



Volume 33  
Issue 1

Winter 2024

## Upcoming Events

### Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 11AM: First Day Hike

at the Caywood Reserve on Hills Church Road. Park at the improved lot and **be ready to set out at 11AM**. Shake off the celebratory woozies and breathe in the fresh air of the New Year. This parking lot is the midpoint of the Don Harrison Community Trail (DHCT), the blue trail that extends the length of the Caywood Reserve. The red and yellow trails allow survey of more of the property, so we'll ring in 2024 exploring this trail system!



[www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration](http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration) FREE

**Saturday, January 27, 8PM: Owl Prowl** at the Morosini Reserve. Enjoy a moonlight stroll and listen for the owls! We will be heading out from the Universal Pedestrian Trailhead at the end of Morosini Farm Road **promptly at 8PM**. (Last stop of the walk will be near lot #1 at the bend, so you'll want to park there and walk up the road to the Upper Trailhead). The house at the right is NOT part of the Reserve. Our events are always free; PLEASE register on our website [www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration](http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration)



### Saturday, February 17, 9AM: Annual Apple Tree Rehab

at the Peaceful Stable Reserve on Diana Mar Lane, Murrysville. This our seventh annual event designed to not only revitalize old variety trees at the reserves, but to make others more comfortable with the process before trying at home. This is our **FIRST** year at this reserve! Meet at the end of Diana Mar Lane by 9AM ... there will be parking **INSIDE** the open fenceline.

Bring your work gloves, loppers, clippers, pole saws, and questions so that our team can share their experience.

Event Registration: [www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration](http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration) FREE



## Tuesday, March 19, 5PM: First Day of Spring/AKA Vernal Equinox

The seasons officially change at 9:06PM! We'll set out along the trail from the **McGinnis Reserve** lot at 5PM for an early evening walk ahead of the equinox to see what may be emerging from the sleeping winter soils. It will likely be damp, so have rain gear and boots! The hike will start **promptly** at 5pm from the parking lot on Hunter Drive, so come early!

[www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration](http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration)

FREE



## Saturday, April 20, 9AM: Earth Day at the Peaceful Stable Reserve



Join us at 9AM Saturday 4/20/24 at the Peaceful Stable Reserve on Diana Mar Lane. We will be setting metal fence posts around the perimeter of the reserve and, if time permits, running smooth wire. Park at the end of Diana Mar Lane and inside the open fence line of the property. Community service hours are available and encouraged.

[www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration](http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration) FREE

## Annual Member's Meeting & Elections April 24, 7PM

Westmoreland Conservancy's Annual Members' Meeting and Elections are scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th, 2024. The meeting will be held at the Delmont Public Library and on Zoom. Should you choose to attend via Zoom, please send an email to [contact@westmorelandconservancy.org](mailto:contact@westmorelandconservancy.org) so that we can send you the link.

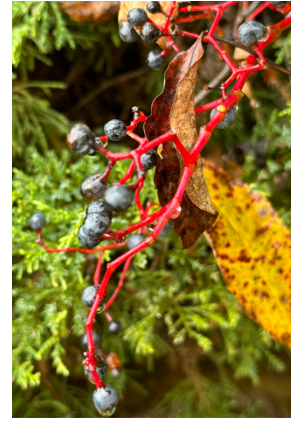
The Members' Meeting will open at 7pm with a review of the proposed slate for the election of our Board of Governors. This election is by our general membership, so please plan to attend. **Your voice is important to us.** At the close of the Members Meeting, the Organizational Meeting will commence with the Board members electing the 2024 officers. The April Board meeting will then come to order.



# Fourth Quarter 2023 Events

## Witch Hazel Hike 10/21

OCTOBER



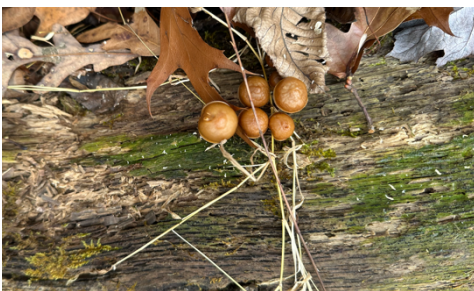
NOVEMBER



## Peaceful Stable Gathering 11/04



## OptOutside DHCT Hike 11/24



# MORE 4th Quarter 2023 Events

## Hot Chocolate Hike w/Murrysville Recreation 12/16

D  
E  
C  
E  
M  
B  
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R



## Winter Solstice Walk Morosini 12/21



### 2022-23 Officers

Shelly Tichy – President  
Rob Malley – Vice President  
Bob Sloboda – Secretary/Stwd Coord.  
Chip Brown– Treasurer/Stwd Coord.



### 2022-23 Board of Governors

Alan Halperin - Board  
Rob Bowman - Board  
Joann Reisch – Board.  
Lindsey Praksti – Board

## Donations

I invite you to join Westmoreland Conservancy (WC) in our mission to preserve, enhance, and connect land, habitat, and green space through acquisition, stewardship, and cooperation with local communities and other organizations. In 2023, WC made significant headway creating the Graft Pollinator Area at the Morosini Reserve. The vernal pool at the same reserve had been heavily damaged by trespassing ATVs. A generous donation made by George Erny in memory of his late wife ensured the restoration of that habitat AND the installation of bollards to prevent future encroachment. The Peaceful Stable Reserve off Cherry Drive became WC's tenth Reserve last summer, and we look forward to a myriad of projects and events.

Another project in planning stages is a rustic structure at the Morosini Reserve that will house an education center, accessible restrooms, meeting & event space, and equipment storage. Westmoreland Conservancy received seed money to start this project, which will require extensive fundraising and preparation.

To ensure that we continue this momentum into the coming years, we kindly ask for your support. Your gift, no matter the size, will directly contribute to the success of WC's education and conservation initiatives. Help us achieve our goals and continue to grow, making nature available to EVERYONE! Together we can make a difference in our neighborhoods, communities, and our region. To make a tax-deductible donation, please [click here](http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/donate), or go to: <http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/donate> or mail directly to Westmoreland Conservancy, 1 Priority Lane, Unit 446, Murrysville, PA 15668.

Thank you for being an essential part of our mission and thank you to all who have already given a generous year-end gift.

Sincerely,

Shelly Tichy  
President, Westmoreland Conservancy

Follow us on our **Facebook** and **Instagram** pages, as well as through our **website** and **newsletter**. We enjoy sharing our news, our events, and our plans with you!  
*Get to know us! We're good to know!*

### Westmoreland Conservancy Online:

Website: <http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestmorelandConservancy>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/westmoreland\\_conservancy/](https://www.instagram.com/westmoreland_conservancy/)



**Westmoreland Conservancy**  
1 Priority Lane, Unit 446  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
[contact@westmorelandconservancy.org](mailto:contact@westmorelandconservancy.org)



### **Our Vision**

To preserve natural, rural, and historic landscapes for Nature's benefit and the enrichment of future generations.

### **Our Mission**

Westmoreland Conservancy preserves, enhances, and connects land, habitat, and green space through acquisition, stewardship, and cooperation with local communities and other organizations.

### **Schedule of Events**

**\*\*Watch our Facebook page or sign up for email reminders for work days!\*\***

**Please wear sturdy shoes, leg protection and weather-appropriate attire. Scheduled Events may be canceled in case of Unsuitable Weather.**

01/01/2024 **1<sup>st</sup> Day Hike**, 11AM Caywood Reserve, Hills Church Road

01/24: **Monthly Meeting**, 7PM Delmont Public Library

01/27: **Owl Prowl**, 8PM Morosini Reserve. Park at Lot# 1, meet at upper trailhead.

02/17: **Apple Tree Rehab**, 9AM Peaceful Stable Reserve, Diana Mar Lane

02/28: **Monthly Meeting**, 7PM Delmont Public Library

03/19: **1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring/Vernal Equinox Walk** 5PM McGinnis Reserve, Hunter Drive

03/27: **Monthly Meeting**, 7PM Delmont Public Library

04/20: **Earth Day at Peaceful Stable Reserve**, 9AM Diana Mar Lane

04/24: **Annual Members Meeting & Elections** 7PM Delmont Public Library

