



LANDMARKS

Vol. 14 No. 3 COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION Winter 1999

1999 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



DON'T MISS photo I.D. key on page 7!



The final event of the Westmoreland Conservation District's 50th Anniversary Celebration was held in November at the Four Points Hotel in Greensburg, and what a celebration it was! The evening began with the smooth sounds of the Ligonier High School Jazz Band led by director Jodi Stoner.

Continued on page 2

Westmoreland Conservation District

Board of Directors

J. ROY HOUSTON, *Chairman*
RON ROHALL, *Vice Chairman*
CONRAD DONOVAN, *Treasurer*
P. ROY KEMERER, *Secretary*
ALBERT BARNETT, *Director*
P. GRAYDON LONG, *Director*
TERRY MAROLT, *County Commissioner, Director*
DOROTHY STONER, *Director*
KEITH WALTERS, *Director*

Associate Directors

BOB ACKERMAN
BILL CLARK
JACK DRISCOLL
PAUL HEYWORTH
MARK JACKSON
TOM KELLER
BILL KOTSENAS
HARRY MEYER
THERESA ROHALL
DR. WILLIAM SHEA
STEVE SIMPSON
SUE WISEMAN

Staff

GREGORY M. PHILLIPS, *District Manager*
LORRIE STOUFFER, *Assistant District Manager*
TONY QUADRO, JR., *Program Specialist/Forester*
CRAIG BARRAS, *Erosion Control Specialist*
JAMES W. PILLSBURY, *Hydraulic Engineer*
CHRISTOPHER DROSTE, *Erosion Control Technician*
DANIEL GRIFFITH, *Nutrient Management/Conservation Technician*
BETTY J. REEFER, *FPP County Administrator*
MARK KILLAR, *WPCAMR Regional Coordinator*
KATHLEEN FRITZ, *Program Secretary*
KAREN BARNHART, *Secretary/Clerk*
JOANNE KITSKO, *Receptionist*

PA Department of Environmental Protection
DARL ROSENQUEST, *Regional Soils Engineer*
CHUCK KUBASIK, *Field Representative*

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
WESLEY M. GORDON, *District Conservationist*
LARRY STOKUM, *Soil Technician*
ROB KNIGHT, *Soil Scientist*
ALEX DADO, *Soil Scientist*

Awards Banquet... Continued from page 1

Theodore Roosevelt, (Keith McGough), was on hand to meet people as they arrived, and district staff and directors dressed in apparel from 1949 (the year of our formation), which brought back memories and smiles from those attending.

Featured speaker Theodore Roosevelt inspired the audience with his remarks on the roots of the conservation movement and mentioned several local individuals who have made a difference in our community. He also challenged us to be involved.....to seize the great opportunity we enjoy now and make a difference for future generations by environmental leadership.

Masters of ceremony Wes Gordon (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and Conrad Donovan (Westmoreland Conservation District) presented awards in three major categories:

- **Outstanding Conservation Organization**
Botanical Society of Westmoreland County;
- **Outstanding Conservation Service**
Robert L. Ackerman; and
- **Outstanding Conservation Farmer**
David Smith.

The Westmoreland Conservation District then received a special recognition plaque presented by State Conservationist Janet Oertly of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in honor of our 50th Anniversary.

Greg Phillips and Roy Houston recognized retiring County Commissioners Terry Marolt and Richard Vidmer for their many contributions to the District.

Additional certificates were given to the following individuals and/or companies: Roth, Moore & Associates; Adam Eidemiller, Inc.; Brookville Wood Products; Shop 'n Save; Justin Acita; Tony Regola; Keith Walters; and Tony Quadro.

Environmental Education Center Progresses

Architect Selection Begins...Donations Continue To Come In...



The Westmoreland Conservation District is currently in the process of selecting an architect for the Center for Conservation Education. "From the pool of architects who have submitted proposals expressing an interest in this project, the review committee will make a selection based on the best combination of price and flexibility, including proven and practical green technologies," said District Manager Greg Phillips.

Shortly after the architect is selected the District will host a facilitated session in which all the major players in the design and construction of the project will meet and establish goals. "This will be a very important first step," Phillips explains, "because it allows us to set common priorities and ensure that everyone is working together from day one. By doing such things as integrating the building's systems right from the start, we can achieve the very best use of the capital dollars we've worked so hard to raise, as well as the highest possible operating efficiencies."

Fundraising for the center has been continuing at an encouraging pace as well. Most recently, support has been received from Southwest Bank — \$2,000/year for 5 years, Mr. Alvin Kacin — \$5,000, and a second donation from the project's lead corporate sponsor, Allegheny Energy — \$10,000. Allegheny Energy previously donated \$25,000 to the project when it launched the fundraising effort last summer.

Local Conservationists Honored at Seven Springs



(l-r) Dolores Heinnickel; Pat Sueck, PACD President; Alquin Heinnickel



(l-r) Ken Manno, Sustainable Forestry Initiative of PA; Ingrid Rea; Pat Sueck, PACD President; William Rea



The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) presented its annual awards to individuals and organizations who have helped to promote or continue conservation efforts in Pennsylvania. The awards were presented on November 10 at the PACD/SCC (State Conservation Commission) Joint Annual Conference at Seven Springs Resort.

Conservation districts across the state sent nominations to judging panels for consideration. Winners were presented their awards during a slide show high-

lighting their efforts. The following awards were presented to Westmoreland County recipients:

Mr. Alquin Heinnickel — Conservation Farmer of the Year, given to a farmer who has furthered conservation through the establishment and maintenance of soil, water and nutrient management practices. The Heinnickel farm has been a model of conservation for four decades. Mr. Heinnickel's management practices include contour strip cropping, conservation tillage, and intensive grazing systems for the beef cattle raised on the farm. The Heinnickel family recently sold the development rights of the land to the Westmoreland County Farmland Preservation Program ensuring that the land will remain in agriculture for perpetuity. This award was sponsored by the Agricultural Coalition of Pennsylvania and PennAg Industries Association.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rea — M.K. Goddard Forest Resource Management Award, given to forest landowners in Pennsylvania who have done an outstanding job managing their woodlots. In addition to raising regenerative stands of red oak, the Rea's have also created several ponds and wetland areas for habitat, and have done riparian planting to preserve the water quality of the streams which flow through their property. Sponsorship of this award is provided by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania.

BACKYARD CONSERVATION WORKSHOP A JOINT SUCCESS

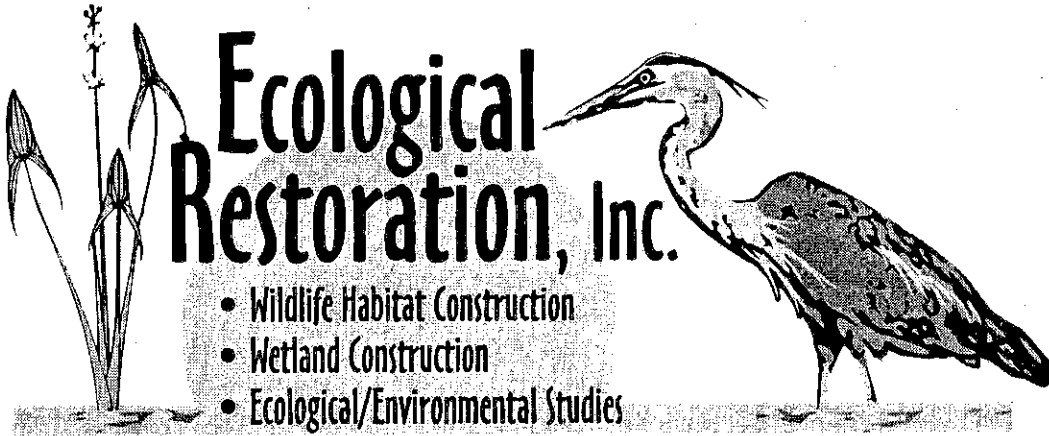
The Westmoreland Conservation District, the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service sponsored a "Backyard Conservation" workshop on October 16 at Donohoe Center. Backyard conservation applies many of the practices used by farmers to conserve soil, water, air, plant and animal resources only at a smaller scale.

Agency representatives presented

many ideas which can be applied directly to backyards and benefit people, wildlife and the environment. Topics ranged from tree planting, wildlife habitat enhancement, backyard ponds, pest management, composting, and nutrient management. If you were unable to attend this informative session, please contact one of the agencies above, or call Tony Quadro at 837-5271 for more information.

Visit Us On Our New Web Page

Final touches have been made to the Westmoreland Conservation District's web page, which was under development for most of the summer and fall. Log on to www.wcdpa.com to learn more about district programs and activities, and keep up to date on meetings and seminars. The site is laid out in a simple format which will enable even younger "surfers" to navigate and gather information on the district. The web page contains a brief history, an overview of technical programs, and a calendar of upcoming events. We are also providing links to several cooperating agencies. If you would like further information on our web page, please contact Lorrie by calling 837-5271 or e-mail the office at wcd202b@aol.com.



- ◁ Wetland Construction
- ▷ Wildlife Habitat Construction
- ▽ Ecological Studies
 - ◁ Benthic Macroinvertebrate Surveys
 - ▷ Fish Surveys
 - ▷ Wetland Delineations
 - ▽ Wetland Mitigation Plans
- ◁ Environmental Sampling
- ▽ Streambank Stabilization

Plants Available through our nursery:



Nursery Locations: Apollo, PA
Raleigh, NC

Main Office: 1633 Gilmar Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613

Phone: (724) 733-9969 (ERI Office)
(724) 327-1830 (Nursery)

Fax: (724) 733-3527

Project Generates Headlines

by Jim Pillsbury



(l-r) WCD Staffers – Chris Droste, Jim Pillsbury, (above) Craig Barras and Tony Quadro. (l-r) Allegheny Energy volunteers – Rick Herd and Dave Higinbotham.

Many professional newspaper men will tell you that selecting the right headline can either make or break an article. For example, the headline NEW CELLULAR CONFINEMENT SYSTEM might seem like a project down at the County Jail, but it is actually a way to contain soil or stone within layers of plastic honeycomb, creating a flexible, yet strong earthen embankment. WEB ACCESS AT LOW COST seems like an access provider's advertisement, but for the District's recent project, the GeoWeb™ cellular confinement system which we used was purchased at a discount from ACF

Environmental, courtesy of sales representative Greg Kramer. Volunteer labor provided by Dave Higinbotham, Rick Herd, and retiree Dan Hamrick of Allegheny Energy was also vital to the low cost of our job. ENGINEER CREATES WEB SITE might seem incongruous to people who know this engineer's innate fear of the Internet. However, the GeoWeb™ site we created was not located on-line, but at Lynch Field, the City of Greensburg's recreation center on Route 119 North. WEB SITE HELPS PREVENT BANK LOSS could appear in the *Wall Street Journal*, but at Lynch Field our completed GeoWeb™ retaining wall

prevents loss of the bank of Jack's Run immediately upstream of the swimming pool bridge. If the headline DISTRICT STAFF SURFS THE WEB appeared, one might think that we were getting wet at the beach. This has an element of truth - Donohoe Center staffers including Jim, Craig, Chris, Dan, Tony, Mark, Wes, and Nevin did get wet in Jack's Run as we spent a day building our streambank stabilization project. OH, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE seems like Shakespeare, yet it applied to our project also as we struggled to stretch out the layers of sometimes unruly plastic web material and fill the many perforated cells full of crushed stone. This innovative soil retaining structure is just the latest part of our joint project with the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association to improve habitat and water quality at the City park.

Individually Certified Nutrient Management Planners

by Dan Griffith

The Westmoreland Conservation District has an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to provide services to farmers in Westmoreland County for nutrient management planning. The main goals of the nutrient management program are to minimize surface and groundwater nutrient loads from agricultural operations, and, to increase farm profitability through proper nutrient management. A quality nutrient management plan can summarize the practices of an operation for the benefit of the farmer as well as the environment. Also, operations will receive limited liability protection to the extent that the plan is implemented. Plans that are developed need to be submitted to the

Westmoreland Conservation District for approval.

The highest priority of the county program is to review Nutrient Management Plans submitted by certified planners for county farmers. "Certified planners" would include individually certified farmers who are submitting a plan for their own farming operation. Farmers can become individually certified by attending a 2-day course and passing the exam for Individual Certification. The District will be offering a course for Individual Certification early in February. If you would be interested in attending the course, please contact Dan Griffith at the Westmoreland Conservation District, at 837-5271.

District Technical Database Up And Running

by Kathy Fritz

After many months of planning and computer input, the district's technical database has begun to assist in making the Erosion Control (Chapter 102) and Stream Permit (Chapter 105) programs run smoother and more efficiently, and better account for time and costs. For everyday activities and quarterly reporting it has become necessary to keep track of site names, permit numbers, contractors, developers, watersheds, municipalities, fees and hours spent.

With four staff members reviewing plans and inspecting sites, database access is critical to our operation. Each year we review over 200 site plans, process over 38 earthmoving permits, 190 stream encroachment permits and make over 400 site inspections.

The database will streamline our clerical staff's access to technical information, and to also make it accessible for our field staff. Now functioning at its full potential, quarterly reporting is done in a matter of minutes!

TAKING A LOOK

A note from the editor...

The formation of the Westmoreland Conservation District on September 30, 1949 was surely a "defining moment" in the conservation movement of this county. Our rich history was born out of the actions and foresight of then – County Commissioners Frank K. Cochran, J. Calvin Turner, and W. Everett Noel. And the county's sustaining support is still evident today and crucial to natural resource conservation locally. It is appropriate that in this last issue of *Landmarks*, December 1999, we reprint the original article from the October 1, 1949 Greensburg Daily Tribune which detailed the conservation resolution.

— Lorrie

Reprinted by Permission - Saturday,
October 1, 1949, Greensburg Daily Tribune



CONSERVATION ACTION TAKEN BY COUNTY

The entire county of Westmoreland has been set up as a soil conservation district as a result of action taken yesterday afternoon by County Commissioners Frank K. Cochran, J. Calvin Turner, and W. Everett Noel.

The resolution to establish the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District was unanimous.

The commissioners took the action in cooperation with state and federal government soil conservation agencies.

The next step will be for the county commissioners to call a meeting of farm organizations to make nominations for the board of directors of the district. The board will be made up of five members, four to be practical farmers and one a county commissioner.

Mr. Cochran said that this meeting of the farm organizations will be called late in October, the date to be announced later.



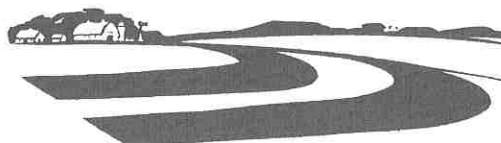
Under the State Soil Conservation Act of 1945 the county commissioners may contribute funds to the soil conservation district which has been set up if they desire, but contributions are not compulsory. Mr. Cochran was asked if the commissioners plan any taxpayer contributions for this work, and he answered that he was unable to say at this time.

26TH IN STATE

Westmoreland becomes the 26th county in the state to be set up as a soil conservation district. Counties adjoining Westmoreland which previously were established as soil conservation districts are Indiana and Washington.

The procedure and set up of the district was explained to the county commissioners by the experts as follows:

"There is no red tape involved in the establishment of a Soil Conservation District for any county. All it takes is adoption of a suitable resolution by the board of county commissioners. Should it so desire, the same authority can dissolve the district, with the approval of the State Soil Conservation Commission, after a minimum five years' trial.



"In most instances to date, county districts have been set up after interested groups of farmers, or other land owners, or those concerned about conservation, have first approached the board of county commissioners. If the board is satisfied that conservation of soil resources and the control and prevention of erosion are problems of public concern in the county, and that a substantial portion of the rural land owners of the county favor it, they may then and there adopt a resolution declaring the entire county a soil conservation district.

"When the county commissioners have set up the county district, the first step is selection of a board of directors, consisting of five members. Four are practical farmers, one a member of the board of county commissioners, designated by the commissioners.

"Farmer members are selected as follows: The State Soil Conservation Commission certifies a list of countywide agricultural organizations, each of which is invited to send its president and secretary, or two elected delegates, to a meeting called by the board of county commissioners. At this meeting at least eight farmers are nominated for board membership. The commissioners select four to serve terms of one, two, three, and four years. The board elects its own chairman and secretary. County commissioners may contribute funds to the district, if they desire, but it is not compulsory.

HOME RULE BASIS

"Thus it is seen that the county unit is built at the county level - entirely on a basis of home rule. It is this feature that is appealing to farmers throughout Pennsylvania and has much to do with the increasing popularity of the County Soil Conservation District plan in every section of the state.

"In the course of its organization the county district board learns that an important function is to seek the coopera-

BACK...

tion of governmental agencies that are equipped to help farmers of the county. The State Soil Conservation Commission provides what is known as 'working agreements' with the previously mentioned governmental agencies.

"For example, a farmer in a county district indicates to the county board that he desires to participate in the county conservation program. When his application for assistance is accepted, the county district board arranges with cooperating agencies to assist the farmer in mapping his farm and the working out of a farm plan and a program to be followed as conditions warrant. This plan is then known as the 'Conservation Farm Plan.'

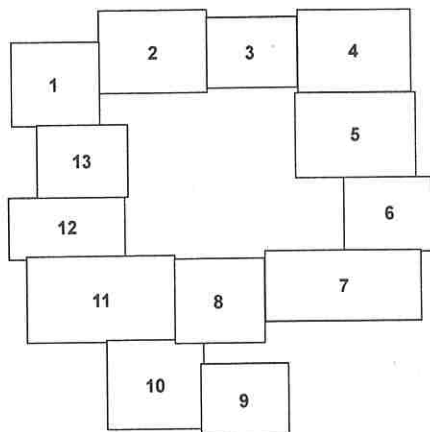
"After the plan is completed, the farmer decides when each practice shall be established on his farm and calls on the county board for further assistance, when he is ready to go ahead. Many of the practices can be established with regular farm machinery. District directors have been able to secure the cooperation of local contractors in making heavy equipment available to farmers at a rate they can afford to pay. Some districts have rented and then bought needed equipment from funds acquired through sub-rentals, while other have had the use of loaned equipment furnished by cooperating agencies. All existing districts are operating on a self-supporting basis financially.

"Carrying out the individual farm plan may require from two to five years, depending on the desires of the farmer and his ability to go ahead.

"The proper use of land depends on the characteristics of the soil. Soil types or classifications may be different on the same farm or even in the same field. These characteristics need to be determined by county and even statewide soil surveys before an adequate conservation program can be developed. Governor Duff has approved an appropriation of \$200,000 to speed up this portion of the work."



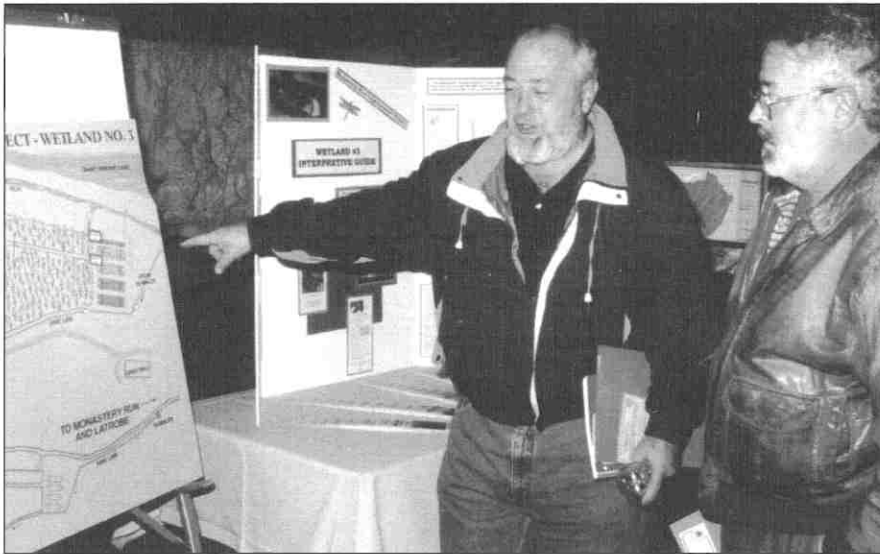
WCD 1999 Annual Awards Banquet Photo I.D. Key For Front Cover Photos



1. State Conservationist Janet Oertly (r) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service presents a plaque in recognition of WCD's 50th anniversary to WCD Chairman, J. Roy Houston.
2. Dean Kniseley (l) of Brookville Wood Products is recognized for sound forest stewardship by (r) Tony Quadro, WCD Program Specialist/Forester.
3. WCD award recipient Bob Ackerman (l) and his childhood hero, President Theodore Roosevelt (Keith McGough) (r).
4. (l) Vivian Bernardo, Penn's Corner RC&D Secretary, and Joanne Kitsko (r), WCD Receptionist, register banquet guests dressed in 1949 elegance.
5. WCD Manager, Greg Phillips and J. Roy Houston, WCD Chairman, thank Westmoreland County Commissioners Terry Marolt and Richard Vidmer for their support and encouragement over the years. The honorable Judge Jay Ober is seated in the center.
6. (l) Paula Korber of the Westmoreland Botanical Society accepts an award from WCD and poses with (r) President Theodore Roosevelt (Keith McGough.)
7. The Ligonier Valley High School Jazz Band under the direction of Jodi Stoner strikes up the classic sounds of 1949.
8. Eagle Scout, (l) Justin Acita is recognized for Nature Park improvements by (r) Tony Quadro, WCD Program Specialist/Forester.
9. (l) David Smith, WCD Conservation Farmer of the year stands tall with (r) President Theodore Roosevelt (Keith McGough.)
10. (l) Dapper Dan Griffith, WCD Nutrient Management Specialist, and his lovely wife, Leanne, dine in 1949 style.
11. Enjoying the company of good friends...recognizable at this table are (l-r) Jack Driscoll of PA Cleanways; Al Barnett, WCD Director; Roy Kemerer, WCD Director; Myrna and Paul Heyworth, WCD Associate Director.
12. The word is "snappy" and it describes the 1949 attire of (l-r) Conrad Donovan, WCD Treasurer; Sandy Donovan; Leanne and Greg Phillips, WCD Manager.
13. Special Guest Speaker, President Theodore Roosevelt, (Keith McGough), emphasizes the importance of conservation and individual resolve.

Monastery Run Symposium

by Angela Check, Saint Vincent College



Participants view Poster Paper Presentations.

The seventh annual Monastery Run Project Symposium was held at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe Pennsylvania on November 16, 1999. The Monastery Run Project, launched by the Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition in 1993, involved the construction of three passive wetlands to serve as a filter for pollutants deposited by drainage from abandoned mines located along nearby streams. The project was designed to improve water quality in the Loyalhanna Creek watershed. The annual symposium provides an opportunity for those interested in watershed restoration to learn about new research and technologies in the area of AMD (abandoned mine drainage).

The fall day brought together over one hundred students, professionals and the public for a morning of enlightenment. Fr. Earl Henry, O.S.B., President, Wimmer Corporation extended a warm and insightful welcome. Wesley Gordon from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, offered an overview on the Monastery Run Project and its current status. Dr. Caryl Fish of Saint Vincent College discussed various wetland educational programs for elementary, high school and college students that the project provides to the college. Tom Grote of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association (LWA), along with Zia Knupp and Molly Scanlon of

Americorps, presented the activities of the LWA Stream team.

The morning continued with specific bioassessment research in areas of invertebrate biology and its effects on fish and bird communities. Robert Ventorini of Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc, Jane Earle of the Bureau of Land and Water Conservation, DEP, Robert S. Mulvihill of Powdermill Nature Reserve, and Abbey Falcone of the Department of Environmental Protection described the importance of biological monitoring as it applies to assessment of a mine drainage impacted stream.

In addition, Rita Schnabel of Saint Vincent College and Dr. Mary Kostalos of Chatham College provided overviews on research involving the Monastery Run Project wetlands. Each presentation



A crowd takes an afternoon tour of the Wetland Systems.

provided a thorough description of the interesting biology found in the passive treatment wetlands and their functions in the system.

The educational opportunities that the wetlands at Monastery Run provide to Saint Vincent College and the community was very apparent at this year's symposium poster presentation. Various Saint Vincent College students presented results from student research utilizing the biology and chemistry of the passive treatment wetlands. Wetland #3 in the Monastery Run Improvement Project was highlighted with a newly designed interpretive brochure for self-guided tours of the site. An interpretive trail is to be constructed in the spring of 2000 to be used with the new brochure.

The jam-packed morning ended with an update on the recovery of iron oxide from mine water by Dr. Robert Hedin of



Fr. Earl Henry, O.S.B., President, Wimmer Corporation extends a warm and insightful welcome.

Hedin Environmental. His presentation illustrated the commitment between industry and technology to find economic means by which to effectively clean up our watersheds.

The annual Monastery Run Project Symposium is always a success. The symposium continues to be a positive and valuable tool for partnership and educational outreach, thus contributing to local watershed restoration efforts.

ROTH, MOORE & ASSOCIATES

ENGINEERS SURVEYORS

14900 Route 30 • North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Phone: 412-829-4676 FAX: 412-829-6515

*Engineering and Design for
Environmentally Sound Development*

Earth Sciences Consultants, Inc.

Ecological Services

Engineering Design

Industrial Compliance

Geologic/Hydrogeologic Services

Water Quality and Industrial Wastewater

Solid Waste Management

Serving Our Environment For Over 20 Years!

One Triangle Lane • Export, PA 15632
Telephone (724) 733-7000 • Fax (724) 325-3352

(724) 925-7261
FAX: (724) 925-7487

1-800-273-7261
(within 724 Area Code)

Service, Quality, and Pride Since 1932



Route 819 • P.O. Box 118 • Armbrust, PA 15616
"Three Generations and Still Growing"

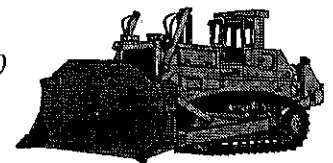
R&L Development Company

P.O. Box 529

New Alexandria, PA 15670

Phone (724) 668-2223

Fax (724) 668-2429



- Excavation & Sitework Contractors
- Mini-Warehouse Storage
- Keystone Plaza Shopping Center



Pioneer Mid-Atlantic, Inc.

400 Industrial Blvd. • New Kensington, PA 15068
Phone: (412) 362-4900

Aggregates:

(Whitney) Latrobe, PA	(724) 423-3601
(Torrance) Blairsville, PA	(724) 459-6031
Lower Burrell/New Kensington, PA	(724) 335-6564
(Brady Street) Pittsburgh, PA	(412) 362-4900
Coraopolls, PA	(412) 362-4900
(Tartown) Kittanning, PA	(412) 362-4900
Donora, PA	(412) 362-4900
Monaca, PA	(412) 362-4900

Asphalt:

New Kensington, PA (724) 339-1900

*Your Source For High Quality Construction
Materials In Western Pennsylvania*

Think Conservation...

Learn Conservation...

Live Conservation

AFFORDABLE

Brochures Newsletters Publications
Logos Displays Illustrations Graphics
Photography and more

JACKSON GRAPHICS

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

VOICE AND FAX: 724-837-2552



Western Pennsylvania's Largest Lawn, Garden and Patio Center

KING GARDEN PALACE & NURSERY



Phone (724) 834-0202
Phone (724) 834-8930

Route 130 East
Greensburg, PA 15601



KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

By Kathy Fritz

Crypto Mania

By using the answer key below, you can find the mystery words that pertain to articles in this issue of "Landmarks". Have fun!

KBWWJ STTQBABFK _____
 FJMNL RZBFW XBTUBC _____
 QJGITQZOG _____
 EUESWQ CEMVOBK _____
 EMMOEF NTRBSBMNB _____
 MEKOSEFFJ WBFZNTQO _____
 50KL NBFBCSEKZTM _____
 PEKLJ'Q PZWQ PTSMBS _____

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



WINNERS OF "FIND THE MAGNIFYING GLASS" ANNOUNCED

Shirley Stoltz, CaMae Talarico, and Mike Yadlosky are the most recent winners in our "Clue™ - themed" contest of finding the hidden magnifying glass in the fall issue of *Landmarks*. They each received a 1999 Westmoreland County Envirothon tee-shirt and a game of Clue™ for spying the

magnifying glass located in "Kathy's Kids Korner."

And, in this last *Landmarks* issue of 1999, we'd like you to try your hand one more time at "detecting" where we have hidden the magnifying glass. The 6th, 13th, and 16th callers to Joanne at 837-5271 will be the lucky winners! Good luck!



NATURALLY

Delicious

by Karen Barnhart

Brown-Sugar Peanut Butter Cookies

½ cup soft butter or margarine
 ½ cup brown sugar, packed
 ½ cup peanut butter, creamy or crunchy
 ½ tsp. vanilla extract
 1 egg
 ½ tsp. baking soda
 ½ tsp. salt
 1½ cups all-purpose flour
 peanuts for garnish, optional

1. Cream butter with sugar and peanut butter. Add vanilla and egg, beating until fluffy.
2. Stir in baking soda and salt. Blend in flour. Mix until a stiff dough forms.
3. Shape into walnut-sized balls. Place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Press with fork to flatten. Sprinkle with peanuts, if desired.
4. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned.

Recipe makes 30 cookies. For extra crunchiness, add ½ cup chopped peanuts to the dough after mixing in the flour. You may prepare dough ahead of time. Shape cookies and place on cookie sheets. Bake as needed. Cookies are best when served warm.

WCD 50th Anniversary Commemorative Plates Are Here!

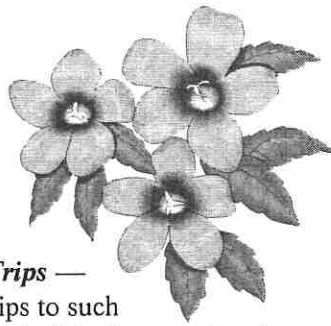


Looking for a unique gift or conversation piece that will last for years? In honor of the Westmoreland Conservation District's 50th Anniversary, special engraved plates and paperweights were commissioned from St. George Crystal, Jeannette, PA. These beautiful plates are 24% lead crystal, gold banded, and feature an etching of the district's 50th anniversary logo. The uniquely-shaped leaded

paperweights are also etched with our logo and are pre-packaged in a convenient white gift box. We are pleased to offer these special items at the very low price of \$10.00 per plate and \$8.00 per paperweight. You may stop by the office and make your purchase, or contact Joanne at 837-5271 to place your order. Quantities are limited, so place your order soon!

Botanical Society Celebrates 50 Years

by Paula Korber



Like the Westmoreland Conservation District, the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1999.

When the group held its first organizational meeting in early 1949, the 41 people in attendance had no name for their group, no bylaws, no officers. But what they did have was tremendous zeal to learn more about the natural world. In fact, even before they resolved such administrative matters at their second organization meeting four weeks later, they already had gone on a field trip and identified 58 plants.

That same zeal continues today. Here is a small sample of what the Society does:

- **Monthly meetings** — The group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month (September through December and February through May) at 7:30 p.m. at Donohoe Center for programs on a variety of topics. Recent meetings have focused on the Westmoreland County Natural Heritage Inventory and how to create your own herbarium.

- **Field Trips** — Field trips to such botanically rich places as Cranberry Glade Lake and Braddock Trail are held on Sundays at 2 p.m.
- **Study Groups** — Members interested in pursuing botanical topics in more depth have formed a study group that meets monthly.
- **Community Service** — Society members regularly volunteer their time and talents toward a variety of community projects, including planting trees along the Amos K. Hutchinson by-pass, wildflower rescues, and maintaining the planter box in front of the Westmoreland County Courthouse.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend one of the group's meetings or to call president Paula Korber at 837-3814 for more information. Dues for the society are \$5.00/year and are payable to the treasurer, Gil Maurer, 3203 Ridgeway Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Upcoming Events

January 12, 2000

WCD Monthly Meeting
11:00 am - Donohoe Center

February 9, 2000

Farmland Preservation/Farm Estate & Financial Planning Workshop
8:00 am - 12:00 noon
Four Points Hotel (Sheraton), Greensburg
Hempfield Room
Speakers include: Attorney Thomas Himler; Ruth Trumbetta, *Greengate Associates*; Donald C. Frenz, JD, and Eric Linhart, MBA, *American Express Financial Advisors*
Reservations required - \$10 fee (\$15/couple)
Contact Betty Reefer for further information 837-5271

February 18, 2000

Best Management Practices for Developing Areas
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
St. Joseph's Hall, Greensburg, PA
Reservations required - call Kathy Fritz/Joanne Kitsko at 837-5271

LANDMARKS

*The Official Newsletter of the
Westmoreland Conservation District*

LORRIE STOUFFER - EDITOR

JACKSON GRAPHICS: MARK JACKSON,
STEPHANIE LAFRANKIE - GRAPHIC DESIGN

LAUREL VALLEY GRAPHICS - PRINTING

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Winner, National Association of Conservation Districts, 1997 Communications Competition

LANDMARKS

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 574
Greensburg, PA 15601

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