

Zundel RAMP Site Dedicated

by Lincoln Armbrust

Early this fall, the Westmoreland Conservation District held a dedication ceremony and site showing at the **David A. Zundel Rural Abandoned Mine (RAMP) Site** in Baggaley. Mr. Zundel, the proud owner of the 31 acre reclaimed site applied for assistance under RAMP in 1979, and reclamation began in late March of 1984. All earthmoving, water control devices, and seeding were completed by fall of that year. Trees were planted in 1985.

Attending the dedication were U.S. Representative **John P. Murtha**, Westmoreland County Commissioner Chairman **Ted Simon**, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chairman **Dave Mankamy**, and **James R. Gettinger** of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Also attending were news media reporters, various environmental



Left to Right: Dave Mankamy, Chairman-Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation; John P. Murtha, U.S. Representative; David A. Zundel

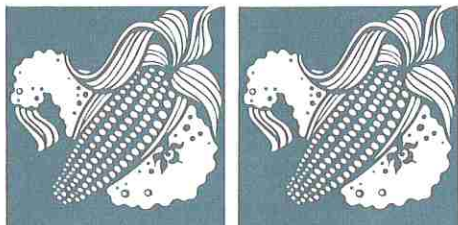
agencies and organizations, and interested area residents.

Congressman Murtha and District Manager **Greg Phillips** began the day with an airplane flyover of the reclaimed site. Dedication ceremonies were held

shortly thereafter and concluded with a hayride tour and an explanation of the reclamation procedures given by **Wes Gordon** and **Carl Beabes** of the Greensburg SCS.

Attention All Farmers...

Conservation Compliance In The News



by Wesley Gordon
Soil Conservation Service

Before you plow down sod in 1987, you need to consider whether you are interested in receiving any United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) benefits. If so, you should make sure you are in compliance

with a provision of the 1985 Farm Bill called **Sodbuster**. Plowing sod on highly erodible land not protected with soil conservation practices violates the conservation provision of the Food Security Act (Farm Bill) of 1985. A farmer who violates this provision is not eligible for such USDA program benefits as commodity price supports, crop insurance, Farmers Home Administration loans, farm storage facility loans, etc.

Highly erodible land (HEL), as defined for this important program, encompasses nearly all the

cropland in Westmoreland County. Only that land that is level or nearly level would not be highly erodible. It is therefore important that all cropland be covered by an approved Conservation Plan.

A Conservation Plan is needed on HEL prior to plowing. This plan must be developed cooperatively between Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the farmer. It is the decision of the farmer based on SCS alternatives to choose a conservation cropping system that meets his needs and complies with

Continued on Page 2

the **Sodbuster** provisions. The Conservation District subsequently approves that plan.

Farmers can initiate their participation in this program by visiting the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office. Or for further information contact the Conservation District or local SCS office.

Make your plans now.....well before the 1987 planting season!

Meet Some Of Westmoreland's Conservation Team



Lincoln Armbrust, Administrative Secretary Originally hired as a secretary in 1979, she is now serving as the District's Administrative Secretary. Primarily responsible for the District's accounting, book-keeping and payroll, Lincoln also prepares financial reports, types, files, and assists the District Manager with many of his duties.



Frank Skacel, District Director Owner and operator of a 160 acre grain and beef farm, Mr. Skacel was appointed to the Board in 1969 and elected Treasurer in 1975. He is also active with the Derry Area Young Farmers.

Formation Of Appalachian Coalition For Reclamation Announced

by **Greg Phillips**

Recently, the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) met with representatives of eight Appalachian States, in Charleston, West Virginia, to discuss the formation of an Appalachian Coalition. The purpose of the Coalition is to seek additional funding for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

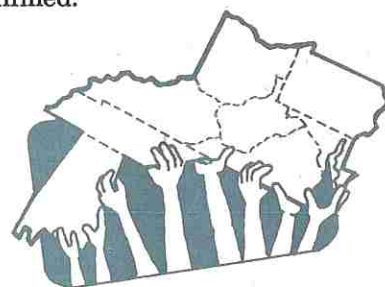
Dave Mankamy, WPCAMR Chairman, announced that the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Alabama have decided to formally organize individual Coalitions in each of their states and to participate in the regional Appalachian Coalition.

Interim officers of the Appalachian Coalition for Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation include; **Dave Mankamy** (PA), Chairman, **Eddie Hannah** (VA), Vice Chairman, **L. H. Burnette** (TN), Treasurer and **Bob Sweitzer** (PA), Secretary.

The goal of the Coalition is to work together to free the millions

of dollars that have been collected from the coal mine operators but never allocated for their intended purpose—the reclamation of abandoned mine lands. The funding is available under the Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1977. The deadline for appropriations is 1992.

The WPCAMR has proposed **OPERATION RECLAIM AND SAVE** to allocate full funding for the Rural Abandoned Mine Program for the next five years at the rate of \$40 million per year. Under the program, abandoned mine lands would be reclaimed at an all time high rate and the intent of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 would be fulfilled.



Appalachia Needs a Lift!



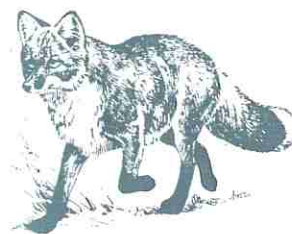
District News Notes

The District staff and Directors would like to express their thanks to student volunteer **Mark Klawinski**. Mark is a graduate of Kent State University who has been assisting both the District and the Soil Conservation Service. Congratulations on your acceptance to Ohio University for graduate studies. Best of Luck!!!!

Associate Director **Scott Churbock** has notified the District that he has received permission to proceed with his senior project at the University of Pittsburgh. The project consists of a detailed hydrologic evaluation of the Slate Creek watershed. The watershed is located in Hempfield/Unity Town-

ships and Greensburg/South Greensburg. It is anticipated that the study will be used to aid municipalities in stormwater management.

A layer of soil no thicker than the width of a dime, spread across an acre of farmland, weighs about five tons. That's all the amount of soil most American farmlands are able to replace, naturally.



Why Conserve Soil? — Solve The Puzzle

Grab a pencil, and have some fun. Look over the incomplete statements and choose the appropriate words from the answers listed. Then try to find these 15 answers hidden in the letter puzzle below. You can circle the words across, down and diagonally. The letters of each word are always in order. See if you can find all of them.

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

- ___ 1. Soils are one of our most valuable _____.
- ___ 2. Severe soil erosion can lead to water _____.
- ___ 3. Soil _____ must be kept high to produce all of the food we need.

- ___ 4. People in many developing nations would be _____ without food aid from the U.S.
- ___ 5. Prosperous, productive farms provide us with beautiful _____ as we travel along our nation's highways.
- ___ 6. Windbreaks and other soil conservation practices create homes for birds, rabbits, foxes, and other kinds of _____.
- ___ 7. The _____ depends upon productive soils.
- ___ 8. U.S. food aid helps meet the _____ needs of many people in developing nations.
- ___ 9. More than 40 years after the Dust Bowl era, _____ is still a national challenge.
- ___ 10. Soil erosion can increase the price of the _____ that we eat.
- ___ 11. Mudslides, gullies, and muddy water are _____ to look at.
- ___ 12. Soil _____ is an important part of prosperous farming.
- ___ 13. _____ occurs when there are severe food shortages in an area.
- ___ 14. Every day, more and more _____ is lost to non-agricultural use.
- ___ 15. Food is a major _____ that we sell to nations around the world.

- a. conservation
- b. export
- c. famine
- d. farmland
- e. food
- f. future
- g. hungry
- h. natural resources
- i. nutritional
- j. pollution
- k. productivity
- l. scenery
- m. soil erosion
- n. ugly
- o. wildlife



Keeping Moisture In Your Soil

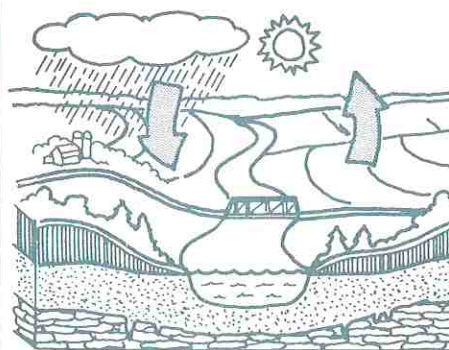
by Ann Rudd Saxman

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

Have you been reading about troublesome water problems almost everywhere in the U.S.? Have you heard about our falling water table? You can do something to improve this very serious trend by encouraging rain-water to seep into the ground where it falls, instead of running off.

Modern farmers use contour strips to save water and soil. The same techniques will help your home property, no matter how large or small.

If your water supply is a well it may be supplied by ground water running from a distance through rock layers, so it is important for you and your neighbors to be concerned about the water table.



Avoid if you possibly can any ditching and draining that will carry water off your property into sewers, or down a roadside - unless the water travels directly into a nearby wood or fields. Otherwise this water is lost to the soil in your area.

Obviously, wet spots may not be acceptable in some areas near your house. Consider having a small pond, or a boggy spot, to concentrate moisture, thereby leaving lawn and garden areas free of excess water. Many shrubs and trees

and other ornamental plants thrive in damp soil. Besides providing unusual beauty for yourself you can supply food and nesting places for birds.

Keep your soil covered at all times with mulches or ground-covers, or any kind of growing plants, even weeds. This will break the force of rain on bare ground, so that the water trickles through foliage and seeps gently into the soil. You save water and avoid loss of precious topsoil.

Encourage your neighbors to follow your example, and you will help to maintain the water table in your area.

Look for the following articles in future newsletters:

Making Use Of Wet Areas On Your Property

Contour Gardening

Effective Mulches

District Lists New Cooperators

by Kathleen Fritz

When the Conservation District enters into agreements with land-owners and operators who request help in developing conservation plans on their land, they are called cooperators.

The following is a list of new cooperators for 1986:

Bart Cornali.....	190 acres. - Unity Twp.
Dan R. McDowell.....	47.5 acres. - Cook Twp.
Robert H. Sekora.....	38 acres. - Salem Twp.
Rick McIntyre.....	43 acres. - Allegheny Twp.
Dale Topper.....	102 acres. - Hempfield Twp.
Paul F. Faletto.....	73 acres. - Sewickley Twp.
Frank Magyar.....	93 acres. - Hempfield Twp.
M & G Convoy, Inc.....	3 acres. - East Huntingdon Twp.
Daryl Dermotta.....	200 acres. - Sewickley Twp.
John F. Albright.....	10 acres. - Cook Twp.
Dale Topper.....	88 acres. - New Stanton Borough
James C. & Jeraldine A. Woodings.....	57 acres. - Washington Twp.
Robert E. Marshall.....	91.5 acres. - Derry Twp.
Kenneth R. Bayle.....	130 acres. - Salem Twp.
John H. Miller.....	45 acres. - Hempfield Twp.

If you are interested in conservation planning, please call the District Office at 837-5271. District assistance is available free of charge.

Biggest Tree Survey Announced

by Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.

In honor of Pennsylvania's "Year of the Forest" celebration, the Westmoreland Conservation District will comprise a list, by species, of the largest diameter trees in the County.



Landowners who feel they have the largest tree of a particular species on their property can measure the tree's "Diameter At Breast High" (DBH), and submit the measurements to the District. DBH is measured at 4.5" from ground level. Trees can be measured either by using a diameter tape, or a conventional tape and then dividing by 3.14.

Mail your entry today! Complete the form below and send it to:

Biggest Tree Survey
 c/o Westmoreland Conservation District
 932 St. Clair Way, Rt. 30 East
 Greensburg, PA 15601

Entries will be compared and those trees chosen to be on the list will be checked in the field.

Look At The Size Of This Tree!

Diameter: _____

Tree Species: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



Well Done Carl!

Carl Beabes, pictured above at right, is congratulated by District Chairman Roy Houston for his efforts and dedication to soil and water conservation. Also pictured above at left is Wes Gordan, District Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

Carl, who is moving to the Chicago area, is currently employed as a Soil Conservationist with SCS. A graduate of Penn State University with a B.S. in Agronomy, he began his career in conservation with the Westmoreland Conservation District in 1978.

Both the District staff and Directors wish Carl and his wife Lorraine continued success and the best of luck in the future!

Get In Shape With Envir-Olympics

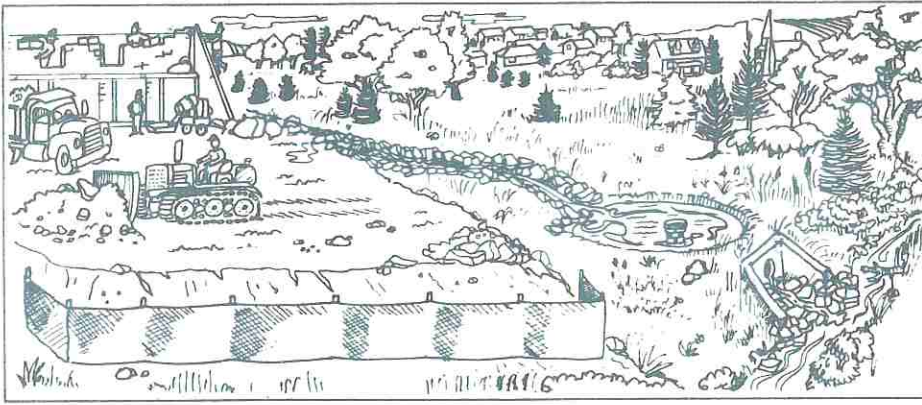
by Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.

In the spring of 1987, the Westmoreland Conservation District and Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation will co-sponsor an Envir-Olympics. The competition pits teams from county high school, grades nine through twelve, against each other in five subject areas. The subjects are: aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils, and a current environmental issue.

The purpose of the Envir-Olympics is to cultivate a desire to learn more about and develop a greater appreciation for our natural environment. Also, the students learn about the local resource management agencies available to assist them in environmental matters.

If you are an interested teacher or student, please contact the District office at 837-5271 as soon as possible.

District Emphasizes Erosion Control



by Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.

One of the District's prime responsibilities is to minimize accelerated soil erosion and prevent sediment from entering the waters of the Commonwealth.

Erosion is a naturally occurring process (geologic erosion), however, the process is "accelerated" when, through the action of man's earth disturbing activities, bare soil is exposed to erosive forces such as rain, wind, or other agents. "Erosion" refers to the movement of soil particulate material, and "sedimentation" to its deposition. The actual particles are referred to as sediment. Normally, vegetative cover retards the transportation of soil particles, however, removal of vegetation through earthmoving activities speeds up the process. This is called "accelerated erosion".

Sediment causes many problems both in transit and upon deposition. Sediment in streams can be hazardous to fish and aquatic life. Particles carrying away fertilizers and pesticides enter waters and pollute streams. This also results in a decrease in farm productivity and increased farm costs. When deposited, higher flood levels result from blocked culverts and stream channels. Lakes and reservoirs naturally act as receptacles for sediment. When accelerated erosion occurs, sediment is deposited in these receptacles reducing their lifetime.

To avert these problems, the District enforces the portion of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law

concerning "erosion control". According to this law, a contractor must develop a "Soil Erosion Control Plan" before earthmoving begins. The plan details measures to minimize accelerated soil erosion. On site inspections are conducted to ensure implementation of these measures.

To help ensure the residents of Westmoreland County of clean streams and rivers and highly productive land, the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program will continue to be a top priority of the District. If you see an erosion problem stemming from man's activity, *call the District*. With your help, we can continue to fight the soil erosion menace in our County!



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Abandoned Mine Reclamation...What a Sight!

County Recognizes Achievements At Zundel Site Dedication (Story On Page 1)



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