



WESTMORELAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

www.westmorelandconservancy.org

October 2006 Editor: Shelly Tichy (724) 325-5523 newsletter@westmorelandconservancy.org

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2006 Community Day

The 2006 Murrysville Community Day was held Saturday, August 26th at the Municipal Complex on Sardis Road. The Municipality provided shuttle buses to and from parking areas and ran a smooth production.



Our theme this year for the Conservancy booth: **RESERVE RESIDENTS**. The Westmoreland Conservancy does much more than protect land from development. Protecting the land preserves habitat for both flora and fauna. Our plan was to illustrate how such protection provides for a multitude of life as well as allowing people a place to enjoy that same land. We had nearly 100 laminated photographs of things found on and around our reserves: gray foxes, owls, assorted fungi, butterflies and moths, cicadas, various insects and plant life.

Bill Powers of Pix Controller, Inc. generously offered the services of his company to monitor sites on several of the Conservancy properties. Motion-activated digital cameras were installed in secluded areas of the reserves and left to photograph resident wildlife over a 3-day period. The digital media was donated to the Conservancy and Mount & Jan Fitzpatrick put together a great display showing rabbits, raccoons, a gray fox and several deer.

Lisa Hyland led walking tours of the Potter's Corner Reserve throughout the day. Potter's Corner is adjacent to Sloan School property.

Photo Shoot Outings

There are several of us within the Conservancy who enjoy photography, eager to crawl over hill and dale in search of interesting things to capture on film or memory card. This October we have scheduled a few excursion dates: **Friday, 10/13 at Linn Run. Sunday, 10/15 at Pleasant Valley Park** at 1 PM. **Monday, 10/16: Ghost Town Trail.** Even in the midst of winter there are breathtaking views and abundant activity to photograph. If you are interested in joining us for one of our adventures, feel free to e-mail us at: contact@westmorelandconservancy.org or call Shelly at 724-325-5523 for meeting times.

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

Theodore Roosevelt

In Memory of Clara Feibelman

I can tell you that the Conservancy is the one thing in Mom's life that she took great pride in as far as 'conventional accomplishments' go. Strangely enough, I think she always felt 'less smart, less accomplished' than others in the traditional sense (even though as you and I both know, her worth was immeasurable in all the ways that really count). But I know that she felt great pride and accomplishment in being part of the Conservancy from the very start. It is a force that is accomplishing things that she believed in passionately, and she felt she truly played a part in it. I can't begin to tell you how much the Thank You award that was given to her meant to her - I guess you probably know that.



The whole family that was there on Saturday visited the Kellman property in the late afternoon that day. I had not been there before. What a beautiful and peaceful place - and how nice to see the plaque for her dear friend Jim Dunbar. And the woods were so quiet and lovely. I truly sensed her spirit there - she did so love the woods.

Ann Barkley

Clara Feibelman is the reason I sit on the Board of Governors and have enjoyed a memorable 14 year relationship with the Westmoreland Conservancy. I believe it was sometime in the late spring of 1992 that I got a telephone call from Clara asking if I'd be interested in the Board of Governors. I had long been a member of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and had been following the Kellman property story in the Penn-Franklin, but I had no idea how I could be of any use to the WC. But, as most of you know, it was hard to say no to Clara. Her friendly diplomatic approach always left the door open to say no, but you'd suffer a guilt complex if you did. I agreed to come to the meetings on a trial basis. Fred Shirland made me feel very much at home and I finally found a niche. I have Clara to thank for getting me involved with a group of very talented conscientious people and I have been very proud to serve.

I had met Clara years before the WC formed through the Audubon Society and local bird club of which Clara was a member. She invited me to give a talk at her home on the mammals of Pennsylvania to a group of her friends. I was still teaching and came with all my mammal skins and skulls. It was a pleasant evening and we talked on the

phone ever after that about the animals and plants she was seeing in her garden. I was always jealous of her green dragon (a plant related to "Jack-in-the-Pulpit") that she always ribbed me about. She often called with bird and insect questions or told me about unusual sightings around Murrysville she had heard about. Our last telephone conversations occurred this past summer about a crossbill someone in town had seen and that members of the Audubon Society had verified it. Neither of us were able to track down which species of crossbill it was.

I will much miss the telephone calls from Clara. I frequently dropped in on her when I was in Murrysville to pick up an animal specimen she had saved for me in her freezer or a plant she wanted to give me. Her pet basset hound was the friendliest dog I have ever known, and I've often wondered if that dog didn't pick up some of Clara's congeniality. Sometimes dogs reflect their owners. She had a most charming way of winning people over to the conservancy cause. She will be missed both as a friend and valuable member of the WC.

Dick Byers



One of the rewards for participating in volunteer organizations is the opportunity to witness the enthusiasm, vision and dedication that people can muster for causes they believe in. Clara Feibelman personified the best of this tradition. She loved nature and was determined to preserve as much of it as possible. Clara was a founding member of the Westmoreland Conservancy and an active board member for many years until health limitations prevented regular meeting attendance. Not to be dissuaded, she became "Corresponding Secretary" sending notes of welcome to new members and reminding current members that their membership dues were due. If someone were ill, Clara would send a get well card. She became the Conservancy's historian creating order out of the stacks of paper that document our progress over the years. She never said "no" to any request and couldn't resist volunteering for jobs that must have pushed her to the limit, all without a word of complaint. Clara became the conscience of the organization. Our own "Miss Manners" if you please. Scarcely a Board Meeting goes by without some reference to something Clara has done or might have been willing to do.

Don Harrison

One of the benefits of being President of the Westmoreland Conservancy turned out to be the necessity of walking up the street in order to talk with Clara about membership details and about her work as Corresponding Secretary. She was always smiling; always ready to laugh.

Clara showed a great concern for the well-being of the Conservancy, ready to help with letters, suggestions, membership dues or with anything else that needed to be done.

As a naturalist Clara derived great pleasure from observing the backyard wildlife as viewed from her kitchen window. She loved showing Scott's pictures of the flying squirrel gliding toward the bird feeder, or to regale interested visitors with her account of the squirrels that took over the house.

Clara seemed to know most of the residents in Murrysville, only had good things to say about the people she knew and in turn she was loved by all who knew her.

Thank you, Clara, for your presence!

Mount Fitzpatrick



Clara was the type of individual who left an indelible mark on every person she met. It was my great fortune to have met her through the Conservancy. Her friendship was the most wonderful gift. The tea, the talks, the laughter, the comfort. . . Clara shared so much of herself

so freely. I can only hope to be such a person.

She has left her mark, not only upon friends and neighbors, but on Murrysville itself through her efforts and involvement in the Westmoreland Conservancy and other interest groups. You need only look at what has been preserved to witness an amazing legacy to which she, Jim Dunbar and so many others with vision made such lasting contributions.

Shelly Tichy

Clara had suggested that a great holiday gift for loved ones might be an annual membership to the Westmoreland Conservancy.

[Membership information](#) appears on page 4.

Editor's note

I continue to challenge our membership to let us in on your experiences with and/or observations of nature. Is there a bird or some wildlife that visits frequently? Do you have a photograph or a story to share? We're interested! Send your stories and pictures to : Westmoreland Conservancy, P.O. Box 446, Murrysville, PA 15668 **OR** email them to newsletter@westmorelandconservancy.org.

The following photograph was sent by a friend. Can anyone identify this covey of birds?



Who Made These Tracks?



What about these?



Answers on page 4.

Can you find these around your home?

Westmoreland Conservancy

P.O. Box 446

Murrysville, PA 15668

contact@westmorelandconservancy.org



Schedule of Upcoming Events

Friday, October 13th: Photo Outing at Linn Run. Contact for meeting information

Sunday, October 15th: Photo Outing at Pleasant Valley Park. I PM. Meet at parking lot.

Monday, October 16th: Photo Outing at Ghost Town Trail. Contact for meeting information

Wednesday, October 25th: Monthly meeting

Wednesday, November 29 * Holiday Schedulend: Monthly meeting

Wednesday, December 27th: Monthly Meeting

2006 Board of Governors/Officers

Officers: President – Mount Fitzpatrick

Vice President – Shelly Tichy

Secretary – Doug Bauman

Treasurer - Bjorg Granger

Governors: Dick Byers, Lisa Hyland, Mark Emerson, Joanne Kendall, Richard Wagner, Cary Bohl, Doug Siler, Hank Kendall

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

October 25th

November 29th** Holiday Schedule

December 27th

The next Newsletter is scheduled for **January 2007**.



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

Tracks: White-tailed Deer, Red Fox

Eco-Fun Page

Winter 2006

Winter Wonderpainting with Epsom Salts Frost

Liquid dishwashing detergent binds the Epsom salts to the glass but also allows for each cleaning.

Supplies:

- 1 cup Epsom salts (available at your local pharmacy)
- 1 ½ cup water
- 3 T. liquid dishwashing detergent

Directions:

1. With a Parent, heat water to boiling.
2. Gradually add some of the Epsom salts and stir. Keep the solution boiling.
3. Add more Epsom salts and stir.
4. Repeat until the Epsom salts will no longer dissolve. This is called a super solution.
5. Remove container from heat.
6. Add the liquid dishwashing detergent and stir.
7. Let the mixture cool.
8. "Paint" the solution on a window or glass with a paintbrush. When the solution dries, needle-like fan patterns will appear that look just like frost on windows on a cold day. Create winter scenes on empty jars and fill with cookies or candy for a home-made gift!



To clean glass surface, wash with soap and water.
