



Historic **BARN-RAISING** Launches Center

by Greg Phillips

More than 150 people attended a barn-raising ceremony on Wednesday, September 20, 2000, for the District's new Center for Conservation Education in Westmoreland County.

Westmoreland County Commissioners Balya, Conner, and Ceraso each spoke at the ceremony, as did Peter Skrgic of Allegheny Energy, Inc., the project's lead corporate sponsor; Malcolm Sias of the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation; and Eleanore Pearson, daughter of Nature Park's namesake, Ann Rudd Saxman.

At the ceremony, Amish craftsmen raised the first wall of timbers for the new

Center, which will offer locally relevant conservation information and programs for educators, students, and the general public, as well as meeting space for grassroots conservation groups, when it opens early next year.

The Center itself also will be a model of conservation-in-action. For example: The timbers raised at the ceremony, as well as most of the others that will be used in the 7,600-square-foot building, have come from a 120-year-old Westmoreland County bank barn that was no longer being used for agriculture. Amish craftsmen carefully dismantled the barn, moved it from its Penn Township location, and are reassembling it in its new location

behind the Conservation District headquarters.

More than 300 barn timbers will be reused. They include poplar, white oak, red oak, and some chestnut and most likely originally came from forested land near the barn's original location. All the barn beams are hand-hewn, and the timbers range in size from 65 feet in length to 3-foot-long braces. The wall raised at the public ceremony includes one of the 65-foot beams and will separate the covered patio from the offices in the Center's lower level.

Continued on page 2

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Barn Raising....

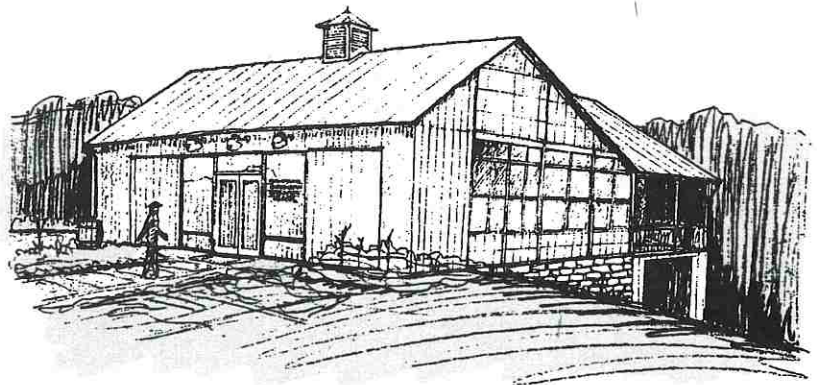
Continued from page 1

The barnraising ceremony was the official start of the public portion of the Center's fundraising campaign. The Center is being constructed totally with private funds through a community partnership effort. Financial and in-kind support has been provided by a number of foundations, corporations, and private individuals toward the Center's projected \$400,000 capital costs.

Most recently adding their support at the Partner level and above are:

- The Angelo Iafrate Construction Company — \$5,000 (second gift)
- The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County - Greensburg Foundation Fund — \$5,000
- O. C. Cluss Lumber Company — \$500
- P. Scott Conner
- Dr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Muccio

Contributions, which are tax-deductible, are still needed and may be made to: Penn's Corner Charitable Trust, a 501(c)(3) organization, R.R. 12, Box 202C, Greensburg, PA 15601-9217.



THE CENTER FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

If you would like to have a part in this exciting new outreach to encourage respect for our county's soil, water, and land resources, we invite you to join with us by making a tax-deductible pledge of financial support.

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Wellhead Protection Important to Everyone

by Nicole Foremsky, District/Extension Water Quality Agent

Wellhead protection is a way to eliminate pollution sources near your well that could possibly cause contamination of your drinking water. Even if no immediate water-related problems exist, you should be concerned about protecting your drinking water supply for three reasons:

- 1. Protecting the health of your family:** while most groundwater-related diseases are short-term digestive disorders caused by bacteria and viruses, hazardous chemicals found in wells also pose risks.
- 2. Avoiding the Costs of Cleanup and Replacement of a Water supply:** cleaning up contaminated groundwater can be technically difficult, extremely expensive, – and sometimes it simply cannot be done. Once a water supply is contaminated, replacement is often the most reasonable alternative, and the costs of siting new wells, treating

existing supplies or providing bottled water are high.

3. Preventing Negative Economic Impacts:

the negative impact can extend far beyond the costs of remediation. Contaminated groundwater often discourages new residents or even businesses from locating in the area.

How to prevent groundwater contamination in the first place?

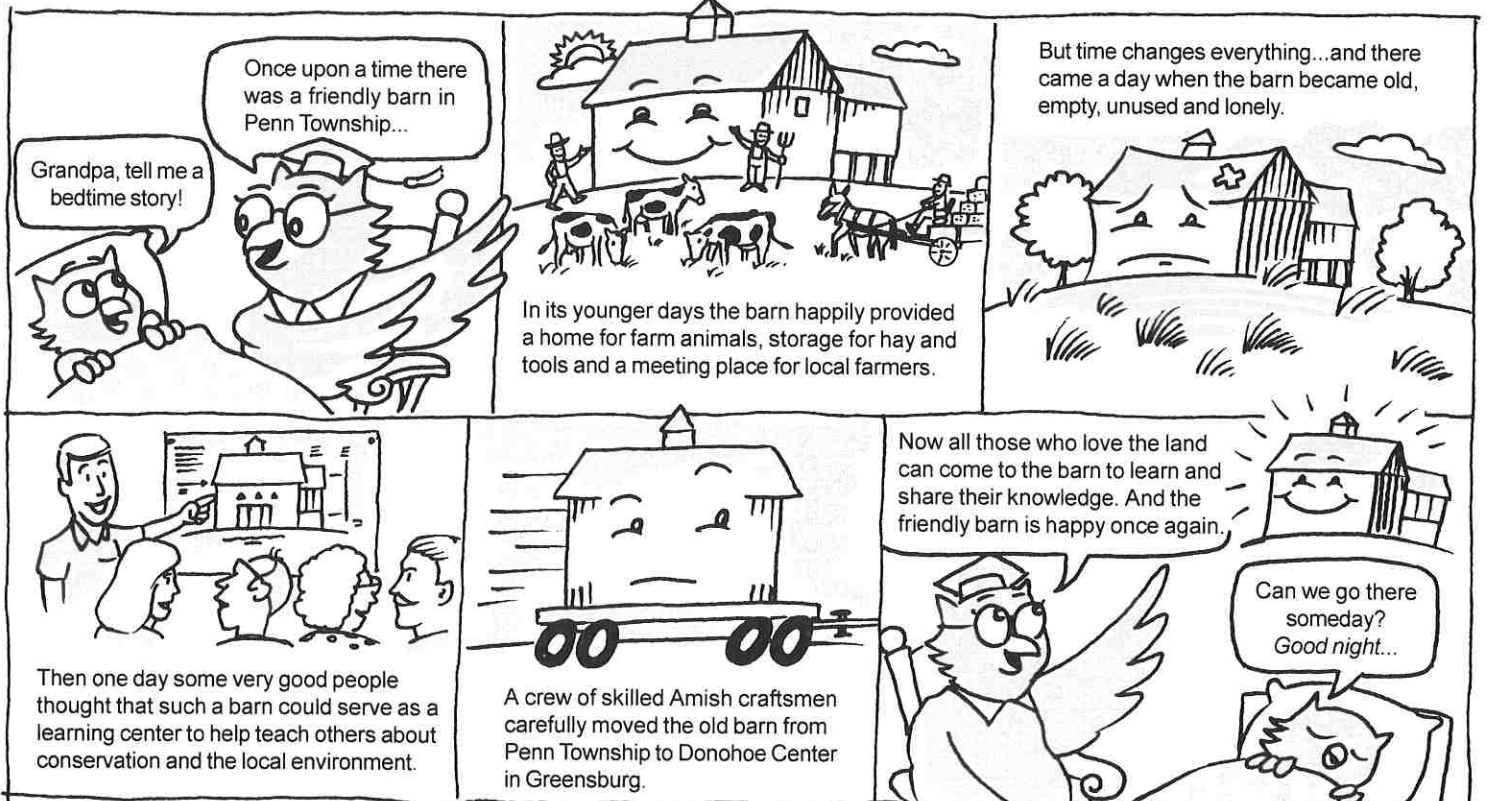
First, define your wellhead – the area that supplies your drinking water. I would love to be able to say, protect a circle with the radius of 100 feet around your well, but that is not always the case.

After you define the area, identify the problems that may contaminate your well. Possible sources of contamination are: Pesticide usage, feedlots, junk yards, heating oil storage, abandoned wells, domestic septic tanks, auto washes, dry

cleaners, gas stations, and landfills, to name a few. Practices around the house can also cause contamination, such as animal burial or disposal sites uphill or near the well, household hazardous waste storage or disposal near the well, and septic systems that are malfunctioning because they haven't been pumped in the last decade!

Once possible contaminants have been removed from your wellhead area, and activities have been restricted within a certain distance from your well; your protection plan is in place. Proper monitoring should follow. Drinking water from groundwater sources should be tested annually for bacterial contamination. You can find out information about where to take your water by calling the Extension Office (837-1402) or Dave Roote at the Department of Environmental Protection (925-5500).

In The Field *by Mark Jackson*



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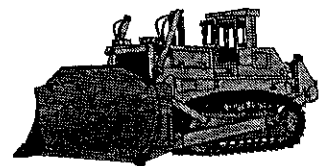
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Jacobs Creek Restoration Project Underway

by Tony Quadro

A project is nearing completion which will restore a 1500 foot section of Jacobs Creek in Mount Pleasant Township. The Westmoreland Conservation District is a recipient of a \$21,000 DEP Growing Greener Grant to complete the project. This project will soon demonstrate how a stream can be protected from the effects of degradation and pollution caused by unlimited access by cattle.

Allowing cattle unlimited access to stream channels causes accelerated erosion to occur due to the trampling of streambanks. In addition, the trampling and grazing along streambanks severely limits vegetative growth and causes streams to reach higher temperatures which is detrimental to many kinds of fish. Fecal contamination to streams is also increased.

Herd health is another concern. Bacteria present in some streams can cause mastitis and other problems. Furthermore, it is better for the cows hooves to keep them dry.

To help alleviate these concerns, the project will implement several best management practices. When completed, the project will include: repair and stabilization of 375 feet of severely disturbed areas, 3 stabilized cattle crossing



Student volunteers from Mount Pleasant High School Botany class contribute to the restoration project by planting trees.

areas, a total of 20 green ash, flowering crab apple and serviceberry trees planted in the riparian zone, and the fencing off of nearly all of the 1500 feet of stream channel.

The work is being done on PA State Rep. Jess Stairs' farm near Acme in Mount Pleasant Township. The District hopes that this highly visible farm will demonstrate to other farmers in the area how to best manage their pastures. Rep. Stairs stated that he is hoping that other farmers will be encouraged to do the

same thing on their land.

The grading work was done by Stoy excavating of Somerset, PA. Technical assistance was provided by the NRCS, and further support from the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association. Trees have been planted by the botany class of Mount Pleasant High School.

For more information about streambank fencing and buffer zones, contact the District office. Funding assistance is available to do the work.



New Erosion Control Technologies Like Fine Pastries?

By: Chris Droste

On September 6, 7, & 8, 2000 the Erosion Control staff set out on a journey to Valley Forge, PA to learn more about erosion on an international level. Not only did we enjoy the fine pastries at Valley Forge, but we learned a great deal about key issues that concern engineers, municipal officials, and of course the regulated community. We learned about the usual regulations that we follow every day, but also observed

new and exciting trends that design professionals and companies from all over the country were presenting. The Faircloth Skimmer and the Silt Fence Installer are two such examples of the new ideas.

First, the Faircloth Skimmer, designed by Warren Faircloth, is a device that resembles a big "donut" with a pipe sticking from the end of it (don't tell Jim!). It works like your typical swimming pool skimmer, taking water from the surface, but, in this case, it's muddy water and not bugs we are filtering out! This product has been endorsed by the DEP and appears as an alternative practice in

the erosion control manual.

Another product that is worth mentioning, is a machine that installs filter fence. This machine, (designed by Silt Fence Innovations Inc.), slices into the ground cutting a deep crevice and sews the silt fence into the ground similar to the machine that sews the buttons on your shirt! Since installing silt fence is a costly and labor intensive task, the Silt Fence Installer can save time and money.

We hope that these conferences will continue to provide valuable information and spark new ideas in the field of erosion control.

FARMERS . . .

Nutrient Management Can Work for You!

By Dan Griffith, Nutrient Management & Ag Conservation Technician

In an effort to evaluate what interests farmers have in the way of cost share projects, please take a look at the chart on page 7 about funding. There have been a number of cost share funding programs that have become available recently. Now it is possible to get 80% cost share for manure storage, barnyard roofs, alleyways, etc. You first must have a Nutrient Management Plan for these programs. There is even cost share money for getting the plan done, too. We are working on the possibility of

providing 100% or higher cost share funding for some of these BMPs (Best Management Practices).

Please check the appropriate box for the following questions and send the questionnaire back to me at the address below. I will send out follow-up information concerning the programs that interest you. If you have particular questions, don't hesitate to give me a call at (724) 837-5271. You can call anytime if you are willing to leave a voice mail message.

Clip and send to:

Westmoreland Conservation District • Donohoe Center • R.D. 12, Box 202-B • Greensburg, PA 15601
Attn: Dan Griffith, Nutrient Management & Ag Conservation Technician

Thinking About Cost Share Projects?

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

YES NO

- Are you interested in having a commercial planner prepare a Nutrient Management Plan for your farm?
- Are you interested in taking a 16 hour course to learn how to prepare your own Nutrient Management Plan?
- Would you like me to send you a copy of the list of commercial planners willing to work in Westmoreland County?

MANURE STORAGE STRUCTURES

Structures are not required. However, all structures **must** be designed and certified by a professional engineer. We are developing a list of engineers interested in doing this work.

YES NO

- Are you interested in 80% cost share for a manure storage structure?
- Are you interested in cost share for a manure storage structure if the rate is higher than 80%?

BARNYARDS & ALLEYWAYS

YES NO

- Are you interested in barnyard or alleyway stabilization?
- Are you interested in barnyard roofing?
- Are you interested in roof gutters and downspouts?

SPRING DEVELOPMENTS, FENCING, STREAM CROSSINGS

YES NO

- Are you interested in a spring development / water trough project?
- Are you interested in fencing for a rotational grazing system?
- Are you interested in fencing for a riparian buffer (streambank fencing)?
- Are you interested in stream crossings?

FIELDS & FILTER STRIPS FOR MILKHOUSE & BARNYARD WASTE

YES NO

- Are you interested in warm season grasses?
- Are you interested in diversion waterways?
- Are you interested in grass filter strips for milkhouse or barnyard waste?

Any other BMPs you might be interested in:

Please provide your name & address for reply:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Possible

Act 6 Gran

CF
(Continuous
Reserve

Ducks U

Agri-
(Agriculture
Investment

Project
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EQ
(Environment
Incentives

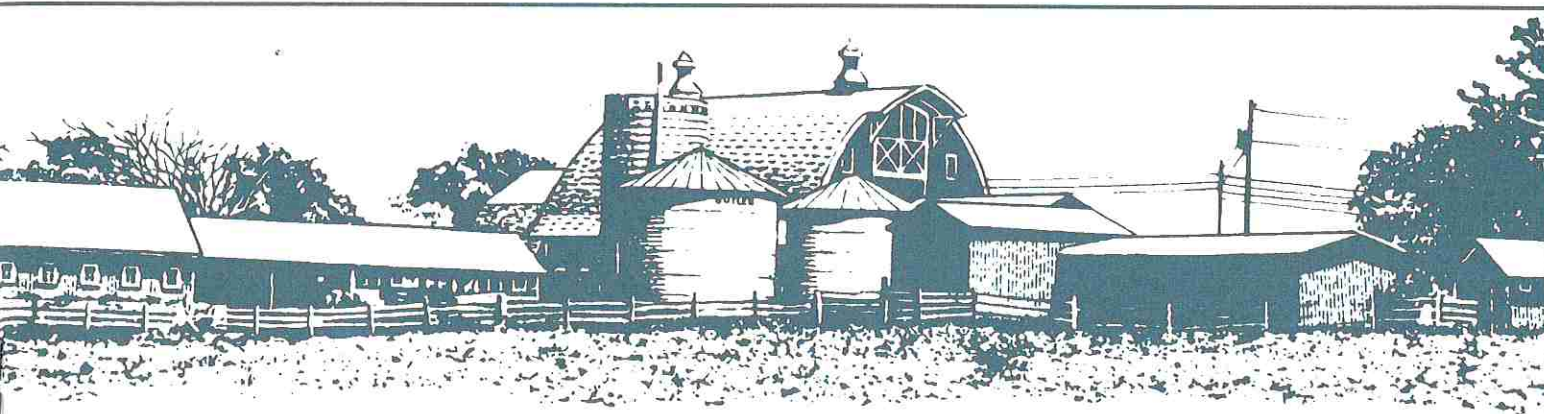
CR
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(Growing

WC
(Westmoreland
Conservation
Enhancement



Funding Sources for Cost Share Projects of Installing BMP's (Best Management Practices)

	Total \$ Available in Westmoreland Co.	Emphasis Placed On	Examples	Qualifiers	Comments
Program	\$75,000 per Nutrient Management Plan 80% cost-share	Big ticket items: BMP's must be included in your NM Plan	Waste storage structures! Diversions, alleys, roofs, etc.	Financial qualifications: estimated 90% of farmers will qualify	Get your Nutrient Management Plan started right away – it takes time!
Conservation Program)	Authorized for 2 years 90% cost-share	Cash rental payments & cost share to establish long term resource-conserving BMP's	Riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways	No grazing in buffers, 35' to 180' wide, must plant trees in buffers	Install riparian buffers to qualify for crossings & water supplies
Limited	Up to \$10,000 per farm	Streambank fencing; doing so will help pay for other BMP's	Get credit towards barnyard paving, cattle lanes, roofing, etc.	Buffers 15' to 300' wide	Brand new effort in Westmoreland Co.
Bank Linked Program)	No limit to total loan amount	Low interest loans for big ticket items	Get a bank loan at 4.5% instead of 8.5%	Must have NM Plan	Get your Nutrient Management Plan started right away!
Grass Greener)	\$5,300 per year in Westmoreland Co.	Rotational Grazing Systems	Fencing, water troughs	Must have NM, Cons., & Grazing Plan	Call Dan Griffith 837-5271
Forever		Will seed warm season grasses	Switchgrass		Call Dan Griffith 837-5271
Water Quality Program)	Available in Westmoreland Co. only in very limited funding				
Conservation Reserve Program)	Not available yet in Westmoreland Co.				
Streambank Fencing)	Not available in Westmoreland Co.				
Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program)	Not available in Westmoreland Co.				
Conservation BMP's (Grass Greener)	Will know by November 14				
Conservation Reserve Program)	We will begin an effort in Westmoreland Co. to match the efforts being made in the Chesapeake Bay Area by joining forces with private organizations as partnering agencies to reward landowners who install riparian buffers, stream crossings, rotational grazing systems, stabilized alleyways, stabilized barnyards, barnyard roofs and gutters, and other measures to protect the Waters of the Commonwealth.				



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- Wetland Construction
- Wildlife Habitat Construction
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 - Fish Surveys
 - Wetland Delineations
 - Wetland Mitigation Plans

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News 'n Notes

EDUCATION

Erosion & Sedimentation Pollution Control Workshop for Engineers



130 people attended a workshop hosted by the District on October 17th. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reviewed the revised Erosion Control Manual and changes to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

program. Our own staff talked about what we look for when reviewing E&S plans and when we are out in the field inspecting sites for compliance with the Clean Streams Law. Also discussed were other special projects



currently underway for the District, such as the Education Center and the buzz of activity with all of the existing and newly formed watershed associations in the county. The new Erosion Control Manuals are available for pick up at the District office. **The great attendance at the session is a testament to the conservation ethic of the engineering community in the area.**

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Tips For Driveway Culverts

Do you need to install pipe to cross a ditch or stream for your driveway? Be sure to use the right size. If your pipe is too small it might fill with sediment, or water may flow out onto the road or wash away your driveway. A pipe installed in a channel needs to be about as big in diameter as the channel is wide, to carry the expected flow. If the channel is wide and flat, two side-by-

side pipes may be used. Your driveway pipe should be the same size or larger than those immediately up and downstream from you. For more info contact the District at 837-5271.

A LOOK AT THE DISTRICT

District Welcomes New Secretary

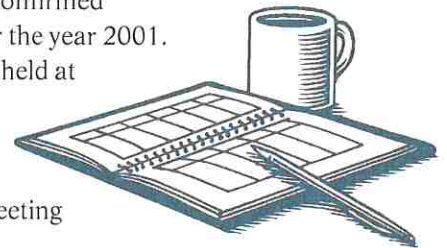
Sandy Dzendzel is already into the "flow of things" in the district office. The Manor resident is learning all about technical practices, office procedures, and the wide variety of chores found in conservation work. She comes to us from the Diocese of Greensburg with 27 years of secretarial experience. Sandy and her husband, Terry, enjoy going to Winston NASCAR racing events and taking long rides on their motorcycle. "I'm amazed at the number of educational programs that are available across Westmoreland County, and am very excited and proud to be part of this district," she said.



Sandy Dzendzel

District Meeting Dates for Year 2001

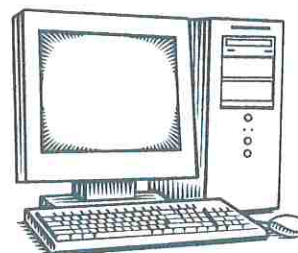
The following is a list of confirmed District meeting dates for the year 2001. The meetings are usually held at Donohoe Center in Rooms 100-101. (Check future meeting notices in Landmarks to confirm meeting locations.)



January 10	11am	February 14	11am
March 14	11am	April 11	7pm
May 9	7pm	June 13	7pm
July 11	7pm	August 8	7pm
September 12	7pm	October 10	7pm
November	Date and time to be announced		
December 12	11am - 1pm		Christmas Luncheon

Visit Us On The Web

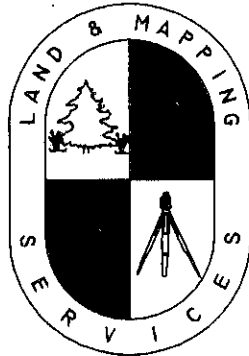
Be sure to check out the District's web page at www.wcdpa.com



for the latest information on the Education Center's progress. Photographs are added daily to keep up-to-date on the building's development.

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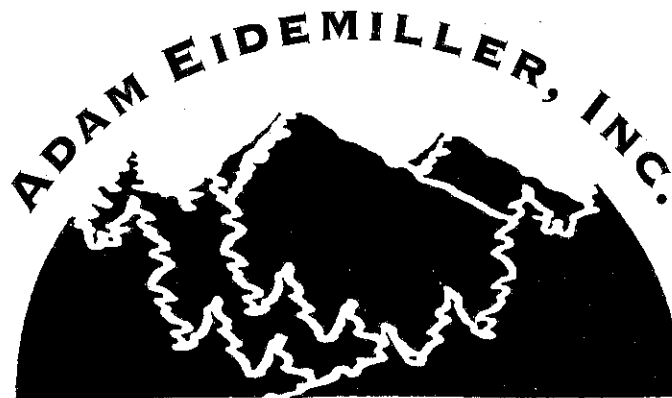
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KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

By Kathy Fritz

Sources and Forms of Water

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

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

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Artesian Well | 14. Mineral Waters |
| 2. Cloud | 15. Ocean |
| 3. Dew | 16. Perspiration |
| 4. Fog | 17. Rain |
| 5. Frost | 18. Reservoir |
| 6. Geyser | 19. River |
| 7. Glacier | 20. Sleet |
| 8. Hail | 21. Snow |
| 9. Humidity | 22. Spring |
| 10. Hydrate | 23. Stream |
| 11. Ice | 24. Vapor |
| 12. Iceberg | 25. Waterfall |
| 13. Lake | 26. Well |

Find Grandma Kuhns' Cottage Key Contest



Marlene Cairnes, Donald Rose and Candy Danka are the latest winners in the "Find the Key" contest featured in the Landmarks - Fall 2000 issue. They were treated to a gift certificate from the Old Country Buffet, and new WCD logo tee-shirts and hats.

Once again, we've hidden the key somewhere in this issue. The 7th, 14th and 21st callers to call Joanne at 837-5271 **between January 4th and 5th, 2001** will win a prize. Good luck to all!

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NATURALLY

Delicious

by Karen Barnhart

Pizza Twists

- 1 box Hot Roll Mix
- 1 cup (4 oz.) finely chopped pepperoni
- 1 tsp. minced onion
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 cup (2 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tbs. Parmesan Cheese
- 1/4 cup mozzarella cheese grated
- 1/2 tsp. crushed oregano
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tbs. water
- garlic salt - optional

Combine 1 cup dry hot roll mix, pepperoni, onion, garlic, cheeses & oregano. Stir in remaining mix. Complete dough preparations according to box directions. Turn out on lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth. Place in greased bowl, turning to grease on both sides. Cover. Let rise until doubled, about 1 hr. Punch down, turn on lightly floured surface. Cut into 24 pieces. Roll each piece to a rope of 10 inches. Double and twist the rope. Seal ends with water. Place on greased baking sheets. Let rise until double, about 30 min. Combine egg yolk and water. Brush the twists. Dust with garlic salt. Bake in 400 oven for 12 - 15 min. Remove to wire racks to cool. Very good in microwave for 10-15 sec.

LANDMARKS

The Official Newsletter of the
Westmoreland Conservation District

LORRIE STOUFFER - EDITOR

JACKSON GRAPHICS: MARK JACKSON,
STEPHANIE LAFRANKIE - GRAPHIC DESIGN

LAUREL VALLEY GRAPHICS - PRINTING

Watershed News

By Craig Barras, Watershed Specialist

Quarterly watershed updates will be provided in Landmarks on projects being conducted by organizations in the county. The District, with funding from The Department of Environmental Protection has committed a full-time position to assisting existing organizations and helping form new ones to assist in the protection of Westmoreland County's watersheds.

Turtle Creek Watershed Association

- Survey completed, working on design for passive treatment system at **Borland Farm Road mine discharge** in the White Valley section of Murrysville.
- Draft **Rivers Conservation Plan** completed; final version to be completed by the end of the year.
- **Mine Drainage Assessment** with Growing Greener funding under way.

Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

- **Lowber Growing Greener project** underway (Iron Oxide Resource Recovery)

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association

- Growing Greener **stream restoration project at Stairs Farm** nearing completion (streambank stabilization, fencing and buffering, and agricultural crossings)
- **Quarterly water sampling** of entire watershed (26 monitoring points).

Kiskiminetas Watershed Association

- 3 initial **public meetings** held in October. **First membership meeting** to be before the end of the year.

Mountain Watershed Association

- Board passed resolution to begin **P.L. 566 mine drainage remediation project** in Fayette County portion of the watershed.
- **Sagamore mine remediation project** completed.

Laurel Valley Greenway

- Applied for DCNR Growing Greener funding to acquire property for the **Lacolle Recreational Trail & Greenway** (4 mile trail along the Conemaugh River from New Florence to Lockport).

Loyalhanna Watershed Association

- **P.W. & S. Bike Trail** completed at Laurel Mountain
- **Monastery Run Growing Greener projects** completed, (streambank stabilization & mesocosm repair).
- **Stream Team Monitoring**

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