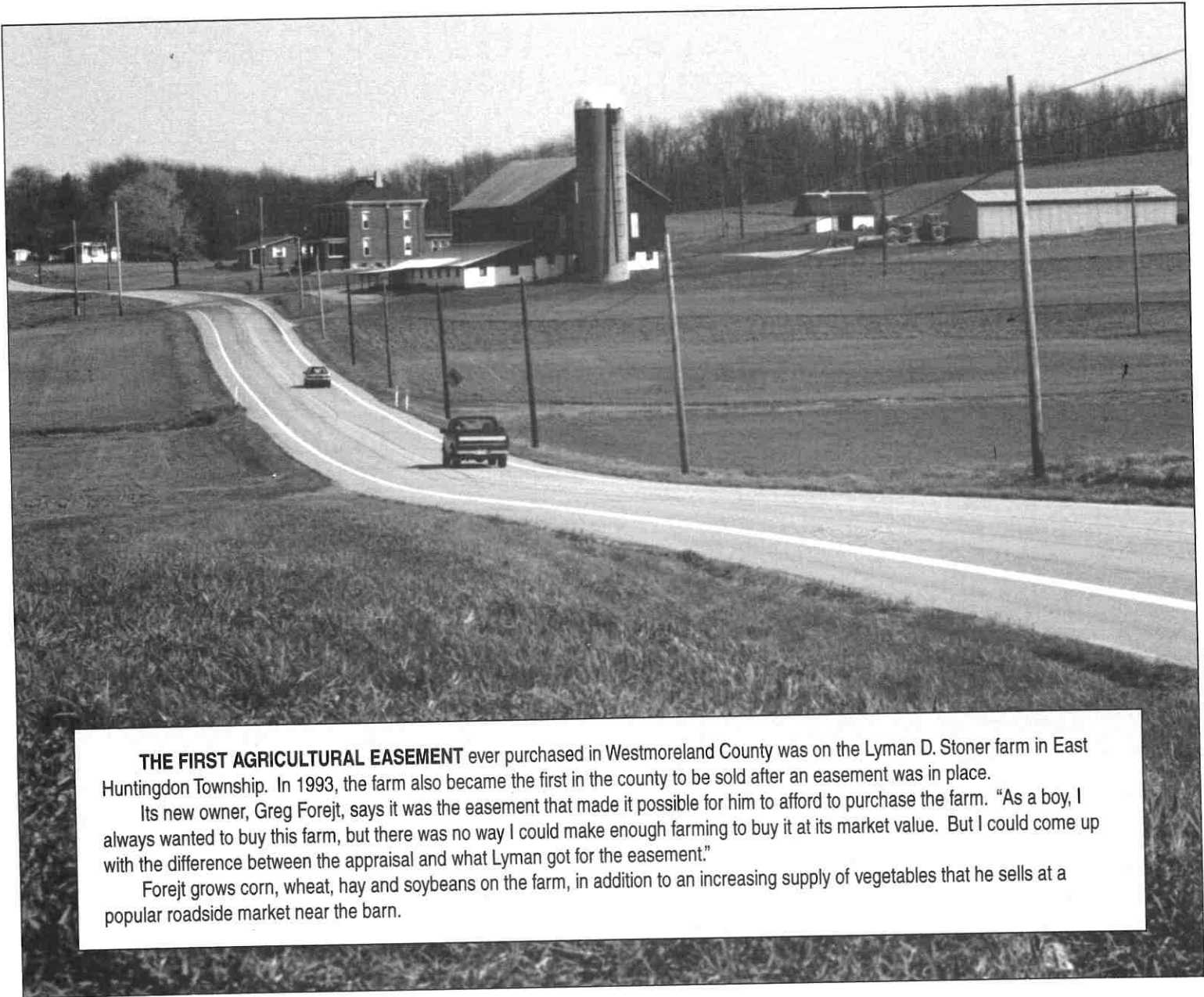
Profitable Farming Through Land Conservation

- On June 30, 1998 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Donohoe Center, the District will hold an educational seminar with topics such as woodland management, nutrient management/milkhouse wastewater disposal, and farmland preservation. A brochure and registration form will be mailed in June.

FREE SOIL TEST

You can win a free soil testing kit if you are one of the first five farm operators to call in and answer this question: Which local agency is responsible for reviewing nutrient management plans, both for Concentrated Animal Operations and volunteer plans?

(Hint: Refer to the Fall 1997 issue of Landmarks)



THE FIRST AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT ever purchased in Westmoreland County was on the Lyman D. Stoner farm in East Huntingdon Township. In 1993, the farm also became the first in the county to be sold after an easement was in place.

Its new owner, Greg Forejt, says it was the easement that made it possible for him to afford to purchase the farm. "As a boy, I always wanted to buy this farm, but there was no way I could make enough farming to buy it at its market value. But I could come up with the difference between the appraisal and what Lyman got for the easement."

Forejt grows corn, wheat, hay and soybeans on the farm, in addition to an increasing supply of vegetables that he sells at a popular roadside market near the barn.

FPP CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS

by Betty Reefer

On March 13, the Westmoreland County Farmland Preservation Program marked the fifth anniversary of its first agricultural conservation easement purchase. In 1992, an easement on what was then the 149-acre Lyman D. Stoner farm in East Huntingdon Township was purchased to insure that this prime farmland would remain in agricultural use only, forever. This easement purchase was not only the first in Westmoreland County, but the first in southwestern Pennsylvania as well.

Since that time, the county's Farmland

Preservation Program has purchased additional easements, so that a total of 2,511.5 Westmoreland County acres are now preserved forever for agricultural use.

The Westmoreland County Farmland Preservation Program's funds come from a combination of sources – state grants, county allocations, and private contributions from citizens concerned about the future of the family farm in Westmoreland County. Even with FPP's creative leveraging of its resources with those of other agencies such as the Loyalhanna Watershed Association,

there still are more area farms applying for easements than there are funds to purchase them. Right now, there are a record 7,240.5 acres of valuable farmland waiting for conservation easements — but only enough funds to preserve about 10% of them.

With land-use pressures increasing, farmland has been disappearing at an alarming rate. Nationally, we are losing two acres of farmland a minute, or 1,000,000 acres per year, according to the Washington-DC organization, American Farmland Trust.

Farm market promotion to grow this year

by Betty Reefer

The US Department of Agriculture recently notified the Farm Market Association of Central Westmoreland and the Farmland Preservation Program that a request they prepared for grant money was successful.

The USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research Education program will help the organizations promote local farm markets through a publicity campaign that includes a new logo, signage, and radio and newspaper advertising to run from May through October.

"By raising awareness that wholesome, locally grown products are available right in Westmoreland County, this program will draw more customers to the existing farm markets," explained FPP County Administrator Betty Reefer "and build respect for the value of agriculture. In order for our Farmland Preservation Program to be successful, we must make the non-farm community aware of the benefits of protection of our productive lands. There is no better way to create that awareness than by providing the consumer with direct access to the benefits of land preservation — quality, locally produced food."

As local farmers see the growing demand for their products, they will be more prone to bring their goods to these markets right in their own backyard instead of transporting them to markets outside Westmoreland County and closer to markets in Pittsburgh. This is essentially the same cyclical principle outlined by US Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman in a recent magazine interview when he said, "The growth in the number of farmers' markets across the nation illustrates the importance of the bridge between farmers and consumers. Farmers, especially small and limited-resource farmers, continue to look for new innovative marketing opportunities to increase income. Consumers, conscious of the nutritional benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables, also are supporting farmers' markets."

Paul Sarver is president of the Farmers Market Association of Central Westmoreland (FMACW) and owner of Sarver's Hill, a certified organic farm just north of Greensburg. He will coordinate the increased marketing effort, and is hopeful that it will lead to new alliances with other area farmers markets, such as the ones in Ligonier and Irwin, and enhance the effectiveness of all operations.

The Farmers' Market Association of Central Westmoreland was formed in 1990 as a way to begin to build a stronger local market. The association includes 15 active vendors who farm a combined total of about 400 acres both full- and part-time, and produce a variety of fruits and vegetables.

It sponsors these producer-only markets in downtown Greensburg on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on West 2nd Street (one block from Pennsylvania Avenue); and in

Hempfield Township on Thursdays from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. in the Freight Liquidators parking lot near Westmoreland Mall, and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon at the Harold Zion Lutheran Church Parking lot on Route 136 near Fort Allen. The Fort Allen Market opens May 16; the downtown Greensburg market opens May 19; and the Freight Liquidators market opens June 25. They all run through the first part of November.

INTERESTED IN SELLING YOUR AG PRODUCTS?

Would you be interested in selling your ag products through a new, Regional Farm Market – a centrally located market that would be open year 'round, and equipped with electricity, water, and cooling facilities?

The Southwestern PA Development Council wants to establish a pilot regional market and is currently evaluating different locations. This would be a great boost for our local agriculture economy and we'd love for the council to choose a location in Westmoreland County.

You can help build the case for a Westmoreland County location by letting us know if you might be interested in selling your products at such a Regional Farm Market. Fruit and vegetable producers, as well as producers of meats, poultry and poultry products, horticultural products, baked goods, and "value-added" food products all are eligible.

Please contact the Farmland Preservation Program at (724) 837-5271, and request a Farm Market Survey Form. Requesting and completing the form does not obligate you to participate in the regional farm market, should it be established in Westmoreland County.



News 'n Notes...

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



(l-r) Ron Rohall, Representative Jess Stairs, Roy Houston

DISTRICT STAFF Greg Phillips and Tony Quadro; board members Roy Houston and Ron Rohall; and Mark Killar of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation took the conservation message on the road by visiting legislators in Harrisburg on April 22. They had the opportunity to speak face-to-face about conservation programs with state Senators Albert Belan, Richard Kasunic, and Allen Kukovich; and with Representatives Jess Stairs and Joseph Petarca. They shared copies of the District's recent annual report with each, and followed up the day with letters and annual reports to each of the legislators they were not able to meet with, including: Representatives Jim Casorio, Joseph Markosek, James Shaner, Thomas Tangretti, and Terry VanHorne; and Senators Melissa Hart, Patrick Stapleton, Barry Stout, and John Wozniak.

AREA HOMEBUILDERS were invited to a free workshop on February 25 that answered questions about erosion controls . . . and presented ways to make construction sites more appealing to buyers and improve construction cost-effectiveness.

The workshop was sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District, O.C. Cluss Lumber & Home Center, and the Westmoreland Homebuilders Association. It featured Curt Johnson, president of the Westmoreland Homebuilders Association, and presentations of timely information on sediment pollution and permits, a relatively new drainage product called 'Form-a-Drain,' proper installation and maintenance of site controls, and alternatives to silt fence.

The workshop concluded with remarks by Chuck Charrie, whose personal experiences as president and CEO of Realco, Inc., and part-time code enforcement officer with Manor borough give him the unique ability to see this issue from both perspectives.

More than 30 people attended.

SEVEN AREA LOGGERS and foresters recently became the first in Westmoreland County to be certified under the highly respected Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania program. They are of

Ron Harr, Walker Lumber Company; Randy L. Piper, RL Piper Logging; Ronald J. Rohall, consulting forester; Gregory Shultz and Gregory A. Shultz Jr., Shultz Lumber and Logging; Marvin Striner, Rosie Striner Lumber Company; and Steven M. Zubach, SMZ Lumber & Logging.

The graduates completed the final course in the SFI Forestry Core Curriculum on March 30. The courses are sponsored locally by the Westmoreland Conservation District, and held at Powdermill Nature Reserve in Rector.

The SFI program includes courses designed to protect the health of both our county woodlands and the individuals who make a living by working in them. Forest ecology, best-management practices, water quality, road-building, OSHA safety standards, and first aid are some of the topics that have been covered in the five workshops held since last June.

To maintain the Sustainable Forestry Trained Professional status, the graduates must attend one approved course per year.

The Westmoreland Conservation District plans to sponsor additional courses in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania program, as well as additional courses/workshops designed especially for educating the public on forest sustainability.

DISTRICT PROGRAM Specialist/Forester Tony Quadro participated in a Project Learning Tree seminar for 20 area teachers at Powdermill Nature Reserve on April 18. He explained what the District does and participated in a walk in the woods to identify trees and discuss forest management.

PROGRAMS

A NATURE PARK Committee meeting was held in late April. Discussion centered on a number of maintenance-related topics, including grass-mowing, trail maintenance, and work needed on the stormwater detention pond. A trail survey was completed and a new interpretive brochure is in the works.

1999 WILL MARK the District's 50th anniversary! We're beginning now to plan some fun and educational activities to celebrate this golden anniversary. If you'd like to be involved, we'd love to have you join us. Call Lorrie at (724) 837-5271.

DISTRICT BOARD AND STAFF

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Mark Jackson, owner and principal of Jackson Graphics of Greensburg, is the new chair of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District's Public Relations Committee.

Mark brings 20 years of PR and related experience to the position. He earned his Bachelor of

Science in graphic design from La Roche College in Pittsburgh, and has worked as a graphic designer, cartoonist, and photographer since 1977. Mark has operated his own full-service graphic design studio since 1986.

An associate director of the Westmoreland Conservation District since 1987, Mark has been a member of the PACD Public Relations Committee for nine years, and does the graphic design and layout for Pennsylvania Resources magazine, and Landmarks.

Mark and his wife Jill live in Greensburg with their three children — Trudy, Mary, and Regis.

KAREN BARNHART joined the District in January as our new secretary/clerk. She brings more than 20 years of clerical and accounting experience to the position, as well as an enthusiasm she calls a "passion for conserving our environment."

In her time away from Donohoe Center, Karen volunteers with Wildlife Works Inc. and enjoys reading, bird-watching, and hiking. She and her husband Jason share their Greensburg home with a golden retriever, a cat and four bunnies.



Karen Barnhart

DISTRICT SECRETARY Tammy Ross gave birth to a boy, Jason Patrick, on February 23 at 8:17 p.m. He weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 21 inches long, with blonde hair and blue eyes.



Jason Patrick Ross

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

HELEN OSTERMILLER, executive director of PA CleanWays, will be moving to Cleveland with her husband this summer. We'll miss her sunny disposition, and her tremendous energy. She made our county a



better place by fighting illegal dumping and littering and by encouraging all kinds of recycling. We wish her well in her new venture.

Jack Driscoll joined CleanWays in February and will be stepping into Helen's shoes to help lead the organization. A native of Connellsville, Jack has worked in recycling and solid waste in Riverside County and with a non-profit organization in California.

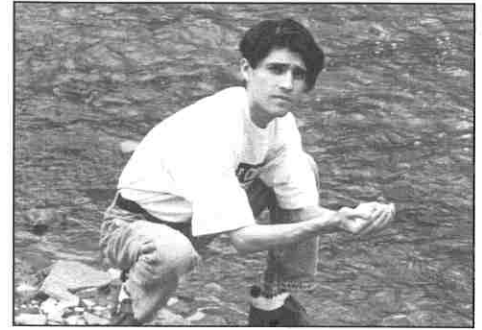
TRANSITION IS A PART of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, too, as Executive Director Lysle Sherwin stepped down from his post earlier this

year. For the past 24 years, Lysle has served as the first and only executive director of the association. During his tenure, Lysle has helped the organization grow from 40 members in 1974, to more than 800 members today. LWA has been a key player in many important clean-up projects, including the Monastery Run in Unity Township and the Friedline Mine in Cook Township.

A search committee has been established to select a new director for the organization, which is dedicated to improving and maintaining water quality in the central and eastern regions of the county.

TURTLE CREEK Watershed Association has a new executive director as well — Gerome Spino, a Greensburg native and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and the JYA program of the University of Lancaster in the United Kingdom. Before accepting the Turtle Creek position, Gerome was the public programs educator for the Audubon Institute in New Orleans. He believes strongly in the value of education, "Education empowers us to find out the who, what,

where, when, how and why of environmental decision making and is needed for positive results," he said.



Gerome Spino

photo courtesy of Gateway Press



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COMPLIANCE REPORTING MAY BE COMING TO THE INTERNET

by Craig Barras

Our Erosion Control Specialist Craig Barras participated as a panel member for the Department of Environmental Protection's Compliance Roundtable at the Pittsburgh Hilton & Towers on March 20. This was one of six similar meetings held across the state to receive public feedback on DEP's proposal to document and track environmental compliance in the commonwealth on the Internet, via the DEP web page.

DEP believes information on who is and isn't complying with the law – a

program it's calling an Environmental Compliance Information Reporting System – should be available to the public. By tracking the compliance of permittees in all different programs statewide, DEP also will be able to qualitatively measure the compliance rates and subsequent improvements to the commonwealth's water, air, and land resources.

Participants at the Pittsburgh meeting included representatives of companies such as Duquesne Light, environmental groups such as the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and organizations such as the Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh.

"Over all, most people at the Pittsburgh meeting thought compliance reporting on the Internet was a good idea, but want to be sure it's handled responsibly," Craig said. Suggestions for building that responsible approach included listing only significant violations, and a commitment to continue to track the violations, noting also when they have achieved compliance.

If you are interested in reading some of the specific comments that came from the meeting in Pittsburgh, or from the meetings held in New Cumberland, Philadelphia, Williamsport, Wilkes-Barre, or Erie, they are available on the DEP web page at: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (choose *Hot Topics* —

Compliance Roundtable Meeting). If you don't have Internet access, you can talk to Craig by calling the District at (724) 837-5271.

The Environmental Compliance Information Reporting System is up and running on the internet on an interim basis and DEP plans to continue to make changes and modify it based on public input, over the next 12 to 18 months.

Web Sites Of Interest

You may want to explore these sites and consider adding them to your list of favorites.

<http://www.pahouse.net/tangretti/index.htm>

Representative Thomas Tangretti's site where you can read more about the issues he's working on.

<http://westmorelandpa.com>

Central Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce home page. Information on chamber activities, publications, and membership.

www.greensburgpa.com

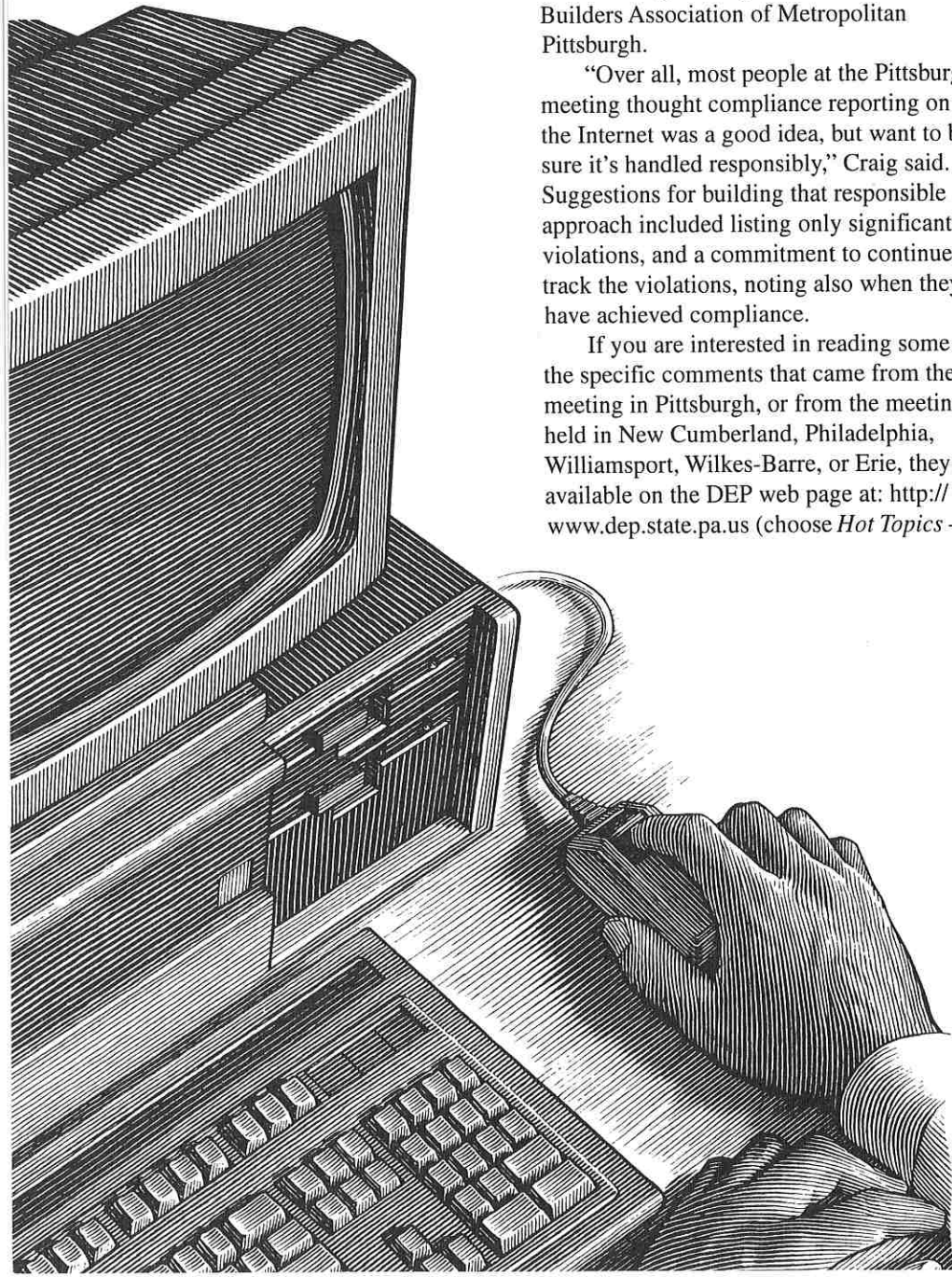
City of Greensburg home page, with information on government business and community services.

<http://www.ruralpa.org>

Center for Rural Pennsylvania, an organization that promotes and sustains the viability of Pennsylvania's rural and small communities. Sponsors forums, conducts research, and awards grants.

<http://www.ctic.purdue.edu>

Conservation Technology Information Center, provides information on farm resource management, farming for maximum efficiency, and watersheds.



Summer Has Come To Nature Park

WHY DON'T YOU and your family come by for a visit, too? It's been quite a spectacular season so far — wildflowers in perfuse bloom, brilliant green tree leaves unfurling, and an abundance of animal and bird activity. It's the perfect place for a quiet, leisurely stroll when you just want to get away from it all. The Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park is located on the Donohoe Road, one mile east of Westmoreland Mall. It is open every day from 9 a.m. to dusk.

Our Readers Read The Best!

Landmarks recently took top honors in a national communication competition that included entrants from all across the United States.

The award was presented in February at the annual conference of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), held in Nashville, Tennessee. Judges called Landmarks a "beautiful newsletter with great artwork, strong photos, and extremely readable copy."

The newsletter competition was sponsored by NACD and the Equipment Manufacturers Institute.

Landmarks is distributed free-of-charge to interested county residents. To be added to the mailing list . . . to change your address . . . or to let us know if you're receiving duplicate mailings, please complete the form to your right and return it to the District office.

Yes! Add me to the Landmarks mailing list.

I'm receiving duplicate mailings. Please check your records.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

My address has changed to the following.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Return to:

Westmoreland Conservation District
Donohoe Center, RD #12, Box 202-B,
Greensburg, PA 15601

Loyalhanna Watershed Non-point Source Pollution Projects Identified

Twenty-five people, representing government, citizens groups, and concerned individuals, met in late March to identify what they felt were the biggest threats to water quality in the Loyalhanna Watershed.

They brainstormed an initial list of 52 issues/problems, then winnowed that down to five priority projects:

- developing better, on-lot alternative sewage treatment;
- establishing a riparian zone and pasture fencing along Carey School Run;
- cleaning up the mine drainage below Keystone State Park lake; and
- developing a model, comprehensive plan for a small watershed (Whitethorne Run).

Five project teams were formed — one for each priority project — and asked to develop a plan of action, and a schedule of follow-up meetings and actions to keep its project moving.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 8
Monthly District Meeting
 7:30 p.m.
 Donohoe Center

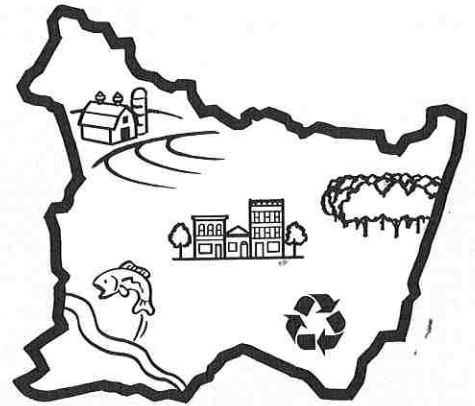
Want to help keep up area hiking and biking trails?
 Join a work crew.

- **Mon Yough Trail**
 8 a.m. every Saturday;
 call 754-1100 for details.
- **Westmoreland Yough Trail**
 8 a.m. every third Saturday;
 call 872-5023 for details.
- **Five Star Trail**
 9 a.m. every second Saturday and
 6 p.m. every fourth Tuesday;
 call 853-7227 for details.

July 29, 30, 31
Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) Quarterly Meeting
 Radisson Hotel, Monroeville, PA

What Is A Conservation District Anyway?

- **WE FOCUS** our efforts on Westmoreland County's natural resources – its soils, forests, and water resources.
- **WE HELP** people take appropriate precautions to minimize their impact on the natural resources, like making sure builders install filter fencing to prevent erosion on their construction sites.
- **WE'RE ALSO INVOLVED** in helping to restore the health of natural resources that have been damaged, such as cleaning up streams that are being polluted with drainage from abandoned coal mines.
- **WE SUPPORT** wise use of man-made resources, too, by encouraging recycling, the thoughtful use of our land, the development of rails-to-trails and quality recreation areas, and the preservation of our county farms.



If you are interested in joining us in caring for our county's soils, streams, forests, farms, and communities, please contact us.

Phone: (724) 837-5271
Fax: (724) 837-4127
email: wcd202B@aol.com
Address: Donohoe Center, RD #12, Box 202-B, Greensburg, PA 15601

WE ARE LOOKING for old Westmoreland Conservation District Annual Reports 1970 or earlier. Please contact Kathy Fritz at the District (724) 837-5271.

LANDMARKS

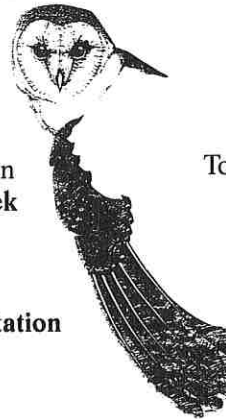
The Official Newsletter of the Westmoreland Conservation District

LORRIE STOUFFER - *EDITOR*
 JACKSON GRAPHICS - *GRAPHIC DESIGN*

September 19, 20, 1998

Special Features
 Saturday: For Children
Critters of the Creek
 11 AM & 1 PM

Sunday:
Birds of Prey Presentation
 2 PM & 3 PM



Loyalhanna Watershed Association - 724/238-7560

Wildlife and Sporting Art:
The Masters' Show
 in Ligonier-follow the signs
 Top 18 National Artists in Person
Show Hours:
 Saturday 11 AM to 8 PM
 Sunday 11 AM to 5 PM
Admission:
 \$4 - Adults
 \$3 - Sr. Citizens & Youth
 Children under 12 Free

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Winner, National Association of Conservation Districts, 1998 Communications Competition

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