



WESTMORELAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

www.westmorelandconservancy.org

April 2009 Editors: Shelly Tichy & Kate Blackmore 724-325-5523

wcnewsletter@comcast.net

April 2009 Elections Meeting

Our regularly scheduled meeting for April 2009 will include the election of our board of governors. This election is by our general membership, so please plan to attend if possible. After the members elect the new governors, the governors will then elect the 2009 officers.

Remember – Annual Elections Meeting - April 22nd, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the conference room next to the library. Please plan to attend!

Friend-and-Fund Raising

Our **Friend-and-Fund Raising Drive** began in January 2009. We are gratified by the response so far, as our members have raised more than \$500.00 for the General Fund. We have a long way to go and our efforts are ongoing.

Introducing the Westmoreland Conservancy to Our Community

The Westmoreland Conservancy is hosting several “Meet & Greet” events in order to introduce other community organizations and entities to our properties and programs. We met with SLAM (Sportsmen and Landowners Alliance of Murrysville) members on Tuesday, February 24th at Hoss’s. The result was a much better understanding of each group and the mutual decision to help one another benefit our community. There are several other dates scheduled for this Spring to promote partnerships and grow membership.

Help us make a difference! Bring people from your own “Circle of Friends”. Attend some of our scheduled events. Most of all, enjoy the Reserves with us.

Reserve Sign-Posting Parties

We have been very fortunate to find appropriate boundary signs for our reserves. To celebrate this find we have been having sign-posting parties at the reserves. The first was held January 10th at the McGinnis Reserve. The



weather was cold, there was freezing drizzle and the attendance was amazing! In just 3 hours the intrepid party-goers managed to post about 60% of the outside boundaries around the 52-acre reserve. The second round, held February 7th, completed the outside as well as the border around the 5-acre adjacent property.



March 7th and 14th focused on signing the Walter Reserve on Weistertown Rd. The Tomer Reserve is scheduled for March 28th, and the King/Potter Reserves are slated for April 18th and 25th at noon. We welcome anyone interested in helping out for a few hours. Contact us at the phone or e-mail listed in the newsletter header.

Spring Migration Road Trip

It’s that time of year again! Anyone interested in going up to Crane Creek (on Lake Erie near Sandusky, Ohio) May 23rd please call Shelly Tichy at 724-325-5523. We’ll decide whether to leave Friday evening or Saturday morning (at 3 am) when we see how many will attend. Crane Creek is an important location, as this is where the birds stop to rest and eat before a long, dangerous flight over the Great Lakes on their way North. You’ll be amazed at the variety of birds to be seen here, so bring binoculars & a camera. If there is time we can stop at the Blue Heron rookery in Akron on our way home.



SLAM Selling Bird Houses

Even though it is quite cold and wintry, some birds have already begun their migration north. Bluebirds, members of the thrush family, return from the Gulf States in another month or so. In preparation of their return and to encourage the choice of the Murrysville Area as their home, the Sportsmen and Landowners Alliance of Murrysville (SLAM) is preparing bluebird house kits to be sold as well as completed houses. The pre-cut kit comes with instructions and is a great family or group project. Also included are instructions to help to best locate the finished house. The birds best like open countryside, lawn areas and roadsides with scattered trees for perching. Just perfect for this region of the country. The houses need to be put between 4 – 6 feet above the ground and spread 100 yards apart.

Currently the bird houses are available for purchase at Village Hardware, DJ's Barber Shop and Woodland's Edge in Salem. The cost of a completed house is \$12.00 while the kits are \$7.00 each. Groups interested in building ten or more kits in order to support our natural environment and help to control insects naturally can arrange a discount rate by contacting Mike at 724-516-1562. Please feel free to leave a message and a contact number.

The income from the houses will be used to support SLAM's scholarship program that permits teens to attend the conservation camps at Keystone Parks and The Pennsylvania State University. Other SLAM community projects are the maintenance of the Murrysville Tree Sign, spring fishing derbies for families and children with special needs at Haymaker Run, stocking Townsend Pond, hunter education and conservation.



Sportsmen and Landowners Alliance of Murrysville (SLAM)

Contact person: Mike Futral, Vice-president 724-516-1562

Article submitted by Michele Clarke

Summer Geo-cache Treasure Hunt

Last September the Westmoreland Conservancy held our very first Geo-cache event on our reserves. Even though the weather was a bit wet we had a great showing and some very enthusiastic participants. At that time it was suggested that we do the same type of event two times per year. Well, here we are looking at summer activities and planning this event to take place Saturday, June 27th. Hopefully we have managed to work out the few bugs from last fall. We'll be asking local businesses to again donate prizes (treasure) for

our brave adventurers! As before, each participant will sign the log book at each cache and take one (1) chip from each location. Those managing to gather chips from all locations will receive extra tickets to put in for the drawings! There will be a picnic at Townsend Park's lower pavilion at 6pm for all members and participants. We ask that participants let us know in advance by calling 724-325-5523 or by sending an e-mail to wcnewsletter@comcast.net so that we know how many will attend the picnic!



Parks and Reserves Discovery Walks

The Westmoreland Conservancy has teamed with Friends of Murrysville Parks (FOMP) to co-sponsor the Discovery Walks program being conducted on WC reserves and Murrysville parks. These walks are scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from April through September, will last 1 – 3 hours and be held rain or shine. Wear comfortable shoes and remember to bring along water! There will often be a special focus of interest such as wildflowers, birds, butterflies, nature photography, or local history. There are no fees, and no registration is required. The schedule, time and meeting place follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>meeting place</u>
4/04/09	1 pm	Duff Park	pavilion
4/18/09	1 pm	Duff Park	pavilion
5/02/09	9 am	MCP	wetlands pavilion, Weistertown Rd. across from main entrance
5/16/09	10 am	King/Potter Reserves	parking lot, Crowfoot Rd.
6/06/09	10 am	Townsend Park	upper pavilion
6/20/09	10 am	Tomer Reserve	parking lot, Twin Oaks
7/04/09	10 am	Pleasant Valley Park	parking lot
7/18/09	10 am	McGinnis Reserve	parking lot, Hunter Dr.
8/01/09	10 am	Duff Park	pavilion
8/15/09	10 am	Walter Reserve	parking lot, Weistertown
9/05/09	10 am	Kellman Nature Reserve	Kellman Dr. lot
9/19/09	10 am	Caywood Reserve	parking lot, Hills Church Rd. near Buella Lane

Additional information about Murrysville Parks is available at www.murrysville.com. Information about these and other events can be found at www.westmorelandconservancy.org.

Murrysville Parks & Reserves 2009 Digital Photo Contest

Once again the Westmoreland Conservancy will be co-hosting Friends of Murrysville Parks 2009 Murrysville Parks and Reserves Digital Photo Contest. For the contest, amateur photographers may enter up to three photos taken at any Murrysville park or Westmoreland Conservancy nature reserve.

The 2009 contest features four categories:
 Open (including landscapes)
 Images showing enjoyment of a park or nature reserve
 Images of animals or plants (including fungi)
 Photos by young photographers (15 and under).

For the 2008 contest, photos from Westmoreland Conservancy reserves won first place in two out of the four contest categories! Jeff McMahill took first place in "Plants" with a study of mushrooms at the McGinnis Nature Reserve, and Walter Gladkowski secured the top prize in "Landscapes" with a snowy view at the Walter Reserve. A close-up of a caterpillar from Potter's Corner by Tracee Imai was another prizewinner, with second place in the "People and Animals" category.



The next time you visit a park or nature reserve, why not take your camera to try your luck and test your skill at capturing a winning image? Contest details for 2009 and winning photos from the 2008 contest may be found at www.westmorelandconservancy.org and www.murrysville.com.

But love of the wilderness is more than a hunger for what is always beyond reach; it is also an expression of loyalty to the earth which bore us and sustains us, the only home we shall ever know, the only paradise we ever need - if only we had eyes to see.

~Edward Abbey

Submit Your E-Mail Address To Have Event Updates & Information Delivered

Be more closely informed about events, walks and excursions. Provide your E-mail address on the attached form and mail it to the address provided. You can also E-mail it to the Conservancy website at contact@westmorelandconservancy.org

Schedule of Upcoming Events



Please respond if attending an outing or event to:
wcnewsletter@comcast.net

Saturday, April 4th: Park & Reserve walk: Duff Park:
 1pm at Duff Park Pavilion.

Saturday, April 18th: Sign Posting Party: 1pm at King Reserve parking lot. Boundary marking and placing new signs around perimeter.

Saturday, April 18th: Park & Reserve walk: Duff Park
 1pm at Duff Park Pavilion.

Wednesday, April 22nd: Annual Members Meeting at 7:30 pm. Vote for the 2009 WC Governors. Governors elect Officers and monthly meeting to follow at the Murrysville Library Municipal Room.

Saturday, April 25th: next Sign Posting Party: 1pm at King & Potter's Reserves parking lot. Boundary marking and placing new signs around perimeter.

Saturday, May 2nd: Park & Reserve walk: Murrysville Community Park (MCP): 9 am at the Wetlands Pavilion on Weistertown Rd.

Saturday, May 16th: Park & Reserve walk: King/Potter:
 10am at King/Potter Reserve parking lot.

Saturday, May 23rd: Crane Creek Excursion: See details on page 3. Call 724-325-5523

Wednesday, May 27th: Monthly meeting 7:30 PM at the Murrysville Library Municipal Room.

Saturday, June 6th: Park & Reserve walk: Townsend Park: 10am at Upper Pavilion.

Saturday, June 20th: Park & Reserve walk: Tomer Reserve: 10am at Tomer parking lot on Twin Oaks Rd.

Wednesday, June 24th: Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM at the Murrysville Library Municipal Room.

Saturday, June 27th: Summer Geo-cache Treasure Hunt:
 See page 2 for details.

Westmoreland Conservancy

P.O. Box 446

Murrysville, PA 15668

contact@westmorelandconservancy.org



2008 Board of Governors/Officers

Officers: President – Shelly Tichy
Vice President – Katie Blackmore
Secretary – Joanne Kendall
Treasurer - Bjoerg Granger

Governors: Mount Fitzpatrick, Doug Bauman,
Cary Bohl, Charles Conway,
Richard Wagner, Mark Emerson,
Betsy Aiken

The meetings are open, and we look forward to seeing you there. Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Murrysville Library at 7:30 pm.

April 22nd

May 27th

June 24th

The next Newsletter is scheduled for **July 2009**



Westmoreland Conservancy

An all volunteer, non-profit, 501c-3 Corporation dedicated to acquiring and preserving rural and rustic lands for the public good.



Westmoreland Conservancy Membership Application

P.O. Box 446

Murrysville, PA 15668

Membership Levels

Individual.....\$15.00
Family.....20.00
Business membership.....40.00
Additional Donation.....\$_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State _____ Zip Code_____

e-mail _____

For your convenience, you may also renew your membership or give donations through our website at www.westmorelandconservancy.org