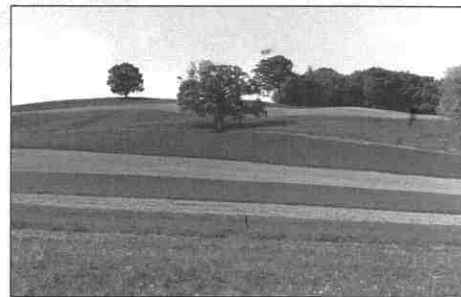




District Chairman Roy Houston (left) and WCD Director Conrad Donovan (right) congratulate Wes Gordon on his retirement.

WES LEAVES HIS MARK ON THE LAND...



Countless miles of contour strips.



Helping design and build the passive AMD wetland treatment system at Saint Vincent College.



Helping design and build beautiful Northmoreland Lake at Northmoreland Park.

Outstanding NRCS Conservationist Retires

Thank You Wes Gordon

By Kathy Fritz and Jim Pillsbury

A common saying begins, 'I have good news, and I have bad news...'. For the Conservation District, our March regular monthly meeting had one of those 'good news, bad news' events when long-time USDA NRCS District Conservationist Wesley M. Gordon unexpectedly announced his retirement. The bad news: WCD was suddenly losing one of our best friends in Conservation. The good news: we got an opportunity to throw a party (which Wes liked a lot!)

Wes, known throughout Westmoreland County as 'Wes from SCS', arrived in

Greensburg in April of 1977. Wes began his government service with a stint in the U.S. Navy, and then worked in SCS (the Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS) offices in Bradford, Towanda, and Somerset before his transfer to Greensburg. During his long and committed career, Wes helped countless farmers and land owners with conservation issues. He made 'conservation plans' for farms to bring them into compliance with the regulations and then laid out contour strips, diversions, crop rotations, and waterways to implement the plan. Wes

was also very active in the former RAMP program for reclaiming rural abandoned mines, and it was common knowledge around the county that Wes could get green grass to grow on the worst, blackest boney pile. More recently, Wes had a key part in the Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition, designing and constructing a large passive wetland treatment system at Saint Vincent College.

Wes managed the Greensburg NRCS office in a way that motivated the staff

Continued on page 2



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*Conservationist Retires
continued from page 1*

and made them feel important while allowing them to work independently toward the agency's goal of protecting the soil and water resources of our county. 'Old-timers' may remember the names of Carl Beabes, Greg Cironi, Joe Obenski — all former employees in Wes's office. Not one to hide behind a desk full of paperwork, Wes encouraged field work and cooperation with all the other agencies and watershed associations in our area. Over the years the NRCS workload grew until now, an average of 1207 farmers and land owners are helped annually.

We know that energetic Wes will stay busy in his retirement. Wes has always enjoyed biking, swimming, and gardening, and would eventually like to return to the family farm in western

Maryland. Every summer Wes would share generously of his home-grown tomatoes and green peppers with the other Donohoe Center employees, a practice which he promised to continue. Fresh veggies were always part of Wes's lunch, which would most always include peanuts and a wedge of cabbage.

We all have fond memories of our years working with Wes. He is not a person for big parties, so it didn't surprise us that he wanted a very casual retirement party at the Barn. Wes was joined by his wife Kathy, his children Jennifer and Ryan, and over 90 of his friends and co-workers for a picnic-style reception complete with hot dogs on the grill. Everyone enjoyed visiting with Wes and reminiscing about old times, and wishing him the best of luck in his retirement.

CREP Agreement Signed, Sealed, Delivered

By Jill Mariani, Growing Greener Program Assistant

Why would farmers voluntarily remove their highly erodible cropland and sensitive streamside areas from production and why would the government encourage this practice? The benefits of CREP in the Ohio River Basin include improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, improved wildlife and fisheries habitat, and an increase in farm income on marginal land. Thanks to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) this is exactly what the state and federal government would like to see happen.

On March 22nd the CREP agreement between USDA and Pennsylvania was signed by Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, and Secretary Bruce Knight of the United States Department of Agriculture, near Pittsburgh. Westmoreland County is among the 16 counties to benefit from the expansion of CREP into the Ohio River Basin.

This voluntary program is designed to remove environmentally sensitive

land from agricultural production. The state and federal government as well as private groups are willing to provide annual rental payments, signing bonuses, incentive payments, and cost share payments up to 100% in order to encourage producers to enroll in the program for contracts of 10 to 15 years.

The goal of the CREP partnership is to enroll 65,000 acres across 16 counties. A total of 10,000 acres are set aside for conservation practices along streams such as riparian buffers. Some of the other conservation practices available to producers include cool season grasses, warm season grasses, wildlife habitat, and shallow water areas.

If interested in receiving more information about Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) please contact the Farm Service Agency at (724) 853-5555 Option 2 or the Conservation District at (724) 837-5271.

Innovative Workshop at Powdermill Draws Large Crowd

By Mike Barrick, Watershed Specialist



Dave Creamer, Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads, explains the many benefits of maintaining a dirt and gravel driveway.

Minimizing sediment pollution and saving money were the key “drawing-cards” at the first Dirt & Gravel Driveway Workshop held at Powdermill Nature Reserve this spring. The first-of-its kind workshop for private landowners was co-sponsored by the Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel

Roads, Powdermill, the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Fifty-three landowners attended the session, which addressed properly handling water run-off and tips for preventing future damage to their driveways. The group also toured nearby

dirt drives and lanes near Powdermill and discussed different methods to correct some of the issues which currently exist. The Westmoreland Conservation District assists landowners who are experiencing erosion problems in their driveways, and is seeking candidates to participate in a cost-share Growing Greener project. If you are interested in participating in this project, please call Mike Barrick at 724-837-5271 at the district.



Spring Cleaning for Wildlife

By Robert Cronauer, Erosion Control Specialist

As the temperatures rise and the days become longer, wildlife becomes more active. This time of year, nearly all wildlife is busy. As winter turns to spring, most species of wildlife turn their attention to raising a family. There are many things we can do to assist them in this process. Among them are providing and maintaining structures for birds and bats.

Perhaps you need to do some spring cleaning at your home. One use for that scrap wood you have lying around would be to build a

bird house or a bat box. Providing homes for birds and bats around your home can benefit you in many ways. Building the structure can be a great hobby, and you can enjoy watching wildlife take up residence in your new creation! Having birds and bats around can also be beneficial by providing free pest control. Birds and bats consume huge amounts of insects as they feed their young through the summer.

If you already have bird and bat boxes around your home, remember to clean them out. You should remove any insects or old nesting materials. Sometimes unwanted guests such as wasps, mice, and house sparrows use the boxes and need to be removed. Even the old

bird nests should be removed every year. Old nesting materials can attract insects and hold moisture, attracting disease-causing pathogens which can be harmful to birds.

So, while you you're performing your chores this spring, keep wildlife in mind!

Editors Note:

Our new erosion control specialist has an Associate Degree in Wildlife Technology and a B.S. in Wildlife & Fisheries, both from Penn State. Rob will occasionally contribute articles on wildlife conservation issues.



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2004 Conservation Bus Tour Visits Earthmoving Sites

By Chris Droste, Erosion Control Specialist



Participants learn about stormwater management practices at the Victoria Highlands site located in Unity Township.

Given the opportunity to “walk a mile” in our technicians’ boots for a day, would you “brave the elements” and join them? On April 30th, over 70 people from the public, local businesses and agencies did just that. Our second annual bus tour highlighted various earthmoving activities currently underway in Westmoreland County. The areas we focused on during the well-attended event were Unity and Hempfield Townships. These municipalities have been growing steadily with retail and residential development. The district wanted to spotlight a few developments which demonstrate excellent erosion control technique and storm water management.

The tour began at the District Barn to discuss erosion control and stormwater management in general and to give an overview of individual Best Management Practices. We explained how to read contours, grading and detail sheets. In addition, we explained how plans are reviewed, and what we look for before approval. The buses were then loaded and we proceeded to our first stop at Palmer Place off Arnold Palmer Drive in Latrobe. District staff Mike Barrick and Chris Droste explained how erosion control slope blanket was used at the site and how sediment traps work. Joe Dietrick, of Fahringer, McCarty, and Grey, Inc, the site engineer, was present to discuss the development design.

The second site we toured was Victoria Highlands, by RWS Development. This site is a residential community behind the newly constructed Wal-Mart in Unity Twp. Rob Shuster, owner and John Brentzel, contractor were present to discuss the site design and various elements of the storm water management design. Jim Pillsbury reviewed the technical aspects of how the ponds worked

to control flooding. Rob and Chris related details of the erosion control measures implemented and how they controlled runoff and sediment from entering the streams nearby.

It was then on to our next stop at Creekside Trail in Latrobe. This is an extension of a walking trail constructed in 1985. The trail was spearheaded by Linda Boxx, from land acquired from Standard Steel, OPCO, and Latrobe Steel. One mile of the trail is finished. Tour attendees were able to walk the trail and experience nature around it. Representatives from Latrobe Parks along with Linda Boxx spoke about the trail and park system.

The next stop was the lunch buffet at

Sharky’s. Everyone enjoyed a nice buffet and had an opportunity to interact with our staff and various organizations. This was Jim Pillsbury’s favorite stop. He enjoyed many desserts there!!

Last, but not least, we visited the Greengate Center Project. Developed by THF Realty, this project is one of the largest earthmoving activities in the county. With 120 acres disturbed at once and 750,000 cubic yards to move to create the building pads, this site towers over all earthmoving projects. The buses parked at the entrance to the site, where Mike Jupina, of Jupina Landscaping, and Chris and Jim from the district discussed the enormous activity undergoing at the site. Everyone got a chance to see giant excavators, dump trucks, D6H Dozers, and even water trucks keeping the “wind erosion” down to a minimum while the machinery moves the earth around. Mike Jupina installed all of the erosion control blankets on the slopes, and performed all of the seeding and mulching.

Overall, those in attendance had a chance to see what our technical staff looks for while on an earthmoving site. They had an opportunity to see how erosion controls are installed and how they reduce pollution to the streams, as well as viewing stormwater management practices in place to help control flooding. They got a chance to “walk in our shoes” for a day!



Linda Boxx discusses issues at the Creekside Trail Project in Latrobe.



Future shoppers watch construction at Greengate Center.

Watershed News

CONSERVATION IN ACTION ACROSS WESTMORELAND COUNTY

By Mike Barrick, Watershed Specialist

The watershed association volunteers and professionals in Westmoreland County have been busy this spring. Outreach and education top the list for all the groups. Students and adults have benefited from their very visible efforts.



Sampling sites along Chartiers Creek.

Pucketa and Chartiers Watershed Association

Pucketa and Chartiers Watershed Association participated in an Earth Day event at the Bon Air Elementary School in Lower Burrell. PACWA, the Westmoreland Conservation District and Penn State Cooperative Extension, along with other like-minded groups taught about watersheds and the importance of minimizing non-point pollution. PACWA also participated in the DEP Watershed Snapshot, sampling sites along Chartiers Creek in Allegheny Twp and Lower Burrell City.

Loyalhanna Watershed Association

Loyalhanna Watershed Association is continuing an assessment, and held their Annual Dinner in May at the Antiochian Village in Fairfield Township. The LWA continues to plan for the treatment of abandoned mine drainage discharges on or near the Latrobe Foundation Property.

Turtle Creek Watershed Association

The Turtle Creek Watershed is trying to help local communities within the watershed with their Municipal Separate

Storm Sewer System requirements. The group is holding a municipal workshop on June 29th to educate the public works managers with "Good Housekeeping" and other requirements which can be done by municipal staff.

Kiski Watershed Association

The Kiski Watershed Association had their annual "Know Your Watershed Day" at Riverfront Park in Leechburg. KWA is also continuing their work on the Tinsmill project.

Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

Sewickley Creek Watershed Association will hold their annual picnic at the New Stanton Park on August 19 – 6pm. SCWA is looking forward to the fun day and is hoping for a great turnout. The SCWA had two very successful litter/dump cleanups in April and May. They also are still working on the treatment system for Brinkerton abandoned mine discharge.

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association

The Jacobs Creek Watershed Association sponsored a watershed day at the Jacobs



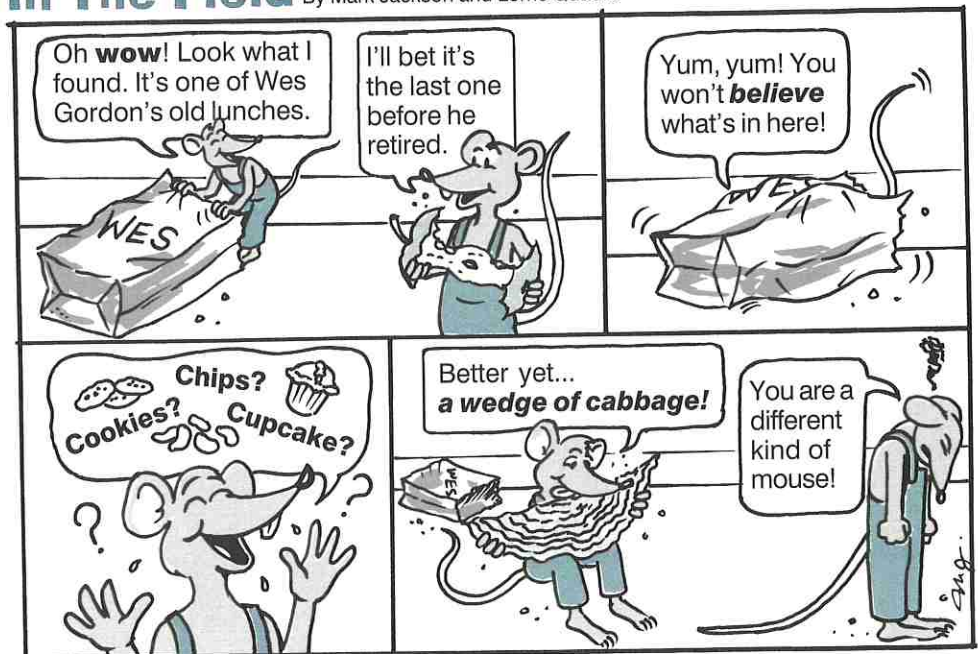
Forester Tony Quadro explains woodlot management to Southmoreland High School students.

Creek Park in Greenlick. Eighty-five 9th grade students from Southmoreland High School participated in the program, which covered topics such as forestry, geology, biology, soils, and water chemistry. The association also participated in the DEP Watershed Snapshot program. A public picnic is being planned, in cooperation with the Coal and Coke Trail.

All the watershed groups have been very busy this spring, but many projects need help to keep them rolling. If any one is interested in helping the watershed groups give Mike a call at the Westmoreland Conservation District 724-837-5271.

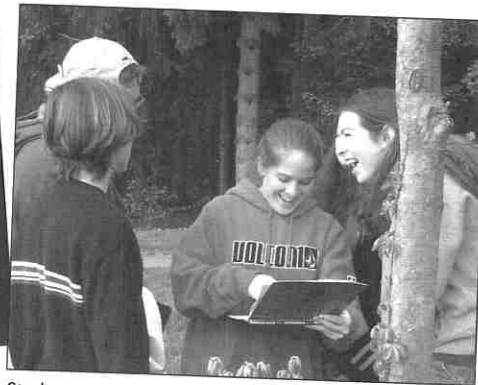
In The Field

By Mark Jackson and Lorrie Quadro





First place winners – Franklin Regional High School



Students testing at the forestry station



Tom Fazi, PA Game Commission

2004 Envirothon



The aquatics station



Hempfield Area High School students



Second place winners – Kiski Area High School



The soils station

By Tony Quadro, Forester/Program Specialist

The Westmoreland Conservation District recently held the 18th annual Westmoreland County Envirothon at Twin Lakes County Park. Sixty-four students from 13 schools competed in the event including the county's first home school team.

Dr. Frank Cassell, President of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg presented first place trophies to the Franklin Regional High School team including Alicia Beacom, Jesse Harster, Benjy Lombard, Katie Ringbloom, and Mark Showalter. The Franklin Regional team is coached by Tom Pearson and Linda Vitale. This marks the fourth straight year in which Franklin has won the event.

Second place honors went to Kiski Area High School, and third place to Burrell High School. Other schools competing this year included Belle Vernon Area, Derry Area, Greater

Latrobe, Greensburg Central Catholic, Hempfield Area, Norwin, Southmoreland, and Yough high schools, and the Westmoreland Enrichment Classes Home School.

Some of Westmoreland County's brightest students were tested on their knowledge of various environmental subjects including aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and this year's current issue, natural resources in the urban environment. Test administrators included Tom Fitzgerald of the PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, Theresa Rohall of the Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rob Knight and Laura Agnew of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rod Ansell, Gary Toward, Tom Fazi, and Joe Stefko of the PA Game Commission, and Anita Nichols of the Penn State Extension and Smart Growth Partnership.

An educational program was presented

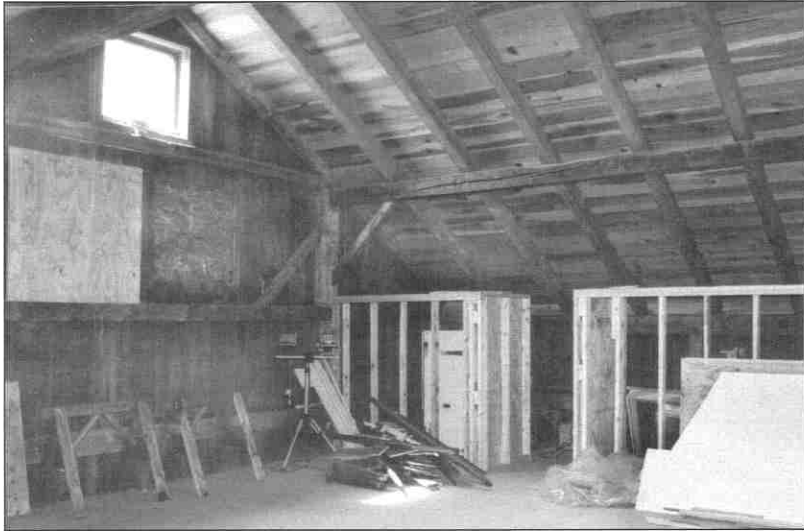
by the US Department of Agriculture's Craig Swope on "Urban Wildlife Problems." And, this year's students were treated to a surprise visit from two yearling bear cubs, which were tranquilized and weighed by Game Commission Officers. Several students got to help with this process.

Helping to sponsor the 2004 event were the SONY Technology Center, Shop n' Save, and Beckwith Machinery Company. Additional support was provided by the Westmoreland County Parks Department and Jackson Graphics.

The Franklin Regional team advanced to the State Envirothon at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in May and placed in the top third. The District would like to thank all of the participants and sponsors, and congratulates all the teams for a job well done.

Education Center Loft

By Karen Jurkovic



Construction is underway in the upper loft, which will be home for a resource library and additional meeting space.

The last unfinished interior area in the Education Center (Barn) was transformed this spring into usable work space, thanks to Pennsylvania Senator Allen Kukovich, who procured a \$20,000 Department of Community and Economic Development grant for the project, and First Commonwealth Bank, which provided a \$2,000 grant (the final installment in a five-year pledge).

The funds allowed carpenters to adapt the former 500-square-foot hay loft above the Center's administrative offices by paneling it with native woods, brightening it with several new windows cut into the Center's south-facing peak and a bank of ceiling lights, and installing carpeting.

They also partitioned off another 280 square feet of adjacent space for much-needed storage, and added a new set of stairs (incorporating the first use of walnut in the barn on their risers) to make the entire space accessible from the first floor of the Center.

Next, the new area – which will serve as a public-access resource library and small conference room – will be equipped and furnished. **And Landmarks readers are invited to help determine exactly what equipment and resources the library will offer.**

"We built the Education Center to be the county's central source of information about conservation," explained District Manager Greg Phillips, "and the

resource library will follow that vision by being a place where farmers, foresters, developers, earthmovers, engineers, and homeowners can come to look at county maps...view the types of soil in a particular place in the county...leaf through technical manuals... get information on the best ways to implement conservation practices...and find out about conservation events and volunteer activities going on in the county."

The conservation library will be the first resource of its kind in Westmoreland County.

"We want the library to be very practical, so it's important that the people who will use it give us their thoughts about the kinds of the information they would like to find there," Phillips said. "To do that, they can call us at 724-837-5271, or email me at greg@wcdpa.com, or complete and mail the form to the right."

The District has begun to identify some of the resources the library could offer, both now and in the future. Phillips' vision is that "One day, we might have a comprehensive network that will share information about the county so that a person could, in one sitting, see a great variety of features about a given piece of property – such as its soil characteristics, and the location of utilities, bodies of water, roads, sewer lines, property boundaries, and so on." In addition, the library's future might also be to hold distance learning classes and an on-going small group lecture series.

The ultimate goal of the library, like

the Center itself and the grounds around it, is to promote good environmental and conservation practices and to encourage more volunteer efforts and conservation partnerships throughout Westmoreland County.



Sustaining Contributors

Since August 1, 2003

Thank you to these special individuals, organizations, and government representatives for supporting the Center for Conservation Education and the District's new conservation education outreach program.

Donors at the Partner level and above will be permanently recognized for their contributions by having their names listed on the glass wall immediately inside the Center's front door.

Benefactors

(\$10,000 and above)

- Senator Allen G. Kukovich
- Westmoreland Conservation District (additional sustaining donation)

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- Richard and Susan Clark

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- John J. Kitsko family

Interest Survey – Resource Library

Help create a Conservation Resource Library that you and your friends will use

Tell us...

The things that I want to know about conservation are: _____

The kinds of resources I am looking for are: _____

I'm especially interested in (check as many as apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> managing stormwater | <input type="checkbox"/> recycling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> controlling erosion | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> creating a healthy woodlot | <input type="checkbox"/> teacher/scout-leader materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> land use | <input type="checkbox"/> other – please specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> land preservation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good agricultural practices | _____ |

The format I prefer to use to get information is (check as many as apply):

- the computer
- books and manuals
- videos / TV
- telephone
- live seminars / lecture series

(OPTIONAL)

Name _____

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Daytime telephone number _____

THANK YOU!

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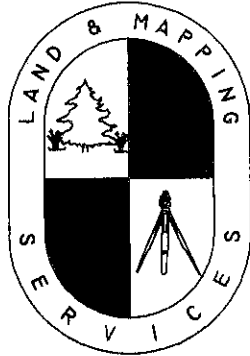


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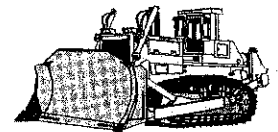
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Conservation Education

UPDATES FROM THE EDUCATOR'S CORNER OF "THE BARN"

By: Leanne Griffith, Conservation Education Coordinator

Summer is here! The flowers are blooming, it is warm and sunny, and although you want to just spend the day outside, come join us for an educational workshop!

SUMMER PROGRAMS

The general public, especially those who own forested land, are invited to a "Forestry Workshop" on Saturday, July 17th from 9 am to 12 noon. Tony Quadro will talk about forestry in general, tree identification and measurements, and give tips on forestry management. Call Leanne at 724-837-5271 or email her at leanne@wcdpa.com to get registration information. The cost for this workshop is \$5.00.

This is the first of a two part series of workshops on Forestry. The second workshop to be held this fall, will be a more in-depth workshop about forest ecology and stewardship.

Teachers are welcome to join our second teacher's workshop of the

summer called "Ag Basics". The workshop will be held on August 17th and 24th at the Barn from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Learn about what is happening in the field of agriculture in Westmoreland County. Field trips to farms and to the Westmoreland County Fairgrounds is included. This newly designed course will give hands-on lessons for you to use in the classroom that meet the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in Section 4.4. It is available as an Act 48 1-credit course and costs \$130.00. Sign up for this class through the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit at 724-836-2460 or register online by going to <http://wiu.k12.pa.us>. Deadline for registration is August 10th.

SPRING 2004 ACTIVITIES

Earlier this year, we had a very full schedule of activities. Please note that most of these workshops were held for special targeted audiences. If you would like to be included on our mailing list for any of these events for next year, please

call Leanne at 724-837-5271 or email her at leanne@wcdpa.com

Our first "Rain Barrel Workshop" held in March drew over 25 to the hands-on event. Paula Korber of the Botanical Society spoke about invasive species and Jim Pillsbury from the district introduced using storm water as a valuable resource. Bob Hefferin was our instructor for the actual construction of the rain barrels. This workshop and the "Stormwater Trail" around the Barn were featured with front page coverage in the "Latrobe Bulletin".

Forty-one students and teachers showed up for this year's "Envirothon Training Session" to prepare for the Envirothon. Speakers talked about this year's current issue of "Managing Resources in an Urban Environment" included Anita Nichols of Penn State Extension and Smart Growth and Jim, Tony, and Leanne from the district.

Summer Tee-Shirt Sale...You Want 'Em – We Got 'Em!

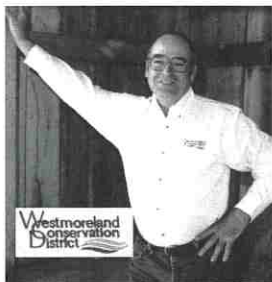


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Large _____	Small _____
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XXL _____	

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(Reduced for quick sale!) (white or khaki)

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Medium	_____	_____
XL	_____	_____
2X	_____	_____
3X	_____	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Earth Day Every Day!

By Nicki Foremsky, District/Extension Water Quality Agent



FOR EARTH DAY, the Conservation District explained how our environment has changed and what people could do

to prevent pollution from entering our streams, damaging the food supply for our fish, and harming nature.

Nicki and other staff members spent many spring days presenting at Earth Day events around the county. The first was at the Bon Air Elementary School in Lower Burrell where students were able to plant buffer strips, pull cows out of the stream, and protect the farmer's lake from pollution in the small watershed of the Enviroscape model.

Next, we celebrated the Westmoreland Earth Day 2004 event at Saint Vincent College. This was the third year for the Westmoreland Earth Day event and proved to be a great success. Over 3,000 people joined the District in learning about watersheds, plants, and fighting pollution on the sunny day in April.

While the majority of the District staff described a day in the life of an erosion control technician, Nicki explained what a watershed was to students in grades K-4 at the Bovard Elementary Earth Day Celebration. Looking at pictures of the land with a stream running through the green rolling hills helped them picture a watershed. Next, the students made their own watersheds with paper, water soluble markers, and good old simulated rain from spray bottles. To top off the presentation, the students were able to dirty the clear, clean water in the beginning of our presentation on non-point source pollution, with soil runoff at construction sites, logged forests, and fields; pollute it with green fertilizer from the golf course and homes; and kill the imaginary fish living in the lake with the red pesticides from the fields. The students were able to think of ways to prevent the pollution from entering the lakes and streams so all of our pollution doesn't run down stream and hurt the fish and bugs living in the streams and lakes.

Lastly, to show how humans have modified the land in the past 100 years, Nicki and Anita Nichols, who partners



Anita Nichols, Penn State Cooperative Extension/Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland Co.



Theresa Rohall, Powdermill Nature Reserve



Carl Anderson, PA CleanWays, Westmoreland Co. Chapter



Nicki Foremsky, District/Extension Water Quality Agent



Jill Taylor, USDA Rural Development



Joe Costello, Friendship Farms

with Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County, gave a presentation for the Latrobe Jr. High Earth Day. Ninth graders were challenged to think about how life has changed from times before the invention of the car to the present. They analyzed aerial photos from three different decades to see how our landscape has changed. They brainstormed both positive and negative impacts of development and were given a chance to correlate what they learned to

where they live, since it recently gained a large Wal-Mart and other commercial buildings.

The District's mission is to help conserve our natural resources. We are able to spread that message at educational events like Earth Day Celebrations. If a person learns one thing from our presentations, it will help us enhance our mission in the county and encourage people to think about protecting the environment everyday, instead of just on Earth Day.



Expo Draws Seniors

By Kathy Fritz, Program Secretary

Jess Stairs hosted his Senior Citizens' Expo at the Donegal Community Center this past May with over 600 area residents in attendance. The purpose of this event is to bring senior citizens in his legislative district together with service agencies and other sources of information and assistance about benefits, programs, products, and ways to make their lives healthier and more enjoyable. The Senior Citizens' Expo consists of a variety of organizational displays, entertainment, and a buffet luncheon. All participants are able to browse around, question the exhibitors, participate in activities, and gather materials that will be helpful in their day-to-day living. Leanne Griffith & Kathy Fritz represented the District and answered questions about general conservation issues ranging from stormwater and forestry to water quality, and enjoyed visiting with attendees who shared stories of past conservation issues.

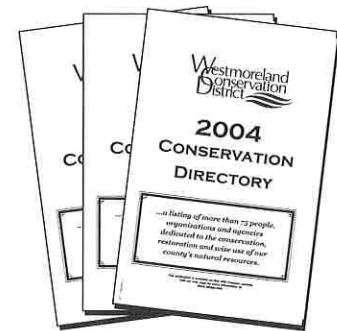
New 2004 Conservation Directory Now Available

By Sandy Dzendzel,
Administrative Secretary

The District has recently published an updated Conservation Directory that is available to the general public. The Directory provides names, phone numbers and addresses of many organizations and agencies dedicated to conservation. This publication is a useful resource tool for contact information on *Westmoreland County Organizations* such as the Bureau of Parks and Recreation for recreational programs; on *Watershed Associations* such as the Turtle Creek Watershed who works with the community restoring and protecting their water resources; on *Environmental and Conservation Organizations* such as the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement

Association for forestry issues or Regional Trails Corporation for turning abandoned railroads into hiking and biking trails. Also listed are *State Agencies* such as DEP for stormwater management, PA Department of Agriculture, PA Game Commission, or the Fish and Boat Commission; and also *Federal Agencies* such as USDA for the Farm Service Agency or Rural Development that assists the rural community to develop, grow and improve the quality of life.

There is a limited supply of hard copies that can be obtained at the District Office, or you can view or download a copy from our website of www.wcdpa.com.



Find the Soup Spoon

By Joanne Kitsko



Ahhh, Summer— with the sweet fragrance of wild-flower blossoms wafting in the air, freshly mowed grass, blue sky, warm gentle breezes, babbling brook, and bright sunshine — the ideal setting for a picnic in Nature Park! Join us as we find that perfect shady glade, spread the red and white checkered tablecloth and unpack the basket of picnic goodies. But wait, in order to complete our picnic setting, you must first find the spoon that we've hidden somewhere in this issue of *Landmarks*.

The 4th, 11th, and 18th callers to Joanne at 724-837-5271 correctly identifying the whereabouts of the spoon in the Summer 2004 issue, will win some tasty, delectable, prizes! Previous contest winners are not eligible; however, your comments regarding our publications are always welcome and appreciated. *Good Luck!!!*

George Thomas of Murrysville, Agnes Magnone of Jacobs Creek, and Kay Trimble of New Florence, were the winners of our "Find the Spoon" contest in the Spring 2004 issue. Congratulations to our three lucky winners!



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KATHY'S KIDS KORNER — APPLES

By Kathy Fritz

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

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

1. Apple Butter
2. Applesauce
3. Baldwin
4. Candied Apple
5. Cider
6. Cortland
7. Delicious
8. Early Harvest
9. Gala
10. Golden
11. Granny Smith
12. Gravenstein
13. Grimes Golden
14. Jonathan
15. Juice
16. McIntosh
17. Pie
18. Rome Beauty
19. Winesap

NATURALLY *Delicious*

by Karen Barnhart

Sweet & Sour Brussels Sprouts

- Diced bacon
- Brussels sprouts
- 1 sm. onion minced
- 1/3 tbs. cider vinegar
- 3 tbs. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. dry mustard
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Brown bacon in saucepan.
Remove bacon and drain. Cook brussels sprouts & other ingredients about 10 min. or until tender.
Stir in bacon and serve.

Visit us on the web at:
www.wcdpa.com

LANDMARKS

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An education project of the Westmoreland Conservation District



The Center for Conservation Education – view from the rear parking area.



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