



Swinging!

The District Players — "Happy Days at Arnolds"



Rockin' at the Barn

Elvis has entered the building



ROCKIN' ALONG

with the Annual Awards Banquet



Dan Painter



Twisting the night away



Kim Miller & Roy Houston



John & Bob Graham



M.C. - Terry Marolt

A sock-hoppin' good time was had by all November 12 at the Westmoreland Conservation District's annual awards banquet. Guests were invited to dust off the poodle skirt and hair gel and join in a night of fabulous 50's fun.

The evening began with a reception at the Center for Conservation Education, followed by dinner and entertainment at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton near Greensburg.

In keeping with the evening's 50's

theme, the District "Players" treated attendees to a zany skit featuring all the favorite "Happy Days" characters.

Afterward, the 2002 conservation district award recipients were recognized.

Bob and John Graham were given the Conservation Farmers of the Year awards for working to implement conservation measures on their Westmoreland County dairy farm (see feature article, page 3).

The Corporate Conservation Partner award was presented to Lou Battistella

and Dan Painter on behalf of Adam Eidemiller, Inc. The company was honored for continued and consistent support of the district's Education Center and other related projects.

For the donation of his time, his construction skills... and his Penn Township barn... Kim Miller was named the district's Volunteer of the Year. After three years, his 120-year old barn is now a conservation education

Continued on page 2

Westmoreland Conservation District

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 ROB KNIGHT, *Soil Scientist*
 BOBBI BAILEY, *Soil Conservationist*
 MILADYS N IRIZARRY-RIVERA, *Soil Scientist*

Awards Banquet continued from page 1

center off Donohoe Road, thanks to the hours Kim spent overseeing the dismantling, moving and rebuilding process.

To cap off the evening, guests were invited to stay and "twist the night away". Former Westmoreland County

commissioner Terry Marolt, who served as master of ceremonies during the awards presentation, put on his best "Commish & Company" disc jockey hat... and wowed the crowd with the very best toe-tappin' tunes of yesteryear.

Kudos to the Following Certificate Recipients!



Graydon Long,
 Retiring WCD Director,
 12 years service



P. Roy Kemerer,
 District Director,
 15 years service

Harry Meyer,
 Associate Director,
 5 years service

Municipality of Murrysville,
 Rick Ingram, Public Works Director
 Bear Hollow Streambank
 Stabilization and Stormwater Ponds

Dominion Peoples Gas,
 "Putting our Energy to Work
 for the Environment",
 Education Center interior staining



Thunder Mountain
 Lenape Nation,
 Pat Selinger
 Education partner



Kiskiminetas Watershed
 Association,
 Bob Kossak, President
 Organization formation

Wachtshu Ehachping,
 Monica Colberg
 Education partner

Charles Bowers,
 Bowers Lumber,
 Education Center lumber



City of Jeannette,
 Ed Antonacci,
 City Engineer
 Bull Run
 Streambank Stabilization



Jack Parry,
 Hempfield Area
 School District,
 Envirothon advisor



Pucketa and Chartiers
 Watershed Association,
 Tony Farina, President
 Organization formation



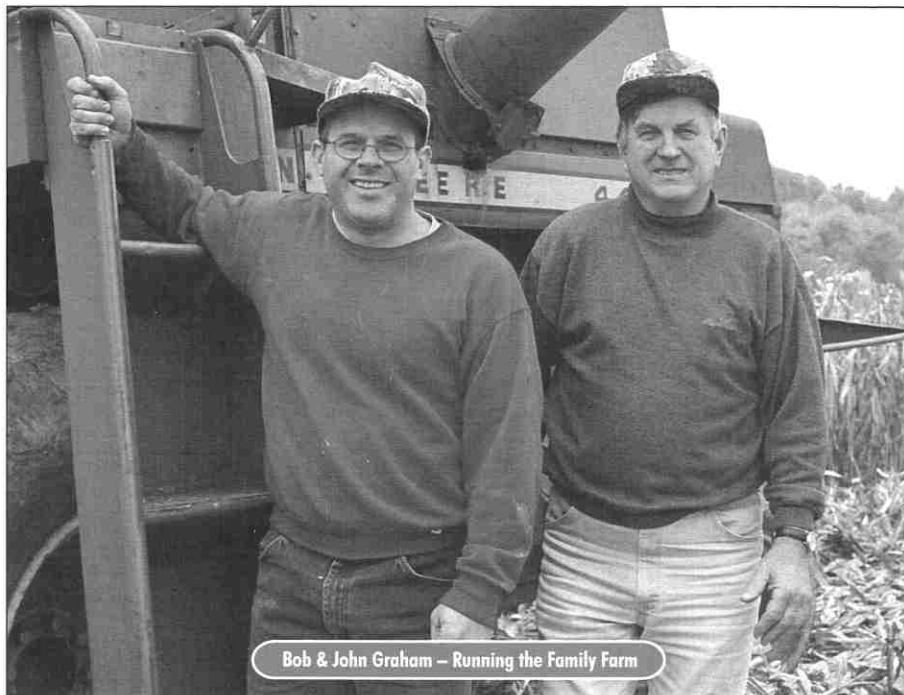
C.R. Greene,
 DEP District Mining
 Operations,
 Education Center
 parking lot materials



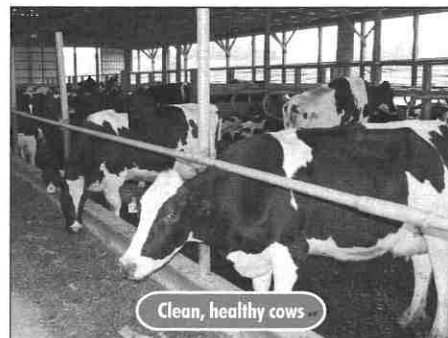
Mark Jackson,
 Associate Director,
 15 years service

Boy Scouts — Eagle Scout Projects
 Steve Kifer, Troop 480
 Steve Regola, Troop 465 and
 Derek Sinchar, Troop 405

Grahams Named Farmers of the Year



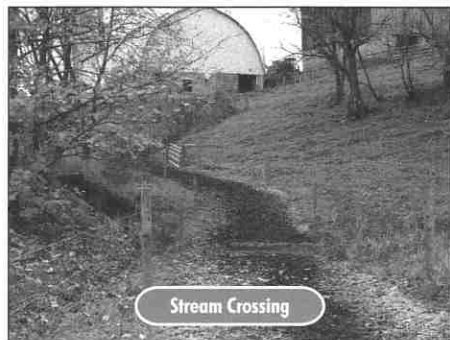
Bob & John Graham – Running the Family Farm



Clean, healthy cows



Spring-fed water trough



Stream Crossing



Harvesting Corn



Contour Strips

Bob and John Graham know conservation improves productivity. They have been proving it for years. As a result, they were named the Conservation Farmers of the Year for 2002 during the Westmoreland Conservation District's October meeting. Congratulations Bob & John! The Grahams operate a dairy farm along Rt. 259 about 10 miles north of Rt. 30 in Fairfield Township. They have about 100 cows to milk twice a day, every day of the year. Being named Conservation Farmer of the Year is an honor bestowed by the Westmoreland Conservation District each year to a most deserving farmer. They must have displayed a conservation ethic for a number of years and worked on their own farm to implement conservation measures.

Bob & John have cooperated with the Natural Resources Conservation

Service and the Conservation District in the installation of contour strips, streambank fencing, riparian buffer plantings, alternative water supplies, a stream crossing, and a stabilized alleyway. They were the first farmers in the county to cost share streambank fencing and riparian plantings of trees with both the Conservation Reserve Program and the Growing Greener Program. A stream crossing allows the animals to cross the tributary to Hypocrite Creek without making it muddy and the alternative water supply lets the animals drink cool fresh water in a water trough right from a spring. A stabilized alleyway on both sides of the stream crossing keeps the cows from getting muddy in low lying damp ground, which also keeps the cows healthier. Healthier cows means better milk production and lower vet bills and insures that cows stay in the herd longer.

Bob and his wife Carolyn, along with their boys John, 5, and James, 3, hosted Farm Bureau's legislative tour last summer. Bob has served as county president for Farm Bureau.

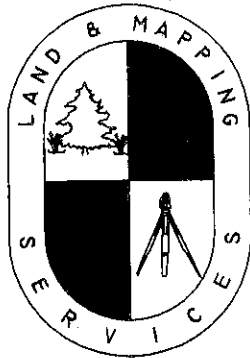
One of Bob's neighbors complimented him for having a nice, attractive farm, saying that they liked to walk down along the road and watch the cows and daily activities. The neighbor said that they deserved an award because of all their hard work.

Bob & John built a new barn about 5 years ago to move the cows into a healthier environment and to make it easier to take care of the cows. Then they built a new milking parlor that is a lot easier for them to milk the cows in than the old style stanchion barn.

Bob is considering his options for how to better handle manure and milk house waste from the operation in an effort to maximize nutrient recycling.

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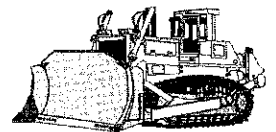
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SELECT CUTTING YOUR WOODS...

Good or Bad?



When most people hear the term “select cutting” in regards to timber harvesting, the image that comes to mind is one where the bigger trees (usually over some predetermined diameter) are cut, and the smaller trees remain allowing them to grow. They think that this is the best thing to do for the forest. But, is this really the best way to harvest trees for long term sustainability of the resource? Let’s take a closer look.

First let’s look at the term “select cut.” In a select or selective type of cut, the trees selected for removal are generally the largest, highest value species in the forest. Foresters call this type of harvest a high grading. And, although it usually maximizes the dollar value of the sale in the short term, it can be devastating both environmentally and financially in the long term.

This is due to several factors. Most timber stands in Pennsylvania are even-aged. That is, most of the trees are about the same age. Thus the larger trees are faster growing, genetically superior trees. The smaller trees are, for the most part genetically inferior “runts”. A select cut which cuts all of the trees over a certain diameter takes all of the superior trees and leaves the poor quality stunted trees.

Another problem with selective

harvesting is that certain high value species are also removed from the woodlot. Faster growing high value trees like black cherry, red oak, and white ash are often removed leaving slower growing and lower value species such as red maple, sugar maple, and beech. The biodiversity and value of stands cut in this manner is severely reduced.

Probably the worst problem with the select cut is loss of future productivity and potential regeneration failure. When all or most of the larger genetically superior trees are removed, the only trees left to drop seeds are the poor quality, genetically inferior trees. Often the only species left to throw seed is the low grade red maple. This coupled with an overpopulation of deer and invasive species such as ferns, multi-flora rose, and striped maple can be devastating to the future productivity of the stand.

Selective harvesting should not be confused with the selection method. The selection method of cutting is designed to be used in uneven-aged forests (a forest composed of all ages of trees). A selection cut removes trees from all diameter classes, usually mature trees and lower grade immature trees. A professional forester can help you decide if this is best for your

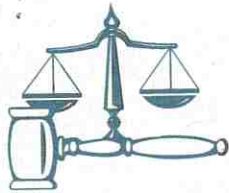
woodlot. Other “valid” methods include: thinnings and improvement cuts, and the seed tree, shelterwood, clearcut, and group selection methods of regeneration.

Unfortunately, many people still think that the select cut is the least disruptive way to harvest trees from the forest, and most timber is harvested in this manner. However, research shows that repeated select cutting will severely reduce long term stand productivity, value, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat. If approached by someone that wants to “just select cut your woods”, tell them no thank you and seek professional forestry assistance. Free advice is available from the Westmoreland Conservation District and the PA Bureau of Forestry.

Mark Your Calendars

The Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association will be holding a meeting in January, 2003 at the Westmoreland Conservation District Center for Conservation Education. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Tentative topics include the state of our forests, regenerating the forest, and the new FLEP program. Members are encouraged to pay their 2003 dues at this meeting.

The Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association was organized to provide a forum for those who have an interest in woodlands. The association recognizes woodlands as renewable resources, and encourages their management for timber, water quality and control, wildlife habitat, plant propagation, and recreation. Membership is open to all interested persons.



NRCS Assists in Farm Bill 2002 Administration

The 2002 Farm Bill promises to be landmark legislation for conservation funding and for focusing on environmental issues. Conservation provisions will assist farmers in meeting environmental challenges on their land. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the conservation programs discussed below.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible with National goals. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical assistance for planning and installation of conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP is a voluntary program that encourages creation of wildlife habitats of significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to develop upland, wetland, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC&D)

RC&D encourages and improves the capability of civic leaders to carry out projects for resource conservation and community development. Westmoreland County actively participates in the Penn's Corner RC&D area program.

Conservation Security Program

Conservation Security Program is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance for the conservation of natural resources. This new program will provide payments to producers who historically have practiced good stewardship. The program will be developed during 2003.

If you need more information on these and other conservation assistance programs, please contact the local office of NRCS in Donohoe Center, phone 724-834-3970. Information also available on the web at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002.

Project Grass – Grassland Evaluation Contest Planned

In cooperation with agricultural producers and federal, state, and local agencies

This year, Project Grass has adopted a Youth Development and Outreach Initiative – a Grassland Evaluation Contest for Pennsylvania youth. The contest is open to FFA and 4-H students who are either currently enrolled at the high school level or have graduated at the end of the school year prior to the contest. A contest team will consist of 3 or 4 students. It is the goal of Project Grass to be able to offer each individual on the first place team a \$500 scholarship, a \$250 scholarship for each individual on the second place team, and a \$500 scholarship for the highest scoring individual. A training session for team coaches will be provided annually.

The Grassland Evaluation Contest originated in the state of Missouri. Interest spread to other states, and in 1998 the American Forage and Grassland Council established a pasture judging contest for the temperate regions tailored after the Missouri Grassland Evaluation Contest. The first national contest was held in June 2000 at Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

The contest contains four developmental sections. They include:

- Grassland Condition
- Plant Identification
- Soils
- Wildlife

The judging site will be a typical pasture or area used for livestock grazing. Within the pasture area, a 50 x 50 ft. plot will be marked off with ribbon. A scenario with landowner's goals for livestock and wildlife production will be provided at the contest site. Appropriate soil survey information, aerial photos, maps, score cards, and other relevant information will be made available to the contestants the day of the contest.

Contestants will be allowed 25 minutes to judge each of the 4 segments.

The contest is tentatively scheduled for September or October 2003 at State College.

For more information contact:

Bobbi Bailey

Chairman – Project Grass Youth Development and Outreach
Donohoe Center
RR 12 Box 202C
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: 724-853-5555 ext. 119
Fax: 724-832-9721
bobbi.bailey@pagreensbu.fsc.usda.gov

Candace Burke

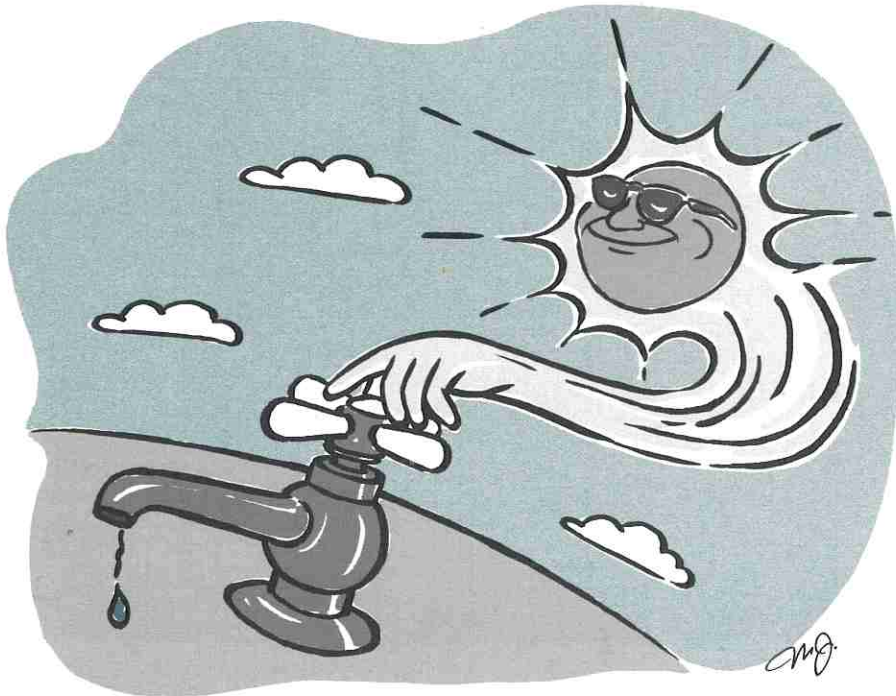
Chairman – Project Grass State Steering Committee
383 Iron Bridge Rd
Freeport, PA 16229
Phone: 412-295-4928
burkestwenty@webtv.net



The Drought Monitor...

What Can We Do to Conserve?

What can we do when Mother Nature turns her faucet off?



Rainfall for the month of October was well above normal for many eastern and northern counties of Pennsylvania, but well below normal for western counties – roughly 0.5 to 1.0 inches below normal for the month. The fall/winter outlook only offers “limited relief,” said Jack Kelly, director of NOAA’s National Weather Service. NOAA is the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, which is host to the Climate Prediction Center. Overall, forecasters expect El Nino’s fall and winter impacts to include drier-than-average conditions in the Ohio Valley states and warmer-than-average conditions in the northern tier of the United States during winter.

Locally, Westmoreland County was under normal drought conditions throughout the summer. With the coming of fall and winter, stream flows and groundwater levels have dipped below normal and the county entered into the drought watch status. This means public water suppliers, govern-

mental agencies, and water users are to be more alert to the potential for future drought-related problems. The focus during a drought watch is on increased monitoring, awareness, and preparation for response if conditions worsen. Additionally, a request for voluntary water conservation is made to reduce water uses by 5 percent.

With precipitation expected to be below normal in the Ohio Valley States, the measures taken to voluntarily conserve water can help protect us from reaching the drought warning status, which indicates the potential for water supply shortages and calls for a concerted voluntary conservation of 10-15 percent of overall water uses.

Many people are asking themselves what they should do. Water use within the home can be significantly reduced through changes in habits and by installing water-saving devices. Examples might include flushing toilets less often, taking shorter showers, brushing teeth without the water running, only washing full loads of

dishes or laundry, and collecting water from roof gutters for outside use. Outside the house, reducing the frequency or eliminating nonessential water uses, such as washing the car and spraying the driveway to remove fallen leaves can reduce the amount of water used by at least 100 gallons.

A more permanent reduction in water use can be accomplished through installation of water-saving devices, such as low-flush toilets and front-loading washers, and fixing leaky faucets and toilets, which can save up to 2000 gallons of water a year! To help get you started in the right direction, the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County has donated a Water Conservation Kit, which includes a toilet tank leak detector, water displacement bag to reduce the amount of water used per flush, water restrictors to reduce the flow in showers and faucets, and an additional bathroom faucet aerator as a bonus! The fifth caller to Joanne at 724-837-5271 to mention this article will receive the Water Conservation Kit!

With decreased precipitation and an increase in winter temperatures, our groundwater and surface water supplies are going to be affected. The first step in conserving water is to become aware of how much water you use on a daily basis, then taking action to reduce that by 5 percent.

For more information about water conservation, storing water, or managing your well during a drought, contact Nicki Foremsky at 724-837-1402.

Additional resources available at www.dep.state.pa.us direct link Drought, or www.noaanews.noaa.gov hot topics Drought.

Erosion Control/ Stream Encroachment Program Shifts Gears



One common feature on rural Westmoreland County highways is the farm truck. With a little rust around the edges, and dents in the fenders, and hay blowing out of the back, it's obviously not a glamorous vehicle – but it gets the job done. The Conservation District's Dodge Dakota is our own 'farm truck'. Its only problem is that it has a standard shift, so driving it through Greensburg involves lots of pushing in the clutch and shifting gears! Two of our long-term programs at WCD have recently shifted gears as well.

District participation in the Chapter 105 program, in which we issued General Permits for minor work in streams, has been slowed by a recent cut in state funding. We will no longer process any GP's except for GP-6 and GP-9, which are used by farmers for agricultural operations. Persons needing any other GP may still obtain the forms, technical help, and information from our office, but the completed applications must be sent to DEP's Southwest Regional Office in Pittsburgh.

District technical staffers are gearing up for a major increase in the NPDES construction permit workload. We have issued these permits for many years to persons disturbing more than five (5) acres of land. Due to rulings at the Federal and State levels, NPDES permits will now be required for persons who disturb more than one (1) acre. Anyone planning an earth-moving project which disturbs more than one acre should contact District staff for the new permit forms.



(Above) Sawmill Road – Mount Pleasant Township
(Right) New culverts under Peters Road – Cook Township



Dirt and Gravel Roads Program Rolls Along

- **COOK TOWNSHIP** supervisors have completed their project on **Peters Road**. They used \$17,781.00 from the program and \$47,975.89 of their own resources to rebuild the road from the subbase up to the driving surface aggregate. New crossdrains, turnouts, underdrain, rip-rap aprons, and broad-base dips were installed to decrease erosion on the road surface and ultimately protect **Four Mile Run** and the **Loyalhanna Watershed** from sediment pollution. The township also provided rock rip-rap bank protection on a tributary to Four Mile Run that runs adjacent to the road in sections.

- **MOUNT PLEASANT TOWNSHIP** has completed work to improve **Sawmill Road**. This project was undertaken with a \$20,475.00 grant from the program and over \$50,000 of in-kind services from the township road crew. This road has been impassable for emergency service crews in the past, and was in dire need of a facelift. The township built the road back up with new subbase material and topped it with a new driving surface aggregate. They also diverted spring flows away

from the road and improved turnouts to decrease erosion and sedimentation. The improvements will help protect the headwaters of **Laurel Run**, a tributary in the **Jacobs Creek Watershed**.

- **ON OCTOBER 22ND AND 23RD** the Center for Conservation Education hosted about 15 municipal officials from Armstrong, Indiana, and Westmoreland counties for the two-day certification in **Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance of Dirt and Gravel Roads**. The training was provided by the Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies at Penn State. Municipalities must have an official certified in order to be eligible for funding from the State Conservation Commission through the county conservation districts.

- **GRANT APPLICATIONS** are accepted at the District at any time for projects. A letter will be going out to municipalities in the near future to give a deadline for submitting applications for this round of funding. Any questions on the program can be directed to Craig Barras at the District.

First Annual Riffle Run Scramble a Success

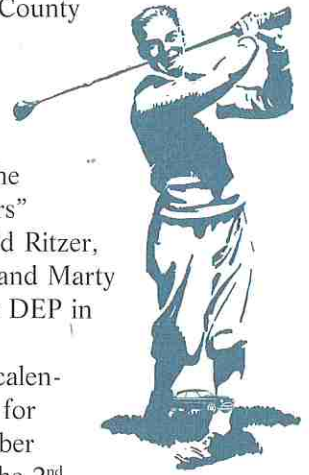
Approximately sixty golfers gathered at Donegal Highlands Golf Course in Donegal, PA on October 4th for the First Annual Riffle Run Scramble. This was a chance for anyone involved with watersheds in southwestern Pennsylvania to get together for a day of fun and networking. A committee of representatives from DEP-Southwest Regional Office, Western PA Conservancy – Watershed Assistance Center, Allegheny County Conservation District, Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Indiana County Conservation District, and the Westmoreland Conservation District organized the inaugural event. The event was well represented by watershed groups,

agencies, and industry.

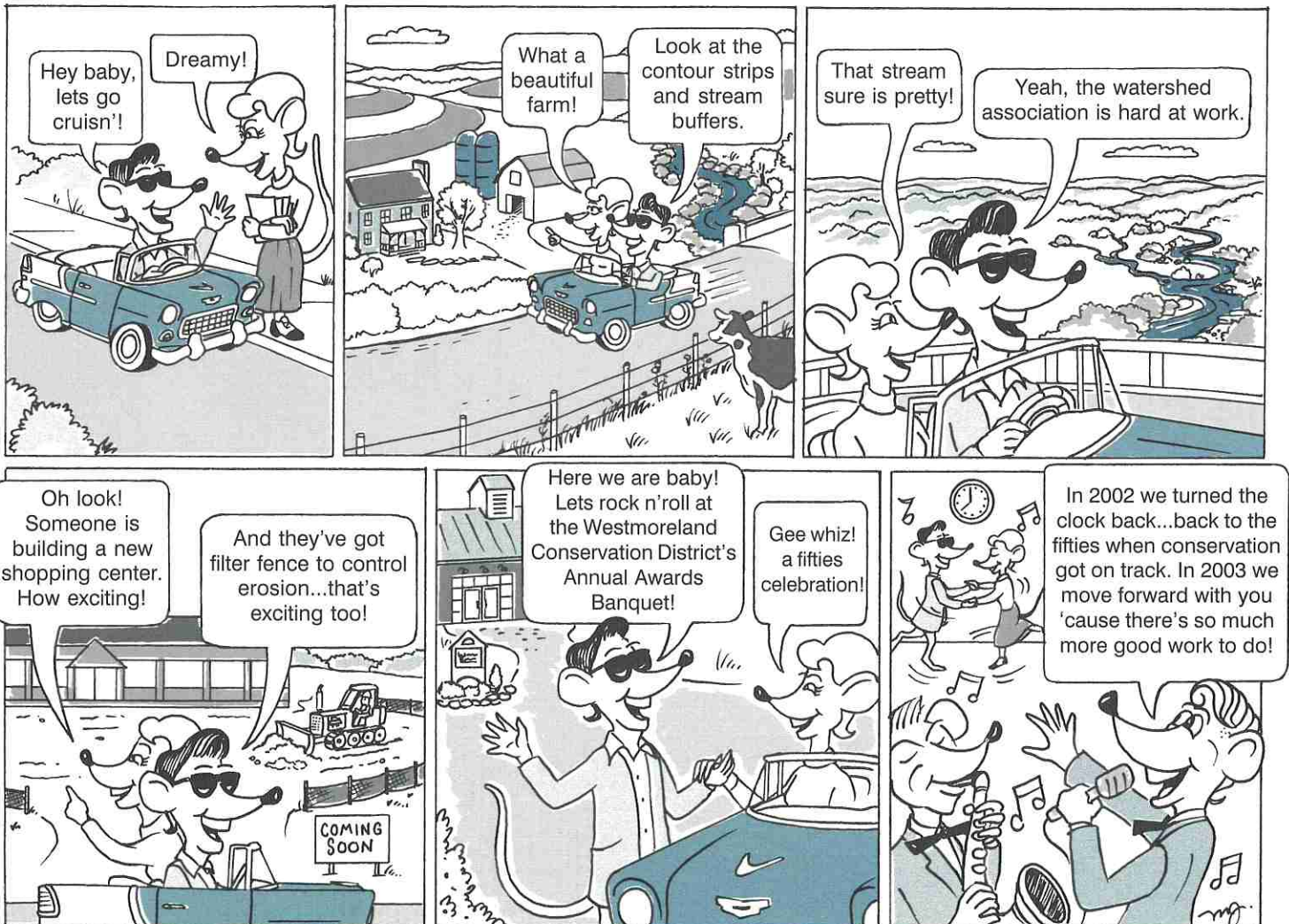
Participants enjoyed 18 holes of golf, food, and prizes. Prize and food costs were offset by our sponsors: W.B. Kania & Associates from Uniontown, Dick Corporation, Hedin Environmental, Iron Oxide Recovery, Inc., Madison Engineering and Surveying, Inc., Michael Baker Corporation, CWM Environmental, Inc., Hatch Mott MacDonald Group, Inc., Skelly and Loy, Inc., Duquesne University-Center for Environmental Research & Education, Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority, Municipal Authority Westmoreland County, WPCAMR, Western PA Conservancy, Westmoreland Conservation District, and Deb and Dan Simko. Major prize donations came from Hatch Mott

MacDonald Group, Inc., Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, Siemens, Washington County Chamber of Commerce, and Westmoreland County Commissioner Tom Ceraso. The winning team for the scramble was the “Black Snappers” comprised of Ed Ritzer, Don Molinari, and Marty Picklo from the DEP in Pittsburgh.

Mark your calendars tentatively for Friday, September 19th, 2003 for the 2nd Annual Riffle Run Scramble.



In The Field by Mark Jackson and Lorrie Quadro





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Workshops Work! The Westmoreland Conservation District staff and partners proved that seminars, forums and workshops not only educate, they get people working together. This year the issues and programs have ranged from riparian buffers and grant writing to rotational grazing and Stormwater management.

FALL PROGRAMS



SEPTEMBER STARTED WITH an "Establishing Riparian Buffers" workshop led by DEP Watershed Specialist, Greg Holish. Staff members Tony Quadro, Nicki Foremsky, Chris Droste, Dan Griffith, Mike Barrick, Jim Pillsbury, Craig Barras and Leanne Griffith participated in this workshop that included tree and plant identification in the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

SEPTEMBER ALSO BROUGHT the State Watershed Conference to Greensburg. Deb Simko of Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Coalition (WPCAMR), served on the steering committee for planning the event. Greg Phillips did an excellent job presenting a workshop on "Partnerships". He focused on our relationship with Dominion Peoples Gas which has helped with many projects over the years. Most recently, Dominion employees have helped at the Center for Conservation Education by staining the inside walls and deck railings, helping plant a riparian buffer at the Dominion Oakford Station along Beaver Run near Route 22, and building a compost demonstration area behind the Donohoe Center building. Greg frequently mentioned that one of our

favorite retired Dominion Peoples Gas friends is our own Roy Houston, Chairman of our Board of Directors. Leanne Griffith assisted Greg by preparing the related Powerpoint slideshow and assisting during the presentation.

CRAIG BARRAS AND JIM PILLSBURY led a bus tour for Watershed Conference attendees. This tour visited 5 sites in Murrysville where the municipality had modified existing storm water facilities to improve water quality in the Turtle Creek Watershed. The tour wound up at the Barn for participants to view our infiltration parking lot and storm water cistern. Dan and Leanne Griffith took another group on a bus tour that featured three of the farms that have installed conservation measures in the Whitethorn area. Many of the projects were funded through the Growing Greener grant program. Several of these farms have installed streambank crossings, streambank fencing, and have had trees planted to create a riparian buffer area. One farm also has installed a manure pit with Growing Greener and Act 6 funding. Dan also had made arrangements for a private tour of the Loyalhanna Dam. Many thanks to the rangers who presented the educational information and tour.

Other staff members who joined in the workshops included Nicki Foremsky and Tony Quadro. Bruce Golden and Deb Simko from WPCAMR also participated in the event.

CRAIG BARRAS BEGAN A "WATERSHED GOLF SCRAMBLE"

that was a great success. Many thanks go to all who were tee sponsors or donated prizes. Mike Barrick (WCD) and Deb Simko (WPCAMR), also got to join in the fun that day.



JOHN LOHR, FARM SERVICE AGENCY, AND WES GORDON, NRCS, have been hosting a series of meetings about the new Federal Farm

bill. Dan and Leanne Griffith have each attended different sessions of these meetings and found a great interest expressed by area farmers.

GREG PHILLIPS, DAN GRIFFITH, LEANNE GRIFFITH, along with Bobbi Bailey of the NRCS, and Dustin Heeter and Gary Sheppard from Westmoreland County Penn State Extension Service Agency participated in a "Visioning" Session for the McConnaughey farm which is located in Ligonier. This site will be developed into an agricultural learning center under the leadership of Loyalhanna Watershed Association (LWA). Carole Wright, with the LWA, organized the day long session.

JIM PILLSBURY, WES GORDON, LARRY STOKUM, AND GREG PHILLIPS visited the Soberdash mine site in Hunker to discuss reclamation with the owner. This site is a major contributor of abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and sediment to the main stem of Sewickley Creek just downstream of New Stanton.

PENN STATE



CONGRATULATIONS TO PENN STATE EXTENSION which celebrated 100 years of 4-H programming with "An Extension Showcase" in early October!

THE CENTER FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION hosted the premier showing of the "Green Edge" of Westmoreland County Art show. A wine and cheese gala was held on October 3rd to open the show. The series of 30 black and white photos by Lynn Johnson, photographer for National Geographic, were on display during the month of October. Accompanying the photos was poetry written by Judith Volmer, English professor at the University of Pitt at Greensburg. Special display boards were designed and constructed by Reid Crosby, Branch and Burl Furniture Company of



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Greensburg who hand crafts many fine pieces of wooden furniture. This event was sponsored by The Robertshaw Foundation and Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County and The Center for Conservation Education. Brandon and Greg Phillips were featured in the first picture of the display.

KATHY FRITZ, JIM PILLSBURY, GREG PHILLIPS, NICKI FOREMSKY AND LEANNE GRIFFITH enjoyed participating in the annual hay bale toss as part of the Donohoe Center staff picnic. No trophies were won by our district staff but fun and good food was enjoyed by all.



TONY QUADRO, JIM PILLSBURY AND LEANNE GRIFFITH worked with 40 third graders from Metzgar Elementary School in New Alexandria. The students toured Nature Park and learned about forestry and trees and the water cycle. Ellen Keefe of PA CleanWays, talked about composting and Linda Hyatt, Penn State Extension Specialist who works with the Master Gardeners, gave a tour of the flower gardens.

LEANNE GRIFFITH spoke at the Farm Bureau Annual Fall Banquet in early October. Using a PowerPoint presentation, she related how her training in "Ag in the Classroom" benefits students, teachers and farmers in a unique way. Lessons have been used in grant writing, summer camp, on field trips, farm field days, visioning sessions, and "Sustainable Community" workshops.

MIKE BARRICK AND DAN GRIFFITH made PowerPoint presentations at the October Mount Pleasant Lions club meeting. They did a great job talking about the different types of conservation work done by the Westmoreland Conservation District.



CONGRATULATIONS TO LORRIE STOFFER AND TONY QUADRO who were married in October. The honeymooners traveled up to Maine to see the beautiful fall foliage. (It figures that Tony, the forester, would want to see trees.)

LEANNE AND DAN GRIFFITH taught the Forestry badge and part of the Outdoorsman badge to a group of Webelo scouts from Pack 418. Dr. Caryl Fish brought her Tiger Cub scouts for a hike in the woods where they learned about trees and leaves. Leanne worked with the Tigers learning about tree ages and uses for wood. Both groups of children and parents toured the art exhibit on display.



One of the pictures in the "Green Edge" art show featured five older boy scouts from Troop 405 hiking up the trail in Nature Park. They had just finished work on an Eagle Scout conservation project in the stream.

CRAIG BARRAS helped to organize the State's Dirt and Gravel Road Training that was held at the Center. The speakers came from Penn State Main Campus.

LORRIE QUADRO, SANDY DZENDZEL, KAREN BARNHART, JOANNE KITSKO AND KATHY FRITZ put many happy hours into making the "Happy Days" Annual Awards Banquet a great success. Thanks for all the planning, decorating and just plain hard work that goes into such a successful banquet!



A "SMART DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP", which was held at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg in November, trained 78 developers, contractors, engineers and municipal officials in planning and developing areas of growth with the hope of adding "Green Space" to new developments.

Randall Arendt, author, lecturer, and site designer who is currently the senior Conservation Advisor to the Natural Lands Trust was the featured speaker. Working with developer Fred Crack and Chris Droste from the Conservation District, Randall developed a site plan featuring "green space" in the new phase of development in Willow Glenn. Workshop participants developed their own ideas for the same tract of land and were critiqued by Randall. Jim Pillsbury, using "new-fangled" electronic devices which included a PowerPoint presentation by Larry Coffman of Prince Georges County, Maryland, spoke about smart storm water designs. Jim Pashek, President of Pashek and Associates, and Erica Todd, Project Manager for Sewickley Township talked about "Using a Community Planning Approach" when designing new developments. Also an excellent panel discussion by municipal officials was convened by Howard Baybrook of Allegheny Township, Allen Cohen of North Huntingdon Township, Dan Santoro of Cranberry Township, and Fred Wilder of Murrysville. Craig Barras invited developers and municipal officials to include watershed groups in planning.

Continued on page 14

The event was cosponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District, the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County and Penn State Extension.

TONY QUADRO AND LEANNE GRIFFITH attended "Envirothon" training in Indiana. The Westmoreland County Envirothon will be held Monday, May 5th at the Center for Conservation Education and in Nature Park. This year's special topic is "Farmland Preservation and Conservation".

JIM PILLSBURY has been traveling to Harrisburg to take part in the "Storm Water Expert Team" working group, which is developing statewide Storm Water Management Policy.

MIKE BARRICK, KATHY FRITZ, TONY QUADRO, AND JIM PILLSBURY traveled to State College for several days of training about NPDES Phase II. District staff will host a training session for engineers and municipal officials on January 24th about the new NPDES Phase II Changes at Mountain View Inn starting at 9 a.m.

GREG PHILLIPS, WES GORDON AND DAN GRIFFITH ALONG WITH RON AND THERESA ROHALL spent an interesting day at the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District's Annual Meeting held at the Toftrees Resort in State College. They went to prepare for a Westmoreland County Conservation Partnership Visioning Session. The area had an early snow and ice storm and power was out for the first 24 hours of the conference. Tony Quadro went up the second day for the Forestry meeting and was thankful to have both heat & lights.

Water Resources Bill Passes Ending 20-Year Quest!

The House joined the Senate recently to send the bipartisan Water Resources Planning Act to Gov. Schweiker's desk ending a more than 20-year effort to adopt water resources legislation in Pennsylvania.

"For three decades, Pennsylvania has relied on a water plan that provided little or no help in battling drought conditions," said Gov. Schweiker. "Pennsylvania will no longer sit back and wait for the next drought to occur."

Overwhelming votes in the House – 140 to 56 and the Senate – 43 to 6 showed strong support from not only both parties, but from all parts of Pennsylvania. A broad coalition of watershed, conservation district, local government, farm and business groups supported the legislation, marking the first time groups like these worked together on a water resources bill.

"Passage of this Act is a real milestone in Pennsylvania's environmental history and shows we listened to what people told us in the 15 Water Forums we held all over the state last year," said DEP Secretary David E. Hess.

"A broad coalition of groups representing the environmental, government and business came together to accomplish something that people have tried to do for more than 20 years," said Hess. "I want to thank all the legislators, individuals and groups and DEP staff who made this historic event possible."

The Act requires DEP to develop a new State Water Plan over the next five years working with both regional and statewide water resources advisory committees whose membership includes environmental, local government, technical and water user interests. The Plan will help answer three basic questions: How much water do we have? How is the water being used? Where will the demand for water outstrip the supply?

The Act, contained in House Bill 2302, specifically preserves the existing authority of DEP and local governments to regulate water resources and protects DEP's ability to control water pollution under the Clean Streams Law. A copy of the legislation can be found at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/BT/2001/0/HB2302P4697.HTM>

The Water Resources Planning Act will put in place the last major recommendation of the Governor's 21st Century Environment Commission and will join a long list of significant environmental legislation passed by the Ridge and Schweiker Administrations, including the Act creating DEP and DCNR, the Land Recycling Program, Keystone Opportunity Zones, the Growing Greener environmental restoration program and the Growing Smarter land use reforms that have all won national and international recognition as models for other states to follow.

Ron Rohall, President of the

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and WCD Director stated, "Pennsylvania's Conservation Districts will have a major role to play in Pennsylvania's water resources planning process. The input WCD provides will be based on the resources, needs and concerns of stake holders in Westmoreland County. WCD will soon be developing a new long range plan, and water quantity and quality issues will be part of the plan. Please make the time to become involved in the planning process – be proactive and provide WCD your input."

Save These Dates!

PA State Farm Show

January 11th – 18th, 2003
Harrisburg, PA

NPDES Phase II Workshop

January 24th, 2003
Registration 8:30 a.m.
Event 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Mountain View Inn

DEP Regional Roundtable

March 2nd, 2003 • 9:30 a.m.
Center for Conservation Education

Earth Day Celebration

April 27th, 2003 • 12 noon
Saint Vincent College

Westmoreland County Envirothon

May 5th, 2003 • 8:30 a.m.
Center for Conservation Education



KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

By Kathy Fritz

Barn Construction Crew

Can you find the following words in the puzzle?

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

1. Bill
2. Brent
3. Brownie
4. Carl
5. Crow
6. Dan
7. Darren
8. Dean
9. Donnie
10. Duane
11. Eugene
12. Galen
13. Jake
14. Jeff
15. Keith
16. Kenny
17. Lou
18. Roger
19. Tom
20. Tommy

LANDMARKS

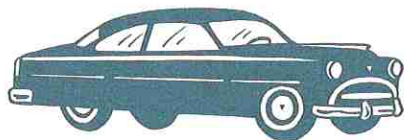
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Find the Classic Car



Jump into your '57 Chevy, "peel Out" and join our "Nifty Fifties" car cruise! Again, we invite you to "take a spin" in search of the classic car hidden in this issue of Landmarks. The 3rd, 7th, and 11th callers to Joanne at 724-837-5271 correctly

identifying its location, will receive some really "nifty, neat" prizes! Previous winners are not eligible; however, comments regarding our publications are welcome and always appreciated. Good luck!

Rick Tatano of Greensburg, Dorothy Echard of Mt. Pleasant, and Florence Smouse of Scottdale were the lucky winners of our "Find the Classic Car" contest in the Fall, 2002 issue.



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NATURALLY Delicious

by Karen Barnhart

Apple Pancakes

- 2 cups Flour
- ½ tsp. Vanilla
- ½ tsp. Baking powder
- 5-6 Peeled and sliced apples
- ½ cup Sugar
- 1 egg with enough milk to make 1 cup

Mix above ingredients. Pour ¼ cup batter in skillet or griddle with hot oil. Fry until golden brown.

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Note: The names of those who have given at the Partner (\$500) level and above will be etched into the glass wall in the Center's foyer. For donors who make more than one contribution, the combined value of these gifts will be used to determine the category of giving.

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