



WESTMORELAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

www.westmorelandconservancy.org

January 2008 Editor: Shelly Tichy (724) 325-5523 shellytichy@comcast.net

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Conservation Connection at the Zoo

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 3rd, 2008!**

In place of the traditional dinner or picnic, Westmoreland Conservancy volunteers are planning an exciting region-wide conservation event at the Pittsburgh Zoo. ***Conservation Connection at the Zoo*** will provide a chance for conservation-minded people and organizations throughout the greater Pittsburgh region to meet to share ideas and information.

Of course, ***Conservation Connection at the Zoo*** will also be a way for Westmoreland Conservancy members and their families to join friends for fun, good food, and good conversation. Plans include a picnic-style dinner in the zoo's large Garden Tent, along with behind-the-scenes zoo tours, children's activities, and conservation-oriented displays from many organizations.



Conservation Connection at the Zoo will run from 6:00 to 9:30 pm, although it will be possible to come early and tour the zoo using reduced-price tickets. ***Conservation Connection at the Zoo*** ticket prices will be set once the menu is

finalized, but are expected to be around \$20. Parking will be free.

Event planners include Shelly

Tichy, Katie Blackmore, Joanne Kendall, Cary Bohl, Doug Bauman, Richard Wagner, Geri Mitchell, Dick Byers, Mark Emerson, and Betsy Aiken. Our planners recently visited the zoo to evaluate possible venues, and are now seeking sponsors and contacting other regional conservation organizations to encourage their participation and gather ideas. Your participation in our **Conservation Connection at the Zoo** effort will be welcomed - please contact Cary Bohl at cbohl@windstream.net or 724-327-7017 or Shelly Tichy at shellytichy@comcast.net or 724-325-5523 if you would like to help.

As plans are refined, Doug Bauman will post updated information about **Conservation Connection at the Zoo** on the Conservancy website at www.westmorelandconservancy.org. For now, please reserve the evening of **Saturday, May 3rd, 2008**, for a most excellent celebration of conservation!



"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of a least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."

- Rachel Carson, naturalist and author

Autumn 2007 Outings

On **Saturday, October 13th**, Doug Bauman led a [Scavenger Hunt](#) in the King Reserve on Crowfoot Rd. The object of the hunt was to locate and identify various leaves, trees and points of interest within the reserve. It was fun for all who attended!

Sunday, October 14th had several members attended the Fall Colors Photo Outing at Ohiopyle. We scrambled along the river boulders, checked out the Cascades and hiked down to Cucumber Falls.



Sunday, November 4th: members of the Westmoreland Conservancy and of several other organizations joined for a hike and photo outing at the Brennan Property,

a

300-acre parcel located along Jacobs Creek which borders Westmoreland and Fayette counties. The property abuts acreage owned by the State Game Lands and spans both counties. Among the interesting attributes: a train trestle with a magnificent view of the autumn leaves and the waterfall at Jacob's Creek.

"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before."

- Robert Lynd

April 2008 Elections Meeting

Our regularly scheduled April 2008 meeting will include the election of one-third of our board of governors. This election is by the general membership, so please attend if you can. After the general membership elects the new governors, the governors will then elect the 2008 officers.

Remember - Annual Elections Meeting on April 23, 2008 at 7:30 pm, in the conference room next to the Library.

January, February & March Excursions

Would you be interested in joining our intrepid band for a few scheduled outings this quarter? Keep our back-page schedule and watch our website for updates. Right now we have a few dates in the works:

Saturday, January 26th: Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Meet at Panera-Murrysville at 11AM.

Sunday, February 10th: Phipps Conservatory. Meet at Panera-Murrysville at 8:45 AM.

Saturday, February 16th: Ohiopyle. Meet at Murrysville Panera at 8:45 AM.

Saturday, March 8th: McGinnis Reserve 10 AM

Saturday, March 29th: Bear Rocks. Meet at Panera-Murrysville at 11AM.

Please respond if attending an outing to: contact@westmorelandconservancy.org

Backyard Birding



The Cornell University Great Backyard Bird Count will return for another season February 15-18, 2008. For those of you who are unfamiliar, this is a great opportunity to learn about native bird habitats in our own backyard and participate in a national study of bird populations. No registration is required and during the three day event, you may bird watch for as little as 15

minutes or for as long as you like. You may also keep count from public land as well as your own backyard.

For information and instruction, visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/howTo.html> and follow the links at the top of the webpage to learn how to submit and view results. We hope you all participate in this fun and educational activity.



Defining Hunting Issues/Procedures on Conservancy Properties

Many of our members live near our Nature Reserves and are aware that we have posted the properties as **No Hunting**. Enforcing that issue has proved to be confusing and frustrating. A few things to keep in mind:



Most importantly: Please DO NOT confront an armed individual.

You may remind the individual that the property is posted and that they are trespassing, but the safer direction would be to get their hunting license information if possible, or their vehicle license plate number to turn over to the police. The Game Commission will not get involved unless there is a violation of the Game Laws (i.e.: violating the 450' safety zone).

Hunters on Reserve properties are trespassing, but the police do not send officers in to search for trespassers on foot on any private property. The license information would provide the information to the police for them to follow up on the issue.

Protecting Wild Birds from Windows

Shelly Tichy



Bird strikes on windows... there are so many suggestions to ward off the danger. Strategically placed netting or branches, moving feeders closer to or farther from said windows, or even spraying the glass with fake snow to diminish the reflections. An easy remedy is decals. I'm currently testing WindowAlert Bird Anti-collision Decals, which come 8 to a package. If anyone else is interested in the product, the web address is:

<http://www.songbirdgarden.com/store/scripts/prodView.asp?idproduct=2615> .

Submit Your E-mail Address to

Receive Up-to-Date Information on

Conservancy Outings & Events

During the year the Conservancy is involved in a number of events open to the general membership as well as to the general public. Such events include chat walks in reserves or at municipal parks, work details for cleaning up reserve trails, photo outings, and special events such as Community Day.

Typically such events are discussed at Conservancy meetings but may also be announced in the 4-times-per-year newsletter and/or in the Penn Franklin or other local papers. Depending upon what you read the event schedules may be missed. The membership is invited not only to participate in such events, but is also invited to take part in the carrying out of the activity by volunteering some time, and maybe effort, to help out.

If you are interested in being more closely informed about such events please 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, also provided in this Newsletter.

Westmoreland Conservancy

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



2007 Board of Governors/Officers

Officers: President – Mark Emerson

Vice President – Betsy Aiken

Secretary – Joanne Kendall

Treasurer - Bjoerg Granger

Governors: Dick Byers, Doug Bauman, Cary Bohl, Katie Blackmore, Lisa Hyland, Charles Conway, Maury Hanes

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.

January 23rd

February 27th

March 26th

The next Newsletter is scheduled for **April 2008**

Westmoreland Conservancy

P.O. Box 446

Murrysville, PA 15668

contact@westmorelandconservancy.org



Schedule of Upcoming Events



Please respond if attending an outing to: contact@westmorelandconservancy.org

Wednesday, January 23: Monthly meeting, 7:30 PM

Saturday, January 26th: Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Meet at Panera-Murrysville at 11AM.

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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

Eco-Fun Page

ECO-FUN PAGE

Simple Bird Feeders

Our little feathered friends enjoy treats any time of year, but especially in Winter when food is more scarce and the wind blows cold!

#1) Materials: Pine cones, peanut butter, birdseed, string, spoons.

Procedure: Have the children make pine cone feeders by smooshing peanut butter with spoons onto the pine cones. Then roll the cone in birdseed, tie a string to the top end and it is ready to hang outside. Place it in sight of a window and watch the birds enjoy!



#2) Materials: plastic disposable-type bowls, string, hole puncher,

To make a bowl feeder, punch three holes evenly spaced around the top edge of the plastic bowl, fill the bowl with "miracle meal" (recipe below), and tie strings through the holes for hanging.



Miracle Meal: mix the following ingredients together thoroughly until it can be shaped into a firmly packed ball.

4 cups yellow corn meal

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup original Crisco

1 cup peanut butter

This recipe can be used year-round and is attractive to many types of birds, including blue birds and wrens! You can add raisins or peanut pieces (or use chunky peanut butter) as an added treat!

SPRING WILDFLOWERS OF WESTERN PA



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



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- BLOODROOT
- BLUE EYED GRASS
- BLUETS
- BLUE VIOLET
- CAMPION
- CATTAIL
- COLTSFOOT
- DANDELION
- FALSE RUE
- FIRE PINK
- HEPATIC



- HORSE NETTLE
- JACK IN THE PULPIT
- LARGE FLOWERED TRILLIUM
- MAYAPPLE
- ORANGE HAWKWEED
- PENNSYLVANIA SMARTWEED
- PURPLE TRILLIUM
- RUE ANEMONE
- SKUNK CABBAGE
- SPRING BEAUTY