

Focusing on... Stormwater

The Importance of Managing Stormwater

by Jim Pillsbury



Photo - Chris Droste

In early January last year, flooding was widespread across Westmoreland County after as much as 4 inches of rain fell in 36 hours. Many local streams, such as Sewickley Creek, overflowed their banks. Motorists were unable to exit on this eastbound ramp of Route 70 when water from that creek put the roadway and the surrounding floodplain under water.



2004's Hurricane Ivan and last year's Hurricane Katrina made all of us more aware of the destruction and loss that floodwaters can cause. And many of us may be thinking about those things again now, as late winter moves into early spring, and melting snow and frequent rains raise the water level of local streams. Area homeowners may wonder: What can I do to protect myself and my home from flooding problems?

The Westmoreland Conservation District can help. We share information and promote practices that will help reduce the risk of flooding – or lessen the impact of floods – for property and people.

The first thing we help people to do is to get to know the particulars of a location – its soils, its slope, and whether or not it is in a designated floodplain – before they build or buy.

The next step is to put measures in place to manage stormwater on the site.

Know your site's soils

Part of any stormwater management program for a land development site is the use of infiltration; that is, water soaking into the soil. Any water that can infiltrate into soil naturally is water that won't flood someone's home.

Giving water from rain and melting snow a "safe" place to go means it is less likely to end up where you don't want it—like in your basement.

In an average year, Westmoreland County gets about 40 inches of rain, falling fairly evenly through the four seasons. If this rain falls on natural ground, much of it will soak in or be taken up by trees and grass. If this rain falls on a developed piece of land, the hard impervious surfaces such as roofs and pavement won't capture any water—and most all of the 40 inches of rain each year just runs right off.

Some may wonder how one parking lot or a few roofs could cause a flood, but if we consider that there are perhaps 100,000 house roofs in our county, plus thousands of miles of roads, and acres of parking lots, we realize that these 'small' impacts add up!

Stormwater management is how people control this extra volume and velocity of runoff water so it doesn't cause harm.

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District Communications Deemed Best in Nation

The Westmoreland Conservation District's communications efforts have been named the best in the United States by the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.

The joint award for Excellence in Communications was made at NACD's annual meeting on Wednesday, February 1, at the Hilton-Americans hotel in Houston, Texas, and accepted by District Vice Chairman Ron Rohall.

The judges evaluated entries from all over the nation for their effective use of a variety of communications media, including newsletters, special publications, media, and campaigns.

Some of the specific communication items for which the Westmoreland Conservation District was recognized include its newsletter, *Landmarks*; its most recent annual report, which featured a driving tour of conservation sites in Westmoreland County (see page 11); and the wide variety of communications that promote its conservation-education program.

"Our board of directors recognizes the importance of communications and has made a solid commitment to these endeavors," said Greg Phillips, district



Communications team members l to r: Mark Jackson, Karen Jurkovic and Greg Phillips

manager and CEO. "At the Board's direction, we did a lot of work in 2005 to evaluate all of our communications efforts...and we enlisted the help of a variety of professionals – including a newly formed volunteer committee of communications experts – to help us make some subtle but important changes that increased their effectiveness. This award is strong validation that we are on the right track."

The primary communications team includes Phillips; Mark Jackson, visual communications specialist; and Karen Jurkovic, communications consultant. The communications advisory team also includes: Ted Kopas, John Turack, and Anita Foriska.

The award included a \$1,000 prize plus a complimentary registration to attend the NACD 2006 Annual Meeting.

Find The Keys...

by Joanne Kitsko

If you had an opportunity to travel to some of the conservation sites throughout Westmoreland County (detailed in the annual report and various *Landmarks* articles), you've no doubt seen some interesting projects.

Most of them are within easy driving distance – if you can find the keys to your vehicle, that is.

The 5th, 11th, and 17th callers to Joanne at 724-837-5271 who correctly identify the whereabouts of the vehicle



keys hidden somewhere in this issue of *Landmarks* will be the lucky winners of a prize! Good Luck!

Previous winners of our contest are not eligible to win; however, we appreciate and welcome your calls and visits.

The three winners of our "Find the Keys" contest in the Fall 2005 issue of *Landmarks* are: caller #6, Georgia Kilpatrick, Greensburg; caller #12, Rebecca Hill, Apollo; and caller #18, Veronica Miskovich, Donegal. Congratulations!

New "Tribute" Ad Available

Congratulations to Loyalhanna Watershed Association

Celebrating 35 years
 – your conservation friends

Landmarks is the perfect place to run an ad honoring an individual or organization important to the conservation effort.

Our new "tribute" size ad also is a perfect way to send milestone birthday wishes, congratulations, or a thank you for a job well done.

The 1-column by 1.5-inch size shown here can appear in one or more issues, as you wish, for a cost of only \$30 per insertion.

The Importance of Managing Stormwater continued from page 1

But not all soils are alike. We have 47 different kinds of soil in Westmoreland County. And each has different characteristics, such as its ability to let water flow through.

A ‘tight’ soil such as Clarksburg that tends to hold water rather than allow it to drain through isn’t a very good place to build buildings with basements or to install a septic system – and it isn’t very effective at soaking up extra runoff from hard surfaces.

Soils such as Gilpin that feature coarse particles and organic material will soak up more water.

Homebuilders must be aware of soil types when choosing infiltration as a stormwater management method. The US Department of Agriculture’s Soil Survey for Westmoreland County (available at the Westmoreland Conservation District office) helps them choose wisely.

Know your site’s topography

Another thing to be aware of is the topography of the ground – including how much slope it has.

Steep slopes make up 11.5% of Westmoreland County’s total land area. As development pressures increase, this land – much of which isn’t developed now – is being considered as potential locations for new homes.

Water flowing off of steep slopes travels very quickly, eroding the ground it flows over and arriving at the bottom in a big rush. A steep slope that has vegetation growing on it restrains the overland flow of water much more effectively than a slope that is either bare earth or some kind of pavement.

Slope stability is an issue, too. Think of slope as a sliding board: the higher you tilt it, the faster you slide down. The same is true with soil – especially once it is saturated with water from heavy rains or melting snow. In the past couple of years we have experienced many landslides – a result of steep slopes and too much runoff.

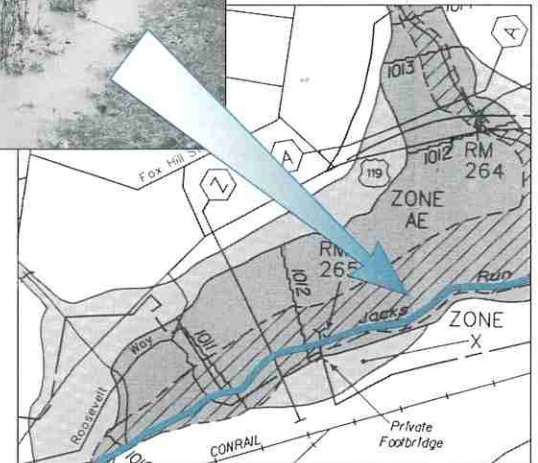
Know about floodplains

Almost 5% of Westmoreland County land is found in the ‘100-year floodplain’. This means that these places



Photo - Chris Drostle

The top photo shows Lynch Field in Greensburg under water after a heavy rain several years ago. The illustration to the right is the FEMA map of Lynch Field. The slanted lines indicate the area along the stream (Jack’s Run) considered to be the floodway. The dark grey shaded areas indicate the land area in the stream’s 100-year floodplain.



are located along streams and rivers, and that they are expected to be flooded during a very large storm.

Like steep slopes, floodplains aren’t the best place to build. They’re meant to be natural floodwater storage areas. Many years ago, people did build in floodplains, because they are flat and were handy to rivers for water and transportation. However, in the years since those older towns were built, development has moved out into the countryside, into the hills above those floodplains, further increasing the runoff into the streams and causing ever-increasing levels of flooding.

The federal government has designated these floodplain areas on Federal Emergency Management Agency maps, which are available to municipalities and the Conservation District. Careful study of these maps before you buy or build will prevent trouble later!

What you can do

Like charity, stormwater management begins at home.

- Around your home, you can put stormwater to use by routing rain water into wildlife ponds, cisterns, or rain gardens.
- You can keep natural areas natural, as much as possible, to prevent an

increase in runoff. Woods, farmland, lawns, and especially wetlands act as ‘holding tanks’ for excess water. The fertile soil is such that the water slowly sinks in and is taken up by plants.

- You can avoid creating new impervious surfaces (such as concrete or asphalt) by using crushed stone or pavers for paths and parking areas.
- And if you landscape your lawn, you can add organic material to the soil and try grass terraces or swales to direct runoff away from the house. *For more information on these types of projects, visit the stormwater management demonstration trail located at the Conservation District office on Donohoe Road in Greensburg.*
- If you live near a stream, don’t mow right up to a stream’s edge and don’t dump anything into the stream! It’s not a landfill! Also consider installing riparian buffers—vegetated areas along the sides of a stream. These streamside buffers help to reduce flooding and keep the stream healthy. They also provide habitat, trap pollutants, and catch sediment. *The Conservation District can help you choose the right plants and streamside erosion controls for a healthy stream.*

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*The Importance of Managing Stormwater
continued from page 3*

- Be sure to choose carefully where you make your home. The pretty little brook babbling pleasantly by your back door may some day break that door down and carry off your refrigerator.
- Evaluate a potential home site for steep slopes, have a soil test to determine the soil type, and note how close it is to streams or rivers. *The Conservation District can provide you with US Geological Survey topographic maps, US Department of Agriculture Soil Survey information, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain maps for your area.*
- If you already live in a floodplain, consider getting flood insurance. It is available from the federal government, through your insurance agent. Consider also the government's "flood-proofing" program, which will raise your home's various vital systems above the flood level. *Contact your municipality's zoning office.*

Innovative ways to manage stormwater

The Westmoreland Conservation District recently was awarded a \$97,400 Growing Greener grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to install innovative stormwater management practices on some of the properties around the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park (located next to the District offices on Donohoe Road in Greensburg).

Jim Pillsbury, Mike Barrick, and other District staff will be working with local property owners to install such innovative measures as alternative pavement areas and infiltration swales in an effort to relieve some of the problems and pressures on the unnamed stream that runs through Nature Park.

The stream (referred to as "Donohoe Creek") is part of the headwaters of the Sewickley Creek watershed, which has been identified as a high-priority watershed.

Watch *Landmarks* for future stories on this project!

Innovative Stormwater Management Installed in Rostraver Township

by Chris Droste



Photo - Chris Droste

Innovative stormwater management trenches integrated into paved parking areas.

The C Harper Autoplex automobile dealership in Rostraver Township is growing significantly – and installing some innovative stormwater management measures during the construction process.

As the dealership expands, large tracts of a 400-acre parcel of land along Routes 51 and 70 are being paved over to provide the parking areas needed for C Harper's growing inventory of new and used vehicles.

All of that impervious surface will create significant new volumes of stormwater, which will be managed through both traditional methods (including detention systems and an underground infiltration detention

tank) and more innovative approaches, such as two, 200-foot-long infiltration trenches carved into the parking lots themselves.

These 4-foot-deep infiltration trenches will be filled with R-3 stone, providing a place for the sheet flow to infiltrate. At the bottom of each trench, a 12-inch perforated underdrain will allow excess water to be carried to the larger stormwater detention facility.

In addition to recharging the groundwater, this stormwater management practice is important because it will help filter pollutants such as gasoline, motor oil, and salts from the water before it enters the stream.

Not that long ago, C Harper could not have installed this innovative stormwater management system, even if the business owner had wanted to. Because the local municipal ordinance that governs stormwater was written some time ago – when officials did not foresee such low-impact approaches, and so did not sanction them.

In recent years, the District held workshops for local officials to explain the use and benefits of various new stormwater approaches. And discussions between Rostraver Township officials such as Township Engineer Carl DeiCas, and Westmoreland Conservation District staff members Chris Droste, erosion control specialist, and Jim Pillsbury, hydraulic engineer, led to a reworking of that municipal ordinance to permit many types of innovative stormwater management.

Droste explains, "Rostraver Township was the **first** municipal government in Westmoreland County to adopt **low-impact stormwater regulations** into its ordinances. Carl DeiCas examined a great many of the regulations in the Maryland manual and designed the municipality's new stormwater regulations to be similar. So far, C Harper is one of the first developments to use innovative stormwater techniques to infiltrate and treat stormwater runoff from paved areas. The developer had to follow provisions in the ordinance to infiltrate and treat a percentage of the runoff. The rest is treated by conventional methods."

Annual Banquet Reaches New Heights



The recently remodeled Greensburg County Club provided a lovely setting for the banquet.



All foods served were from local farms and ag producers.

There were lots of “firsts” at our annual banquet in November. An all-time record number of guests – nearly 200 – joined us for the event, which also was the very first in the history of the District to feature a meal made entirely of food grown, raised, or produced in Westmoreland County.

Sandy Dzendzel, administrative assistant, coordinated the unique event, which was held in the newly remodeled Greensburg County Club. “We could not have done this without the cooperation of Greensburg Country Club and Chef David Hajas,” Dzendzel said. “Instead of buying from a food service, they were willing to try a new way of doing things and used all food – from turkey to condiments – that was produced locally” (see page 8 for the buffet menu and a list of the local food providers).

The event was designed to promote local agriculture and to recognize individuals and organizations that have made important contributions to conservation. Honored that evening were:

- Conservation farmer William Selembo of Greensburg
- Conservation pioneers Frank Skacel Sr. and Elwood Leslie (both posthumously)
- Southmoreland High School teacher Lindsay Forsy
- The Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association

- The Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation
- Student Amanda McMillan and
- Long-time *Landmarks* advertisers J.W. Wilkinsons’ Nurseries Inc., Adam Eidemiller Inc., and Roth, Moore & Associates.

Conservation Farmer of the Year William Selembo

Bill Selembo and his wife Jeannie and their son Billy operate a dairy farm in Salem Township. Bill has been a cooperating farmer since 1987, and has steadily increased his conservation practices to where he is completely following his conservation plan. Bill also is one of about 30 Westmoreland County farmers to voluntarily develop a nutrient management plan for his

operation. The practices in both of these plans help the farm operation to be more efficient...and they help improve the health of the local environment, particularly the quality of the water in the streams that flow through this property.

In 2003, Bill purchased the adjacent farm and, at the time, it was in extremely bad condition. In fact, it was one of the largest sources of nutrient pollution in the entire Whitethorn Creek watershed, which is part of the larger Kiski-Conemaugh watershed. Bill and his family have worked very hard to put this new property back in good conservation order and they have done an outstanding job. Among the conservation practices Bill implemented is rotational grazing. Before he bought the property, a hillside field didn’t feed 40 cows. Now with rotational

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Conservation Farmer of the Year William Selembo (back row, center), his wife Jeannie (front row, 4th from left), and son Billy (front row, holding picture) were joined by other members of the family.

Annual Banquet
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grazing and pasture management, it feeds 55 – and Bill said he didn't have to put a round bale in the field last year until September.



Skacel family members attended the award ceremony, and Frank Skacel Jr. (back row, left) accepted the award honoring his father (insert).

Hall of Honor Inductee Frank Skacel Sr.

Frank Skacel was a pillar of the Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors for 26 years. He joined our organization in 1968. In 1972, he was elected vice chairman. And in 1975, he was elected to also hold the office of treasurer. Frank continued in these dual roles until 1980, when he and Gib Hutter divided up the responsibilities – Gib assumed the role of vice chairman and Frank, treasurer. The careful way Frank managed District funds helped to build a solid

financial base that continues to benefit the organization today.

Frank's outstanding service to the District earned him the distinction of being named the organization's first and only Director Emeritus – a position created to specifically recognize his lasting contribution, even after he retired from the board in 1995.

Hall of Honor Inductee Elwood Leslie

Elwood Leslie was the first full-time employee hired to lead the young Westmoreland Conservation District back in 1970. And he set a course for our organization that has remained relevant for more than three decades.

Les created and built the core conservation programs the District continues to be best known for – erosion and sediment control, storm-water management, and education. And during the fourteen years of his tenure, many of the major conservation initiatives we now take for granted first took shape, including the Clean Streams Act and the Jacobs Creek Flood Control Project.

Les's genial style and tireless energy made him a sought-after speaker both locally and nationally, and his ability to promote conservation is said to have sparked many positive initiatives, including the formation of a conservation district in the western US.



Members of Elwood Leslie's family were on hand for his induction into the Hall of Honor. Daughter Laura (back row, second from left) represented the family in accepting the award.



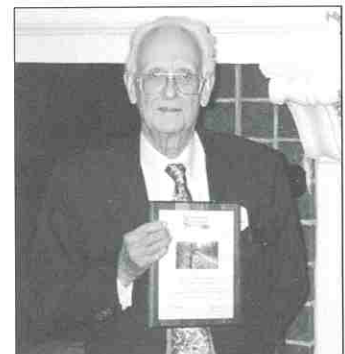
Lindsay Forys, ninth grade teacher, Southmoreland High School

Conservation Educator Lindsay Forys

Lindsay Forys is a young, enthusiastic laborer in the field of conservation. She has been teaching for only three years, but she already has developed an outstanding conservation education program for her ninth-grade earth science class at Southmoreland.

Each spring, she takes them to both Greenlick Dam and Buffalo Run to see firsthand the effects of abandoned mine drainage and other factors on water quality. Then she follows up with classroom discussions, and a challenge to students to come up with a process to raise the pH of water. Some of the solutions are very interesting.

Lindsay also serves as an advisor for Southmoreland's Envirothon team, and she volunteers as a member of the Board of Directors for the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association.



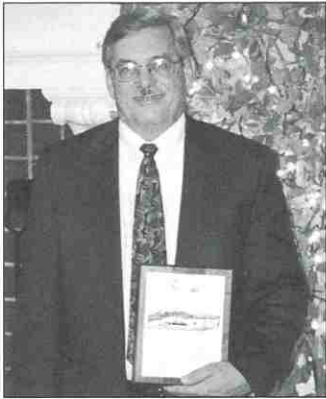
Bob Ackerman, president, Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association

Conservation Organization The Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association

The Woodlands Association is a group of landowners who practice good stewardship of their lands and

help other people do the same. It was founded 16 years ago by local citizens who realized the value of responsibly managing our forested lands – which make up about 50% of Westmoreland County's total land area.

The Woodlands Association hosts a number of education workshops and public seminars, including recent ones on deer management...on the condition of our state forest resources...and on "Woods and the Web of Life."



Larry Larese, executive director, Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation

**Conservation Partner
Westmoreland County Industrial
Development Corporation**

WCIDC promotes local economic development and has developed 14 industrial parks throughout the county. One of those parks is the campus on Donohoe Road that includes the District's barn headquarters and Donohoe Center.

This year, WCIDC joined with the Conservation District, the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, and other partners to expand the conservation campus that has made its home at this Hempfield industrial park. Together, we are taking the existing, 23,000-square-foot commercial building that sits just to the north of the District's headquarters, and turning it into a home for more conservation, agricultural, environmental, and rural development organizations.

This is a very large project – we estimate that we will have to raise in excess of \$2 million dollars to make it all happen – and WCIDC's partnership will go a long way toward helping us reach that goal.



Amanda McMillan

**Special Recognition
Amanda McMillan**

Amanda McMillan, a student at Messiah College in Harrisburg, worked with the District this past summer and just about single-handedly put together our entire new District Resource Library.

Amanda solicited donations of books, magazines, and videos on conservation subjects from agriculture to water issues – and then she set up a system and catalogued the hundreds of responses that came in.

Amanda is planning to return during semester breaks and next summer's vacation to add some new features to the library, such as maps, surveys, and eventually a computer with Internet access.

Her professionalism and enthusiasm were a welcome addition to our team.

**Special Recognition
J. W. Wilkinsons' Nurseries Inc.,
Adam Eidemiller Inc., and
Roth, Moore & Associates**

These three local businesses have been steadfast sponsors of our newsletter, *Landmarks*, for well over a decade.

J. W. Wilkinsons' Nurseries Inc. and Adam Eidemiller Inc. each have been sponsors for 15 years, and Roth, Moore & Associates has been a sponsor for 14 years.

The financial support of these long-term advertisers has helped us steadily grow and improve our newsletter over the years. With their help, we now reach more than 4,100 readers, and our publication has just been named the best in the nation (see page 2).

Years of Service

District staff, associate board members, and board members also were recognized for their years of service.

Tony Quadro – 20 years

Al Barnett – 15 years

Dorothy Stoner – 10 years

Mike Barrick, Sandy Dzendzel, Nicki Foremsky, and Elmer Selzak – 5 years

In his opening remarks at the banquet, Ted Kopas, chief of staff for Westmoreland County Commission Chairman Tom Balya, encouraged the audience to take action to make Westmoreland County the kind of place they want it to be. "Citizens tell us they want to preserve the rural character of our county...and you can, by supporting local agriculture. Shop at farmers markets and on-farm stores, ask your grocery store to carry local products, and encourage restaurant owners to buy their food from local producers."

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Jack Wilkinsons
J.W. Wilkinsons' Nurseries, Inc.



Dan Painter
Adam Eidemiller Inc.



Bill Roth
Roth, Moore & Associates

Menu

- Cheese and Crudités
- Bountiful Green Salad
- Dinner Rolls with Butter
- Pennsylvania Gobbler with Grandma's
Traditional Bread Stuffing
- Shepherd's Pie
- Beef Hibatchi
- Quiche Lorraine
- Rustic Parsley Potatoes
- Roasted Candied Bourbon Squash
- Harvest Vegetables
- Pumpkin, Berry, Apple
and Cherry Pies
- Strawberry, Vanilla,
and Chocolate Ice Cream
- Handmade Chocolate
- Fresh-brewed coffee, tea, ice tea;
chocolate and white milk



**Featured products and
producers at the banquet**

Special thanks to all the local food producers who so generously donated* or discounted their products for this event.

- Turkey** – Pounds' Turkey Farm, Leechburg
- Beef** – Hoffer's Ligonier Valley Packing, Ligonier
- Lamb** – Jamison Farm, Latrobe
- Produce** – Schramm Farms & Orchards, Harrison City
- Breads** – Friendship Farms, Lycippus
- Butter, Eggs, and Cheese** – Hillandale Farms*, New Kensington
- Flour** – Saint Vincent Gristmill, Unity Township

Condiments – Bellview Foods*, Penn and DeLallo's, Jeannette

Apple, Berry and Cherry Pies – Sand Hill Berries, Mt. Pleasant

Ice Cream – Kerber's Dairy*, North Huntingdon

White and Chocolate Milk and Iced Tea – Hutter's Dairy, Kecksburg

Candy – Wilson's Candy, Jeannette and Brown's Candy Kitchen, Mt. Pleasant

Organic Cookies – Caren Weaver, Greensburg.

**Sponsors for the
annual banquet were:**

Roth, Moore & Associates,
Gibson-Thomas Engineering Company, Inc.,
and Tri-County Engineering.
Thank you!

SAVE the DATE!
The District's 2006 Annual Banquet
will be held on
Friday, November 17
Watch for more details



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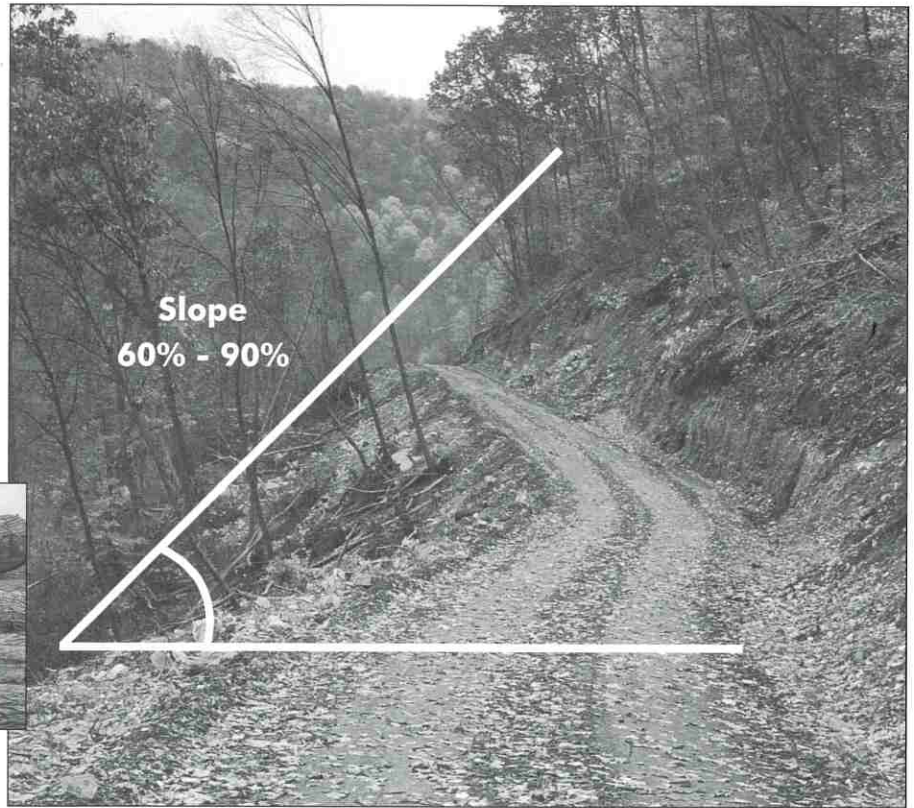
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Major Timber Harvest in Bell Township

Demonstrates good erosion practices and the value of forest management

This timber harvest site extends approximately three miles along the Kiskiminetas River, between Truxall and Salina.



A haul road along the steep hillside.

If you've walked the Roaring Run Trail in Apollo or paddled down the nearby section of the Kiskiminetas River in the last year or so, chances are you've noticed some major activity on the Westmoreland County side of the river.

In fact, from Truxall almost the whole way to Salina, some 400 contiguous acres of hillside are being timbered. Tony Quadro, assistant district manager/technical programs director with the Westmoreland Conservation District, said it is one of the largest jobs he's seen in the 20 years he's been with the District. It's also one of the better ones, he says, in terms of the way it's being done.

"The loggers have gone to extra lengths to put the temporary roads in in a way that will keep erosion to a minimum," Quadro said. Improperly located roads – not the cutting of the trees – is the biggest cause of erosion during logging.

Controlling erosion is a challenge on most logging jobs because roads have to be cut across the forest's earthen floor to get the harvesting equipment to the trees, and then to provide a path to haul the logs out. On the site in Bell Township, erosion is an even

greater challenge because of how steep the terrain is and the fact that some of the land was previously mined for coal.

Rising sharply above the river and the railroad tracks, the hillside being timbered has a 60 percent slope in some places, while in others it is almost vertical, rising at a slope greater than 90 percent.

About 50-60 acres of the site also are scarred from past coal mining and are covered with unstable bony piles and red dog, water from mine seeps,

and the remnants of old roads cut almost vertically up the slope. "This mined area has been eroding, unchecked, for some time," Quadro said. "The loggers actually are improving this situation because, as part of their erosion controls, they are benching those areas, and that practice will slow down the rate of erosion."

Quadro said that the Westmoreland Conservation District asked the timber harvesters to create a separate plan for how they would minimize

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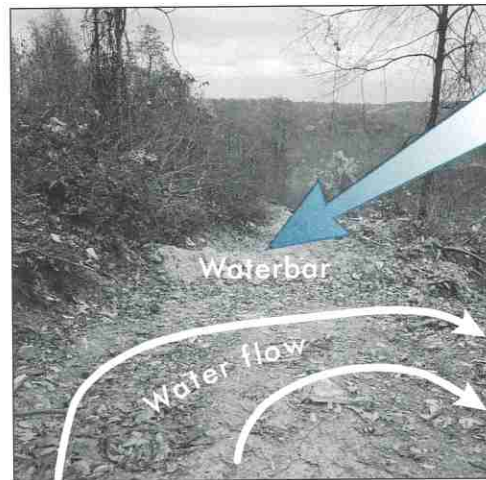
This photo shows how the harvesters properly used a "Best Management Practice" (pipe and stone) to build the haul road across a stream.

erosion and sediment pollution on each of the project's five working sections, which range in size from 60 to 110 acres. The plans call for the loggers to employ a number of "Best Management Practices" on the site, such as making all stream and spring crossings either bridges or culverts, Quadro explained. "The harvesters also will seed the cut and fill slopes, and put waterbars and cross drain culverts in."

Gary Kirkpatrick is the logging contractor on a portion of the project, which means he is responsible for putting the erosion and sediment controls in place on the site. A former employee with the US Forest Service who says he "grew up in the woods" and views it as "a special place to take care of," Kirkpatrick believes in the value of a good harvest plan. He acknowledged that the Bell Township site is "a difficult place to harvest," and explained that the landowner agreed to "spend a tremendous amount of money – over and above what is normally done – to put the logging roads in at a low

percentage grade to help keep sediment out of the river."

Kirkpatrick expects the work to go on for another year or so.



The harvesters created waterbars (raised mounds of dirt) at intervals along the haul road. These waterbars are another "Best Management Practice" that reduces the amount of erosion from the dirt road. The waterbars prevent rain and melting snow and ice from running straight down the slope of the road. Instead, the waterbars divert the water off to the side of the road.

Because the terrain of this hillside along the Kiski River is so difficult and dangerous to work on, Quadro feels certain that the trees there have not been cut "for a long time."

The age of this stand, while appealing from a historical perspective, is not

particularly good for forest health. "When trees get older, they're not as productive in terms of producing food for wildlife and their canopies become so large that they shade the understory and actually made it harder for new seedlings to develop," Quadro explained.

continued on page 11



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Major Timber Harvest in Bell Township
continued from page 10

"When a tree gets to be about 150 years old, it is most likely dying from the inside out," Kirkpatrick added. "Trees become hollow and rotten, and some of the ones on this site were burned from the railroad and have fire scars where insects have gotten in."

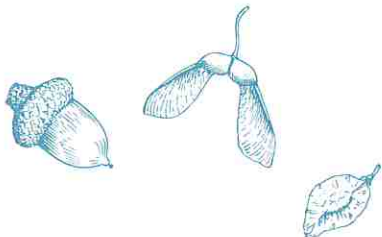
Their value as timber actually has decreased as the trees have advanced in age. "Many of these trees have become wormy and discolored, and actually would have been worth more if they'd have been harvested 50 years ago," Kirkpatrick said.

Quadro and Kirkpatrick both agree that woodlot owners would do well to develop a management plan for their trees. "Farmers usually do a good job of managing their soil – they fertilize and till and lime – but a lot of forest owners just let their trees grow without any intervention or plan at all," Kirkpatrick said.

He suggests that a good management plan might call for selection cutting of a woodlot from three to as many as eight times during the owner's lifetime. "You want to create a stand that has trees of different ages in it and a diverse species of woods so it's genetically healthy and attracts wildlife...and you only want to cut trees that are marketable today so that you get the best value for your investment."

This kind of sustainable management also should avoid the 'visual trauma' of seeing many trees cut at once, as is the case on the Bell Township site. "There won't be many trees left there, and I don't know that there's any other way of cutting it," Quadro said. "Because the trees have grown so large, if one comes down, it will take out a number of others."

See page 20 for information
on the upcoming seminar,
"Forestry II Workshop"
on Saturday, April 8.



Hidden In Plain View

BRIDGEPORT DAM



Westmoreland Conservation District Chairman Roy Houston stops near the boat launch of the Bridgeport Dam, a flood-control project that maintains a permanent 70-acre water pool for recreation.

The District's annual report features a road trip you can take through Westmoreland County to see some of the all-time most successful and innovative conservation measures in this region.

One of these places – Bridgeport Dam – is an important part of controlling flooding in our county (see page 1).



Here's how to get to there

Take SR 31 toward the town of Mount Pleasant.

Just a little east of the town's famous "Doughboy" statue, turn onto Bridgeport Street.

After about 1-1/2 miles, turn L at stop sign.

After about 1/4 mile, turn R onto dam access road.

Follow road to dam; parking area is on left.

And here's why it's important

Bridgeport Dam is a gravity dam built to control flooding from Jacobs Creek, a stream that starts high on Chestnut Ridge and flows into the valleys below, winding through fields and towns such as Scottdale, which historically has been a center for many industries and people.

In the past, flooding from Jacobs Creek happened so often and created such a troublesome economic impact, that four flood-control measures were built: this dam at Bridgeport, another dam at Acme, another dam at Greenlick, and a specialized channel at Scottdale.

This is one of only a few areas in the United States to have a completed flood-control program that addresses an entire watershed. It was built under the United States Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, and took some 30 years to fund and complete.

When Bridgeport Dam was being built, the Westmoreland Conservation District lobbied to ensure that provisions were made to make it useable for recreation also. Today, the dam is a popular destination for boating, fishing, and picnicking.

Coal-Bed Methane Drilling

What Are Your Rights & Responsibilities?



The rising cost of fuel has increased interest in a resource called coal-bed methane.

Although most of us think of methane (which essentially is natural gas) as being produced from deeper formations throughout Pennsylvania and many other states in the U.S., methane can also be found in coal seams – like those that run all through our own region of southwestern Pennsylvania.

In fact, many resource companies prefer to tap coal beds for methane because these seams are easy to access (the beds are often close to the surface of the ground) and so are cheaper to drill and complete.

Recently, more and more coal-bed methane wells have been appearing in fields around Westmoreland County. The telltale “horse-head” mechanisms* of these wells can be seen pumping away on locations such as the Westmoreland County Fairgrounds property in Mt. Pleasant Township.

Last July, the Tribune-Review reported that a company called Great Lakes Energy Partners had a plan that could drill as many as 200 wells throughout an area of 8,000 acres in Salem Township, and produce up to 40 billion cubic feet of methane gas.

*These pumpjacks remove the water within the coal seams so that the coal bed methane can be desorbed from the coal and flow into the well bore for production.

The increasing amount of coal-bed methane drilling is raising questions for many farmers and landowners in Westmoreland County. And while the Westmoreland Conservation District is not directly involved in the permitting or inspecting of coal-bed methane projects, we asked Dave Janco, regional manager for the Oil and Gas Program of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, to help our readers understand more about it.

Q: *Is coal-bed methane gas drilling the same as deep-well natural gas drilling?*

A: When it comes to the physical act of drilling, development of coal-bed methane is similar to conventional gas well development – but it occurs at a much shallower depth. Also, in the case of coal-bed methane – after drilling is completed to the target zones (which may be multiple coal seams), those seams are fractured to allow greater flow of the gas to the well bore.

When it comes to ownership rights, deep-well natural gas drilling and coal-bed methane drilling are two very different situations.

In traditional deep-well natural gas development, the landowner owns the rights to the resource (provided those rights have not been severed by a previous sale). This means that the landowner must grant permission before drilling can take place. It also means that the landowner can receive a royalty payment for the drilling, and possibly also a supply of free natural gas.

Coal-bed methane, however, is viewed as a product of coal. Therefore, the rights to it are tied to the coal rights. Many landowners in western Pennsylvania sold their coal rights to coal companies many years ago. Under the current Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision, any landowner who sold his coal rights does not

have any rights to the coal-bed methane extracted from his property.

In such a scenario, coal-bed methane companies can drill on property without the landowner receiving any benefits. Companies will, however, compensate the landowner for any timber damage caused by the drilling. Companies may also provide compensation for development of access roads, well pads, and pipelines. In instances where landowners do own the coal rights to their property, they are entitled to royalties from the drilling.

Q: Do I have a choice if a company wants to drill for coal-bed methane on my property?

A: If you *own* the coal rights to your property, yes. The company must receive your approval before it can drill on your property. In fact, there must be a formal, contractual agreement between you and the company before drilling can begin.

If you *don't own* the coal rights, the company is entitled to extract the coal-bed methane from under your property. The company does not need to have a contractual agreement with you. However, it must notify you in advance of any drilling.

Q: Do I get any benefit from coal-bed methane drilling on my property?

A: Only if you own the coal rights.

Q: How would I know if coal-bed methane drilling will be taking place on my property?

A: The company must notify you in writing. It has to do this before it applies to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a permit.

Q: Will coal-bed methane drilling affect my water?

A: The coal-bed methane drilling companies may elect to do a pre-drilling test of the quality of your water well or spring. Landowners – on their own – also are encouraged to contract a certified lab to do this water testing, so they can establish the quality and quantity of water before any drilling takes place.

If you have a well or spring that you think may have been affected by coal-bed methane drilling, and if the DEP can prove that any changes to your water supply occurred as a result of the drilling, the company is responsible. The DEP will then require the company to restore or replace your water supply.

Q: What if the drilling causes erosion or other problems?

A: The DEP Oil and Gas Management Program will investigate any reports of problems with erosion – or any other concerns that you may have regarding drilling activities.

Q: How can I find out more about coal-bed methane drilling?

A: You can contact me, Dave Janco, regional manager for the Oil and Gas Program of the Department of Environmental Protection, by email at djanco@state.pa.us or by phone at 412-442-4006 during regular business hours.

I will be happy to address your questions and concerns. I also will make my field staff available for investigation of any problems you encounter with coal-bed methane or other gas well drilling on your property or in your area.

In January, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection announced that it had issued a record number of permits in 2005 for other types of energy drilling (not coal-bed methane) in the Commonwealth.

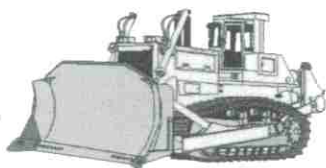
Specifically, the DEP issued about 6,000 permits for oil and natural gas drilling last year, a 32% increase over 2004. About half of those permits were issued by the department's Southwest Regional Office in Pittsburgh.



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Unique Soil Display Dedicated



(l-r) Gladys Brandt and Kathleen Myers, John Millen's daughters; and Pat Tharp and Barbara Carroll, John's sisters, cut the ribbon at the Soil Demonstration Dedication Ceremony.

Last fall, the Westmoreland Conservation District officially dedicated a new soil-education exhibit, making it one of only a few places in the state where the public can see an interpretive display of our most basic natural resource.

"Even with all the emphasis that's been placed on environmental education for the past decade or so, there are very few demonstrations that teach about the soil," District Manager/CEO Greg Phillips said during the September dedication. "We're very proud to have one here at the Center for Conservation Education."

The new exhibit features five vertical slices of earth taken from different locations in Westmoreland County. Each is displayed at eye-level so visitors can easily examine the world that's usually hidden under their feet. By pointing out key features such as color and texture, depth to bedrock, and the ability to hold water, the display makes it clear that all "dirt" is not the same.

"When you know what kind of soil you have, you can use it wisely," Phillips said.

Visitors are welcome to view the soil display during the district's regular business hours – Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. – or by special arrangement.

continued on page 15

The new soil display is named in honor of one of Westmoreland County's conservation pioneers, John Millen. When John was first using soil conservation practices on his farm in the late 1940s, he was one of only a few to do so.

At that time, to the stares and scorn of his neighbors, John steered his plow along the contours of the land ... "light disked" rather than tilled steep fields (and reported that he "lost hardly any soil even during a near hurricane") ... sowed cover crops ... built a trench silo (something he had read about in a history of the Roman Empire) ... and created a drainage system that turned dangerous, muddy gullies into workable fields.

As his friend and former farming neighbor Ted Kuckuck told the audience at the dedication last fall, "John's dedication to soil conservation was total. He maintained strict contours on all his strips – meaning that the top and bottom edges of every strip were laid out on the contour. This created strips that often varied considerably in width from one end to the other. In the interests of efficiency with equipment, most strips are laid out in even widths parallel to a contour line. Only when there is a slope change does an odd-shaped "correction strip" get created. With John's system, virtually every strip became a correction strip. In John's mind, if the extra work resulted in additional soil savings, that was OK."

John's solid knowledge of agricultural science was self-taught, and he relied heavily on the staff of what was then known as the "Soil Conservation Service." He was one of the first farmers in Westmoreland County to cooperate with the SCS, and to have a conservation plan for his property.

The enviable results his farm produced – coupled with the strength of his character and his delightfully wry sense of humor – made many converts for conservation. Today, the conservation practices that John pioneered are included on most Westmoreland County farms as an almost-routine matter of course.



John also advocated for conservation by volunteering his service on the board of the young Westmoreland Conservation District, and served as chairman in 1954.

Meet the Directors

Unique Soil Display Dedicated
continued from page 14

The John Millen Soil Display was made possible through the generosity of the following donors.

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Soil Facts

- There are 47 different kinds of soil in Westmoreland County.
- Gilpin is the most prevalent soil in Westmoreland County.
- Upshur is the most landslide-prone soil in Westmoreland County.

What's in your backyard?
Be sure to visit the soil display
to learn more.

The District's priorities today and its direction for the future are guided by a Board of Directors – nine individuals who volunteer their time and share the wisdom they've gained from decades of practical experience in areas such as agriculture, forestry, wildlife management, economic development, project and fiscal management, government, education, and recycling.

The diverse backgrounds of this board ensure that the District's programs address the range of conservation needs in our community.

In this issue of *Landmarks*, we focus on District Director **P. Roy Kemerer**, dairy farmer in Pleasant Unity for 57 years (now semi-retired).



Roy grew up on a truck and cattle farm near Alwine Civic Center (off Route 66 north of Greensburg), where one of his earliest memories is of being "just a little shaver...sitting on the plow to hold it down, while my dad drove the team."

Roy has seen practices change over the many years that he's been farming, but one thing has remained constant: his commitment to conservation.

As a young married man, when Roy got his own piece of land in Pleasant Unity in the late 1940s, one of the first things he did was "to grub all the trees out...work with the conservation service to take the hedgerows out...put in big, long strips...and lay some 3,000 feet of field tile to dry out the wet spots."

As new ways of thinking about conservation came about, Roy didn't hesitate to put them into practice on his 103-acre dairy farm. In fact, for most of his farming life, he's not only practiced conservation, he's helped to shape its direction through his service with the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Roy has served as a District director for 18 years – longer than any other current board member, except Chairman Roy Houston. In late December 2004, he was appointed to a new four-year term by the Westmoreland County commissioners.

Roy began his volunteer association with the District in the early 1980s, at

the encouragement of his Farm Bureau friend, Boyd Wolff, who later went on to be Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture. "I was an associate member of the District's Board through the Farm Bureau from 1982 to 1988," he recalled.



Roy has received many awards for his community service, including this plaque and gavel recognizing his tenure as state president of the Young Farmers.

At the same time, Roy also was active in a number of community farm organizations, including the Westmoreland County Farm Bureau, the Pennsylvania Young Farmers and National Young Farmers.

Through these organizations and his 37 years as a 4-H leader, Roy has

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been a positive influence for hundreds of young people, including current Pennsylvania State Representative Jess Stairs (59th District), and agriculture exchange students from Kenya, France, Australia, Jamaica, Germany and South America, who he and his wife Thelma hosted over the years.

Many of the Kemerer's children and grandchildren also have made agriculture a vital part of their lives. Daughter Nevada is married to Kecksburg dairy farmer Blaine Hutter, son Rick is a dairy farmer in Crawford County, and daughter Susan and her husband Jack Tressler have a dairy farm in Somerset County. Grandson Todd Frescura is preparing to take over Roy and Thelma's Pleasant Unity farm operation.

Although they no longer do the daily work of farming, Roy continues to speak out on behalf of the agriculture industry. "We have to educate the public more about where our food comes from," he said. "Many people don't realize that imported food may not be put to the same standards as food grown here. For instance, some sprays that are allowed to be used in South America are banned in the United States."



Roy has seen a good bit of the world, and tried his hand at some occupations other than farming.

His service as a member of the army air force took him to New Guinea and Australia during World War II. Once back in the states, he traveled to Salt Lake City, where he worked jobs with the National Biscuit Company and Utah Power & Light.

When he returned to this area, he worked for a while as a truck driver for Latrobe Construction Company and was involved in the paving of U.S. Route 22 from Delmont to Cozy Inn.



Over the past 55 years, Roy and his wife Thelma have built a model conservation dairy farm.

They raised six children in a home they converted from a buggy shed on the property and, on February 14 of this year, they celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

KATHY'S KIDS KORNER

by Kathy Fritz



Find each of the following words:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| WETLAND | SEEDLING |
| CROSSING | SILT FENCE |
| HAUL ROADS | SKETCH MAP |
| WATERBAR | BLOCK DITCH |
| FILTER STRIP | SOIL MAP |
| DISTURBED AREA | LANDING AREA |
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| TIMBER HARVEST | SOIL |
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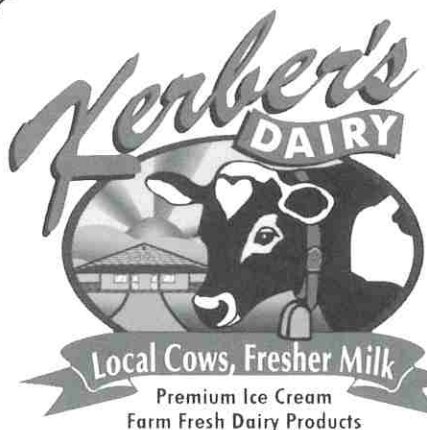
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People In The News

Recent Appointments

Fred Slezak has been named as an associate director of the District.

Fred has a cash grain farm in New Alexandria. Of the 1,000 acres he farms, about 95% of it is done with no- or minimum-till methods.

Fred has been working with these non-traditional approaches for a number of years, testing various combinations to see what works best, and has had great success with alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye, soybeans, and corn.

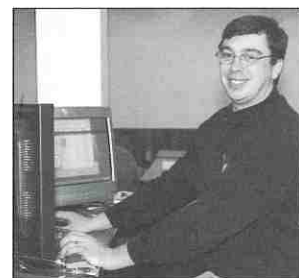
He is a graduate of Penn State (agriculture business management), and is certified as a crop adviser. He is a member of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, and the Westmoreland County Farm Bureau.



Photo - Dan Griffith

Mike Barrick, Westmoreland Conservation District watershed specialist, was recently elected president of the Coal and Coke Trail group.

The Coal and Coke Trail is a hiking/biking trail that will be built along the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation's former railroad line. It will run for about five miles, from Willows Park in Mount Pleasant to Kendi Park in Scottdale, where it will link with the Five Star Trail.



John Lohr, county executive director for the Westmoreland County Farm Service Agency Office, has been elected Northeast Area Executive of the National Association of Farm Service Agency County Office Employees (NASCOE) for the 2005-2006 term.

NASCOE is a professional association that represents the county-level employees of the USDA Farm Service Agency. It provides a national medium to exchange information and ideas that will render better service to American agriculture.

John has been employed by the USDA Farm Service Agency in Westmoreland for 27 years.

He can be reached during regular business hours at 724-853-5555.



continued on page 18



Folks interested in participating in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) may get an opportunity to meet **Larry Crespo**.

Larry is a wildlife biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and his primary responsibility is to write conservation plans for landowners who have applied for CREP through the Farm Service Agency. CREP encourages landowners to install conservation measures and to remove land that is highly environmentally sensitive, such as streambanks and steep cropland, out of agricultural production for a certain period of time. Landowners will be reimbursed for costs on most conservation practices and will receive a yearly rental payment on land enrolled in the CREP program.

"Part of my job is to determine if land qualifies for the program. If it does, I use my experience in wildlife habitat management to help determine which conservation practices would work best at that site," Larry explained.

A wildlife and fishery science graduate of Penn State, Larry also has

experience in macroinvertebrate identification, water quality testing, wildlife management, and environmental education. He has worked in other parts of Pennsylvania (including Ellwood City and State College) as well as in other states (Indiana and South Carolina).

He provides his services for the CREP program in Westmoreland, Indiana, and Fayette counties. He and his wife Cyndi have two sons, Austin, 8, and Alex, 8 months, and make their home in Johnstown.

He can be reached during regular business hours at 724-834-3970 ex. 129.

Transitions

This fall, one of the two open-air decks at the District's headquarters was enclosed to make a dual-purpose, all-season space that serves as a private meeting area for the District's Board of Directors, as well as the office of District Manager/CEO **Greg Phillips**.

Administrative Assistant **Sandy Dzendzel** is now located in Greg's former office and Visual Communications Specialist **Mark Jackson** is working in Sandy's former office.



Enclosing a barn deck



Finished office and conference area

As reported in the last issue of *Landmarks*, Secretary **Christie Rhoades** has moved to the Resource Library (in the large loft), where she is available to assist visitors who would like to use the books, magazines, and video resources housed there.

The Resource Library also contains publications and information from a number of the District's partner organizations, including Powdermill Nature Reserve, Saint Vincent College Environmental Education Center, and local watershed organizations.

Moving On

Personal relationships and academic goals recently led both **Carolyn Graham** and **Nicki Foremsky** to resign their positions with the District.

Nicki, who served for five years as the District/Extension water quality educator, moved to the Washington, D.C. area where she accepted a position with Reston Association. Carolyn, the Growing Greener program assistant, returned to college to pursue an accounting degree.

The District wishes both women good luck and great success in their pursuits.

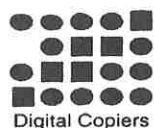
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LANDMARKS

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Editor - Karen Jurkovic
Design and Photography - Mark Jackson
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Tubex® tree shelters offer newly planted seedlings protection from browsing deer, rabbits, and rodents, and from weed trimmers and mowers. They also create a "greenhouse" environment that helps seedlings grow faster.

The Westmoreland Conservation District recommends using the 5-foot size for maximum protection.

You can save money by ordering Tubex® through the Westmoreland Conservation District – cost of the 5-foot shelters with hardwood stakes is \$3.75 each, plus shipping.

Any profits from these sales are used to help fund the District's programs, including its conservation education efforts.

Contact Tony Quadro at 724-837-5271 to order Tubex® or for more information.



Tell Us What You Think

We'd love to hear what you think about the look and articles in *Landmarks*...and if there are any other things we can do to make this newsletter more meaningful to you.

Drop us a note at: Landmarks Editor, Westmoreland Conservation District, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601 or c/o_wcd@wcdpa.com



Visit Our Farm
the Oven &

Irwin, East
and at Na
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www.frie



Here's another
family cooking
ORANGE JUICE

- 1/3 C. frozen orange concentrate
- 1/2 C. milk
- 1/2 C. water
- 1/4 C. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 5-6 ice cubes

Combine all ingredients
cover and blend

Protect

Tubex® tree shelters protect browsing deer, rabbits, and other animals. They also create a microclimate that helps seedlings grow. The Westmoreland Conservation District recommends using Tubex for tree protection.

You can save money on Tubex by ordering the Westmoreland 5-foot shelters plus shipping.

Any profits from the sale of Tubex go to the District's private education effort.

Contact Tom Tubex® or for more information.

Education News

by Leanne Griffith

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Events are subject to change. Please telephone or email the contact person listed with each event if you are interested in attending.



Forestry II Workshop

Saturday, April 8

8:30 a.m. - noon

Westmoreland Conservation District
Center for Conservation Education, Greensburg
and
Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park

This program is for woodlot owners and others interested in forest stewardship. It will provide information on basic woodlot ecology, silviculture, and measurement and timber-volume determination. Also discussed will be: stand development and forest history, forest succession, tolerance, crown position, relative stand density, and types of cutting. The group will have the opportunity to apply this information by developing a stand prescription in nearby Nature Park.

Space is limited and registration is required. Contact Leanne at 724-837-5271 or leanne@wcdpa.com by April 5. \$5.



Conservation Bus Tour

Thursday, April 20

Meet at Westmoreland Conservation District
Center for Conservation Education, Greensburg

On this all-day tour, you will get a firsthand look at some of Westmoreland County's most successful conservation sites. Stops include: a lawn that is really a parking lot in disguise at Powdermill Nature Reserve, the forested Loyalhanna Gorge, and the wetlands that are cleaning up Monastery Run.

Registration required. Contact Leanne at 724-837-5271 or leanne@wcdpa.com. \$5.



Envirothon

Monday, May 1

8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Twin Lakes Park, Greensburg

This academic competition helps students in grades 9-12 develop a better understanding of the environment and their role in it. Topics include: aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife and this year's special issue, "water stewardship in a changing climate."

Contact Leanne at 724-837-5271 or leanne@wcdpa.com.



Ag Basics

Two Fridays, August 11 and August 18

Westmoreland Conservation District
Center for Conservation Education, Greensburg
and field trips

This program for teachers introduces the basics of agriculture and the role it plays in Westmoreland County. This course meets Pennsylvania's Academic Standards for teaching about agriculture and society. Teachers who complete the course receive a curriculum packet, lesson plans related to agriculture, and a number of reference and resource materials. They also earn one Act 48 credit.

On-line registration required. Contact the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit at www.wiu.k12.pa.us.

Education News

by Leanne Griffith

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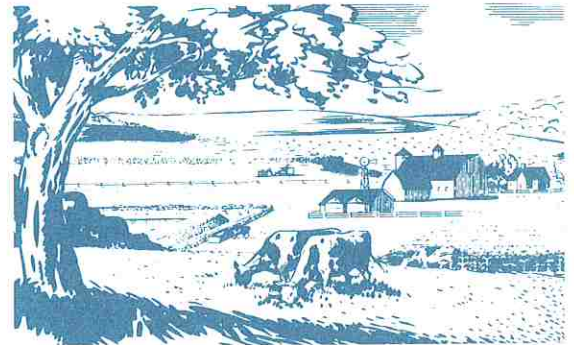
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District Meetings

District meetings are held monthly in the District's offices, 218 Donohoe Road, in Hempfield Township, and are open to the public.

Wednesday, April 12, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 13, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, August 9, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, September 13, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, October 11, 5 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 6 p.m.

Annual Banquet, Greensburg Country Club

Wednesday, December 13, 11 a.m.

Please Note – Important Address Change

We haven't moved, but our address is changing due to a countywide program that is designed to give every Westmoreland County location a distinct address number and street name.

Effective immediately, the Westmoreland Conservation District's new address is:

218 Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601.

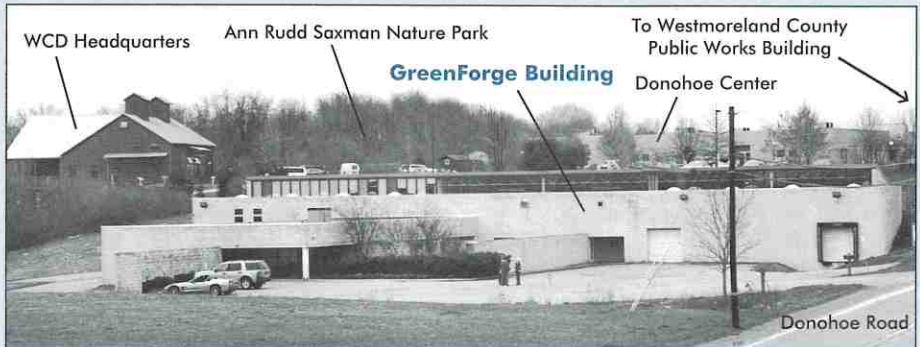
Our telephone and fax machine numbers, as well as our email and web addresses all remain the same (see page 19).

Westmoreland Conservation District

218 Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Address Service Requested

"Green Breaking" Event Set For GreenForge Building



Come, help us celebrate the official addition of the GreenForge building to our growing conservation campus at a "GreenBreaking" event on Tuesday, April 18, at 2 p.m.

See firsthand how this once-vacant commercial building is getting an exciting new life as

- a demonstration site for some of the most innovative green materials and energy-conserving technologies – including what may well be the first green roof in Westmoreland County,
- office space for a new mix of conservation, agriculture, rural development and environmental agencies and, in a few years,
- perhaps even a commercial kitchen where local farmers can process their crops into value-added products, such as cheese and jam.

Invited speakers to the "GreenBreaking" event include: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Katie McGinty...Tom Balya, Westmoreland County Commission chairman... Linda McKenna Boxx, chairman, the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation...and Larry Larese, executive director, Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation. Greg Phillips, Westmoreland Conservation District manager/CEO, will serve as the event host and emcee.

The event is free, but reservations are suggested. Call the Westmoreland Conservation District at 724-837-5271.

GreenForge is located on the Donohoe Road in Hempfield Township, just about a mile east of Westmoreland Mall. The building is next door to Donohoe Center.

Once you pass the sign for Donohoe Center (this will be on your right as you drive east on Donohoe Road), GreenForge is the very next building (on the right).

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage

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Greensburg, PA 15601