

Board Selects Outstanding Conservation Farmers



J. Roy Houston Chairman, Westmoreland Conservation District

Message From The Chairman

The purpose of this Newsletter is to establish contact with individuals interested in the conservation movement. We hope the Newsletter will stimulate the interest of district cooperators, future cooperators, urban and rural residents, clubs, businessmen, teachers, sportsmen, civic and political leaders, and others.

Because of the complexity of agencies and organizations working to improve the environment, the District's profile needs to be sharp and clear. We feel this Newsletter will keep our readers better informed of District policies and programs, but we know that the primary source of the District's identity is vigorous, effective action.

Name The Newsletter Contest

Can you think of a good name for the District Newsletter??? Put your suggestion down on a sheet of paper and mail it to:

Name The Newsletter Contest
Westmoreland Conservation District
932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East
Greensburg, PA 15601

If your entry is selected, you will win \$25.00. The deadline for the contest is September 30, 1986.

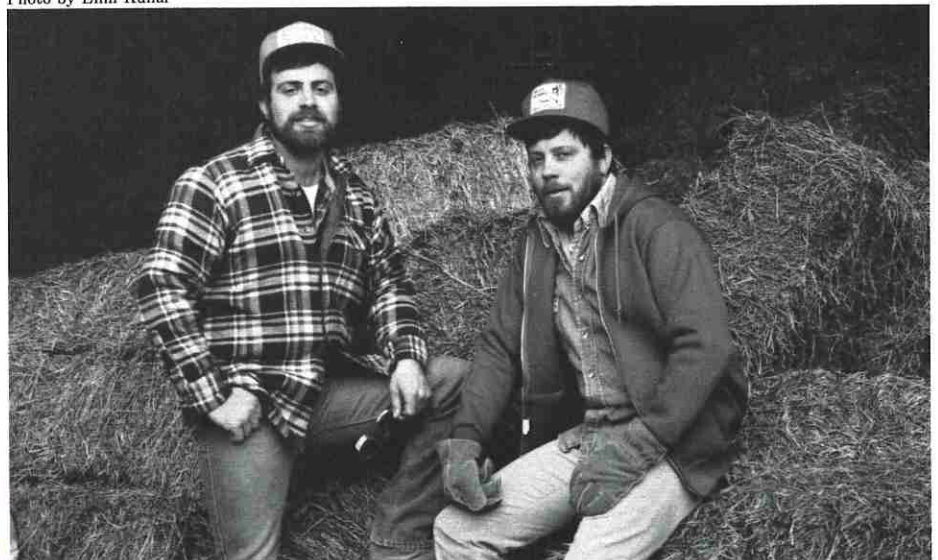
Bill and Rick Ebert were named Westmoreland County's Outstanding Conservation Farmers by the District's Board of Directors in 1985. As recipients of the award the Eberts are recognized for their achievements in soil and water conservation. The Eberts operate a 220-acre dairy farm in Derry Township and also farm 305 acres of rented land.

Some of the conservation practices implemented by the Eberts include: contour stripcropping, subsurface drainage, spring developments, erosion control structures, and agricultural waste management.

The Eberts are graduates of Penn State University. Bill has an associate degree in Farm Business and Rick has a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science.

The Westmoreland Conservation District congratulates the Eberts for their conservation achievements!

Photo by Emil Kuhar



1985 Outstanding Conservation Farmers: left, Rick Ebert; right, Bill Ebert

The District Roster of Outstanding Cooperators includes

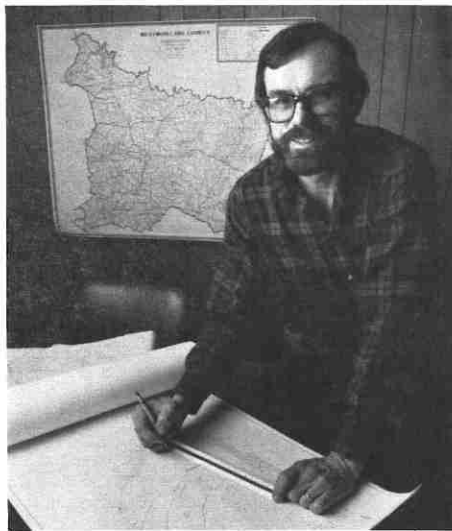
- 1984 - Ed & Max Sapinsky, Smithton
- 1983 - Ralph Frye, Latrobe
- 1982 - The Schramms, Harrison City
- 1981 - James Schenck, Scottdale
- 1980 - Welty Keenan, Hunker
- 1979 - John Greenawalt, West Newton
- 1978 - Donald Hutter, Mt. Pleasant
- 1977 - Fred Slezak, New Alexandria
- 1976 - John R. Wigle, Latrobe
- 1975 - Boyd Wolff, New Alexandria
- *1974 - *1973 -
- 1972 - Jess Stairs, Acme

*Please call the Conservation District if you have any information on who were the Outstanding Cooperators for these years.

Meet Some Of Westmoreland's Conservation Team



Greg Phillips, District Manager, carries out the administrative responsibilities of the Conservation District office as delegated by the Board of Directors. Greg's work includes coordinating conservation programs with private landowners, related agencies, and governmental officials.

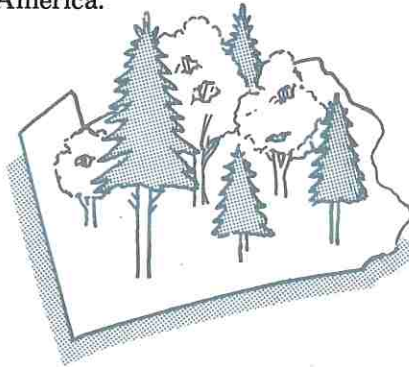


Wesley Gordon, District Conservationist, directs operations at the Soil Conservation Service field office in Greensburg.

Wes assists individuals, organizations and governmental units with the development and application of soil and water conservation plans and practices. He also regularly confers with the

Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors to address local conservation problems and concerns.

Wes is a member of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association Board of Directors and is also active with the Keystone Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America.



Year Of The Forest

Approximately 60% of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is forested. These woodlands provide a myriad of year round benefits for the residents of and visitors to the state. If this major resource is to provide such benefits to future generations, a commitment will be required on the part of all Pennsylvanians to increase their awareness and appreciation of the forest. In order to promote this awareness, and in recognition of this valuable asset, 1986 is being celebrated as the **Year Of The Forest** in Pennsylvania.

The **Year Of The Forest** emphasizes the importance of our woodlands. Each month of the year has a theme around which activities are being developed. Educational exhibits, forest forums and workshops, land tours and demonstrations, and other activities have been developed.

With proper management, Pennsylvania's forests will continue to provide beautiful scenery, clean air and water, places of solitude, jobs, fuel, recreation, wood products, wildlife habitat, and innumerable other amenities.

You can help celebrate this event by ordering a **Year Of The Forest "Tree Packet."** Included in the packet are two 4-year-old hemlock tree seedlings, a calendar

of special events, a "Year of the Forest" bumper sticker, and an artistic reproduction of the 1931 proclamation designating the hemlock as Pennsylvania's official state tree.

To order this packet send \$6.30 to:

"Year Of The Forest"
c/o Strathmeyer Forests
R.D. 1, Box 247, Zeigler Road
Dover, PA 17315

Makes checks payable to
"The Year Of The Forest"

For further information, contact
the Conservation District Office.

District Sponsors Youth To Forestry Camp

by **Kathleen Allison**

Renee Baum, 12, of R.D. 2, Ligonier, was selected as the winner of the Westmoreland Conservation District's 1986 Youth Forestry Contest.

Renee attended classroom activities and field exercises at the McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Mercer County. Some of the topics covered during the four-day program were: tree identification, forest measurements, the use of forests for timber, wildlife and recreation, land use planning, and careers in natural resources. A field trip to a forest products industry and a timber harvesting operation was also included.

The camps are co-sponsored by the Penn State School of Forest Resources and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

For more information on the District's 1987 Youth Forestry Contest, please contact:

Ms. Lincoln Armbrust,
Administrative Secretary
Westmoreland

Conservation District
932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East
Greensburg, PA 15601
(412) 837-5271



Landscaping A Wooded Area

by Ann Rudd Saxman

This article is the first in a series of Conservation Landscaping articles written by **Ann Rudd Saxman**, Landscape Designer and Associate Director with the Westmoreland Conservation District.

If you have a wooded lot, you have a treasure! Develop its beauty. Encourage its trees and shrubs and birds. Nudge Nature a little.

You may be tempted to clear out the underbrush and plant lawn; but instead, clear broad paths four to six feet wide and sow them with a shade grass such as fescue, or cover with wood-chips, or thick leaves. Or you can simply mow every eight weeks to control weeds and briars. Caution: except for paths, do not rake up and disturb the "forest floor."

Plant groups of berried shrubs and evergreens to provide food and shelter for birds and wildlife. Add special beauty with rhododendron, laurel, azaleas, wildlifes, groundcovers such as winter-creeper euonymus, hardy Thorn-dale ivy, bearberry. Add a few benches, birdbaths, perhaps a table and light for evening picnics. You may want a small sunny clearing.

You will enjoy:

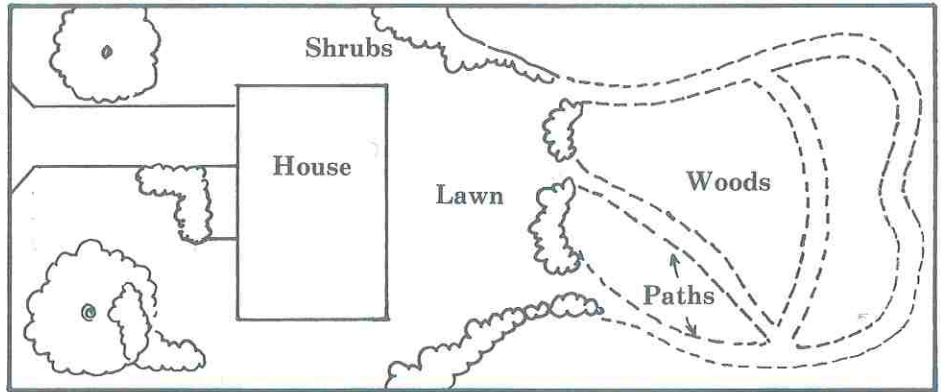
- Living in your private nature preserve.
- A wonderful place for children's outdoor games - hide and seek, Indians, camping.
- Shade and coolness on a hot day.
- Cleaner air because plant foliage filters and decontaminates polluted air.
- Closer observation of wildlife.
- Places for family fun.
- Another big bonus - less mowing and yard maintenance!

Look for the following articles in future newsletters:

Making Use of Wet Areas On Your Property

Contour Gardening

Effective Mulches



Conservation Quiz

Test your knowledge of soil erosion and resource conservation. Score 10 points for each correct answer. A score of 130 or better entitles you to call yourself **Senior Conservationist**; 120, **Junior Conservationist**; 110, **Conservation Trainee**. Below 110, you might want to contact your conservation district to find out more about erosion problems - and solutions - in your area.

1. Farmland makes up what percentage of nonfederal land?
a. 10 b. 25 c. 50 d. 63
2. Who is the father of soil conservation?
a. Thomas Jefferson c. Theodore Roosevelt
b. Gifford Pinchot d. Hugh Hammond Bennett
3. By volume, what is the largest pollutant of streams & rivers in Westmoreland Co.?
a. sediment c. pesticides
b. chemicals d. coal residue
4. The United States has had a national soil and water conservation program since:
a. 1890 b. 1912 c. 1935 d. 1950
5. How many years does it take Mother Nature to build up an inch of topsoil?
a. 10 b. 50 c. 100-600 d. 1,000
6. The number of active farms in Westmoreland Co. is approximately:
a. 300 b. 1,000 c. 2,500 d. 10,000
7. Soil erosion is caused by:
a. wind b. rain c. snowmelt d. all of these
8. What is the fastest urbanizing municipality in Westmoreland Co.?
a. City of Greensburg c. Murrysville
b. Cook Twp. d. Hempfield Twp.
9. If adequately protected from soil and water erosion, farmland can be productive for:
a. one generation c. 100 years
b. 50 years d. indefinitely
10. The average depth of topsoil in this country is:
a. 12" b. 3' c. 6" d. 3"
11. Which agency administers Pennsylvania's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Rules and Regulations?
a. Penn State Extension Service
b. Soil Conservation Service
c. Westmoreland Conservation District
d. County Police

Quiz continued on page 4

12. The fastest growing conservation practice in farming today is:
 - a. mulching
 - b. conservation tillage
 - c. fall tillage with a moldboard plow
 - d. the use of black plastic
13. Which ingredient is not a component of soil:
 - a. clay
 - b. gravel
 - c. silt
 - d. sand
14. In what year was The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law passed?
 - a. 1984
 - b. 1972
 - c. 1965
 - d. 1942
15. Contour stripcropping is done to:
 - a. slow down the speed of water on hillsides
 - b. plant crops around the hill instead of up and down
 - c. control erosion
 - d. all of the above
16. Which agency cost-shares the application of conservation practices?
 - a. Soil Conservation Service
 - b. Penn State Extension Service
 - c. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
 - d. Westmoreland Conservation District

Conservation Quiz Answers

1.d 2.d 3.a 4.c 5.c 6.b 7.d 8.c 9.d
 10.c 11.c 12.b 13.b 14.b 15.d 16.c

The Purpose of The Westmoreland Conservation District is to Serve

The Westmoreland Conservation District is a legal subdivision of state government responsible under state law for coordinating conservation activities within County boundaries. The State Conservation Commission provides administrative, advisory, and financial assistance to Conservation Districts.

The purpose of districts are: to focus attention on land, water, and related resource problems; to develop programs to solve them; to enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the district goals; and to make all citizens aware of the interrelationship between human activities and the natural environment.

We recognize that three of our basic purposes are to help assure Westmoreland County of adequate water supplies, the land capability to produce adequate supplies of food and fiber, and the continued protection of our streams and rivers against pollution.

Call us at 837-5271 for information on:

- Conservation Planning
- Application of Conservation Practices
- Watershed Management
- County Flash Flood Warning System
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Stormwater Management
- Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP)
- Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)
- Soil Survey
- Developers and Municipal Planning Assistance
- Agricultural Land Preservation
- Landowner Reclamation
- Conservation Education



Greener Pastures (and Profits)!

by Wes Gordon

A new system of grazing management has recently been introduced into Southwestern Pennsylvania. It is called Voisin Pasture Management, and several local farmers including **John Jamison** have established this new conservation practice.

The timely rotation of livestock makes the Voisin system work. This results in maximum plant production. After a portion of the pasture is grazed, it is rested until the grass is near maturity. To accomplish this, pastures are subdivided into small paddocks. The paddocks are sized (based on the number of livestock) to allow a maximum of three days grazing in each paddock. The paddock is then rested for 20 to 30 days depending upon the time of year and types of pasture forage. A minimum of ten individual paddocks should be available for the grazing animals.

Recently, improvements in high tensile fencing materials make paddock subdivisions possible without a major capitol investment. Temporary fencing is also an option in many situations. Fencing methods and types will vary with livestock needs and operator goals.

At **Burt Mulhollem's** N&M Dairy near Donegal, the Westmoreland Conservation District is cooperating with the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to gather and analyze forage data from pastures where the Voisin system is being applied. **Carl Beabes**, Soil Conservationist, SCS and **Gary Sheppard**, Dairy Specialist, Extension Service, will make the results of their tests available this fall in an effort to promote the concept to other interested farmers.

If you are interested in planning a Voisin grazing management systems for your farm, contact the Westmoreland Conservation District or the Soil Conservation Service today!



Standing left to right: Tony Quadro, Westmd. Conserv. Dist., Derry Area High School Team: Joe Prengaman, Joe Lipinski, Chuck Rachocki, Fred Goodman. Kneeling left to right: Paul Scansaroli, Chris Chang, Virgil Wilford.

Derry Team Wins State Envir-Olympics

by Anthony Quadro

On Saturday, June 21, the Pennsylvania State Envir-Olympics was held at Penn State's Shavers Creek Environmental Center in Stone Valley, Huntingdon County. A five-member team from Derry Area High School including: Virgil Wilford, Joseph Prengaman, Charles Rachocki, Joseph Lipinski, and Paul Scansaroli competed against 29 other county teams and won the event. Mr. Fred Goodman served as team advisor.

The third annual Envir-Olympics provided high school students a chance to test and prove their knowledge of natural resources. Included in the competition were tests on forestry, wildlife, aquatic environment, soils, and this year's highlighted environmental issue - solid waste management.

County conservation districts throughout the state held local competitions earlier this spring. The Westmoreland Conservation District along with the Westmoreland County Department of Parks and Recreation held a local competition at Twin Lakes County Park. The Derry team outscored teams from Franklin Regional, Penn Trafford, and the Central Westmoreland Vocational-Technical School to qualify for the state event.

The Pennsylvania Envir-Olympics is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors; Penn State's Shavers Creek Environmental Center; the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation and Bureau of Forestry; the Pennsylvania Fish Commission; the Pennsylvania Game Commission; the Soil Conservation Service; and others, with support from the State Department of Education.

Students who are interested in competing in the District's 1987 Envir-Olympics should contact Tony Quadro at the District Office.

Have A Friend For The Newsletter Mailing List?

If you have a friend who is interested in conservation and would like to receive this Newsletter on a regular basis, free of charge, please use this coupon to send in his or her name and address.

Name _____
Address _____

Mail Coupon to:

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Conservation District
932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East
Greensburg, PA 15601

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Soil Conservationist

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Soil Technician

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Soil Technician

Doctor Practices Resource Management

Dr. Eleanor Morris, R.D. 4, Somerset, was selected as the Westmoreland Conservation District's "Outstanding Forest Manager" for 1985.

Dr. Morris owns approximately 400 acres of forestland in Donegal Township, and her property is certified in the National Tree Farm Program.

She has been a district cooperator since 1962 and has implemented numerous conservation practices. Many of these practices have involved woodland management. Timber stand improvement has been completed on nearly all the forestland. In addition, several timber harvesting operations have been performed. These operations have been administered by a professional forester, and the utmost

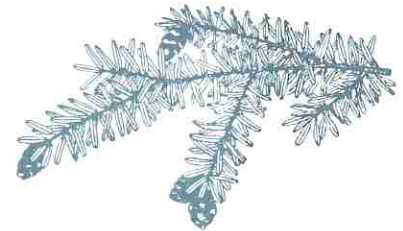
care has been taken to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, and provide for adequate regeneration.

Dr. Morris practices multiple-use management by using her forest for wildlife habitat and recreation. By managing her woodlands effectively, Dr. Morris has not only provided the Commonwealth with valuable timber products and wildlife benefits, but also has provided for an adequate future resource.

In recognition of her management abilities, the District will present Dr. Morris with an award and submit her name to be considered for Pennsylvania's Maurice K. Goddard Forestry Award.



Dr. Eleanor Morris and friend



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