

EARTH CONSERVANCY NEWS

2007 YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT AND RECOGNITION

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EC Accomplishments

- Winner — 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence
- Winner — 2007 Wilkes-Barre Chamber Pride of Place Award
- Reclaimed 1,136 acres at a cost of \$17 million
- Planned for additional 1,017 acres to be reclaimed at a cost of \$54 million

Earth Conservancy (EC) completed several important projects in 2007 and was recognized for its efforts to reclaim mine scarred lands and revitalize the economy in the Wyoming Valley of Luzerne County.

EC added to its growing list of reclamation projects last year by completing the Cleveland Land-fill site, the Huber I site, the Bliss Bank area and re-vegetating the Sugar Notch Residential area.

EC's Cleveland project undertook the cleanup of a 50 acre Hanover Township site that was once designated as a debris collection area after the 1972 Agnes Flood. Then-Governor Milton J. Shapp authorized trash and other household wastes to be collected at non-operating strip mine sites. The site, located at the intersection of Middle Road and Exit 2 of State Route (SR) 29, remained dormant for decades until EC purchased this land and others from the estate of the Blue Coal Company. In addition to the use of its own funds for the project, EC received funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Growing Greener Program, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Luzerne County Office of Community and Economic Development.

Closure of the landfill included preparing the site for commercial development because of its prime location at Exit 2 of SR 29 and near the Hanover Crossings Industrial Park. Currently, the site is being considered for purchase and development by a major national retailer. Such development would help to spur additional economic development in the vicinity and provide area residents with localized retail opportunities.

EC received the 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for its reclamation of the Cleveland site. Awards are given to those projects that demonstrate innovative environmental stewardship while still promoting economic improvements in Pennsylvania.

Reclamation of EC's Bliss Bank site proved to be an historic event. Funding for the project was provided through the PA DEP Energy Harvest Program, which awards grants to projects that implement new and innovative technologies for harvesting renewable energy. The \$690,000 award given to EC for the project was the largest in the history of the Energy Harvest Program. The site is located off Middle Road near Luzerne County Community College.

For the project, EC partnered with Northampton Generating Company to remove culm from the site and reutilize it for generation of electricity. The culm from this site was once considered to be waste material because of its low BTU value. However, advancements in technology have allowed co-generation facilities, like Northampton, to now utilize this material. This new technology has raised the value of the material and allowed a mine waste site to be cleaned and re-utilized for another purpose.

Completion of the project created 48,212 megawatts of electricity by removing 125,427 tons of material from the site. An additional benefit of the reclamation is the environmental enhancement to

(Continued on page 5 PROJECTS)



The Sugar Notch project site can be seen in the upper center section of the photo, with the Greater Hanover Area Recreation Park starting in the lower left corner and running diagonally to the upper right corner. EC won the 2007 W-B Chamber Pride of Place Award for the Sugar Notch residential and Phase II recreation park projects.

OTHER EC PROJECTS CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS

While EC completed several important projects in 2007, it also made significant progress on several additional projects and received grant funding to continue another.

- ✧ **Huber III:** 83-acre site located at entrance to Hanover Industrial Estates. Reclamation began early 2007 with grant/loan funding from PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and EC. Work is 90 % complete. Project will move approximately 1 million cubic yards of material on the site. This site is under a purchase option by a major developer.
- ✧ **Loomis Bank:** 75-acre site located in Hanover Township. EC is partnering with Northampton Generating Co. to process culm. An expected 2 million cubic yards of material will be processed and used for generation of electricity. Project site is being reclaimed as material is processed at the site.
- ✧ **Franklin Bank:** 13-acre site located in Newtown section of Hanover Township. Reclamation of site is expected to begin later this year with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program. Project will clean abandoned mining storage site to reduce amount of AMD seeping into Nanticoke Creek Watershed. Completed site could support minimal residential development.
- ✧ **Concrete City Silt Area:** 36-acre site located in Hanover Township, adjacent to Concrete City. Project will address environmental health issues relating to groundwater impacts, surface runoff and illegal garbage dumping as well as socio-economic factors impacting the site.
- ✧ **Greater Hanover Area Recreation Park, Phase I:** 15-acre site located in Hanover Township. Recreation park owners, Greater Hanover Area Recreation Park Commission (GHARPC) were awarded a \$29,000 DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant to complete fencing around perimeter of Phase I fields and to pave roadway up to parking area. EC partnered with the GHARPC to obtain grant and will execute the grant on its behalf.
- ✧ **Plymouth Township/Avondale Pit:** 350-acre site located in Plymouth Township. Avondale Pit is currently being reclaimed by the PA DEP. The site has long been a safety, health and environmental hazard to area. EC developed a land use master plan for the site. The plan includes the potential for a single family residential area and townhomes/condominiums as well as abundant green and recreational space, including hiking trails.

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version of the newsletter,
visit
www.earthconservancy.org*

EARTH CONSERVANCY BOARD WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR, THANKS THOSE DEPARTING

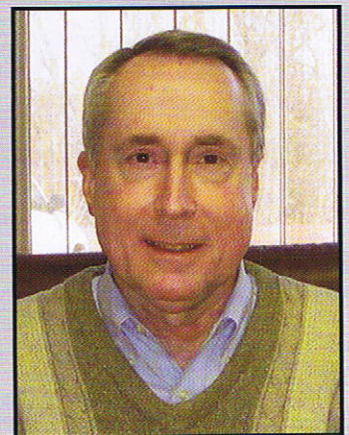
EC welcomed Joseph A. Frank, Jr. to its Board of Directors in January.

Mr. Frank is President of Centralia Coal Sales Company, located in Wilkes-Barre, PA. His business affiliations include serving as President of Franklin Fuel Corporation and Secretary of Porter Associates, Inc. He also serves on the Pennsylvania Anthracite Council, the Penn Anthracite Div. Society of Mining Engineers, the Coal Club of Philadelphia, the New York Coal Trade Association and the Clinkers.

Mr. Frank also has numerous civic affiliations including the St. Ignatius Bazaar Committee, Seamen's Church Inst. Of Phila., King's College President's Council, St. Joseph's University Loyola Society Executive Council, Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre Advisory Board, the American Red Cross and the Catholic Youth Center.

Mr. Frank is married to Gail A. Frank and has four daughters: Rebecca, Christine, Jennifer and Gretchen.

Stephen Barrouk, who left the board in 2007, was one of the first elected directors to serve on the board. He began his service in 1992. During his time on the board he was actively involved in the development of EC's land use plans and the creation of its vision and mission statements. He was an active participant in board committees and regularly offered his expertise on land and economic development issues affecting EC's work.



Joseph A. Frank, Jr.

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Profile in Stewardship

RESIDENT CLEANS UP CEMETERY ENTRANCE IN WIFE'S MEMORY

LAND AROUND CEMETERY BELONGS TO EARTH CONSERVANCY

When Frank Chest's wife Rosemary passed away in 2007, he laid her to rest at the St. Nicholas Cemetery in Glen Lyon. Not only was he heartbroken to lose his lifelong companion, but he was saddened by the state of disrepair into which the entrance to the cemetery had fallen. Rather than complain about the situation, Mr. Chest turned his emotion into a positive activity that has benefited the community, especially those with family buried at the cemetery.

"It was a little one lane path that led to the cemetery," said Mr. Chest of the EC lands he crossed to get to the site. "There were shingles and wood, construction debris, household junk." He said the way into the cemetery was uninviting to anyone who wished to visit loved-ones buried there.

"I just couldn't have my wife at a place like that," he said. So, he decided to give his wife the beautiful "resting place she deserves."

Mike Dziak, President/CEO of EC, who met with Mr. Chest to discuss the cleanup was happy to have someone take the initiative to clean up the site. "It's difficult to stop illegal dumping on some of these sites," he said. "We don't have enough staff to patrol EC's lands, so it's difficult to apprehend those who are dumping illegally. When someone comes to you and wants to clean up a site, you want to support those efforts."

Mr. Chest called on friends to allow him the use of bulldozers to clear a wider road into the cemetery. He collected a dumpster full of debris. And to make sure the site stays clean for future visitors, he installed surveillance cameras to monitor dumping.

Cleaning up was only the beginning of his efforts. Last year he planted 60 Rhododendron bushes, Weeping Willows and other flowering trees. He also installed two flagpoles that now bear the U.S. flag and the Pennsylvania state flag. This year he plans to install flag poles for each of the armed services and to plant more flowering shrubs and trees.

"To be honest, this has stopped the dumping," Mr. Chest noted. He said the gate he installed has also helped.

"Neighbors keep watch now," he said. "I think it just took one person to take the first step," he said, referring to the number of neighbors looking out for the cemetery. Since he started the project, Mr. Chest has seen more visitors at the cemetery as well as people coming out to lend a hand with upkeep.

"People aren't afraid to go there now," he said. "It's clean and open." Cold weather doesn't stop Mr. Chest from stopping by the cemetery. He just sits in his car and spends a few minutes visiting with Rosemary.



The entrance to St. Nicholas Cemetery is now clean and open thanks to Frank Chest of Glen Lyon.

Find available EC real estate at our website:
www.earthconservancy.org

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While Mr. Frank, Jr. takes his place on the board, Joseph A. Frank, Sr., his father, left the board in December 2007 after serving since 2001. During his time on the board, Mr. Frank, Sr. offered his expertise in business management as well as land use planning and reclamation efforts. Mr. Frank, Sr. is CEO of Centralia Coal Sales Company.

The board also thanks Gary F. Lamont for his service on the board. Mr. Lamont joined the board in 2001 and served until December 2007. Mr. Lamont brought to the board his expertise in management consulting and real estate development. His participation on the board assisted it in the development of its sound economic plans. Mr. Lamont is Principal of Conyngham Pass Realty.

EC's Board of Directors and staff thank Mr. Barrouk, Mr. Frank Sr. and Mr. Lamont for their efforts and extend a warm welcome to Mr. Frank, Jr.

EC, WILKES U., PEC PARTNER FOR REFORESTATION EFFORT



Students from Wilkes University join other volunteers and Professor Holly Fredrick to plant trees at the Penobscot Ridge Mountain Bike Area. EC partnered with Wilkes University and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council for the project.

EC's Penobscot Ridge Mountain Bike Area now boasts the moniker "classroom" as well as recreational area. A portion of the Newport Township site has become the focus of an educational and environmental partnership between Wilkes University, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council—Northeast Regional Office (PEC) and EC that will determine the best soils and soil enhancements to promote optimal growth for trees planted on reclaimed lands.

The project came about when PEC was awarded grant funding through the DEP's Growing Greener Program to restore a riparian buffer along a stream in the northeast area. At the same time, Marleen Troy, Ph.D., P.E., contacted EC about coordinating classroom study of soils with real-life application at an EC reclamation site. Dr. Troy is Chair and Associate Professor of the Dept. of Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences at Wilkes University and is also a member of EC's Board of Directors. Wilkes and EC also made financial contributions to the project.

The Penobscot site was chosen because the Forge Stream channel, which runs through the site, had recently been restored after severe flooding in 2006. It has since officially reopened for cycling and hiking. Restoration of the riparian buffer had not been completed as part of that work.

The object of the project is to study existing soil qualities at the Penobscot site through testing and sampling done by students in an environmental engineering soils class taught by Professor Holly Fredrick, Ph.D., P.E., and then determine additives and amendments that could be added to the soil for optimal tree and plant growth.

For the project, students planted 100 trees in a lab setting at the university in order to determine a baseline of scientific information. Another 75 trees and 25 shrubs were planted by students and volunteers along the stream at the Penobscot site to begin the establishment of a riparian buffer. GPS coordinates were established for each tree and shrub planted to assist with ongoing maintenance and documentation.

Throughout the year, students will monitor and compare the baseline plants with those in the field to determine ongoing needs of the plants and to recommend soil amendments and additives that could be used in the field to promote healthier growth on reclaimed sites.

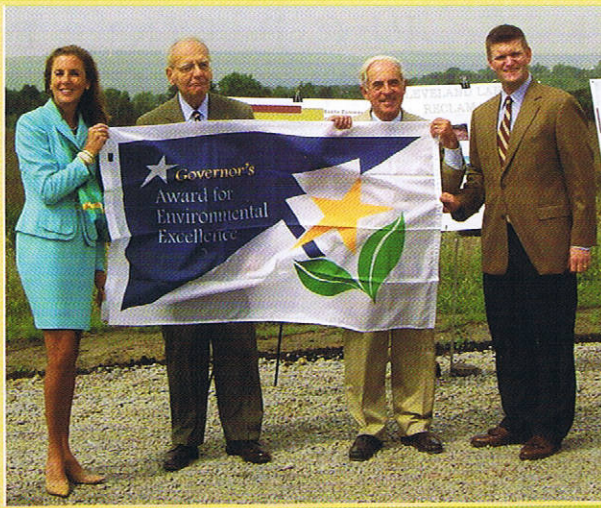
EC, Wilkes and PEC hope to continue the partnership with future classes at this and other sites.



At left a Dogwood sapling holds on through the winter at the Penobscot planting site.

*Trail maps can be
downloaded from our
website:*

www.earthconservancy.org



EC receives the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for its Cleveland project. Pictured L to R: DEP Secy. Kathleen McGinty, Cong. Paul E. Kanjorski, EC Pres./CEO Mike Dziak, Rep. John Yudichak.

(PROJECTS Continued from page 1)

the site and the watershed by reducing the amount of acidity seeping into the watershed by approximately 13,125 tons. This reduction helps to diminish the impact of AMD on the Nanticoke Creek Watershed and the Susquehanna River.

Another site where culm banks were once the norm is at EC's Sugar Notch Residential Reclamation area. Now, there are acres of grass with a green forested backdrop surrounding the entire area. EC completed its reclamation of a 50-acre portion of the 189-acre site, located in Sugar Notch and Hanover Township, with funds from the DEP Growing Greener Program and with its own funds.

The project's completion allows for a potential residential area to be developed within Sugar Notch Borough. The development would be situated on the 50-acre reclaimed portion and would be surrounded by the remaining 137 acres of forested and green space. Plans for the residential development include two hiking trails that would begin in Sugar Notch Borough, pass through the residential area and end in the Greater Hanover Area Recreation Park (GHARP). Including hiking paths in the Sugar Notch project also enhances amenities in the GHARP by providing residents a way to visit the park without having to access the busy main road.

For its efforts, EC was awarded the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry's 2007 Pride of Place Award for Environmental Enhancements for the Sugar Notch Reclamation and the Phase II work at the Greater Hanover Area Recreation Park. The award was given to EC for a project that preserved and/or enhanced natural or green spaces.

EC's grant award from the DEP's Energy Harvest Program was the largest in the program's history



EC's Cleveland project site is located off State Route 29 at Exit 2. The 50-acre property, which is near the Hanover Crossings Industrial Park, is being considered for economic development by a major retailer. EC won the 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for this project.

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Fax: (570) 823-8270

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