

# Hoffnar Named State Conservation Professional

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Bedford Co. Correspondent

**SIX MILE RUN (Bedford Co.)**  
— Bernard Hoffnar says he has loved the Broad Top area since he was a child. His affection for this coal mining area of Bedford County has led him to winning the Pennsylvania Conservation Professional of the Year award.

"I used to spend anywhere from two to six weeks of every summer here, with my mother," he remembers. "I always knew I would someday return. When I got the chance, I did." That was 20 years ago. Since then, he has been actively involved in preserving and restoring the Broad Top area.

As a lover of the land, his philosophy is, "Anyone can use something up. It takes a real steward to make it better."

Bernard is involved in a long list of conservation projects.

He and his wife, Ingrid, and son, Forrest, live on a 32-acre farm where they raise Christmas trees and market them locally. They also raise all of their own vegetables.

Five years ago, county commissioners asked Hoffnar to serve as

the first chairman of the reactivated solid waste authority. "I'm proud of the accomplishments we've had," Hoffnar says. "Getting municipality support, meeting DER requirements, dealing with all the parts of solid waste and getting it in operation in 2½ years was an amazing accomplishment. DER has told us they wish other counties could do as well."

Hoffnar serves as the president of the Coaldale/Six Mile Run Area Water Corporation. A non-profit group, Hoffnar calls himself, "the chief cook and bottle washer."

"It is a recognized system and one of the best in the state," Hoffnar explains. "Broad Top has worked very hard to achieve this. We almost always have 100% attendance at our meetings."

It was one of the early slow sand filtration systems in the state. It meets all state and federal requirements for potable water. "We've kept it simple," Hoffnar continues. "It's a low tech system that basically anyone can operate."

As secretary/treasurer of the Bedford County Conservation District, Hoffnar says, "Our board is one of, if not the strongest con-

servation boards in the entire state."

"We're involved with RAMP (rural abandoned mine program), cleaning the streams, newspaper recycling, and a no till program. The people on the conservation board are extremely dedicated."

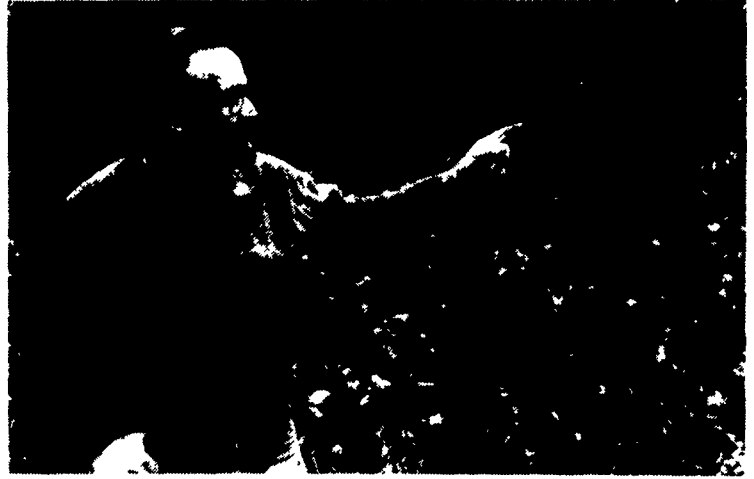
An outgrowth from this office has been involvement with the Pennsylvania Conservation District and the Land Use Planning Commission.

Hoffnar was appointed by Senator Robert Jubelirer as a member of the C.A.C. (Citizens Advisory Council to DER) where he serves as vice president. Three state government leaders choose six members for this council. It is strictly non-political.

An advisory/education group which does some lobbying, C.A.C. looks at such as issues as a plan for spreading manure, the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Education Bill, and, is concerned with state wide environmental issues.

They review state parks and state forests and have access to DER information.

Hoffnar also serves on the Environmental Quality Board



Bernard Hoffnar, Conservation Professional of the Year, points to one of the water supplies in the Broadtop area where he has been actively involved in conservation for 20 years.

which is composed of the game commission, fish commission, and four legislatures. They deal with residual and hazardous waste regulations.

The goal of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition is to keep RAMP funded. Through this, Bernard became active in SMCRA (Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act).

Hoffnar is presently serving his

third team as a Broadtop Township Supervisor. He is secretary/treasurer and handles the books and business for the supervisors.

Growing up on a 160-acre farm in Southern Illinois with a five-sow hog enterprise, and 400 to 1000 haying hens, Hoffnar still shudders as he remembers farmers who bragged about the farms they had "used".

"The main crops were castor beans and timothy which were rotated. When the soil stopped producing, they moved on to another farm. Even then, I didn't think that was right."

"Now, I know, agriculture should mean, leaving the land better than you found it."

For the future, Hoffnar hopes to be involved in a process using wetlands to mitigate as much of acid mine drainage as possible. There are four streams in the Broadtop area and, according to Hoffnar, the acidity of these streams is near vinegar.

He also plans to be involved in improving the water quality in Bedford, Fulton, and Somerset counties and, to work on a sewage project in the Broadtop.

"I will always work to protect water quality," he says. "I don't want to just preserve it. I want to improve it."

Hoffnar has a bachelor of science in agriculture from Southern Illinois and a master's in agriculture economics from Penn State. He also has a Ph.D. in agriculture economics.

Prior to moving to Broadtop, Hoffnar taught at VPI for three years. He spent five years in research service with the Depart-

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